



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

**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

November 15, 2018  
9:00 a.m.

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Date/Time: November 15, 2018 / 9:00 a.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Berman read the Civility Statement.

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present: Friedman, Popovich Levyn, Blumenfeld, Vice Chair Saleh, Chair Berman  
Commissioners Absent: None  
Staff Present: James R. Latta, Rachel L. Evans, Linda Kyriazi

**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.

Speakers: None.

**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, the agenda remained as submitted.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. Consideration of Minutes of the Special Meeting of October 18, 2018.

MOTION by Friedman, SECONDED by Blumenfeld to approve the Meeting Minutes as written. (4/0)

AYES: Friedman, Blumenfeld, Vice Chair Saleh, Chair Berman  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: Popovich Levyn  
CARRIED

## REPORTS FROM PRIORITY AGENCIES

### Beverly Hills Unified School District

- School Board Member Isabel Hacker provided an update on the school board election, reconfiguration of the schools, the PTA Luncheon and looks forward to working with the Commission on Random Acts of Kindness.

### Beverly Hills Police Department

- No representative was available to attend.

## CONTINUED BUSINESS

### 2. Tenant Landlord Forum

- No new information was reported.

### 3. Random Acts of Kindness Program

Chair Berman read the Random Acts of Kindness Program statement: Every month Commissioners will have the opportunity to share a random act of kindness that he or she witnessed.

- Commissioner Levyn gave a shout-out to her wonderful neighbor Cynthia who walks her dog often and is on the look-out for anything suspicious in the neighborhood. She keeps in touch with all the neighbors and assists them if their pet is lost.
- Vice Chair Saleh wanted to also talk about the Acts of Kindness happening such as Thousand Oaks where there was a mass shooting; hundreds of people lined up to donate blood to The Red Cross. The Los Angeles Lakers have also set up a blood drive at home games for those impacted by the shooting. In Agoura Hills, the owner of Tavern House, that was under mandatory evacuation, opened his door and kitchen to feed the Fire Fighters. In Beverly Hills, the Chamber of Commerce and the Rodeo Drive Committee have pledged to come together to make a combined donation to benefit the American Red Cross. The donations will be presented tonight at the Holiday Celebration. A shout-out to Todd Johnson, the CEO of the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce and Kathy Golhari, the President of the Rodeo Drive Committee.
- Commissioner Friedman suggested that everyone show respect and joint appreciation to everyone who donated and assisted victims of both the fires and shootings. Kindness and Civility does prevail in some of the worse times.
- Chair Berman shared that she was at Cedars Sinai and couldn't find the intensive care unit. Recognizing her distress, a group of doctors and nurses in the hallway asked if she needed assistance. Instead of giving directions, one of the employees walked with her to intensive care. This was certainly a random act of kindness that was appreciated.

MOTION by Blumenfeld, SECONDED by Friedman to move that the Random Act of Kindness that Commissioners witnessed be limited to the City of Beverly Hills. (3/2)

AYES: Friedman, Blumenfeld, Chair Berman  
NOES: Popovich Levyn, Vice Chair Salah  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
PASSED

**4. 2019 Kindness Week**

- Human Services Specialist Rachel Evans provided an update on Kindness Week 2019 by reviewing the calendar for the week February 17-22, 2019. Last year staff coordinated with events held at the Library and next year the Library will be screening the film: *Won't You Be My Neighbor*, which all agreed would be a perfect fit for the kickoff event as Kindness pins and handouts could be given out at that time.
- All agreed to have a booth at the Farmers' Market again.
- Commissioner Popovich Levyn suggested the following: the Library display books on Kindness and provided examples; advised including both seniors and teens again; continue the Pledge form statement that people signed and display the Civility banners again. Working with Kindness Bars was discussed.
- The Beverly Hills schools will keep the Bully Free Zone banners up.
- Commissioner Blumenfeld requested participating in the film screening at the library as he already saw the movie at the Museum of Tolerance and enjoyed it. Also supports bringing back the Pledge handouts. Suggested involving the Mayor's Next Generation Committee.
- Commissioner Friedman supported all suggestions and wondered if the film could be shown more than once as it could be shown at the schools, on the Beverly Hills channel or shown to the seniors at Roxbury Community Center.
- Vice Chair Saleh supported what was done last year in addition to the new suggestions. The ASB (Associated Student Body) was suggested for student involvement. The students were very helpful last year in addition to being inspiring.
- School Board Member Isabel Hacker volunteered to involve the students where requested and discussed the Commission awarding students in the areas of Civility or Kindness.
- Publicity was discussed utilizing both the City's and School's opportunities in addition to scheduling time at a City Council meeting in February 2019.
- Wrist bands were discussed with a number of messages suggested. Staff to check pricing on ordering a variety of colors. Examples of bracelets in Royal Blue will be brought to the next meeting. White block bold all caps printing was agreed upon. Slogans: Be a Buddy, Don't Be a Bully; Kindness Matters; Celebrate Kindness.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**5. 2017 Hate Crime Report**

James Latta, Human Services Administrator, provided an update on the 2017 Hate Crime Report. The Commission was interested in having Marshall Wong from the Los Angeles County come to present and discuss the report at a future meeting.

**6. 2019 Workplan Exercise**

James Latta, Human Services Administrator, reviewed the 2019 Workplan Exercise with the Commission for decisions to be made at the January 2019 Meeting. The Commission would like to see the Perpetual Embrace Civility Award plaque placed on the work plan. Samples of portable award styles will be included in the next December meeting.

MOTION by Blumenfeld, SECONDED by Friedman to move that the Embrace Civility Perpetual Plaque proceed. (5/0)

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

NOES: None  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
PASSED

Vice Chair Saleh suggested that at the January 2019 meeting, the Commission encourage the public to submit stories of Acts of Kindness and the Commission can select a few to show during February's Kindness Week.

Chair Berman suggested the removal of the Tenant Landlord Forum Tab since the rent concerns are being handled by the new Rent Stabilization and Code Enforcement Divisions. The Commission would still like to review the new Tenant/Landlord Handbook when it's completed.

### **STATUS REPORTS**

**7. 2019 Beverly Hills Homeless Count**

Human Services Specialist Rachel Evans provided an update on the 2019 Homeless Count which will be held January 23, 2019 at City Hall.

**8. Beverly Hills Ambassador Program**

James Latta, Human Services Administrator, provided an update on the Ambassador statistics.

- On December 6, 2018, the Human Services team will be having an Educational/Training workshop with the Ambassador Team which will include both CPR and Stop the Bleed training.
- At this time, the Ambassadors will continue having presence at the schools.
- Commissioner Friedman had questions about the reporting process and the jump in numbers.

### **COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF**

**9. Administrator's Report**

- The Mayor's Cabinet Meeting Minutes from October 2018; attached.
- Complaint Status
- Flea-borne Typhus Frequently Asked Questions
- December 6, 2018 - Ambassador Training
- Change of Chair and Vice Chair at January 17, 2019 meeting
- 2018 – 2019 Commission Calendar. July 2019 will be a dark month.

**10. Overview of Current and Pending Agenda Items.**

The Change In Water Rate presentation will be scheduled at a later date.

**GOOD AND WELFARE**

- The Commission wished everyone a safe and wonderful Thanksgiving with a reminder to be kind.
- At the BOLD Kickoff tonight, from 5pm – 8:30pm, the fireworks have been cancelled due to respect of the recent fires.

**ADJOURNMENT**

November 15, 2018 at 11:34 a.m.

PASSED, Approved and Adopted on this 20th day of December 2018.



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Sonia Berman, Chair