



NITHYA RAMAN | Los Angeles
City Councilmember
4th District



MONICA RODRIGUEZ
LA CITY COUNCILWOMAN, 7TH DISTRICT

MARQUEECE
LOS ANGELES CITY
COUNCILMEMBER  **HARRIS-DAWSON**


HEATHER HUTT
LOS ANGELES COUNCILWOMAN
10TH DISTRICT

MIKE BONIN
Getting Things Done for Our Neighborhoods
Councilmember, 11th District

PRESS RELEASE

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LOS ANGELES COUNCILMEMBERS DENOUNCE RACISM AND DEMAND GOVERNANCE REFORM CENTERED ON EQUITY AND TRANSPARENCY

LOS ANGELES (December 7, 2022) - Los Angeles Councilmembers approved a pair of motions this week reaffirming the City’s commitment to rooting out racism in City practices and committing the City to a dialogue that explores and documents racialized, ethnic, or political violence in Los Angeles to inform healing and reconciliation. These motions are part of a legislative package that will work towards restoring faith in City government and demonstrate a firm and unyielding commitment to equity, justice, and inclusion.

Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson stated “Historically, injustice has been encoded into our laws and governing ethos. The approval of these motions is in direct opposition to that history.” He acknowledged the work of the City Council saying, “I appreciate my colleagues' commitment to bettering ourselves as a city government. The first motion we approved creates a standard foundation as we denounce racism. The second motion takes the next step to hold ourselves accountable, ensuring that our employment practices reflect the diversity of our City. This legislation is just the beginning of centering equity in LA. Every step we take toward justice impacts Angelenos' daily lives. I am hopeful that this work will continue.”

The first motion, introduced by Councilmembers Mike Bonin, Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Heather Hutt, and Monica Rodriguez, reaffirms the City’s January 6, 1993 declaration that the City of Los Angeles is a "Racism Free City" made after the 1992 Rodney King Uprising. Additionally, the motion establishes a regularly convening Truth and Reconciliation Committee composed of local elected officials, community based organizations, and local leaders. This Committee is tasked with developing strategies that advance

collaborative governance, participatory budgeting, and governmental transparency and accessibility to overcome systemic oppression in the City.

“It’s past time for Los Angeles to do the hard work of dismantling systemic racism,” **Councilmember Mike Bonin of the 11th District** said. “That means identifying and deconstructing laws and systems that preserve privilege for some while reinforcing inequality for others. The work outlined in these motions will demonstrate our commitment to making systemic change in the way we operate as a city and ensure that equity and justice guide our policies, our actions and our investment in the people of Los Angeles.”

“Today, I am honored to partner with my colleagues, Councilmembers Bonin, Harris-Dawson, and Rodriguez in support of this motion,” said **10th District Councilwoman, Heather Hutt**. “The work of advancing racial equity is no easy task. This motion is a critical step forward in our journey to restoring the public's faith in how this city is governed, eliminating racial disparities and prioritizing racial equity in our decision making processes. More than ever we need to implement policies that will address systemic racism and structural barriers and work to rebuild a Los Angeles that lifts up and values the voices of all its people.”

The second motion, introduced by Councilmembers Mike Bonin, Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Nithya Raman, and Monica Rodriguez, directs the City to conduct its first ever “Disparity Study” which would inform the City’s contracting, procurement, and pre-qualification practices to encourage equitable participation in the City marketplace.

“Earlier this year, we established an Office of Procurement in the City to centralize and streamline the process of procurement, and enable us to treat procurement as an area of strategic policy making – using our spending to advance important social and environmental goals,” said **Councilmember Nithya Raman**. “Now it’s time to walk the walk and ensure that the City’s procurement policies are not only addressing discrimination in contracting practices with respect to traditionally underrepresented groups, but to also suggest further remediation to ensure equitable access to opportunities where gaps exist.”

Councilmember Monica Rodriguez stated, "As leaders of a city that is composed of an incredible cross-section of diversity, we must continue to challenge long-standing systems and institutions. Those systems and institutions have too often limited opportunities for women and communities of color, and that's why we need to be more inclusive and accessible for all Angelenos."

Councilmembers Mike Bonin, Marqueece Harris-Dawson, and Nithya Raman also introduced a third motion as part of this legislative package that is currently pending in various City Council committees. This motion recognizes the central role that land justice plays in reversing decades of marginalization in Los Angeles’ communities of color. The motion will direct City Departments to identify mechanisms to return surplus and underutilized public lands to Indigenous, Black, and Brown communities for their use, benefit, and sovereignty.

“Los Angeles wasn’t built on a level playing field - it was built on decades of displacement, segregation, and discrimination. At the LA Civil Rights Department, we are intentional about acknowledging these inequities and working together to build an LA for All,” said **Capri Maddox, General Manager of the**

Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department, also known as LA Civil Rights. “These motions move us closer to that goal. We are honored to join these City leaders to root out racism and build healing in Los Angeles.”

A report back on the resources required to establish and manage the Truth and Reconciliation Committee is expected by January of next year. Additionally, various City Departments are directed to report back on resources required to conduct a citywide "Disparity Study" on the City's contracting, procurement, and pre-qualification practices by February.

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