



## **LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MARCH 19, 2024**

The March 19, 2024, meeting Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) was at County of Los Angeles Hall of Administration, Sybil Brand Room 372, 500 W. Temple Street, Los Angeles, California, 90012.

### Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

Vice Chairperson Mark Villasenor called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and read the Los Angeles County Land Acknowledgment.

### Invocation

Commissioner John Only A Chief provided an invocation.

### Roll Call

Present: Vice Chairperson Mark Villasenor  
Secretary Audra Wise  
Treasurer Denise Escoto  
Chrissie Castro (Virtual; Just Cause)  
Caroline Bhalla  
Andrea Garcia  
John Only A Chief  
Dawn Jackson  
Mona Morales Recalde (Unexcused)  
Mark Villasenor  
Rene' Williams  
Ted Tenorio  
Rich Toyon (Virtual; Just Cause)

Absent: Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog (Excused)  
Rudy Ortega Jr. (Excused)

Staff: Alexandra Valdes, Executive Director  
Stephanie Guadron, Administrative Manager

Members of Public: Laticia Williams, David Moore, Ronnell Hampton

Quorum was met.

### Commissioner & Staff Introductions

Commissioners provided brief introductions including their names, appointing office and tribal affiliation.



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Public Comment

Latisha Williams and David Moore stated that they are sharing information about their newly opened Wellness Rediscovery Center, Aurora Wellness Rediscovery Center. They shared that their primary focus is to serve Black Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) from their surrounding communities. They provided a flyer to the commissioners for community dissemination.

Action Items

**Review and take possible action adopting the February 20, 2024 Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) Unapproved Meeting Minutes**

*A motion was made by Commissioner Andrea Garcia and seconded by Commissioner Rene’ Williams to approve the unapproved February 20, 2024 LANAIC Meeting Minutes. The motion passed.*

<b>YES</b>	Garcia, Williams, Only A Chief, Escoto, Jackson, Villasenor, Castro, Bhalla
<b>NO</b>	
<b>ABSTAIN</b>	Morales Recalde, Tenorio, Wise
<b>ABSENT</b>	Imitates Dog, Ortega Jr.

**Review and take possible action recommending to LA City Council that they adopt the draft land acknowledgement development by the LA City Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department**

Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde stated that she does not feel comfortable with the Chumash being named in LA City’s land acknowledgement. Commissioner Andrea Garcia stated that the LANAIC approved the process that Los Angeles County designed and implemented in the development of the Los Angeles County Land Acknowledgement and would like clarification if the current action being taken is to approve the process for LA City. Commissioner Dawn Jackson stated that based on how many commissioners have questions about this item that more discussion is needed before action could be made.

Ronnell Hampton from LA City stated that it is important to understand that LA City followed the guidance that was given by the State. He stated that they followed the protocols to reach out to 14 local groups that were listed from the Native American Heritage Committee on multiple occasions and that the groups that are listed reflect the process that was implemented. Ronnell also stated that LA City recognizes that the development of a land acknowledgement may result in potential harm, but they are confident that they followed protocols from the State, local tribal groups and guidance from the LANAIC about the process that was taken for the LA County land acknowledgement.



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Vice Chairperson Mark Villasenor stated that the LANAIC has pushed this item for 2-3 months and due to the amount of questions that are arising when taking action, he recommends the development of an LA City Land Acknowledgement Ad Hoc Committee.

*Item was tabled by Vice Chairperson Mark Villasenor for a future meeting date and added an action item to agenda item 11, Commissioner General Comments on Non-Agenda Items to establish an ad hoc committee to discuss this item with LA City and report back to the full body at the next regular meeting.*

### Presentations

#### **Care First Community Updates, Tencha Chavez (LANAIC CFCI Alternate Designee)**

This item was tabled to the next regular meeting.

#### **Introduction to New United American Indian Involvement, Inc., Charlene Harrison (CEO, United American Indian Involvement, Inc.)**

This item was tabled to the next regular meeting.

### Discussion Items

#### **2024 Native American Heritage Month theme selection process**

Alexandra Valdes stated that the process for the Native American Heritage Month (NAHM) theme will follow the process from years prior. Alexandra stated that she would provide the commissioners with a list of the previous years' themes via email. Alexandra will accept theme nominations from commissioners until the deadline of April 8, 2024 and will submit a final list of theme nominations to the LANAIC Chairperson and the NAHM Ad Hoc Committee Chair. The LANAIC will vote on the final theme nominations at a future regular meeting.

Commissioner Dawn Jackson stated that themes have varied in the past, but that the theme should reflect what is top of mind and where we are as a community.

### Executive Director Report

#### **Fiscal Year 2023-24 Quarter Three & Quarter Four Priority Project Updates**

Alexandra Valdes shared that we are currently being monitored for the CSAIBG program and have been working with our state analyst for the programmatic and fiscal auditing. Alexandra stated that the Statement of Work for the tribal consent and consultation solicitation is currently being developed. Alexandra also stated that she is working on the report back to the Board of Supervisors regarding the Tribal Engagement Office.



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### **Reminder to Complete Annual Form 700**

Alexandra Valdes stated that she would like to remind all commissioners that annual Form 700 submissions are due on April 2, 2024. Commissioner John Only A Chief stated that he did not like receiving an email from the County saying that he would get fees for not submitting the form.

### Committee & Ad-hoc Committee Reports

#### **Self-Governance Board**

Commissioner Dawn Jackson stated that staff is working on program monitoring and that there is only one more organizational standard to update to get to 100% compliance.

#### **Homelessness Committee**

Commissioner Andrea Garcia stated that the committee has scheduled a meeting with the Los Angeles County Homelessness subcommittee.

#### **2024 Native American Heritage Month Ad Hoc Committee**

Commissioner Audra Wise stated that the committee held one meeting where they discussed funding and the Bridge Gallery. She also stated that the committee is holding a monthly standing meeting with Councilwoman Rodriguez' office.

#### **FY23-24 Annual Report Ad Hoc Committee**

Alexandra Valdes stated that the annual report is due on September 30<sup>th</sup> annually.

#### **Legislative Agenda Ad Hoc Committee**

Alexandra Valdes stated that the County has State and Federal Legislative Agendas and that the Board of Supervisors (BOS) have reimagined the report documents requiring recommendations to the BOS to be broad and less specific than in previous years. Alexandra stated that with the new process the Ad Hoc committee would be able to track legislation that they feel are important, bring the information to the LANAIC body for discussion. Following the discussion, the LANAIC may choose to vote as a body to determine if a recommendation to legislative affairs will be developed.

#### **Anniversary of the Indian Citizenship Act, June 2, 1924 Ad Hoc Committee**

Commissioner Ted Tenorio stated that he is researching rental options for the American Bar Association's traveling exhibit to display at the Hall of Administration. Alexandra Valdes stated that she will connect with Commissioner Tenorio and County Council to see if the rental is feasible to execute. Commissioner Rene' Williams stated that the date is a commencement and that the



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LANAIC should be thoughtful about how to acknowledge that fact and how we could use this as a platform to uplift other things. Commissioner Tenorio stated that the mission of Native Vote Project comes to mind because this may motivate Native people to register and vote. Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde asked Commissioner Tenorio if he has looked into the Mission Indian Federation and how it was established. She also stated that Commissioner Tenorio may reach out to her if he would like to work with Supervisor Solis, so that it could be made into an action item for the next meeting agenda.

Commissioner General Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Commissioner John Only A Chief stated that the City of Redlands is hosting a pow wow on March 23, 2024 at 1:00 PM.

Vice Chair Mark Villasenor proposed the establishment of a LA City Land Acknowledgement Committee.

**Take possible action for the establishment of a LA City Land Acknowledgement Ad Hoc Committee - Commissioners identified for the committee: Rich Toyon, Mona Morales Recalde, Rudy Ortega, Jr., Andrea Garcia and Mark Villasenor**

<b>YES</b>	Garcia, Williams, Only A Chief, Escoto, Jackson, Villasenor, Morales Recalde, Toyon, Wise, Tenorio, Castro, Bhalla
<b>NO</b>	
<b>ABSTAIN</b>	
<b>ABSENT</b>	Imitates Dog, Ortega Jr.

The LA City Land Acknowledgement Committee was established.

Announcements/Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde stated that she wanted to know about what the options are for updating the LANAIC website and how resources could be provided to staff to make updates. She also asked what has been done for the calendar. Commissioner Dawn Jackson stated that Commissioner Morales Recalde was supposed to join an ad hoc committee with her to work on the calendar. Commissioner Morales Recalde requested a future item to follow up with the City of Long Beach about the Heritage Committee Development.

Commission Adjournment

Vice Chairperson Mark Villasenor adjourned the meeting at 8:01 PM.