



**CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS**  
Room 280A  
455 North Rexford Drive  
Beverly Hills, CA 90210  
Telephonic / Video Conference Meeting

**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

August 20, 2020  
9:00 a.m.

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Date/Time: August 20, 2020 / 9:00 a.m.

Chair Blumenfeld read the Civility Statement and introduced newly appointed Commissioner Rhoda J. Sharp.

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present: Sharp, Saleh, Friedman, Vice Chair Popovich Levyn, Chair Blumenfeld  
Commissioners Absent: None  
Staff Present: James R. Latta, Rachel L. Evans, Enisha Clark, 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.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

With the concurrence of the Commission, the Chair may choose to amend the order of the items on the agenda. Chair Blumenfeld approved the agenda as presented.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. Consideration of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 18, 2020.

MOTION by Saleh, SECONDED by Popovich Levyn to approve the Meeting Minutes. (4/0)

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

**REPORTS FROM PRIORITY AGENCIES**

### Beverly Hills Police Department

Sergeant Sean Smollen updated the Commission on the following:

- Informed the Commission of a new program called Just In Case BH. It will be an ongoing effort to ensure Beverly Hills is prepared during a natural disaster or other local emergency and to keep the community informed and well connected. Working in collaboration with the City's Communications, Police and Fire Departments, Just in Case, BH will connect the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and Neighborhood Watch programs to create a communication network for residents in all parts of the City.
- Thefts from motor vehicles has been up; a reminder to lock your car and not to leave your key fob nor valuables in your car overnight.

### Beverly Hills Unified School District

Beverly Hills Board of Education member, Tristen Walker-Shuman, provided an update on the following:

- Students have all started in virtual learning this summer.
- A taskforce was created over the summer called The Return 2 Learn Think Tank consisting of parents and community members who have expertise in areas that would be helpful in figuring out how to return to in-person instruction.
- Worked with teachers' union to create a MOU (Memo of Understanding) for what returning to instruction for the school year will look like.

## PRESENTATIONS

### 2. Connect Beverly Hills Streetscape Project

Transportation Planning to provide an update

Jessie Holzer, Transportation Planner, provided to the Commission an update on the "Connect Beverly Hills; Meet Me on Wilshire and La Cienega" project. The intent of the project is to create attractive and welcoming corridors that future Metro Purple Line subway riders will immediately recognize as Beverly Hills when they emerge from the two underground stations.

## CONTINUED BUSINESS

### 3. Beverly Hills Homeless Initiative & Safe Parking Los Angeles

To better understand the issues and examine concrete means to effectively work towards a solution, the Commission voted to prioritize local and regional homelessness.

Silvia Gutierrez, Executive Director of Safe Parking Los Angeles, provided an overview to the Commission on their program that provides safe parking options for people experiencing homelessness.

After requesting more information such as photos and locations of the parking lots, financials, budgets and advising to apply for a Community Assistant Grant, the following motion was made:

MOTION by Blumenfeld, SECONDED by Sharp move to proceed with Safe Parking Los Angeles program to advance our Commission's Homeless Initiative and recommend that one of the funding proposals be brought to our City Council liaisons for potential funding and support. (4/0)

AYES: Sharp, Saleh, Vice Chair Popovich Levyn, Chair Blumenfeld  
NOES: None

ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: Friedman  
PASSED

**4. FY 2020-21 Community Assistance Grant Fund Update**

Human Services Administrator James R. Latta, updated the Commission on the 2020 – 2021 Community Assistance Grant Fund (CAGF). All partners have been selected and were approved during the June 16, 2020 City Council Meeting. The City Council took into account all of the HRC ad-hoc committee and liaison recommendations.

Human Services Specialist Enisha Clark, informed the Commission on the Division's plan to gather the 19 partners together for a virtual CAGF 2020 – 2021 orientation for training in September on the City's reporting requirements, payment schedule and to address any questions.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**5. 2020 Embrace Civility Award**

Update and Marketing Plan

Clinical Program Coordinator Rachel L. Evans, updated the Commission on the on the press, social media and marketing plan that has been designed to support the 2020 Embrace Civility Award in addition to the submitted nominations.

**STATUS REPORTS**

**6. Beverly Hills Ambassador Program**

Introduction of Benjamin Scott, Beverly Hills' new Operations Manager for the Ambassador Team.

Human Services Administrator James R. Latta, introduced Ben Scott, the new Operations Manager for the Beverly Hills Ambassadors. Ben reviewed the statistics and informed the Commission of the most current developments that impact the Ambassadors which include wearing masks and social distancing.

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION**

**7. Chair Report**

a) Mayor's Cabinet Meeting – July 13, 2020

For information only

b) Review Commission Meeting dates

Reviewed

c) Good and Welfare

- Vice Chair Popovich Levyn displayed photos of sidewalk and wall chalk drawings that children drew displaying Kindness hearts in addition to the lawn signs the City distributed to encourage residents to wear masks.
- Vice Chair requested that Community Education on Homelessness be on next month's agenda in addition to how one advocates for additional shelter beds. Also, would like to be updated on successful, positive stories. Continue with the CAGF tab and provide an update on the agencies are working through and dealing with Covid-19.
- Chair Blumenfeld welcomed newly appointed July 2021 Human Relations Commissioners Laura Margo and Vered Elkouby Nisim.

## COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF

### 8. Administrator's Report

Human Services Administrator James R. Latta, updated the Commission on the following:

- Emergency Operation Center (EOC) virtual activation continues with COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing monitoring of protests.
- Kindness Taskforce Meeting transferring to the Human Relations Commission. Additionally, Commissioner Saleh updated the Commission of an inter-commission collaboration between the Human Relations Commission and the Arts and Culture Commission to embrace and celebrate culture and diversity.
- Possible Commission and School Collaborative efforts.
- Staying Safe Means Wearing a Face Covering (free lawn signs available).
- COVID-19 Community Development Block Grant Funds: Senior Meals and Rent Assistance.
- Administrative Citations and Updates from enforcement efforts. 20,591 contacts made by City staff have resulted in 111 citations issued since July 17, 2020.

### 9. Overview of Current and Pending Agenda Items Reviewed

## ADJOURNMENT

August 20, 2020 at 11:44 a.m.

Passed and Approved this 17<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2020



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Ori Blumenfeld, Chair