



Civil Rights Department Commission on the State of Hate

651 Bannon Street, Suite 200 | Sacramento | CA | 95811
800-884-1684 (voice) | 800-700-2320 (TTY) | California's Relay Service at 711
www.calcivilrights.ca.gov | CSH@calcivilrights.ca.gov

Minutes

Commission on the State of Hate Community Forum

May 11, 2026, 1:15 pm PT

Commissioners Present

Chair Brian Levin
Annie Lee, on behalf of Vice Chair Cynthia Choi
Commissioner Regina Cuellar
Commissioner Andrea Beth Damsky
Commissioner Russell Roybal
Commissioner Bamby Salcedo
Commissioner Erroll Southers
Commissioner Ehsan Zaffar

Civil Rights Department (CRD) Staff Present

Kevin Kish, Director
Julia Parish, Deputy Director of Legislation, Regulation, and Policy
Adrian Bacong, Research Data Specialist
Kevin Thomas, Research Data Specialist
Rebecca Goodsell, Research Data Specialist
Zelene Molina, Staff Services Manager I
Guadalupe Arellano, Analyst II
Alee Gonzalez, Analyst II

Others Present

Approximately 30 members of the public attended in person.
An estimated 10 members of the public attended virtually.

I. **Welcome**

Commissioner Cuellar welcomed the attendees to the Commission on the State of Hate's first Community Forum of 2026. She reviewed the process for closed captioning, provided a land acknowledgement, and provided an overview of the Commission which included an introduction of the Commissioners. Commissioner Cuellar also reviewed the process for public comment and encouraged audience participation.

Commissioner Roybal reviewed the mission and goals of the commission and how we approach our work. He highlighted that the Commission has issued three reports and that the purpose of the forum is to share findings, resources, and recommendations included in the reports.

II. Informational Presentation: “Combating Hate: Recommendations from the California Commission on the State of Hate”

Commissioner Roybal introduced researchers of the Commission, Dr. Rebecca Goodsell, Dr. Adrian Bacong, and Dr. Kevin Thomas. They each presented different recommendations and resources on the following topics: law enforcement, using data to understand hate in California, and guidance on hate prevention initiatives.

Summary of Presentation

- Dr. Goodsell presented on barriers that may prevent individuals from reporting hate incidents to law enforcement. She shared that the Commission collaborated with the Commission on Peace Officers’ Standards and Training (POST) and community-based organizations to develop training for law enforcement on ways to support victims of hate.
- Dr. Bacong provided an overview on the California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) and how to access data related to hate activity through the AskCHIS database. He walked the audience through how to access the AskCHIS database and the type of questions that can be answered through the tool.
- Dr. Thomas shared recommendations for reducing hate crimes which primarily focused on hate prevention in schools and public messaging. The audience was able to connect guiding principles for public messaging to a public service announcement video that was presented.
- Commissioner Cuellar thanked the CRD staff and encouraged the audience to engage with the Commission through various ways. She also shared a personal anecdote on how CA vs Hate was able to provide support to an individual who experienced a hate incident in her community.
- Commissioner Roybal explained the process for public comment and the Commission transitioned to hearing from the public.

Public Comment

The Commission received 10 public comments, some of which related to the following topics: hate in San Francisco, risk assessment data from service providers, resources, working with organizations that serve the LGBTQ+ community and African American communities, law enforcement on campuses, CA vs Hate, and data disaggregation.

Commission Discussion

- Commissioner Zaffar commented on the dichotomy between retribution and reconciliation from the stories and comments that were shared by the public. He encouraged the Commission to integrate elements of reconciliation as a method to build trust.
- Commissioner Damsky showed appreciation to the CRD staff for their work and presentation.
- Commissioner Salcedo thanked everyone for attending and encouraged the audience to engage with the Commission through various ways.
- Annie Lee (on behalf of Vice Chair Cynthia Choi) appreciated the opportunity to be part of the forum. She also commented on the trifecta of hate and resources such as CA vs Hate.
- Commissioner Southers shared that law enforcement agencies in California are beginning to take incident reports of hate.

- Chair Levin thanked everyone for attending and shared that the Commission is available and open to all communities. He also shared preliminary data from the FBI and encouraged the audience to engage with the Commission.
- Commissioner Damsky also discussed the importance of raising awareness about the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons and asked that the Commission keep this on its radar.

III. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

The commission received two public comments, some of which addressed data disaggregation and the diversity of the Commission.

Commissioner Salcedo suggested that the Commission discuss in a future meeting the topic of student sport and law enforcement on school campuses. She also would like to discuss how to include the theme of love in this work.

Commissioner Roybal suggested that the Commission discuss in a future meeting the disaggregation of data around ancestry or immigration status and by disability.

Commissioner Southers also suggested a future Commission discussion on data collection on hate incidents or hate crimes in the unhoused community.

IV. Adjournment of the Meeting

Commissioner Cuellar thanked everyone for attending, engaging, and for the work they are doing in their communities. The forum was adjourned at 2:39pm.