



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LGBTQ+ COMMISSION
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 140A
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012**

Friday, August 15, 2025

9:30 AM

AUDIO: [Hyperlink](#)

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Call to Order, Roll Call

Chair Plascencia called the meeting to order at 9:33 AM. Annie Patpatian, administrative staff, called the roll.

A quorum was established with 15 (fifteen) members present.

Present: Chair Héctor Trinidad Plascencia, Vice Chair Sydney Rogers, Second Vice Chair Terra Russell-Slavin, Commissioner Jerry P. Abraham, Commissioner Nic Arnzen, Commissioner Steven Fisher, Commissioner Talha Khan-Valbuena, Commissioner Jer-Adrienne Lelliott, Commissioner Tonya Martin, Commissioner Eddie Martinez, Commissioner Eric Nakano, Commissioner Alejandro Soria, Commissioner Tony Valenzuela, Commissioner Luis Vasquez and Commissioner Yolanda Whittington

2. Land Acknowledgement

Sunitha Menon, Executive Director, read the Los Angeles County Land Acknowledgment.

3. Black Diaspora, Labor, and Inclusion Acknowledgement

Vice Chair Rogers read the Black Diaspora, Labor, and Inclusion Acknowledgment

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

4. Moment of Silence

Chair Plascencia led the “Moment of Silence” inviting everyone to take three breaths for past, future and present trans and queer LGBTQ+ given and chosen lineage.

5. Approval of July 18, 2025 meeting minutes

Chair Plascencia introduced the minutes and asked the Commission if there any requests for revisions regarding the minutes for approval.

Member of the public Byron José addressed the Commission on this item.

On motion of Commissioner Arnzen, seconded by Commissioner Martin, this item was approved with the following vote:

Ayes: 15 - Chair Héctor Trinidad Plascencia, Vice Chair Sydney Rogers, Second Vice Chair Terra Russell-Slavin, Commissioner Jerry P. Abraham, Commissioner Nic Arnzen, Commissioner Steven Fisher, Commissioner Talha Khan-Valbuena, Commissioner Jer-Adrienne Lelliott, Commissioner Tonya Martin, Commissioner Eddie Martinez, Commissioner Eric Nakano, Commissioner Alejandro Soria, Commissioner Tony Valenzuela, Commissioner Luis Vasquez and Commissioner Yolanda Whittington

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)
[PUBLIC COMMENT/WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE](#)

II. DISCUSSIONS AND ACTIONS

6. Presentation from the Military and Veterans Affairs Department on the impact of federal legislation on LGBTQ+ members of the military. Discuss and take possible action on forming an ad hoc subcommittee to provide advice and recommendations to County Departments working directly with LGBTQ+ service members.

Commissioner Whittington introduced the item and explained how Commission might support Military and Veterans Affairs in supporting Trans service members discharged due to changes in federal legislation. Commissioner Whittington opened the floor to discussion after the presentation.

Director Zenner and his staff Roberto Alvarez Portillo, from Military and Veterans Affairs presented an overview of the lack of cultural competency training that the MVA has to better service their LGBTQ+ military members.

Member of the public Jovan Wolf addressed the Commission on this item.

After Public Comment this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)
 [PUBLIC COMMENT/WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE](#)

7. Update from the LA County Library Department on the Next Chapter Writers' Festival (previously named the You Belong Writers' Festival) taking place on October 5th, 2025 at the West Hollywood Public Library.

Commissioner Fisher introduced the item and provided an update on the LA County Library Department on the Next Chapter Writers' Festival.

Debbie Anderson, Assistant Director for Education and Engagement for LA County Library presented the details for the event and notified the Commission that moderators are still needed.

No members of the public addressed the Commission on this item.

After Public Comment this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT A](#)
 [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT B](#)
 [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT C](#)
 [PUBLIC COMMENT/WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE](#)

8. Discuss and take possible action on approving the recommendations from the Department of Human Resources Training Review ad hoc subcommittee.

Vice Chair Rogers introduced the item, notified the Commission that ad hoc subcommittee tasked with reviewing three optional trainings for employees, and provide recommendations. Vice Chair Rogers opened the floor for discussion.

No members of the public addressed the Commission on this item.

After discussion, on the motion of Commissioner Khan-Valbuena, seconded by Commissioner Martin, the Commission approved to approve the attached recommendations to be sent forth to the Department of Human Resources with the following vote:

Ayes: 15 - Chair Héctor Trinidad Plascencia, Vice Chair Sydney Rogers, Second Vice Chair Terra Russell-Slavin, Commissioner Jerry P. Abraham, Commissioner Nic Arnzen, Commissioner Steven Fisher, Commissioner Talha Khan-Valbuena, Commissioner Jer-Adrienne Lelliott, Commissioner Tonya Martin, Commissioner Eddie Martinez, Commissioner Eric Nakano, Commissioner Alejandro Soria, Commissioner Tony Valenzuela, Commissioner Luis Vasquez and Commissioner Yolanda Whittington

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)
[PUBLIC COMMENT/WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE](#)

The Commission took a recess at 11:05 AM and reconvened at 11:15 AM. Annie Patpatian, administrative staff, called the roll to determine if a quorum was present.

Present: 14 - Héctor Trinidad Plascencia, Vice Chair Sydney Rogers, Second Vice Chair Terra Russell-Slavin, Commissioner Jerry P. Abraham, Commissioner Nic Arnzen, Commissioner Steven Fisher, Commissioner Talha Khan-Valbuena, Commissioner Jer-Adrienne Lelliott, Commissioner Tonya Martin, Commissioner Eddie Martinez, Commissioner Eric Nakano, Commissioner Alejandro Soria, Commissioner Tony Valenzuela and Commissioner Luis Vasquez

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Yolanda Whittington

Commissioner Yolanda Whittington joined the meeting at 11:22 AM.

9. Discuss and take possible action on approving the LGBTQ+ Commissions Annual Report covering June 2024 through June 2025.

Vice Chair Rogers presented the LGBTQ+ Commission's Annual Report Covering June 2024 through June 2025 and opened the floor for discussion

No members of the public addressed the Commission on this item.

After Public Comment period closed, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)
[PUBLIC COMMENT/WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE](#)

10. Discuss and take possible action on updates from the fall TGI townhall ad hoc subcommittee.

Second Vice Chair Russell-Slavin provided the Commission updates on the fall TGI town hall ad hoc subcommittee. Second Vice Chair Russell-Slavin opened the floor for discussion.

No members of the public addressed the Commission on this item.

After further discussion this item was received and filed.

Commissioner Vasquez left the meeting at 11:59 AM.

Attachments: [PUBLIC COMMENT WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE](#)

11. Discuss and take possible action on updates from the ad hoc subcommittee for the wildfire townhall.

Commissioner Arnzen provided the Commission updates on updates from the ad hoc subcommittee for the wildfire townhall subcommittee. The ad hoc subcommittee will be hosting a second town hall for LGBTQ+ people impacted by the January 2025 wildfires on September 27th at the Altadena Public Library. Additional details are still to be determined. Commissioner Arnzen opened the floor for discussion.

No members of the public addressed the Commission on this item.

After further discussion this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [PUBLIC COMMENT/WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE](#)

III. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

12. Matters not on the posted agenda to be placed on the agenda for discussion and action at a future meeting of the LGBTQ+ Commission.

Commissioner Martin informed the Commission that the Tacos and Beer 5K Run will take place on September 7, 2025, in support of Long Beach Pride. Additionally, the City of Long Beach is pleased to announce the opening of its first Youth Shelter and Navigation Center. More information can be found at www.longbeach.gov

Commissioner Martin also shared that the Long Beach LGBTQ Center will host the 32nd Annual QFilms Festival from September 4–7, 2025. This year’s featured film will be Plain Clothes. Further details are available at www.thecenterlb.org

Commissioner Khan Valbuena reported that he and Commissioner Vasquez will attend the EQCA Leadership Summit at the end of August. He noted that the program appears comprehensive, and they plan to bring back insights that may enhance the Commission’s institutional knowledge.

Chair Plascencia announced the launch of a two-part survey titled [Trans and Queer Voices](#), which will be open through the end of September. In addition to the survey, [focus groups](#) are being conducted in partnership with community-based organizations, including sessions with youth (in partnership with Rainbow Labs), trans men (Invisible Men), trans women (TLC), as well as loved ones of trans and queer individuals, immigrants, and elders. LGBTQ immigrant recommendations have been submitted and will be reviewed in collaboration with the Office of Immigrant Affairs (OIA). Héctor

Public Comment

13. Public Comment

No members of the public addressed the Commission on this item.

Attachments: [PUBLIC COMMENT/WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE](#)

Adjournment

14. Adjournment of the August 15, 2025, LGBTQ+ Commission meeting.

Chair Plascencia adjourned the meeting at 12:08 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for September 12, 2025, at 9:30 AM.

