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Council Districts: All

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Honorable Members of the City Council
City of Los Angeles
c/o City Clerk, City Hall
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Attention: Eric Villanueva
Legislative Assistant

**COUNCIL TRANSMITTAL: ARTS, PARKS, AND RIVER COMMITTEE REPORT
RELATIVE TO THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION AND OTHER LOCAL
AGENCIES PLAN FOR THE CITY TO ENGAGE IN CONVERSATIONS AND ACTIVITIES
WITH REGARD TO RACE, ETHNICITY, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, DIVERSITY, AND
MULTICULTURALISM**

SUMMARY

This report provides an update from the Los Angeles Housing and Community Investment Department (HCIDLA) and the Human Relations Commission in response to City Council motion (CF 15-0840; O'Farrell, Wesson, Harris-Dawson, Ryu) on the progress toward a plan to engage in conversations and activities throughout the city of Los Angeles, with regard to race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, diversity, and multiculturalism. A full report is forthcoming.

BACKGROUND

The City Council introduced a motion instructing the Human Relations Commission, with the assistance of the Cultural Affairs Department, the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission, the Los Angeles Housing and Community Investment Department, and the Los Angeles Police Department to report on a plan to engage in conversations and activities throughout the city with regard to race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, diversity, and multiculturalism.

The Commissions and departments, together with local nonprofit service providers and community partners, established a planning roundtable in late 2015 to work on the plan. The aim of this collaboration was to draft a community and municipal engagement plan centered on creating engagement around race relations, racial equity, sexual orientation, and diversity that would open up dialogue and discussion at the community level through the platform of artistic expression.

As the plan evolved, the working group included a municipal component that, based on previous community feedback and assessments, would examine the City's own internal infrastructure and how it compared to other municipalities, as well as to assess where there may be gaps in racial, diversity, and sexual orientation equity, and how to address the gaps. The engagement plan is two-pronged, with a phase one and two.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT THROUGH ART

Phase one of the proposal will focus on four pilot communities in the city. Based on a number of factors (poverty rates, demographics, crime rates, economic conditions, and other crucial indicators) four communities were chosen as pilot sites:

- South Los Angeles (Council Districts 8 and 9, LAPD 77th St. Division)
- Northeast Los Angeles (Council Districts 1 and 13, LAPD Northeast Division)
- Pacoima and Northeast Valley (Council District 7, LAPD Foothill Division)
- Venice and Westside (Council District 11, LAPD Pacific Division)

The community engagement plan aims to assess community concerns and conditions of race relations and racial equity at the community level. These assessments (both formal and informal) will take place through a network of established community partnerships via the platform of artistic expression. These interventions will be guided with facilitated dialogues on the current status of race, racial equity, diversity, sexual orientation, access, and inclusion. The various community assessments, both qualitative and quantitative, will be used to inform phase two of the proposal, which will focus on the City's current policies and practices when it comes to equity.

MUNICIPAL ASSESSMENT

Based on information gathered in the first phase, three City departments will be selected to pilot the assessment process during the second phase of the project. The pilot will engage the City departments in assessing internal mechanisms that advance or hinder the goal of full racial, multicultural, and sexual orientation equity in the City's service delivery. The departments will also assess their internal race dynamics with the goal of implementing reforms and innovations.

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICY OUTCOMES

The ultimate purpose of this project is to create and produce achievable goals and positive outcomes for community stakeholders and municipal partners. In the forthcoming full report, each phase of the plan will have immediate and long term policy goals. In addition, the working group anticipates that assessment tools and evaluation of the impact of the assessment will be included in a comprehensive report at the end of the one-year pilot in phase two.

FISCAL IMPACT

The fiscal impact is still being reviewed by the members of the working group and will be addressed in the comprehensive report.

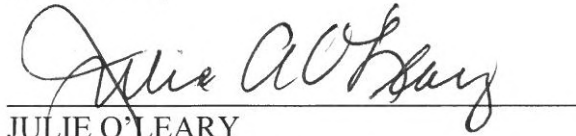
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