



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
Room 280A
455 North Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

September 26, 2018
9:00 a.m.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Date/Time: September 26, 2018 / 9:01 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Vice Chair Saleh led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Berman read the Civility Statement.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Popovich Levyn, Vice Chair Saleh, Chair Berman

Commissioners Absent: Friedman, Blumenfeld

Staff Present: James R. Latta, Rachel L. Evans, Nancy Hunt-Coffey, Linda Kyriazi

Commissioner Friedman arrived at 10:17 a.m.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Members of the public may address the Commission regarding any items not on the Agenda that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. By State law, the Commission may not discuss or vote on items not on the Agenda.

Chair Berman read the Legislative Statement.

Speakers: Resident David Gingold encouraged civility at City Commission Meetings during the discussion of Random Acts of Kindness (Tab 3) and Welcoming New Residents to the Community (Tab 6).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

With the concurrence of the Commission, the Chair may choose to amend the order of the items on the agenda. By order of Chair Berman, agenda item Tab 5 was moved ahead to accommodate guest speaker.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Consideration of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 16, 2018.

MOTION by Levyn, SECONDED by Saleh to approve the Meeting Minutes as written. (3/0)

AYES: Popovich Levyn, Vice Chair Saleh, Chair Berman

NOES: None

ABSENT: Friedman, Blumenfeld

ABSTAIN: None

CARRIED

REPORTS FROM PRIORITY AGENCIES

Beverly Hills Unified School District

- Board Member Isabel Hacker updated the Commission on events going on at the Beverly Hills High School. The High School is offering training on depression and suicide prevention. Students are receiving access to a program called SOS, Signs of Suicide, a prevention program.

Beverly Hills Police Department

- No representative was available to attend.

CONTINUED BUSINESS

2. Tenant Landlord Forum

- James R. Latta, Human Services Administrator, updated the Commission on inquiries from tenants and landlords. The City has a new mediation contract with Loyola Marymount University and makes it available to resolve any issues businesses, tenants or landlords are having.
- Rachel Evans, Human Services Specialist, informed the Commission that Rent Stabilization is currently working on updating the Tenant Landlord Rights and Responsibilities Handbook with the suggestions the Commission recommended last month and staff will bring the updated Handbook to the October Commission meeting, if complete. Chair Berman requested the Handbook be sent in advance for reviewing.

3. Random Acts of Kindness Program

The Commission spoke about the Random Acts of Kindness they encountered this month.

- Vice Chair Saleh gave a shout-out to Commissioner Myra Lurie from the Health & Safety Commission for her act of kindness in bringing the program Beverly Hills Music Mends Minds to the seniors at Roxbury Community Center. This program had the support of the City of Beverly Hills in addition to the Rotary Club.
- Chair Berman reiterated a story where, after parking her car, a gentleman kept calling after her to remind her to put money in the meter.

4. Embrace Civility Award

The Commission reviewed and discussed the eleven (11) complete nominations submitted for the 2018 Embrace Civility Award and voted for the submission that best fit the criteria.

MOTION by Levyn, SECONDED by Friedman to have the 2018 Embrace Civility Award presented to both nominee number 2 and nominee number 9. (4/0)

AYES: Friedman, Popovich Levyn, Vice Chair Saleh, Chair Berman

NOES: None

ABSENT: Blumenfeld

ABSTAIN: None

PASSED

5. Civility Month

Chair Berman informed our school board representative, Ms. Hacker, that the Commission created Bully Free Zone banners in each of the school's colors in honor of Civility Month. Chair Berman and Vice Chair Saleh will be attending the September 27 PTA Council Meeting to deliver the banners.

NEW BUSINESS

6. Welcoming New Residents to the Community

- James R. Latta, Human Services Administrator, updated the Commission on former Commissioner Rochelle Ginsburg's request for promoting positive Human Relations in the City by welcoming new residents to the Community. The Commission agreed the best means would be use the Tenant Landlord Rights and Responsibilities Handbook by putting a link in the Handbook that would direct the person to the letter on a web page in addition to a live link on the online version.
- Resident David Gingold spoke to the Commission and suggested the brochure that the City provides titled Your City Council Welcomes You would also be an appropriate location.

STATUS REPORTS

7. Beverly Hills Ambassador Program

James R. Latta provided an update:

- Ambassadors are working with the Police to manage the motorized scooters left within the deployment area that have been disregarded
- The Ambassadors are still staffing the schools per the Joint Powers of Agreement (JPA) for school security. Ambassadors are scheduled to continue through December 2018.
- The Ambassadors, along with Code Enforcement, are looking for problem areas to begin using the provided grant to enforce non-smoking in the City of Beverly Hills.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF

8. Administrator's Report

Chair Berman reported on the August 2018 Mayor's Cabinet Meeting.

- Chair Berman reported reading the Civility Statement and pointing out the plaque in Room 280A which has the statement listed. She expressed her concerns over the lack of civility in public meetings which has become visible. Additionally, she suggested a letter from the Commission to City Council and possibly the newspapers.
- Commissioner Friedman suggested that since residents are concerned about issues of the lack of civility, that they send emails which include the date and information on Commissioners acting less than civil and the Human Relations Commission will forward it on to City Council on a regular basis.
- Commissioner Popovich Levyn supported providing a letter, noting that it is Civility Month.
- Commissioner Saleh agreed to a letter, and added that the Commission should come up with a way to communicate with City Council on the subject.
- Embrace Civility pins were discussed; staff to email a proof to Chair Berman for approval.
- Chair Berman to work with staff on the suggested letters and submit to the Commission for approvals.

- Chair Berman reported on the information Mayor Gold provided on the Clean Power Alliance.

James Latta, Human Services Administrator, provided an update on the following:

- La Cienega Park and Recreation Complex Outreach upcoming dates of October 8 and 24, 2018 at 7pm at the La Cienega Park and Recreation Complex.
- Community Services Strategic Planning Status.
- Recent Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruling on enforcing a no-camping if no other sleeping options are available.
- Senior Health Fair was held September 17, 2018.
- September 18-21, 2018: Block by Block Connect Conference in Louisville, Kentucky was attended by staff.
- 2018 – 2019 Commission calendar was reviewed. Commissioners Friedman and Saleh will not be available to attend the December meeting.

9. Overview of Current and Pending Agenda Items

- October 16, 2018, the Commission will be presenting the 2018 Embrace Civility Award at the City Council Meeting.
- Continue with Civility Flags. Staff to provide cost for new ones.
- Staff to provide press release for Civility Month.

ADJOURNMENT

September 26, 2018 at 11:20 a.m.

PASSED, Approved and Adopted on this 18th day of October 2018.



Sonia Berman, Chair