

Chair: Ellen Nash  
Vice-Chair: Nicole Murray Ramirez



Commissioners:

Pedro Anaya	Eleanor Evans	Dennis Hodges	Ellen Nash
Cinnamon Clark	Sarah Farouq	Adeem Ismaeil	Gina Roberts
Kate Clark	Rodney Fowler Sr.	George Khoury	Summer Stephan
Kay Coleman	David Garcias	Julia Legaspi	David Vance
Estela De Los Rios	Christina Griffin-Jones	Kelly Martinez	Alex Villafuerte
Angela Elliot-Santos	Taha Hassane	Nicole Murray Ramirez	

**February 10, 2023**

The Leon L. Williams San Diego County Human Relations Commission (HRC) promotes positive human relations, respect, and the integrity of every individual regardless of gender, religion, culture, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, or citizenship status.

Recently, there has been much discussion in both the media and before elected bodies about who should be able to use locker rooms. This was prompted by recent events at a Santee YMCA and has raised concerns for the HRC. The YMCA has been a community cornerstone for decades and has positively impacted the lives of millions of people from all backgrounds. In this case, the YMCA followed its own policies and the laws of the state of California that provides people the right to use the restroom and locker room that align with their gender identity.

Our concerns lie not with the act that prompted that discussion, but with myriad reports of hate and fear mongering and that ultimately led to closures due to safety concerns.

The impacts of this can be felt well beyond Santee or even the YMCA, it is felt throughout the transgender, LGBTQIA and communities beyond. While noting the significant reverberations of this dialogue is vital to healing and collaboration, it is equally important to commend those who have taken the right steps and moved in good faith. That is why we commend the YMCA, their staff and all those in the community who have engaged in the kind of positive dialogue that encourages healing and learning from each other as cornerstones. Their commitment to treating every member with dignity is an example to all of us.

As a Commission we know all too well the complexity of this work as we have had our own challenges as we learn to foster spaces of understanding, even when we disagree, and have civil discourse. But we want to make it abundantly clear that the HRC stands in solidarity with the LGBTQIA community and denounces any incidents of bias, bigotry, and racism.

The HRC stands ready to work with entities and community residents in finding solutions to promoting positive human relations. All are welcome to reach out and join our Commission.

Sincerely,

**ELLEN NASH**, Chair

The Leon L. Williams San Diego County Human Relations Commission

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**February 10, 2023**

The Leon L. Williams San Diego County Human Relations Commission (HRC) promotes positive human relations, respect, and the integrity of every individual regardless of gender, religion, culture, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, or citizenship status. The Commission denounces the murder of Tyre Nichols at the hands of law enforcement. Every parent, every partner, every sibling, every cousin can look at what happened to Mr. Nichols and their heart is broken. This Black man was horrifically dehumanized, chased, and beaten resulting in his death.

This goes beyond race and to systems of oppression that lead us to turn on each other. The system we live and work in continues to send the message that some do not deserve to be treated like humans. It is time to reject that which dehumanizes and come together to expeditiously rebuild our systems so that they work for ALL of the US.

Respect, and the integrity of every individual regardless of their background is at the core of the mission of the HRC. We need to hold law enforcement accountable and demand that our government, our lawyers, elected representatives, policymakers, judges, and our neighborhood watch groups STOP and ASK “Whose precious child is this? Whose spouse is this? Whose aunt or uncle is this?” We know the system was never built to protect BIPOC communities and it is far past time that we rebuild our systems to make sure all have equitable protection to get home at night, equitable protection under the law and equitable respect in REAL TIME at the hands of their government.

REALIZE there is someone at home waiting for them, they have a life, and a beloved community that they belong to . How do we treat folks with care as WHOLE human beings, who are vulnerable to a SYSTEM that is OUT OF CONTROL. We have seen this video before: Tyre Nichols, Eric Garner, George Floyd, Mike Brown, Keenan Anderson – the list goes on, and on, and on. Enough is ENOUGH. The HRC is committed to making sure every person “just trying to go home” makes it there safely and can live their life with joy as they see fit.

The Commission invites community members to participate in Public Safety subcommittee meetings where focus on promoting positive community-law enforcement relations. The HRC stands ready to work with entities and community residents in finding solutions to promoting positive human relations. All are welcome to reach out and join our Commission.

Sincerely,



**ELLEN NASH**, Chair

The Leon L. Williams San Diego County Human Relations Commission

**Chair: Ellen Nash Vice-Chair: Nicole Murray Ramirez**



**February 10, 2023**

## **Statement from the County Human Relations Commission**

The Leon L. Williams San Diego County Human Relations Commission (HRC) promotes positive human relations, respect, and the integrity of every individual regardless of gender, religion, culture, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, or citizenship status. Respect, and the integrity of every individual regardless of their background is at the core of the mission of the HRC. Given our commitment we feel it is important to denounce acts of hate and support efforts to heal when and where we see them.

### **LGBTQIA Rights are Human Rights**

Recent events related to use of a locker room at a Santee YMCA have raised concerns for the HRC. We commend the YMCA in upholding the right to use the restroom and locker room that align with their members' gender identity.

As a Commission we know all too well the complexity of this work as we have had our own challenges as we learn to foster spaces of understanding, even when we disagree, and have civil discourse. But we want to make it abundantly clear that the HRC stands in solidarity with the LGBTQIA community and denounces any incidents of bias, bigotry, and racism.

The HRC stands ready to work with entities and community residents in finding solutions to promoting positive human relations. All are welcome to reach out and join our Commission.

### **Holding Law Enforcement Accountable**

The Commission denounces the murder of Tyre Nichols at the hands of law enforcement.

This goes beyond race. The system we live and work in continues to send the message that some do not deserve to be treated like humans. It is time to reject those systems and come together to hold law enforcement accountable. We must rebuild our systems so that they work for all of us. That includes comprehensive change at every level within our justice system, from law enforcement and policymakers to neighborhood watch groups and beyond.

We have seen this video before: Tyre Nichols, Eric Garner, George Floyd, Mike Brown, Keenan Anderson – the list goes on, and on, and on. Enough is enough. Never forget there is someone at home waiting for them, they have a life, and a beloved community they belong to.

Join us in creating change. The Commission invites community members to participate in Public Safety subcommittee meetings focused on promoting positive community-law enforcement relations.

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