



AGENDA & NOTICE

LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY
NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2024, 12:00 PM

Meeting Location: 1815 Idlewood Road
Glendale, CA 91202

To Provide Public Comment: You may submit written public comment via email to contact@lanaic.lacounty.gov. Please note "LANAIC Public Comment" in subject line. Please submit your public comment or documentation as soon as possible but no later than 5 p.m. the night before the scheduled meeting. Public comment received after this time will be added to the next regular Commission meeting.

SHAWN IMITATES DOG, Chairperson
Lakota

MARK VILLASEÑOR, Vice Chairperson
Fernandeño Tataviam

BRYCE LEWIS-SMITH, Secretary
Citizen Potawatomi Nation

DENISE ESCOTO, Treasurer
Northern Cheyenne

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. INVOCATION & LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

3. ROLL CALL

4. COMMISSIONER INTRODUCTIONS

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

6. ACTION ITEMS

- 6.1 Adopt draft letter to Board of Supervisors objecting to the findings of the Report Back on Proclaiming November 2023 as Native American Heritage Month and Investing in American Indian and Alaska Native Communities (Item No. 8, Agenda of November 7, 2023)

7. COMMITTEE ADJOURNMENT

Meetings are held in English. If interpretation in other languages or accommodations for persons with disabilities are needed, please contact the Commission at 213-738-3241 at least 3 business days before the meeting. The meetings of the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission are accessible to persons with disabilities.

Contact: www.lanaic.lacounty.gov, contact@lanaic.lacounty.gov, or (213) 738-3241

Approved by Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shawn Imitates Dog". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light yellow rectangular background.



LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION

Chairperson
SHAWN IMITATES-DOG
Lakota

Vice Chairperson
MARK VILLASEÑOR
Fernandeño Tataviam

Secretary
BRYCE LEWIS-SMITH
Citizen Potawatomi Nation

Treasurer
DENISE ESCOTO
Northern Cheyenne

CAROLINE BHALLA
Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin

CHRISSE CASTRO
Navajo

ANDREA N. GARCIA, M.D.
Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara

VIVIAN GARCIA
Cherokee

DAWN JACKSON
Saginaw Chippewa

MONA MORALES RECALDE
Gabrieleno Tongva

JOHN ONLY A CHIEF
Pawnee Nation

RUDY ORTEGA JR.
Fernandeño Tataviam

TED TENORIO
Tiguan Nation

RICH TOYON
Acjachemen

RENE WILLIAMS
Colville Tribes

ALEXANDRA VALDES
Executive Director

November 4, 2024

Honorable (Insert Supervisor's Name)
Supervisor, (Insert Number) District
500 W Temple St
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisor (Insert Name),

As members of the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC), we are writing to formally express our position regarding the July 16, 2024, report supporting the establishment of the Office of Tribal Affairs. While we strongly support this initiative and the associated recommendation to increase staffing to better serve Native American communities in Los Angeles, we must respectfully reject other elements of the analysis and proposals contained in the report.

The creation of the Office of Tribal Affairs is an essential step in ensuring the proper representation and inclusion of our community in county governance. It is critical for advancing tribal sovereignty and addressing the unique needs of Native peoples in Los Angeles. The staffing proposal is another vital component, as it directly impacts the Commission's capacity to engage effectively in the complex issues that face our community. We stand united in our advocacy for these measures, which will enhance our ability to serve Native American peoples in the region.

However, we must express our deep concerns with other recommendations in the report, as well as verbal presentations made by county staff during LANAIC meetings regarding the report, that particularly relate to reconstituting the Commission and detaching from the City of Los Angeles. These recommendations overlook the long history of collaboration and trust we have built with the City, which has been foundational to our advocacy efforts and to the success of the Commission's work since its inception in 1976.

Objection to Reconstituting the Commission's Composition

Reconstituting the Commission threatens to dismantle over four decades of established trust and collaboration, which has been vital in addressing the needs of Native American peoples in Los Angeles. The current structure was intentionally designed to reflect the voices and concerns of our community. Any alteration would undermine our collective impact and disregard the successes the Commission has achieved over the years.

Objection to Detaching from the City of Los Angeles

The suggestion to detach from the City of Los Angeles is shortsighted and fails to acknowledge the importance of a unified approach to addressing Native American issues across both jurisdictions. This collaboration has been a cornerstone of our effectiveness, and any move to sever this relationship would only weaken our ability to advocate for the needs of our communities and dilute the progress we have made.

Misrepresentation of the Commission's Compliance and History

The report also contains misleading statements regarding the Commission's compliance and historical functioning. We strongly object to the characterization that the Commission has been out of compliance for decades. These claims fail to recognize the cultural, historical, and contextual nuances that have shaped our work and the challenges we face. Furthermore, such assertions diminish the significant contributions the Commission has made to advancing the rights and welfare of Native American peoples in Los Angeles.

Call for Genuine Partnership and Respect

We urge you to reconsider these proposals and engage with us in meaningful dialogue. It is essential that any changes to the structure or function of the Commission be made in full consultation with LANAIC and the Native American community we represent. Our self-determination must be respected as we continue to build on our legacy of service to the Native peoples of Los Angeles. As part of our recommendation, we would like any county staff interfacing or reporting on the LANAIC to take an Indian 101, introduction to working with Native American communities, training in order to have a basic understanding of the unique history and issues facing Native American people in Los Angeles. We would also like to engage in dialogue about how to make this training available for all county departments and their staff. Representatives from the Department of Health Services and the Department of Public Health have indicated their interest and support for this type of training.

In closing, we reiterate our strong support for the establishment of the Office of Tribal Affairs and the staffing increases that will support its mission. We remain committed to working with the City and County in a collaborative and respectful manner to ensure that the voices of Native American peoples are heard and that our communities thrive.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Shawn Imitates Dog, Chairperson
Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission