

**Leon L. Williams San Diego County  
Human Relations Commission**

Chair: Ellen Nash

Vice-Chairs: Warsan Artan and Nicole Murray Ramirez

**Leon L. Williams San Diego County Human Relations Commission**

Adeem Ismaeil	George Khoury	Herminia	Sarah Farouq
Angela Elliott Santos	Gina Roberts	RamirezJulia	Simona Ruderman Summer
Alex Villafuerte	Dennis Hodges	Legaspi Kate	Stephan Taha Hassane
Bill Gore	Eleanor Evans	Chasin	Tammy Gillies
Cara Dessert	Elena Perez	Kate Clark	Tim Riemann
Christina Griffin-Jones	Ellen Nash	Nicole Murray Ramirez	Warsan Artan
Cinnamon Clark	Estela De Los Rios	Pedro Anaya	
		Rodney Fowler	

November 12, 2021

To: Joel Anderson, Supervisor, District 2

From: Leon L. Williams San Diego County Human Relations Commission

**STATEMENT REGARDING STATEMENTS MADE BY COMMISSIONER DENNIS HODGES AT THE RECENT COMMISSION MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 9, 2021.**

The Leon L. Williams Human Relations Commission of San Diego County is committed to fostering mutual respect and understanding, protecting basic human and civil rights, and creating an atmosphere that promotes amicable relations among all members of the San Diego Community. "The purpose of the Commission is to promote positive human relations, respect, and the integrity of every individual regardless of gender, religion, culture, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, or citizenship status."

We strongly condemn the statements made by Commissioner Dennis Hodges at the recent commission meeting held on November 9, 2021. We recognize and encourage a diversity of beliefs and opinions however, we also recognize that words matter, and we must always treat one another with respect and dignity in a way that promotes understanding. It was clear that the statements made by Commissioner Hodges was a direct attack on the commission's mission and the members of our community that we have been called on to represent.

The dehumanizing and shocking comments made hurt members of our commission and by extension members of our community. Preservation of one's own beliefs does not require contempt or disrespect for others. The Commission does not and will not tolerate hate or discrimination of any kind. No person should be subject to discrimination because of who they are, including their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

A member who cannot commit to the mission and purpose of the Human Relations Commission should not serve on the Commission. We ask Member Hodges resign or he be removed by his appointing Supervisor (as allowed in the adopted Bylaws). We do not take this request lightly, but the purpose and mission of the Commission is paramount. A member unable to subscribe to such mission and purpose should not serve. The Commission stands firmly with the Transgender community and we continue to thrive to create spaces where all feel safe.

Sincerely,



Ellen Nash

Chair, Leon L. Williams Human Relations Commission of San Diego County

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C: Nathan Fletcher, Chair  
Nora Vargas, Vice Chair  
Terra Lawson-Remer, Supervisor  
Jim Desmond, San Diego County Board of Supervisor  
Helen Robbins-Meyer, Chief Administrative Officer  
Andrew Strong, Director, Office of Equity & Racial Justice