



COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

"Enriching lives through effective and caring service"

For immediate release
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COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS ANNOUNCES PUBLIC HEARINGS ON POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS ON THE 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE WATTS REBELLION

(Los Angeles) The Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations voted on August 3, 2015, to issue the following statement today, August 11, 2015, the 50th Anniversary of the Watts Rebellion.

The Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations has been committed to fostering harmonious and equitable human relations for more than 70 years. One of the most challenging of these has been the relationship between communities of color and policing agencies. Fifty years ago, the Watts community rose up in what is now known as the Watts Rebellion of 1965 to challenge police abuse and brutality in one of the most historic and tightly bound Black communities in the County. Since 1965, the County has undergone substantial reform in terms of its policing practices. Still, in 2015, tensions and mistrust resulting from real and perceived abuse carried out by police and policing agencies remains an issue of deep concern among many of the County's residents, especially within communities of color. As a part of the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Watts Rebellion, the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission will hold Public Hearings on Community Interactions with Police and Visions of Public Safety. Hearings will provide a safe space through which residents can document their stories of police interaction. These narratives will contribute towards a Commission Report that will include recommendations to be presented to County Board of Supervisors, local governments, and policing agencies around reforms that can build less contentious and more effective systems of public safety. (end)

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