

DAYS OF DIALOGUE - THE FIRST STEP...

PRESENTS

LEADERSHIP DIALOGUE

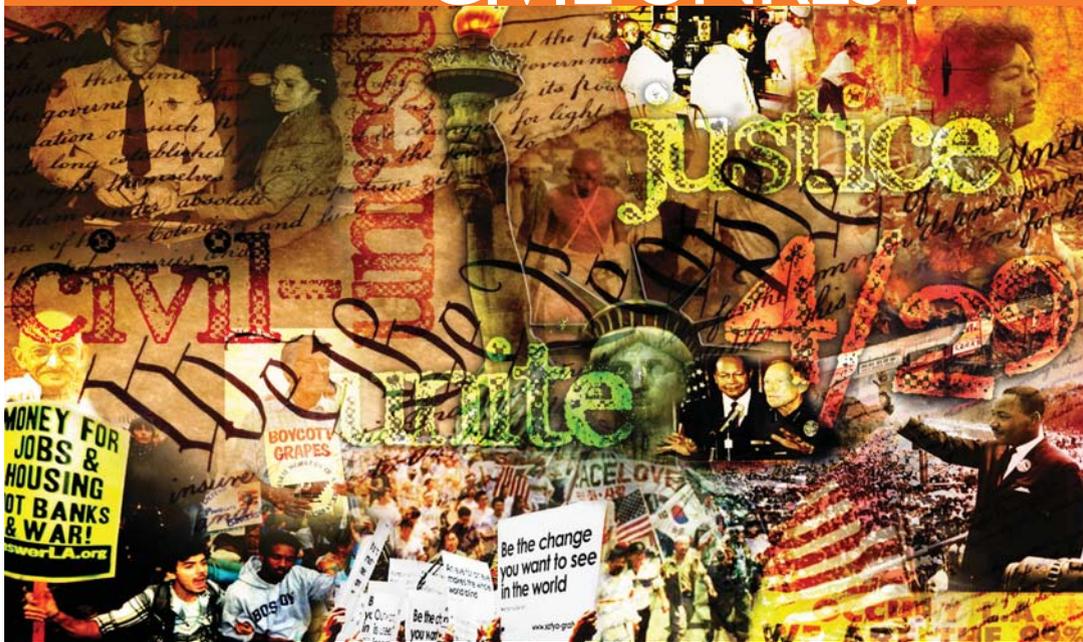
20 YEARS LATER:

Days of Dialogue



A DAY OF DIALOGUE

A DIALOGUE ON CIVIL UNREST



FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2012

www.daysofdaydialogue.org

message

A LETTER FROM MARIA ELENA DURAZO

Days of Dialogue



April 25, 2012



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
FEDERATION OF LABOR,
AFL-CIO

Maria Elena Durazo
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

Ricardo E. Icaza
President

Dear Dialogue Participant,

It is hard to believe that 20 years have passed since Los Angeles was aflame. A lot has happened in the intervening years.

Certainly all of us would hope that everything would improve. As is the condition of humankind throughout the world and for all time- we have come a long way, we have a long way to go.

Of one thing I am certain, authentic dialogue, helps us to navigate our challenges in a very unique and profound way. We sit together, we struggle together, we grapple with our common challenges, and we consider solutions that we have never considered before.

Through dialogue we share at the table of community and come away better for the experience. Authentic dialogue is not an easy process, and it is not always a fun process, but it is a necessary process for advancing our common interests.

I am honored to take this opportunity 20 years after April 29, 1992 to reflect, to interact, and to challenge others and myself to improve our plight. To think of the best possibilities ahead in the context of our community is profoundly transforming.

You are invited to dialogue as we never have before, encouraged to offer your best "listening ear" to your neighbor. Ensuring that you understand his or her expressions before you seek to be understood is arguably the most priceless gift that we can give one another.

Take advantage of this opportunity to engage, to look for inspiration to think about our future. Whatever happened twenty years ago, one thing is certain: we are here now and we alone will be responsible for what happens over the next 20 years.

I am committed to working with you and members of our community to make it the best Los Angeles that we can be. You are invited to join me in making this first step - dialogue.

Maria Elena Durazo
Founding Board Member, Days of Dialogue
Executive Secretary/Treasurer
Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO

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message

A LETTER FROM CHARLIE BECK



LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT



CHARLIE BECK
Chief of Police

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ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
Mayor

April 11, 2012

Dear Days of Dialogue Participants:

As Police Chief, the events of April 29, 1992 still give me pause. At that time, it was clear that the response by some members of our community was destructive. Los Angeles suffered terribly in many different ways and we have all learned a great deal from those events. This time for reflection and dialogue is also a time for recommitment to making this the best Los Angeles possible.

Loss of life and property destruction diminished large sections of our City. The need for authentic dialogue well in advance of those events is now very obvious. Today our goal is to ensure that law enforcement assumes our responsibilities in cooperation with our community in ways that were not possible twenty years ago.

Today is a new day.

We can make the most progress in improving our quality of life with every person of good faith working toward the same goals. We learn of our common interests most effectively by engaging in authentic dialogue as the first step. Members of LAPD are in attendance at this important Day of Dialogue to listen to the needs of our community. We are here to become a better police department and to build a better community while developing and sustaining new relationships.

We ask that members of our community stand with us. As an integral part of our community the Los Angeles Police Department stands shoulder to shoulder with every sector of our community to ensure that our best days are ahead of us. I urge each participant to use this time of dialogue wisely, as we have much work to do in the days ahead.

Very truly yours,

CHARLIE BECK
Chief of Police

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www.JoinLAPD.com

message
 A LETTER FROM REV. CECIL L. "CHIP" MURRAY



A DAY OF DIALOGUE ON CIVIL UNREST

Rev. Cecil L. "Chip" Murray
 Tamsey Chair, Center for Religion and Civic Culture, USC

By former agreement, our communities were to gather at First A.M.E. Church on the night the decision was reached in the Rodney King court hearing. We would examine our next steps and commit to civility in response actions. We packed out the church, with some 1,000 persons outside listening by way of speakers on the roof. Mayor Tom Bradley had just finished addressing the crowd, when we were summoned outside where fires were raging on the southern horizon and in the immediate neighborhoods.

We saw there an answer to the question of black poet, Langston Hughes: "What happens to a dream deferred: does it dry up like a raisin in the sun, or does it explode?" The answer was blowing in the wind of flames, to this day inviting us to light back fires to a new explosion—one of determination to emerge from the ashes as did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abadnegro.

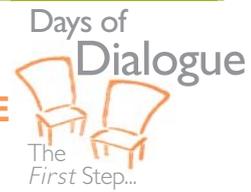
Now we gather as did those porcupines following thousands of years of decimation due to freezing in winter, and meeting the challenge to huddle together for warmth even though their quills offended each other, or to perish separately as fools. Like those porcupines, we are not fools. Ours is not a failure of know how, but of will. In our connections, we are warmed to a livable temperature by such as the Rebuild LA program, the Christopher Commission and the Police Commission, those established after the civil unrest and giving a new essence and understanding to police power. Further, ACLU has chartered a compendium of recommendations on the subject of jail abuse, addressing the enduring question of, "Who shall protect us from our protectors?" Then the County Board of Supervisors has added the Office of Independent Review plus the Citizens Commission on Jail Abuse to insist on positive change.

Needed yet—growth in small businesses, job training and job placement, downsizing in the poverty rate which is double that of the American rate of eight per cent. Essentially, we gather to fix the 4 P's: poverty of pocket, poverty of family, poverty of education, and poverty of imaging (how we see ourselves).

So what'll it be, porcupines? What'll it be?

timeline

A TRADITION OF **DIALOGUE**



Days of Dialogue:

A Rich and Vibrant Local Tradition

Today's Day of Dialogue emerges from a tradition of mobilizing civic dialogue that goes back for many years. Some of the highlights from this history include the events and topics listed below and throughout these pages.

[T I M E L I N E]

CIVIC DIALOGUE TOPICS HAVE INCLUDED:

2012

- FROM WRECKAGE AND RUIN...THE ROAD TO REBIRTH:
A DAY OF DIALOGUE ON THE ECONOMIC CRISIS AND COMMUNITY HEALTH ■
- 20TH ANNUAL EMPOWERMENT CONGRESS SUMMIT ■

2011

- EMPOWERMENT CONGRESS SUMMIT: EMPOWERED TO REALIZE THE DREAM ■

Issue Overview: Interesting Facts and Concepts about the 1992 Disturbances and their Aftermath

The dialogue today is designed to foster our collective reflection about the causes and impacts of the 1992 Los Angeles civil unrest, and to examine the implications for today and the city's future. In preparation for the dialogue, we invite you to review a mix of facts about the LA disturbances and some reflections from people who have thought about the nature of civil unrest as a reaction to social conditions.

■ During the six days that are most commonly considered to be the duration of the 1992 LA disturbances, 53 people were killed. Of these, 25 were African-American, 16 were Latino, 8 were White, 2 were Asian American, and 2 were members of other groups.

■ Approximately 2,000 businesses were destroyed during the civil unrest. One year after the riots fewer than one in four damaged or destroyed businesses reopened.

■ The estimated total property damage during the event is most often considered to be between \$800 and \$1 billion. Some sources place estimate the proportion of these damages sustained by Korean shop businesspeople as 50 percent of the overall property damage.

■ On the 5th day after the disturbances started, there was a very large Peace March in Koreatown. Most estimates place the size of the crowd at 30,000, but some estimates go as high as 100,000.

■ During the civil unrest, about 2,000 people were arrested for activities related to the disturbances. Of these the portion from various racial groups: 51% were Latino, 38% were black, 9% were white, and 2% were Asian or other.

■ In areas that were hardest hit by the unrest, before the disturbances 29.7% of people were in poverty, 21% were on public assistance, and 13% of workers were unemployed.

■ Angelenos have changed significantly in the past 20 years. In a 2009 survey of LA residents, 83 percent said that LAPD was doing a good to excellent job.

Changes in the Population of Los Angeles: 1990 to 2010

Group	Portion in 1990	Portion in 2010
Latino	38%	48%
White	41%	28%
Black	11%	8%
Asian	10%	13%
Other	0.5%	3%

[T I M E L I N E]

2010

- ANNUAL EMPOWERMENT CONGRESS ■
- RAMPART/WESTLAKE LAPD COMMUNITY DIALOGUE ■
- EMPOWERMENT CONGRESS YOUTH SUMMIT ■

2009

- PACIFIC PALISADES HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH DIALOGUE ON STREET RACING AND SCHOOL SAFETY ■
- BUDGET SUMMIT: WE ARE THE SECOND DISTRICT EMPOWERED FOR CHANGE ■
- SUSTAINING QUALITY SERVICE AFTER THE BUDGET CRISIS ■

"When the fabric of society is so rigid that it cannot change quickly enough, adjustments are achieved by social unrest and revolutions." — John Boyd Orr

"The biggest challenge is to be able to respond to the needs of the population. They've got to be able to provide the basic services. Otherwise, there will be simmering unrest." — Geoffrey Rudd

"When you have police officers who abuse citizens, you erode public confidence in law enforcement. That makes the job of good police officers unsafe." — Mary Frances Berry

"Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will. Find out just what people will submit to, and you have found out the exact amount of injustice and wrong which will be imposed upon them; and these will continue until they are resisted with either words or blows, or with both. The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppress." — Frederick Douglass

"A riot is the language of the unheard." — Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"You can't just lecture the poor that they shouldn't riot or go to extremes. You have to make the means of legal redress available." — Harold H. Greene

"Revenge... is like a rolling stone, which, when a man hath forced up a hill, will return upon him with a greater violence, and break those bones whose sinews gave it motion." — Albert Schweitzer

"If society is like a supertanker, significant political change requires immense energies to turn it around even a little, but too much pressure - civil war, etc. - occasionally breaks the ship and sinks it, spilling the toxic waste all over the place." — Xavier Marquez

"Social justice cannot be attained by violence. Violence kills what it intends to create." — Pope John Paul II

"Nonviolence is fine as long as it works." — Malcolm X

"The limitation of riots, moral questions aside, is that they cannot win and their participants know it. Hence, rioting is not revolutionary but reactionary because it invites defeat. It involves an emotional catharsis, but it must be followed by a sense of futility." — Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

[T I M E L I N E]

2008

■ THE SUNLAND TUJUNGA COMMUNITY DIALOGUE ■

2007

■ THE POWER OF PEOPLE: EDUCATE, ENGAGE, EMPOWER (JANUARY 20, 2007) ■

■ DIALOGUE ON DISCRIMINATION IN THE LOS ANGELES CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT (FEBRUARY 23, 2007) ■

■ WORKING TOGETHER FOR BETTER HEALTH CARE" (PARTNERSHIP WITH CALIFORNIA SPEAKS) ■

■ LAUSD SECONDARY TRANSITION EDUCATION PROGRAM (STEP) ■

Discussion Questions



The 20th Anniversary of the LA Civil Unrest: a Dialogue on the Challenges of Creating a Common Future

This Day of Dialogue on the causes, impacts, and implications of the 1992 Disturbances is organized around four phases:

Phase 1: Who are we? — *Introductions and Ground Rules*

Phase 2: Where have we been? — *Understanding the background and impact of the LA civil unrest*

Phase 3: Where are we now? — *Our progress and challenges in community relations and community conditions during the last two decades*

Phase 4: Where are we going? — *Lessons for civic leaders about community relations and how we can move forward together*

[T I M E L I N E]

2006

- CONFRONTING VIOLENT CRIMES: OUR COMMUNITIES. CONTINUING CHALLENGE (AUGUST 24, 2006) ■
 - CONSTRUCTIVE RESPONSES TO 9/11: CONFRONTING OUR FEARS, WORKING TOGETHER, MOVING AHEAD (SEPTEMBER 11, 2006) ■
 - EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR MENTAL HEALTH CONSUMERS: CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES, AND SUCCESSES (OCTOBER 27, 2006) ■
- IMMIGRATION, RACE, & JOBS: VALID JUSTIFICATION FOR INTERCULTURAL CONFLICT (OCTOBER 6, 2006) ■
- IS OUR COMMUNITY HEALTHY? ENERGIZING & MOBILIZING AROUND PREVENTION, ACCESS & EDUCATION ■

Phase I: Who are we? — Introductions and Ground Rules

Introductions

- What is your:
 - Name
 - Organizational affiliation, if any
 - Length of time as a member of the L.A. community

Additional Comments on Ground Rules

- Do you have any additional comments about the ground rules we need to have an authentic and productive dialogue?

Brief Remembrances

- Whether or not you were a L.A. resident at the time, what are 1-2 things that you can briefly describe that are key memories you have of the disturbances?

If time:

- In what way and how much did the disturbances impact you while they were occurring?



[T I M E L I N E]

- SCHOOLS, COMMUNITIES & SAFETY IN SOUTH L.A. (2006) ■
- SCHOOLS, COMMUNITIES, AND STUDENT SAFETY: VIEWPOINTS FROM SANTEE HIGH (MAY 4, 2006) ■
- SEEKING APPROPRIATE RESPONSES TO PREDATORY PRACTICES IN THE SUB-PRIME LENDING MARKET (APRIL 12, 2006) ■
- 2005**
- A DAY OF DIALOGUE ON THE DEVIN BROWN SHOOTING (2005) ■
- HOMELESSNESS: OUT OF SIGHT, OUT OF MIND? (2005) ■
- IS OUR COMMUNITY HEALTHY? ENERGIZING & MOBILIZING AROUND PREVENTION, ACCESS & EDUCATION ■

Phase 2: **Where have we been?** — *Understanding the background and impact of the LA civil unrest*

Some have said that the Rodney King verdict is best regarded as a spark that caused a large fire of some embers that were already smoldering. In addition, some people point to racial tensions as the underlying issues, while others emphasize relations between major institutions and the community.

Exploring Causes

- In your opinion, what do you think would be the 1-2 things that were the underlying causes of the disturbances that there is widespread agreement about?
- What do you think were the 1-2 things that were the underlying causes that you think were important but that people don't talk about as much or don't agree on?

Examining Impacts

- Were there significant ways that the disturbances set back the cause of building a city that is unified? What negative behavior changes have you seen – by people in particular groups, perhaps even yours – that you noticed?
- Were there any ways that the disturbances and the aftermath might have caused some behavior changes that could be considered positive, even if it took a while?
- Are there any impacts of the disturbances on the national or global image of LA that are important to keep in mind as we make sense of what happened?

[T I M E L I N E]

■ VIOLENCE IN OUR SCHOOLS: A DIALOGUE AMONG PRINCIPALS (JANUARY 14, 2005) ■

■ VIOLENCE ON WESTERN AVENUE: ENOUGH IS ENOUGH (AUGUST 12, 2005) ■

■ WHERE IS THE SAFETY NET? (2005) ■

2004

■ STATUS OF EFFECTIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT AND POLICE REFORM (2004) ■

2003

■ AFFIRMATIVE ACTION: THE NEXT FOUR YEARS (2003) ■

■ MAKING A DIFFERENCE: FROM WORDS TO ACTION (2003) ■

Phase 3: **Where are we now?** — *Our progress and challenges in community relations and community conditions during the last two decades*

Inter-group Relations

- How would you compare the economic and psychological condition of your group – whatever you consider that to mean – now versus a few years after the disturbances?
- How would you compare relations between groups now versus during the early 90's? In what ways are they better, in what ways are they worse? What are the specific indicators you see that lead to your conclusion?

Population Groups and the City

- If you were to compare police community relations now and then, in what ways have things gotten better and/or worse?
- Have there been other changes in how major city institutions outside the police - e.g. government, non-profit, and business - that are particularly relevant to understanding how included people feel in the life of city?
- If you were to point out specific actions that official leaders or community leaders have done to change the dynamics between population groups and between the groups and major institutions (e.g. the police, put perhaps others too), what would you point to?
- If there were some incident of perceived injustice similar to the Rodney King verdict, could widespread disturbances like this happen again? What makes you think it could or could not happen?

[T I M E L I N E]

2002

- FROM TRAGEDY TO TRANSFORMATION: L.A. AFTER 9/11 (2002) ■
- REMEMBERING THE RIOTS (2002) ■
- UNITED COMMUNITIES TO STOP VIOLENCE (2002) ■

2001

- CARSON TOWN HALL ON SECESSION FROM LAUSD (2001) ■
- CARSON UNITY DIALOGUE: UNITY STARTS WITH YOU (2001) ■
- COMING TOGETHER IN A TIME OF CRISIS (2001) ■

Phase 4: **Where are we going?** — *Lessons for civic leaders about community relations and how we can move forward together*

- What are the key lessons that civic leaders should take away about public anger and how it is best managed to create positive change? How should we distinguish between productive expressions of anger and unproductive ones?
- Are there any useful lessons for civic leaders in the Occupy movement and the city's response to it?
- What do the disturbances and the last 20 years of progress and challenges tell civic leaders (both community based and city based) about what it means to create a united city?
- Are there any activities that we should be doing less of or more of to create the city we want to have?



[T I M E L I N E]

- HOUSING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST FAMILIES & CHILDREN: SAN GABRIEL VALLEY (2001) ■
- HOUSING DISCRIMINATION BASED ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION, FAIR HOUSING COUNCIL (2001) ■
- TEEN SUMMIT ON RACE RELATIONS (2001) ■
- VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN DIALOGUE ON SEXUAL ASSAULT DENIM DAY LOS ANGELES (2001) ■
- 1996**
- DAY OF DIALOGUE ON RACE RELATIONS & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (1996) ■
- DAY OF DIALOGUE ON RACE RELATIONS & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, YOUTH & FAMILY ISSUES (1996) ■

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rules

A TRADITION OF **DIALOGUE**



Ground Rules:

The following guidelines have proven very useful in creating an environment for honest and productive dialogue.

- **Speak openly and honestly**
- **Listen carefully and respectfully to each person**
- **Keep comments brief and stay focused on task**
- **Explore differences respectfully and look for common ground**
- **Trust that the facilitator has the best interest of the group at heart**
- **Turn off your cell phones**



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