Dear Community

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Re: Los Angeles City-County Native American Indian Commission I'm requesting your vote to the commission to work for our community. Becoming a member of the commission is a personal obligation to our community. I know the commission would be invaluable for connecting me with other community leaders. With the challenges we face today the commission provides a vital resource for information and support between organizations and community leaders. The commission will continue to provide me the mentoring and direction I need to ensure I make an impact on our community. My true passion is working to ensure the vitality and relevance of leadership. In the communities we serve, there isn't a week that goes by that I'm not moved by how meetings and pow wows / dances have united people and changed lives. It's wonderful to see our community make new friendships and in a few cases find their life partner. I love bringing people together to break down stereotypes. We have an incredible opportunity to be innovative and take risks to reinvent and reinvigorate our roles in society. I hope we can continue to learn and evolve from one another.

Rev. Michael Wayne, Your Hungry Coyote 2011



Re: Los Angeles City-County Native American Indian Commission

I'm requesting your vote to the commission to work for our community. I am a native Californian of Mission Indian descent. I am the grandson of Artie Ortego, also known as "Chief Little Horse" who participated in parades, rodeos and pageants. He appeared in over 245 motion pictures between 1912 and 1955. I'm married to Rose Marie Becenti, daughter of George Becenti, a Navajo silversmith. We have two sons, Michael Wayne Belcher and Kenneth Wayne Belcher.

I'm a student of Indian Lore, history and theology. I studied under and worked with Ataloa Mary Stone McClendon, Chicksaw. I worked with Red Dawn, the Director of American Indian Lore Association. I have also worked with the Y Indian Guide, the woodcraft Rangers, and various private camps as an Indian Lore and craft director, camp counselor, and archery instructor. I've also worked as an assistant to Sun Bear, publisher of the Many Smokes magazine.

I have been an active member and worker of the Indian Center youth group and the Navajo Sand Painters Club under the direction of Jones Wallace Benally. In December 1969, I joined the Los Angeles Times newspaper, there I worked with the associated press on a documentary on the Indian problem in the city. At the Los Angeles Times I worked in the advertising department and sometimes did research for reporters, and also kept them informed about the Native American Community. In 1971, I was elected to the Indian Center Board and also in 1972 I was appointed to the board of directors for the Huntington Park free clinic. In 1980 I became the Provisional Scout Master for the Indian Center and I also became a member of the American Indian Education Commission.

At my son's elementary school I served as chairman of the Advisory Council, State School Site and the Region G. Chess Committee. During this time I was also promoting music programs and art in schools. In 1997, I retired from the Los Angeles Times and incorporate the Native Orthodox Church. I volunteer at title VII LAUSD. I'm an independent scholar. I attend workshops and class lectures at ELAC and CSLA and on Saturday I'm at the American Indian Resource Center, Huntington Park Library.

Rev. Michael Wayne, Your Hungry Coyote 2011