



# San Diego County Sheriff's Department

Post Office Box 939062 • San Diego, California 92193-9062



*Kelly A. Martinez, Sheriff*

July 26, 2023

Ellen Nash  
Chairwoman  
Leon L. Williams Human Relations Commission  
1600 Pacific Highway  
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Chairwoman Nash,

In May of 2020, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors established the Leon L. Williams San Diego County Human Relations Commission (Commission) with the mission to promote positive human relations, respect, and the integrity of every individual regardless of gender, religion, culture, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, or citizenship status. As Sheriff, I have a designated seat on the Commission. Upon my election, I was proud to participate in the Commission which had a noble mission and was named after someone who I have great respect and admiration for. I believe bringing together individuals from our communities of diverse backgrounds could be a positive road to better understanding. I am saddened today to inform you that the current divisiveness and direction of the Commission has forced me to suspend my participation. I cannot continue to be a part of a commission that does not uphold the high ideals of which it was enacted. As Sheriff, I serve to represent all community members. The direction of this Commission has shed light on hostilities that are being displayed in a way that I do not find appropriate and therefore, find it best to remain neutral until the Commission can mitigate their personal beliefs in a way that can allow space for acceptance of each other's differences while elevating positive contributions to the community.

I wish you all good luck in resolving the conflicts that you face. I will continue to serve all our diverse communities and look forward to working with you all individually (and hopefully collectively) in the future.

Sincerely,

Kelly A. Martinez, Sheriff

CC: Andrew Strong, Director, Office of Equity and Racial Justice  
Eleanor Evans, Vice Chair, Leon L. Williams Human Relations Commission  
Estela De Los Rios, Vice Chair, Leon L. Williams Human Relations Commission  
Nora Vargas, Chairwoman, San Diego County Board of Supervisors, District 1