

Office of the Los Angeles City Attorney
Hydee Feldstein Soto

REPORT NO. **R 24 - 0 5 2 6**
OCT 23 2024

REPORT RE:

**DRAFT ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 22.1223 OF THE LOS ANGELES
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE TO ESTABLISH DEFINITIONS AND SPECIFY
APPROACHES FOR THE OFFICE OF RACE AND EQUITY TO ADVANCE AND
IMPLEMENT EQUITY PRINCIPLES AS CORE ELEMENTS OF THE GOALS,
OBJECTIVES, AND STRATEGIES OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES**

The Honorable City Council
of the City of Los Angeles
Room 395, City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Council File No. 19-1470

Honorable Members:

In 2021, the City Council requested this Office to draft an ordinance creating an Office of Racial Equity (ORE) under the purview of the Civil, Human Rights and Equity Department (CHRED). Pursuant to that request (Council File No. 20-0761), this Office drafted and City Council approved Ordinance No. 187,032, which added Section 22.1223 to the Los Angeles Administrative Code (LAAC), creating the ORE.

More recently, the City Council approved a second request (Council File No. 19-1470) to once again codify the ORE within the LAAC. This subsequent request was part of a larger action that focused on ORE's five-year action plan. The primary difference between the existing LAAC Section 22.1223 and the later City Council action was a new instruction to "establish citywide definitions and specific approaches necessary to implement and achieve equity principles to be embedded as a core element of the goals, objectives and strategies of the City."

Given that the ORE was already established in the LAAC, this Office, pursuant to Council Rule 38, engaged in discussions with CHRED regarding ORE's first few years of operations to be able to properly implement the expanded Council instruction. Consistent with Council's request and CHRED's input, the enclosed draft ordinance, approved as to form and legality, gives ORE the following powers and duties:

- Development of a common and working vocabulary of equity-related terms and definitions to achieve the purpose of the ORE in consultation with the Office of the City Administrative Officer and other appropriate departments;
- Analysis and research of existing and proposed City legislation, policies, programs, and investments for their actual or potential impacts on equity;
- Collection, evaluation, and reporting of data in collaboration with City departments, to identify racial and other disparities and identify the priorities and needs of communities;
- Development of technical assistance and training for City of Los Angeles employees on racial equity concepts, policies and practices;
- Development of programs that focus on improving and increasing public participation by seeking advice and input from communities historically marginalized and excluded from government decision-making.

The draft ordinance also incorporates CHRED's independent recommendation to ensure the Office of Racial Equity is recognized as advancing all forms of equity, not only racial equity. In light of CHRED's recommendation and consistent with the ORE's ongoing operations, the draft ordinance, if approved, would rename ORE to be the Office of Race and Equity.

Council Rule 38 Referral

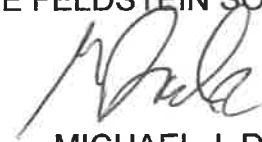
A copy of the draft ordinance was sent, pursuant to Council Rule 38, to the General Manager of the Civil, Human Rights and Equity Department, the City Administrative Officer and Chief Legislative Analyst with a request that all comments, if any, be presented directly to the City Council when this matter is considered.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Assistant City Attorney Heather Aubry at (213) 978-8100. She or another member of this Office will be present when you consider this matter to answer questions you may have.

Sincerely,

HYDEE FELDSTEIN SOTO, City Attorney

By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Dundas", is written over the printed name.

MICHAEL J. DUNDAS
Senior Assistant City Attorney

MJD:HA:mm
Transmittal