

U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

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COMMISSION BUSINESS MEETING

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2015

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The Commission convened in Suite 1150 at
1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest, Washington, D.C.
at 1:00 p.m., Martin R. Castro, Chairman, presiding.

PRESENT:

MARTIN R. CASTRO, Chairman

PATRICIA TIMMONS-GOODSON, Vice Chair

ROBERTA ACHTENBERG, Commissioner

GAIL HERIOT, Commissioner

PETER N. KIRSANOW, Commissioner*

DAVID KLADNEY, Commissioner

KAREN K. NARASAKI, Commissioner

MICHAEL YAKI, Commissioner

MARLENE SALLO, Staff Director

* Present via telephone

STAFF PRESENT:**TERESA BROOKS****MARGARET BUTLER****IVY DAVIS****PAMELA DUNSTON, Chief, ASCD****BARBARA DE LA VIEZ****DARREN FERNANDEZ****LATRICE FOSHEE****DORIS GILLIAM****DAVID MUSSATT, Director, RPCU****SEAN GOLIDAY****ALFREDA GREENE****JENNIFER CRON HEPLER, Parliamentarian****MYRNA HERNANDEZ****ROBERT LOCKLEAR, OGC Intern****TINA LOUSIE MARTIN****PETER MINARIK, Director, WRO****LENORE OSTROWSKY, PAU****JOHN RATCLIFFE, BGT****ROREY SMITH, General Counsel****MELISSA TUCKER****MICHELE YORKMAN, Director, IT**

COMMISSIONER ASSISTANTS PRESENT:

SHERYL COZART

ALEC DEULL

JASON LAGRIA

CLARISSA MULDER

JUANA SILVERIO

ALISON SOMIN

KIMBERLY TOLHURST

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P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

1:00 p.m.

CHAIRMAN CASTRO: This meeting will come to order. This is a meeting of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

It is currently 1:00 Eastern Time on January 29th, 2015.

We are meeting at the Commission's headquarters located at 1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest in Washington, D.C.

I'm Chairman Marty Castro. Commissioners who are present with me at this meeting are Commissioners Heriot, Narasaki, Timmons-Goodson, Kladney, Achtenberg and Yaki. Commissioner Kirsanow is participating by phone.

A quorum of the Commissioners is present.

Is the Staff Director present?

MS. SALLO: Present.

CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Is the court reporter present? Yes, he is.

So, the meeting will now come to order. The first item is the approval of the agenda.

I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Do we have a motion to approve?

1 PARTICIPANT: So moved.

2 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Is there a second? Is
3 there a second?

4 VICE CHAIR TIMMONS-GOODSON: Second.

5 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: I understand that there
6 may be some amendments as well. Do we have any
7 motions on amendments?

8 COMMISSIONER NARASAKI: Yes, Mr. Chair.

9 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Yes. Go ahead.

10 COMMISSIONER NARASAKI: I would like to
11 add approval of a letter to the President about Fred
12 Korematsu recognition.

13 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Okay. And I believe
14 there's also some amendments on removing from
15 consideration three potential SAC slates from today:
16 Wisconsin, Virginia and South Carolina.

17 Does someone want to make a motion on
18 that?

19 COMMISSIONER NARASAKI: So moved.

20 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Is there a second on
21 these two amendments?

22 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Second.

23 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Okay. If there are no
24 further amendments shall we vote to approve the agenda
25 as amended?

1 All those in favor say aye.

2 (Ayes.)

3 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: And opposed? Any
4 abstentions? It passes unanimously.

5 Actually, one thing I probably should have
6 asked to amend is to move up a report.

7 As you all know or I think as most of the
8 people who work at the Commission know and there's
9 probably folks here in the audience who don't, Marlene
10 Sallo, our Staff Director, who has served valiantly
11 over the last couple of years in that role and prior
12 to that, served even more valiantly as my special
13 assistant trying to keep me on track, is going to be
14 moving on to the next phase of her career much to the
15 sadness of those of us who worked with her closely
16 because she has really taken our Agency and put it
17 back on track and given us the forward momentum that
18 we need to accomplish the goals that we set for
19 ourselves over the last few years. But, it's also a
20 great opportunity to see that someone from our Agency
21 is moving on to continue to build her career.

22 So, on the one hand, I want to thank her
23 and recognize her leadership. On the other hand,
24 we're going to let her speak earlier because she does
25 have to leave early to go to another meeting.

1 But, I just wanted to tell you how much we
2 all and I personally appreciate everything you've done
3 for me and for the Agency. Thank you.

4 Other Commissioners may have a few words
5 as well. Commissioner Achtenberg.

6 COMMISSIONER ACHTENBERG: Mr. Chairman, I
7 want to concur in the statements that you just made.

8 When we had our hearing earlier in Florida
9 and I had the pleasure of meeting Marlene's mother, I
10 want to reiterate for the record what I told her
11 mother and that is I so value Marlene's hard work and
12 her leadership vision and, you know, her kind spirit
13 and she puts it all together in just a fantastic
14 package and she's done an enormous service to this
15 Commission.

16 It's because of her leadership we're in a
17 position to lead in this critical area of civil rights
18 right now and the Commission I hope is grateful.

19 I know this Commissioner is very grateful
20 for your leadership and wherever it is you're going,
21 I know you will take your extraordinary leadership
22 with you.

23 MS. SALLO: Thank you.

24 COMMISSIONER ACHTENBERG: Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Anybody else?

1 Commissioner Heriot, I see your hand up.

2 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: I would like to add
3 my voice to the praise of Marlene --

4 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Turn your mike up.

5 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: I'd like to add my
6 voice to the praise being given to Marlene here. She
7 has been a wonderful staff director. Has worked hard
8 to get us back on track and I appreciate it very,
9 very, very much.

10 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Thank you.

11 MS. SALLO: Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Commissioner Kladney.

13 COMMISSIONER KLADNEY: I, too, would like
14 to add my thanks. I think that Marlene leaves us in
15 a position to really move forward and actually
16 accomplish our goals with everything that she's had to
17 do and all the troubles that she's -- the problems
18 that she's faced in the organization, organizational
19 chart and filling positions and doing all that. I
20 think she's done a wonderful job and I think we're
21 really ready to move forward.

22 Thank you very much.

23 MS. SALLO: Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Anyone else?

25 Commissioner Narasaki.

1 COMMISSIONER NARASAKI: I've had a very
2 short tenure with Marlene, but I've been in Washington
3 for almost 25 years and her commitment to civil rights
4 is clear and the way that she's managed to really get
5 the Commission aligned and get us on mission with our
6 strategic plan, I think is amazing. It's not easy to
7 do in any kind of Government agency.

8 And so, I just want to say I really admire
9 you and I'm sad that we won't be able to continue to
10 be a partner because you've laid a really great
11 foundation from which I think we're going to be able
12 to build.

13 But, I wish you all the best.

14 MS. SALLO: Thank you.

15 VICE CHAIR TIMMONS-GOODSON: And if I
16 could say just a word, Mr. Chair.

17 I've not been here long. My tenure has
18 been just as brief as Commissioner Narasaki's. But,
19 we're all familiar with the tremendous history of this
20 Commission.

21 I believe that brighter days are ahead for
22 this Commission and that is due in large measure
23 because of the valiant efforts and the work that you
24 have put forward and I join my colleagues in thanking
25 you so very much.

1 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Commissioner Yaki.

2 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Thanks very much, Mr.
3 Chair.

4 Along with Commissioner Kirsanow, I've
5 been through many, more than I care to count, staff
6 directors at the Commission and I can say with very
7 little hesitation that Marlene has done an excellent
8 job and I join in the comments of all the other
9 Commissioners and wish her well for the future.

10 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Thank you. Commissioner
11 Kirsanow, I don't know if you wanted to say something.

12 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Yes, I do. Thank
13 you very much.

14 To echo what Commissioner Yaki just said,
15 again, you can put this down. It's let's say January
16 29th. I echo what Commissioner Yaki just had to say.

17 But, it is true I have gone through a
18 number of staff directors. We've been graced to have
19 several very talented staff directors. It's a
20 difficult job. It's herding cats on steroids.

21 I don't know that we've ever had anyone
22 who was as gracious, as hard working, fair and has the
23 degree of integrity although all the staff directors
24 in the past had all of those qualities and I truly
25 admire what she's done for the Commission.

1 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Thank you. Do you want
2 to say something?

3 MS. SALLO: I just wanted to say thank you
4 to everyone. The past three years has been very good
5 to me. I have been honored to serve this President.
6 I have been honored to serve each and every one of
7 you.

8 I have learned a lot and I thank you for
9 saying that I have integrity because that has always
10 been the most important value that I've tried to
11 instill in my children and which I abide by.

12 But, please let it be known that yes, I
13 may have done what you all said I did, but it couldn't
14 have been done without the staff of this Agency. They
15 were the ones that came together and did the work
16 whether I was directing them or not and I have full
17 confidence in every single one of our staff members
18 and I know that the great work that has come out of
19 this Agency will continue once I am gone.

20 And I hope to be able to come back and
21 visit. Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Thanks to our staff as
23 well.

24 And since you will be heading out a little
25 early, we thought we'd just let you speak to the

1 management operations before we get into our program
2 plan.

3 MS. SALLO: Okay. Here we go.

4 II. MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

5 STAFF DIRECTOR'S REPORT

6 MS. SALLO: So, I wanted to insure that
7 everyone knew the status of all of our reports prior
8 to my leaving next week and so, I'm just going to go
9 down the list and so everyone is on the same page and
10 I did circulate this chart yesterday.

11 But, we have, sorry, the peaceful
12 coexistence report. That's been circulated. I'm
13 hoping to receive comments by February 5th so that we
14 can then incorporate those comments. No, it's 5th.
15 I gave them the 5th. Okay. So we can circulate those
16 comments and then send out the report again.

17 The NVRA report had previously been
18 drafted. We went ahead and we added some more
19 information, introductory materials.

20 I did receive some additional comments and
21 those comments have now been aligned with the most
22 current version.

23 I have to give it one more go through to
24 insure that everything is good to go and I will
25 disseminate it to the Commissioners prior to my

1 leaving with a due date for the comments and
2 obviously, those comments will now need to be provided
3 to OCRE. Originally, that report had been started in
4 OGC.

5 We have the Civil Rights of Vets. That
6 first draft have been completed. I have given it to
7 our copy editor who's formatting it prior to
8 circulation to the Commissioners.

9 We have our sexual -- the Title IX
10 briefing that took place. So, Lenore is currently
11 putting the finishing touches on the first draft so
12 that we can then circulate it. So, we hope to have
13 the first draft circulated towards the later end of
14 February, mid to late February.

15 Our Stand Your Ground briefing, so, we had
16 a phenomenal briefing field hearing down in Florida.
17 We've had staff diligently working on this. I saw the
18 first draft. I read it over. I made some comments.
19 Those comments are now being incorporated with the
20 hopes of also getting that to the copy editor prior to
21 circulation towards the end of February.

22 We have, if you recall, the immigration
23 briefing that took place that we're now making into a
24 report. So, we're still -- yes. So, we're still
25 working on the first draft of that. That's looking

1 like more towards late February to circulate the first
2 draft.

3 And then we have our briefing tomorrow
4 which obviously we have 14 speakers set for tomorrow.
5 We are waiting on confirmation from CSPAN, but they're
6 definitely interested, but they have to get
7 confirmation. So, we hope to have confirmation by
8 4:00 today to see if they'll be here tomorrow.

9 We have a full house. We asked for folks
10 to RSVP using our website and we had to stop the RSVPs
11 because otherwise it'll be standing room only and
12 that's in violation of fire hazards.

13 However, the link to the webcast -- I
14 disseminated the link to all of our staff members. I
15 disseminated it to some folks I knew over at the ABA
16 and other people went ahead -- the link as well. So,
17 we have capacity for up to 500 folks to log on. So,
18 that'll be good as well.

19 So, the ongoing things that we have within
20 house, we had previously discussed setting up the
21 mapping system. I just saw a dry run of that. It
22 looks really good. So, it'll be a map of the U.S. and
23 you'll be able to take your cursor and hover over a
24 specific state and it'll pop up. Like one of the
25 little balloon things pops up and it says, you know,

1 12 percent complaints had to do with prisoners'
2 rights, 3 percent housing issues and so, the goal and
3 the vision is to insure that the information is
4 updated cumulatively over a one-year period so that
5 the information that's provided online aligns with our
6 end of the year report on the complaint process.

7 So, I'm really excited about that and that
8 continues.

9 The other thing that we've discussed as it
10 applies to the Stand Your Ground and all of the
11 research that we've been doing within OCRE is that
12 once we get some really good data points, we can put
13 those into nice tables and use that as a resource on
14 our clearinghouse page. Because for Fiscal Year 2015,
15 that's one of the goals. Is to start revising an
16 updating the clearinghouse page as part of our
17 strategic plan. So, we will be looking at that as
18 well.

19 We continue to improve our complaint
20 process. OCRE has been very diligent in updating the
21 letters to kind of make them more specific to the
22 issue at hand and allows for more personalization now.
23 So, that is good and then we'll be disseminating
24 samples of that also to the region offices to insure
25 that everybody's on the same page and then we'll also

1 translate them into Spanish since we do receive
2 Spanish complaints as well and we'll continue
3 identifying any other languages that come up along the
4 way.

5 As you know, we've implemented a brown bag
6 luncheon and our first brown bag lunch, we brought in
7 Eric Tars from the Homelessness NGO and he gave a
8 presentation to staff. The second brown bag, we
9 actually had our social side to speak about doing data
10 analysis which was good for the staff and we hope to
11 set up another one pretty soon and obviously, OCRE
12 will be making that announcement.

13 The Uncle Sam is now live in English on
14 the website and we're just waiting for the final copy
15 -- hard copy for the Spanish one also. So, we've
16 already ordered the Spanish one.

17 We continue to work to insure that any
18 persons have access to not only our website, but our
19 phones and to also comply with Section 508 and so, we
20 will continue to update that as necessary.

21 And staff just continues making sure that
22 we're all staying on task with the Strategic Action
23 Plan.

24 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Any questions? Any
25 questions from Commissioners for the Staff Director on

1 her report?

2 Seeing and hearing none, then we will move
3 on to the program planning part of the agenda.

4 III. PROGRAM PLANNING

5 VOTE ON APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR FOR THE
6 COMMISSION

7 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: The first item up, this
8 is actually a really cool one as well. This is going
9 to be a vote on the confirmation of the designation
10 by President Obama of Commissioner Timmons-Goodman to
11 serve as Vice Chair of our -- Goodson. I'm sorry.
12 Yes, he had a typo in his letter. I'm sorry.
13 Timmons-Goodson to be our Vice Chair for the
14 Commission.

15 You all have received a copy of the letter
16 that we received from the White House with the
17 President's designation.

18 As you know, we must receive a majority
19 vote of Commissioners to confirm the President's
20 designation. So, I would be happy to entertain a
21 motion on the confirmation of Commissioner Timmons-
22 Goodson as our Vice Chair.

23 COMMISSIONER NARASAKI: So moved.

24 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Is there a second?

25 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Second. Second.

1 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Okay. Any discussion?
2 All those in favor signify by saying aye.

3 (Ayes.)

4 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Any opposed? Any
5 abstentions?

6 Congratulations, Madam Vice Chair.

7 VICE CHAIR TIMMONS-GOODSON: Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Please share some words
9 with us.

10 VICE CHAIR TIMMONS-GOODSON: Just a few
11 words. Just a few words.

12 Mr. Chair and fellow Commissioners, staff,
13 friends all, I'm honored and humbled by the vote
14 that's just taken place.

15 I thank my fellow Commissioners for the
16 unanimous approval of the President's designation of
17 me as Vice Chair of the Commission on Civil Rights.

18 I appreciate the President's confidence in
19 my ability to assist Chairman Castro and help lead
20 this Commission.

21 I pledge to all to work at all times to
22 further the vital mission of this Commission.

23 I do believe that we are poised to further
24 the very proud tradition of protecting and advancing
25 the civil rights of all citizens. Thanks in large

1 measure to the efforts of our Staff Director to which
2 we've already alluded.

3 We're at the crossroads -- at a crossroads
4 here at the Commission. We've experienced modest
5 gains in our appropriations. Our staffing levels are
6 closer to where we would like to have them and if I
7 should say so myself, the Commission is enjoying a
8 fairly good time in our relationships.

9 And again, I'm glad to be here. I believe
10 that as I've already indicated that brighter days are
11 ahead and I join all of you in working hard to make
12 sure that we get to where it is that we would like to
13 be as a Commission.

14 Again, I thank you for allowing me a
15 minute or two.

16 DISCUSSION ON FY15 APPROPRIATIONS

17 EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

18 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Next up on the agenda we
19 have discussion or right to review and approval of our
20 Fiscal 15 Appropriations Explanatory Statement. I
21 think we've circulated to all Commissioners a copy of
22 the letter.

23 I talked to Commissioner Heriot just
24 before the meeting and she said she had two minor
25 changes. So, if you want to explain two us that and

1 then we can make a motion.

2 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Okay. Probably the
3 most important one is that instead of the word unified
4 which we use a couple of times to describe the
5 Commission as working as a unified body, I would
6 prefer that we use the word effective. Work as an
7 effective body.

8 Some of our best work, I think, contains
9 conflicting views and that it's part of our job to
10 make it clear. So, effective rather than unified in
11 every place where we use the word unified.

12 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Yes.

13 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: So, I think that
14 would be the only one that I've got here that's likely
15 to cause anyone to disagree.

16 The second one I have, in the first
17 paragraph, we have a that/which problem. We use the
18 word which. We mean that and I've got it marked
19 here. I don't think anybody's going to object to
20 that.

21 In the bullet points that describe the
22 special assistant's role, the third bullet point says
23 -- I'd like to amend it to make it clearer that these
24 statements are written and they're sometimes lengthy.
25 Otherwise, it looks like we're just talking about

1 special assistants telling us what to say during
2 meetings.

3 So, I would have it read "Drafting,
4 helping to draft and researching, Commissioners
5 sometimes lengthy written statements that are included
6 in written reports."

7 And then the next bullet point down, I
8 would insert after executive branch officials, local
9 governments, private individuals and then pick it up
10 where it goes there and private companies. So that we
11 have that all included.

12 I've got all this written down. If
13 anybody wants to take a look at it, I can pass it
14 down.

15 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Yes, I think -- seeing
16 a lot of heads nodding. So, I'm thinking that's all
17 good.

18 So, why don't you make a -- hold on a
19 second.

20 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Okay. I move that
21 we -- I move that we adopt the letter with the changes
22 that I've just suggested.

23 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Okay. We have a second
24 from Commissioner Achtenberg.

25 Question is called. Let me do -- I guess

1 we'd have to do a roll call on this. Maybe we'll just
2 do a -- yes, let me --

3 VICE CHAIR TIMMONS-GOODSON: Mr. Chair,
4 hold --

5 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Yes, ma'am.

6 VICE CHAIR TIMMONS-GOODSON: Mr. Chair, I
7 don't have any serious objection to what my fellow
8 Commissioner has requested. I just point out that in
9 all likelihood the unified -- the language that we
10 used indicating unified goes back directly to the
11 language that was -- that came to us from the
12 appropriating folks.

13 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: I understand. I'm sure
14 they'll know what we're talking about.

15 VICE CHAIR TIMMONS-GOODSON: Okay.

16 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: But, that's a good
17 point. Thank you for identifying that.

18 So, I'll take a roll call vote then.
19 Commissioner Kirsanow, how do you vote?

20 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Aye.

21 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Commissioner Heriot, how
22 do you vote?

23 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Yes.

24 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Commissioner Narasaki,
25 how do you vote?

1 COMMISSIONER NARASAKI: Yes.

2 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Commissioner Kladney,
3 how do you vote?

4 COMMISSIONER KLADNEY: Yes.

5 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Commissioner Achtenberg,
6 how do you vote?

7 COMMISSIONER ACHTENBERG: Yes.

8 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Commissioner Yaki, how
9 do you vote?

10 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Aye.

11 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Madam Vice Chair, how do
12 you vote?

13 VICE CHAIR TIMMONS-GOODSON: Yes.

14 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: And I vote yes. We have
15 unanimous approval.

16 Thank you all very much for your efforts
17 on this. It's very much appreciated.

18 Next we -- oh, thank you. Here's -- do
19 you want to make sure you make those changes?

20 Next on the agenda, we have consideration
21 of reports -- of past reports that we want to consider
22 updating.

23 DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON UPDATING SELECT

24 COMMISSION REPORTS

25 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: And there are a number

1 of them you should have received previously as well as
2 I sent them around again last night. Copies of the
3 summaries of why in particular we wanted to update
4 papers on the topic of anti-Semitism, Native American
5 rights as well as the 2008 paper on the undocumented
6 immigrants affect on the salary and employment
7 opportunities for Black American workers.

8 So, what I would suggest we do -- well,
9 what I want to do is -- we could take these
10 individually or we could vote on them as a group.

11 A suggestion that some of us had was that
12 in terms of considering these papers to be updated,
13 what we would like to do is if we do approve one of
14 these topics to be updated is go to our OCRE and have
15 them make an initial review of the existing report to
16 determine whether it can be updated merely through
17 staff work and statistical analysis and if so, to do
18 it that way.

19 If after they review, they feel that they
20 may also need an additional briefing or hearing or
21 have some testimony that they would come back and
22 inform us of that.

23 So, that we're going to actually look at
24 a two-step process so that we can determine whether
25 there's a more expeditious and effective way of

1 updating some of these rather than having all full-
2 blown hearings on all of them.

3 So, with that in mind, yes.

4 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Mr. Chairman, I just
5 want to clarify that if we were to update a report, it
6 would still be subject to Commissioner statements.

7 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: I haven't thought that
8 far, but I would imagine so. Unless -- yes, I mean it
9 would --

10 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: That's going to make
11 a difference to me whether I --

12 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Yes.

13 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: -- can vote for.
14 So.

15 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Yes, I don't have any
16 objection. I was not planning on altering any of
17 that.

18 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Okay.

19 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: So, talked about.
20 Commissioner Yaki.

21 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Yes. Thank you, Mr.
22 Chair.

23 I had asked, and it probably got lost in
24 paperwork, for the voter fraud and voter intimidation
25 paper to be part of that review as well.

1 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Okay. All right. It
2 must have gotten lost. Did you -- yes. So, well, a
3 motion hasn't been made yet. So, if you -- we're
4 going to at some point make a motion. We can include
5 that.

6 So, in fact, why don't we -- is someone
7 willing to make a motion at this point on these
8 various topics? Commissioner Yaki.

9 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Yes, I'd like to move
10 the topics that you read off along with the voter
11 fraud/voter intimidation report which I believe was
12 maybe 2012. I can't quite remember the date.

13 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Yes.

14 PARTICIPANT: I'll second that.

15 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Okay. Discussion?

16 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Why are we doing
17 this?

18 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Well, there's various
19 reasons. I think --

20 COMMISSIONER YAKI: It started with a
21 request from a Member of Congress just to have us
22 looking at these issues.

23 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Right. We were asked by
24 Congressman Wolf to revisit the anti-Semitism report.

25 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Okay.

1 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: And it was in discussion
2 of that a couple of meetings ago that other
3 Commissioners thought in addition to that there may be
4 some other reports that we might want to revisit. So,
5 we should try to look at them as a group and then we
6 suggested that we identify prior to this meeting those
7 that we wanted to revised.

8 So, Commissioner Heriot I don't think is
9 done with her question.

10 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: I'm just worried
11 that we're biting off a lot more than we can chew
12 here. This is a lot of topics to be taking on.

13 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Yes, that's why we're
14 suggesting this two-step process. That OCRE take a
15 look and see if there's something that can be done
16 short of a hearing. If not, come back to us and we
17 could then figure out based on our resources when we
18 could do such a hearing.

19 So, Commissioner Narasaki.

20 COMMISSIONER NARASAKI: Yes, I'd like to
21 add some further context.

22 So, we got the request from the
23 Congressman on the anti-Semitism paper and I actually
24 felt that -- first of all, it was before we knew what
25 our budget was and so, it was my suggestion that we

1 wait to see what kind of resources we had to make sure
2 that we could adequately take a look.

3 But, also, for me, because of the issue of
4 constraints on resources, I thought it was important
5 to look at what other areas we might want to revisit
6 so that we could figure out what priorities make
7 sense.

8 And I have moved on a suggestion for
9 updating the Commission's really great report on
10 Native Americans called The Quiet Crisis, Federal
11 Funding and Unmet Needs in Indian Country which was
12 2003. Over a decade ago.

13 And the Native American leaders have told
14 me how important useful that report has been in their
15 work. They still use it, but they have pointed out
16 that it is time to update it because there have been
17 -- some challenges have been addressed, but other
18 challenges remain.

19 And so, we wanted to look at this in the
20 context of what other things we might want to look at
21 and then try to figure out whether we can match the
22 capacity needed to the issues in terms of what things
23 we would like the Commission to try to update.

24 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Any other comments?
25 Madam Vice Chair. I mean Madam Staff Director.

1 MS. SALLO: I would just like to add that
2 we currently have ten reports either in the process of
3 being written or being completed or in the pipeline
4 because of upcoming briefings. So, as it applies to
5 bandwidth, I have a concern that we would not be able
6 to complete this most definitively within Fiscal Year
7 15.

8 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: But, we can start it.
9 It doesn't need to be completed in the fiscal year.
10 Right?

11 MS. SALLO: I'm just concerned about
12 capacity. I have to be honest. It's a lot for that
13 department. So, I just wanted to put that out there.

14 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: All right. Thanks. Any
15 other questions or comments?

16 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Mr. Chair and
17 Commissioners.

18 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Yes, Commissioner
19 Kirsanow.

20 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: I'm not sure maybe
21 I missed it. What was the reservation of Commissioner
22 Heriot's concern about our ability if this proceeds to
23 the stage of her vision of giving a report that we
24 would have the opportunity to file statements?

25 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: That would be allowed.

1 There's no effort here to change that process.

2 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Also, one other
3 thing. If this were to go to OCRE and they make an
4 initial determination that the reports could be
5 updated without the need for further briefing or a
6 hearing, I take it that's still subject to a full vote
7 of the Commission. If the Commission, for example,
8 wanted to have a hearing as opposed to simply updating
9 it with literature, then we would nevertheless go
10 ahead with the hearing.

11 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Yes, we always would
12 have the option to, as a Commission, decide that we
13 still want to conduct a hearing on something. This
14 would not ever prevent us from doing that.

15 We're just looking for a way to address
16 some of the concerns about bandwidth and about
17 resource allocation.

18 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: You're welcome.

20 Okay. I'm going to call the question. I
21 think everyone's had a chance to say their peace. So,
22 let me go through the roll call.

23 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: The question is --

24 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Oh, yes.

25 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: -- whether to update

1 all of these?

2 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Yes. Well, the motion's
3 been made as a package. So, let's go through that
4 motion. If it fails for some reason, we'll revisit
5 this by individual vote.

6 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Mr. Chair, just a
7 brief clarification.

8 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Yes, Peter.
9 Commissioner Kirsanow.

10 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Are we voting to
11 send these -- if approve them, to send them for OCRE
12 for further evaluation as to whether or not they're
13 going to be updated by literature or by briefing or
14 are we voting that we are going to update? How about
15 more specificity.

16 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Yes. We are voting that
17 we are going to update and then we're going to ask
18 OCRE to make an initial determination as to whether it
19 can be done by review of the literature and if they
20 feel, however, that that plus a hearing is necessary,
21 to come back and let us know that a hearing would be
22 necessary. Okay.

23 COMMISSIONER NARASAKI: Mr. Chair.

24 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Yes, Commissioner
25 Narasaki.

1 COMMISSIONER NARASAKI: I'm wondering if
2 there's middle ground on the capacity question of
3 perhaps asking OCRE to come back to us with what they
4 would see as a plan of attack to make sure that --
5 because I do believe that Commissioner Heriot does
6 have a valid concern about the number of reports that
7 we're asking them. Because even though it's just --
8 it's them as opposed to hearings, that's still a lot
9 of work to -- I mean the Native American report was
10 very extensive. That alone is a significant amount of
11 work.

12 So, I wondering if perhaps we take an
13 intermediate step to --

14 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: I'm not sure I
15 understand how that's different from what we're
16 asking.

17 COMMISSIONER NARASAKI: Well --

18 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Go ahead.

19 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: I'm sorry. Go
20 ahead, Commissioner.

21 COMMISSIONER NARASAKI: Well, I think it
22 would be -- they would be able to tell us how much
23 capacity they would have in order to -- like could
24 they do two reports this year and three next year?
25 You know, what would be a plan that would enable them

1 to --

2 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Oh, I see.

3 COMMISSIONER NARASAKI: -- successfully
4 meet our goal?

5 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: So, you're not saying
6 they're going to come back and say don't update this
7 and don't update that.

8 COMMISSIONER NARASAKI: No.

9 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: We're telling them they
10 need to be updated. They'll just tell us what the
11 best strategy --

12 COMMISSIONER NARASAKI: Right.

13 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: -- and timing is for
14 that.

15 COMMISSIONER NARASAKI: Right.

16 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: I don't have a problem
17 with that.

18 Commissioner Yaki, it's your motion. Do
19 you have a problem with that?

20 COMMISSIONER YAKI: None at all.

21 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Okay. All right. All
22 right. Subject to that, then I'm going to take a roll
23 call vote.

24 Commissioner Kirsanow, how do you vote?

25 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Abstain.

1 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Commissioner Heriot, how
2 do you vote?

3 Let the record reflect there's heated --
4 positive, friendly heated discussion about it.

5 We'll skip the two Commissioners that are
6 currently kibitzing and we'll go to Commissioner
7 Kladney. How do you vote on this?

8 COMMISSIONER KLADNEY: Yes.

9 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Commissioner Achtenberg,
10 how do you vote on this?

11 COMMISSIONER ACHTENBERG: Yes.

12 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Commissioner Yaki, how
13 do you vote on this?

14 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Aye.

15 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Madam Vice Chair, how do
16 you vote on this?

17 VICE CHAIR TIMMONS-GOODSON: Yes.

18 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: I vote yes.
19 Commissioner Heriot, how do you vote?

20 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Let me just make
21 sure I understand this. We'd be asking OCRE to take
22 a look at this list and come up with a schedule for
23 how long they think it would take them to be able to
24 get through this. So, they could potentially come
25 back and say, you know, we could do this over the

1 course of three years.

2 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Potentially they could
3 and my hope is that that's not going to be the case,
4 but certainly then we'd have to look at prioritization
5 of these reports. Which ones we needed done sooner
6 rather than later.

7 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: I'm happy to vote to
8 take -- you know, to have OCRE tell us how long they
9 think this will take us. If that's what I'm doing, I
10 can vote yes.

11 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: I think that's fine.

12 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Okay.

13 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: I think we're all in
14 agreement on that.

15 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Okay.

16 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: But, any concerns or
17 questions? I mean --

18 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: But, when it come to
19 actually deciding which ones to do, we vote again.

20 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: We're deciding that
21 right now. Which ones they're doing? These four are
22 going to be done. The only question that we're asking
23 OCRE is how long is it going to take you and what do
24 you need to do to update them and give us a plan.

25 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Then I guess I'm

1 going to vote no.

2 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Okay. Commissioner
3 Narasaki, how do you vote?

4 COMMISSIONER NARASAKI: Yes.

5 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Okay. So, we have one,
6 two, three, four, five, six yes, a no and an
7 abstention. The motion passes.

8 The next item on the agenda is a vote on
9 a date for the -- I think we already decided this.
10 The location right for the Police Practices briefing.

11 DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON DATE FOR THE POLICE

12 PRACTICES BRIEFING

13 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Madam Staff Director, is
14 that right?

15 MS. SALLO: Well --

16 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Or we need to do both?

17 MS. SALLO: -- if you all vote for
18 approval in the April briefing, then the option
19 offered was to do a field hearing in New York and so,
20 we have to start the conversations to insure that we
21 can get everything shored up. But, as it applies to
22 the research and staff is already preparing and as
23 identified speakers and such.

24 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Okay. So --

25 MS. SALLO: So, we can't reach out to a

1 site until you all approve the date.

2 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Okay. So, Commissioner
3 Kladney.

4 COMMISSIONER KLADNEY: I think -- in
5 discussions with the Staff Director, I think the April
6 20th meeting is a Monday and I have proposed in the
7 paper which passed was that we do it in New York at
8 the John Jay College.

9 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Okay.

10 COMMISSIONER KLADNEY: However, if that's
11 not available, I am sure that staff will be able to
12 make a requisite decision.

13 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Okay. Okay. So, you
14 have a motion that on the date of April 20th.

15 COMMISSIONER KLADNEY: That is my motion.

16 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Is there a second?

17 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Second.

18 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Any discussion? Hearing
19 none. We'll call the question. So, Commissioner
20 Kirsanow, how do you vote?

21 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Abstain.

22 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Commissioner Heriot, how
23 do you vote?

24 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Yes.

25 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Commissioner Narasaki,

1 how do you vote?

2 COMMISSIONER NARASAKI: Yes.

3 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Commissioner Kladney,
4 how do you vote?

5 COMMISSIONER KLADNEY: Yes.

6 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Commissioner Achtenberg,
7 how do you vote?

8 COMMISSIONER ACHTENBERG: Yes.

9 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Commissioner Yaki, how
10 do you vote?

11 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Aye.

12 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Madam Vice Chair, how do
13 you vote?

14 VICE CHAIR TIMMONS-GOODSON: Yes.

15 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: And I vote yes. So, it
16 passes with seven yes and one abstention.

17 Next, we have a discussion and vote on the
18 Education Equity paper.

19 DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON REVISED EDUCATIONAL
20 EQUITY PAPER

21 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: The briefing's currently
22 scheduled for May 29th, 2015. Is that correct,
23 Commissioner Achtenberg?

24 COMMISSIONER ACHTENBERG: That's correct,
25 Mr. Chairman.

1 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Yes.

2 COMMISSIONER ACHTENBERG: But, I'd like to
3 ask that if the paper is adopted today as proposed,
4 that that date be added. So, this would be a two-day
5 hearing.

6 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Okay.

7 COMMISSIONER ACHTENBERG: Both May 28th
8 and 29th.

9 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Okay. So, would that be
10 your motion?

11 COMMISSIONER ACHTENBERG: That would be my
12 motion, Mr. Chairman.

13 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Along with -- you're
14 also moving for approval of your paper.

15 COMMISSIONER ACHTENBERG: Indeed.

16 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Okay. Is there a
17 second?

18 VICE CHAIR TIMMONS-GOODSON: Second.

19 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Any discussion?
20 Commissioner Narasaki.

21 COMMISSIONER NARASAKI: Yes, I just --

22 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Just turn your mike up.
23 That -- there's too many mikes on?

24 COMMISSIONER NARASAKI: Okay. Thank you.
25 Yes, I just have a question. My only

1 concern is budgetary not on the substance of the
2 hearing or the length of witnesses and I understand
3 from Commissioner Achtenberg that she is not planning
4 to bring in any more people from the outside than she
5 would have for a one-day hearing and that the hearing
6 will be in D.C.

7 So, I just want to ask the Staff Director
8 whether there are any other budgetary considerations
9 that should be put on the table.

10 MS. SALLO: As long as we can keep the
11 out-of-state panelists to a minimum and we've had
12 those discussions, we would be fine because the
13 Commissioners normally travel in anyway for the
14 meetings and it would take place in-house. So, at
15 least in that respect, that's the way to keep costs
16 down.

17 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Any other questions or
18 comments? Hearing none. We'll take a vote.

19 Commissioner Kirsanow, how do you vote?

20 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Abstain.

21 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Commissioner Heriot, how
22 do you vote?

23 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Yes.

24 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Commissioner Narasaki,
25 how do you vote?

1 COMMISSIONER NARASAKI: Yes.

2 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Commissioner Kladney,
3 how do you vote?

4 COMMISSIONER KLADNEY: Yes.

5 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Commissioner Achtenberg,
6 how do you vote?

7 COMMISSIONER ACHTENBERG: Yes.

8 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Commissioner Yaki, how
9 do you vote?

10 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Aye.

11 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Madam Vice Chair, how do
12 you vote?

13 VICE CHAIR TIMMONS-GOODSON: Yes.

14 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: And I vote yes. We have
15 seven yes and one abstention. So, the motion passes.
16 Thank you. You're welcome.

17 Next on the agenda is a discussion and
18 vote on the press release acknowledging the
19 Anniversary of the 13th Amendment's passage.

20 DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON ANNIVERSARY OF 13TH
21 AMENDMENT PRESS RELEASE

22 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: You all should have
23 received a copy of that press release I believe prior
24 to the meeting and I don't know if anyone has any --
25 has a motion on that for us.

1 VICE CHAIR TIMMONS-GOODSON: I so move.
2 I so move.

3 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Is there a second?

4 COMMISSIONER KLADNEY: Second.

5 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Okay. Any discussion?

6

7 COMMISSIONER NARASAKI: I had asked -- I
8 had suggested that we add a sentence to the letter.
9 I'm not sure if it's added.

10 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Yes. I think the
11 problem, Commissioner Narasaki, is that the press
12 release was already at 400 words and apparently it
13 costs us significantly more to put one of these out if
14 it's over 400 words. So --

15 COMMISSIONER NARASAKI: Okay. So, just
16 for the record, I had asked for a sentence to note
17 that the 13th Amendment was sadly still relevant
18 because of the human trafficking issues that we
19 continue to struggle with. So.

20 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Yes. We appreciate
21 that.

22 COMMISSIONER NARASAKI: I understand the
23 budget issue.

24 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: And for the record,
25 I would have voted for that.

1 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: As would I, but we were
2 told just very recently. Prior to that, at least the
3 Commissioners were not aware that our verbosity was
4 costing us lots of money. So, we're now being very
5 mindful about the length of our press releases. So,
6 sorry about that.

7 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Mr. Chair.

8 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Yes.

9 COMMISSIONER YAKI: If we did it in
10 textspeak, would it work? Because we'd shorten the
11 amount -- the number of --

12 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: You mean like LOL and
13 all that?

14 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Yes, that kind of
15 stuff.

16 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: I don't know. I don't
17 know if that would work in this instance.

18 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Okay.

19 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: But, perhaps for the
20 future. So, any other questions or comments on that?
21 If not, I'm going to call the question.

22 Commissioner Kirsanow, how do you vote?

23 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Aye.

24 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Okay. I was afraid you
25 were going to abstain on that one. Commissioner

1 Heriot, how do you vote?

2 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Yes.

3 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Commissioner Narasaki,
4 how do you vote?

5 COMMISSIONER NARASAKI: Yes.

6 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Commissioner Kladney,
7 how do you vote?

8 COMMISSIONER KLADNEY: Yes.

9 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Commissioner Achtenberg,
10 how do you vote?

11 COMMISSIONER ACHTENBERG: Yes.

12 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Commissioner Yaki, how
13 do you vote?

14 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Most certainly yes.

15 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Madam Vice Chair, how do
16 you vote?

17 VICE CHAIR TIMMONS-GOODSON: Yes.

18 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: And I vote yes. So, we
19 have unanimous passage. Thank you very much.

20 Next on the agenda as we added today is
21 discussion and vote on a letter on Fred Korematsu Day.
22 Following up on a letter that we sent last year.

23 DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON A LETTER ON FRED

24 KOREMATSU DAY

25 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: I'll hand this over to

1 Commissioner Narasaki to discuss and move on.

2 COMMISSIONER NARASAKI: Thank you, Mr.
3 Chair.

4 As you know, tomorrow is Fred Korematsu
5 Day in a growing number of states across the country.
6 It started in California and I have circulated for the
7 Commissioners' consideration a letter addressed to
8 President Obama which is a follow up to the letter
9 that was delivered last year requesting that he
10 recognize Fred Korematsu Day.

11 As all of you know, Fred challenged the
12 removal internment of Japanese American families like
13 mine and Commissioner Yaki's during World War II and
14 ironically, it's a well-known case because it was the
15 Supreme Court case that laid out the standard of
16 review for Government actions based on race.

17 His story is unfortunately still relevant
18 today. He was an ordinary American. In fact, the
19 reason he wanted to resist internment was because he
20 was in love with someone who wasn't Japanese American
21 and he didn't want to be separated from her.

22 So, like hundreds of thousands of
23 Americans who challenged the Government authorities in
24 Selma for the right to vote, he stood up for prejudice
25 and fought for an America that lived up to its

1 Constitution.

2 That day reminds people that we have to
3 remain vigilant to safeguard civil rights and civil
4 liberties and that the struggle to insure these rights
5 is one that includes sacrifice of thousands across the
6 generations.

7 In a few weeks, we're going to acknowledge
8 the fiftieth anniversary of the courage and the
9 sacrifices of the marchers who crossed the bridge at
10 Selma and their important contribution to America and
11 we believe Fred's story like those who marched in
12 Selma is very an American one.

13 The issues that led to the internment of
14 Japanese Americans are still with us today. We see
15 this in the constant challenges faced by the Arab,
16 South Asian and Muslim communities and we think it's
17 important to have one day where Americans reflect on
18 these very challenging issues of national security and
19 the rights of individuals.

20 And I hope that the Commissioners will
21 join me in supporting this letter.

22 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: We have a motion. Do we
23 have a second? Okay. Any discussion? Commissioner
24 Yaki.

25 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Yes, thank you very

1 much and thank you, Commissioner Narasaki for taking
2 the lead on this. I am privileged to know that
3 probably this is the first time the Commission has had
4 two members of Japanese American descent on at the
5 same time and I find that a very positive development.

6 I just wanted to add one thing which is I
7 got to know Fred Korematsu in his later years when I
8 was on a Board of Supervisors in San Francisco and can
9 echo everything that Commissioner Narasaki said and
10 this was a man of quiet courage and resoluteness and
11 someone who believed that a grievous wrong had been
12 committed against an entire community and continued
13 throughout his life to stand up for others who were
14 similarly oppressed. Whether they were farm workers
15 in California, African American students seeking
16 higher education. He is someone who throughout his
17 life exemplified the best of the American role of
18 dissent in attempting to bring attention to an issue
19 greater than himself.

20 The one thing that I do want to say that
21 Commissioner Narasaki talked about in terms of
22 relevance is the very sad fact that the Supreme Court
23 Case Korematsu v. the United States still today even
24 though the underlying conviction was found to be void
25 because of massive governmental, for lack of a better

1 word, lying about the threat of the Japanese Americans
2 in World War II for which there was really none,
3 despite that, Korematsu still remains on the books of
4 the United States and, in fact, it was cited in an
5 Administration brief in the mid-2000s for part of
6 their justification for what they did with people in
7 Guantanamo Bay and the fact that someone would
8 actually cite Korematsu for me sent a chill down my
9 spine.

10 It would be if someone were to try and
11 cite Dred Scott or Plessy v. Ferguson today. Those
12 two have been effectively overruled by the
13 Constitution and by the courts. Korematsu has not.

14 And it hangs out there as a potential
15 weapon and a threat against every minority community
16 in this country who is seen by others as a potential
17 threat. A potential internal fifth column. Anything
18 that you want to say in terms of today's very
19 complicated multi-layered society, this still hangs
20 out there and everyone should continue to be vigilant
21 about that fact.

22 Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Thank you, Commissioner
24 Yaki.

25 Anyone else? Commissioner Heriot.

1 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: I probably should
2 put something on the record here.

3 I knew previous to this, of course, that
4 Fred Korematsu was a great man. I didn't know that he
5 was a romantic, too. So, I like that story.

6 Nevertheless, I don't support increasing
7 the number of Federal holidays for any purpose unless
8 we can subtract one. This has nothing to do with
9 Korematsu's greatness. I acknowledge that that's an
10 extremely important figure in American history and I
11 think we need to honor him.

12 But, I just can't support additional
13 Federal holidays. That's a very, very big step.
14 That's a big deal and I, therefore, can't sign the
15 letter.

16 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Any other questions or
17 comments?

18 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Mr. Chair.

19 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Yes, Commissioner
20 Kirsanow.

21 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: For the reasons
22 mentioned by Commissioner Heriot, I will decline to
23 support a national holiday not because Fred Korematsu
24 does not deserve recognition. But, I can't support
25 another national holiday or day off. I just think

1 there's a proliferation of such things.

2 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Mr. Chairman.

3 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Yes.

4 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: I suggest a day on.
5 Where on a Saturday we all go to work instead of a day
6 off to honor Fred Korematsu.

7 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Okay.

8 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Bet that won't pass.

9 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Any other comments or
10 questions? If not, I'll call the vote.

11 Commissioner Kirsanow, how do you vote?

12 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Abstain.

13 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Commissioner Heriot, how
14 do you vote?

15 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Abstain. I think
16 it's okay.

17 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Commissioner Narasaki,
18 how do you vote?

19 COMMISSIONER NARASAKI: Yes.

20 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Commissioner Kladney,
21 how do you vote?

22 COMMISSIONER KLADNEY: Yes.

23 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Commissioner Achtenberg,
24 how do you vote?

25 COMMISSIONER ACHTENBERG: Yes.

1 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Commissioner Yaki, how
2 do you vote?

3 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Aye.

4 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Madam Vice Chair, how do
5 you vote?

6 VICE CHAIR TIMMONS-GOODSON: Yes.

7 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: And I vote yes. It
8 passes with six yes and two abstention. Thank you,
9 everyone.

10 Now, we're moving on to our SAC slates.

11 IV. STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)

12 APPOINTMENTS

13 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: As you know, we've
14 removed a couple from consideration today. So, I am
15 going to start with Florida.

16 FLORIDA

17 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: So, I am making a motion
18 that the Commission appoint the following individuals
19 to the Florida State Advisory Committee based upon the
20 recommendation of our Staff Director: Brad Brown,
21 Laura J. Blundy, Nadine Smith, Jennifer Glass, Joy
22 Moore, Wilhemina Lewis, Don Mizell, Elena Flom,
23 Marliene Bastien, Lourdes Villanueva, Susan Perers,
24 Fernando Teson and Toufic Zakharia.

25 Pursuant to this motion, the Commission

1 appoints Elena Flom as Chair of the Florida State
2 Advisory Committee.

3 These members will serve as uncompensated
4 Government employees.

5 Under this motion, the Commission
6 authorizes the Staff Director to execute the
7 appropriate paperwork for the appointments.

8 Is there a second?

9 VICE CHAIR TIMMONS-GOODSON: Second.

10 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Okay. Any discussion?

11 COMMISSIONER NARASAKI: Yes, Mr. Chair.

12 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Yes.

13 COMMISSIONER NARASAKI: So, I am going to
14 support this, but I want to raise a couple of issues.

15 One is -- and I had mentioned this with
16 slates last time around. I thought it was great.
17 Staff did a great job of really trying to bring more
18 of the younger generation in the slates for Texas and
19 Michigan, but I note for Florida there's only one
20 person under the age of 35. Whereas, there are four
21 people over the age of 60. Which actually does not
22 reflect -- even though everybody thinks a lot of
23 retirees are in Florida. Actually, that actually
24 overstates the demographic there.

25 So, I would urge staff. I know it's very

1 difficult because you have so many factors that you're
2 trying to balance, but I really think it's important
3 for us to continue to push on trying to get more
4 younger generation voices. Because as I stated last
5 time, I feel that generation sees race and many of
6 these issues in a very different way and it's an
7 important viewpoint to have on these state advisory
8 commissions.

9 The second issue is I note that in these
10 SAC nominations while there are people who have been
11 identified as experts on disability, it seems that no
12 one is identified as actually being a person with a
13 disability. So, again, I will support it because
14 there's expertise on that issue, but I hope that we
15 can do -- work with the staff to do better outreach to
16 get people with disabilities an opportunity to
17 participate directly on these advisory councils.

18 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Thank you. Any other
19 questions? If not, we'll call the vote.

20 Commissioner Kirsanow, how do you vote?

21 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: No.

22 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Commissioner Heriot, how
23 do you vote?

24 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: I'm voting no on
25 this one. I don't think it's ideologically balanced.

1 Jayashree Kommareddi, James Prescott, Sarah Prescott,
2 Victor Torres, Matthew Wesaw and Nathaniel Wolf.

3 Pursuant to this motion, the Commission
4 appoints Donna Budnick as Chair of the Michigan State
5 Advisory Committee.

6 These members will serve as uncompensated
7 Government employees.

8 Under this motion, the Commission
9 authorizes the Staff Director to execute the
10 appropriate paperwork for the appointments.

11 Is there a second?

12 COMMISSIONER KLADNEY: Second.

13 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Okay. Any discussion?
14 Questions called.

15 Commissioner Kirsanow, how do you vote?

16 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Yes.

17 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Commissioner Heriot, how
18 do you vote?

19 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: I'm voting no on
20 this one as well for the same reason.

21 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Commissioner Narasaki,
22 how do you vote?

23 COMMISSIONER NARASAKI: Yes.

24 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Commissioner Kladney,
25 how do you vote?

1 COMMISSIONER KLADNEY: Yes.

2 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Commissioner Achtenberg,
3 how do you vote?

4 COMMISSIONER ACHTENBERG: Yes.

5 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Commissioner Yaki, how
6 do you vote?

7 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Aye.

8 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Madam Vice Chair, how do
9 you vote?

10 VICE CHAIR TIMMONS-GOODSON: Yes.

11 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: And I vote yes. The
12 slate passes with seven yes and one no.

13 TEXAS

14 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: I am now going to make
15 a motion that the Commission appoint the following
16 individuals to the Texas State Advisory Committee
17 based upon the recommendation of our Staff Director:
18 Joni E. Baker, Josh M. Blackman, Charles Z. Burchett,
19 Frances A. Carnot, Jason P. Casellas, Cecilia R.
20 Castillo, Glenn O. Lewis, Bobby L. Lydia, Merrill
21 Matthews, Cathy M. McConn, Martha Orozco, Vikrant P.
22 Reddy, Christina D. Sanders, Ronald J. Smeberg and
23 Barbara J. Walters.

24 Pursuant to this motion, the Commission
25 appoints Martha Orozco as Chair of the Texas State

1 Advisory Committee.

2 These members will serve as uncompensated
3 Government employees.

4 Under this motion, the Commission
5 authorizes the Staff Director to execute the
6 appropriate paperwork for the appointments.

7 Is there a second?

8 COMMISSIONER KLADNEY: Second.

9 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Any discussion?

10 COMMISSIONER NARASAKI: I just have one.

11
12 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Commissioner Narasaki.

13 COMMISSIONER NARASAKI: So, I note for
14 Texas it's great that there is an Asian American who's
15 been nominated.

16 Texas has the third largest population of
17 Asian Americans outside of California and New York and
18 so, one of the things I want to watch for Texas in the
19 next round is whether we can help you reach out and
20 find more talented Asian Americans for that state.

21 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Thank you, Commissioner
22 Narasaki.

23 Any other comments? If not, I think --
24 oh, yes, Commissioner Yaki.

25 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Yes. Just for

1 Commissioner Narasaki. Usually, at this point, we ask
2 the question whether or not the Committee as it's been
3 formed has fully met it's capacity and if there's
4 still unmet capacity, there's still opportunities to
5 recruit additional members that you would want.

6 COMMISSIONER NARASAKI: Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Okay. Any other
8 questions or comments? If not, that question's been
9 called.

10 Commissioner Kirsanow, how do you vote?

11 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: No.

12 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Commissioner Heriot, how
13 do you vote?

14 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Yes.

15 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Commissioner Narasaki,
16 how do you vote?

17 COMMISSIONER NARASAKI: Yes.

18 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Commissioner Kladney,
19 how do you vote?

20 COMMISSIONER KLADNEY: Yes.

21 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Commissioner Achtenberg,
22 how do you vote?

23 COMMISSIONER ACHTENBERG: Yes.

24 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Commissioner Yaki, how
25 do you vote?

1 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Aye.

2 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Madam Vice Chair, how do
3 you vote?

4 VICE CHAIR TIMMONS-GOODSON: Yes.

5 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: And I vote yes. So, the
6 motion passes with seven yes and one no.

7 And I believe that covers all of the SACs
8 that were up that had not been removed.

9 So, that concludes our agenda.

10 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Did we remove
11 Wisconsin?

12 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Yes, we did at the
13 beginning.

14 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: I guess we did.
15 Okay. Okay.

16 CHAIRMAN CASTRO: Yes. So, we'll put it
17 off. Someone raised some concerns and so, we'll do
18 that at the next meeting hopefully.

19 V. ADJOURN MEETING

20 So, we are done with our business and we
21 are now adjourned. The hour is -- does anyone know
22 the exact hour? One fifty-six.

23 Okay. Thank you, everyone.

24 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went
25 off the record at 1:56 p.m.)

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