



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

**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

September 17, 2020
9:00 a.m.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Date/Time: September 17, 2020 / 9:02 a.m.

Chair Blumenfeld read the Civility Statement.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Sharp, Saleh, Friedman, Vice Chair Popovich Levyn, Chair Blumenfeld

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: Jenny Rogers, 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.

None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

With the concurrence of the Commission, the Chair may choose to amend the order of the items on the agenda to accommodate guest presenters. Chair Blumenfeld amended the agenda as follows: Tab 3 will be move up to Tab 2, Tab 6 will be moved up to Tab 3, Tab 2 will move to Tab 6, Tab 8 will move up to Tab 7, Tab 5 will move down to Tab 8, Tab 7 will move down to Tab 9, Tab 7 will move down to Tab 10 and Tab 10 will move down to Tab 11.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Consideration of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 20, 2020.

MOTION by Friedman, SECONDED by Popovich Levyn to approve the Meeting Minutes. (5/0)

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

CARRIED

REPORTS FROM PRIORITY AGENCIES

Beverly Hills Unified School District

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

- Free Food Pick up for all children under age 18 in Beverly Hills being distributed at the High School twice a week.
- Horace Mann High School will celebrate Multicultural Week next week.
- Beverly Vista Middle School had Back to School Night via a Zoom Meeting.
- 12 student clubs are available for students to join at Beverly Vista.

Beverly Hills Police Department

Sergeant Sean Smollen updated the Commission on the following:

- Updated the Commission on BH's new program called Just In Case BH. This is a team effort with the following working in collaboration: Police, Fire and Public Works Departments, the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and Neighborhood Watch programs for major emergencies to keep the community updated.
- A reminder to lock your car and not to leave your key fob nor valuables in your car overnight.
- Announced his retirement from the City and the Commission thanked Sergeant Sean for his years of service not only for the City of Beverly Hills, but for being the Police Department's representative to the Human Relations Commission.

PRESENTATIONS

2. Public Works – Solid Waste Rate Presentation

Shana Epstein, Director of Public Works, updated the Commission on the proposed solid waste rate adjustments and upcoming Town Hall meetings scheduled in the coming months.

3. Overview of City & Community Services Department Budget Process

Stephanie Harris, Senior Management Analyst, presented to the Commission an overview of the City's and Community Services Department's budget process

CONTINUED BUSINESS

4. Beverly Hills Homeless Initiative

Community Education

- Park Compliance and Enforcement

James Latta, Human Services Administrator, along with Park Ranger Supervisor Daniel Hernandez and Police Sergeant Sean Smollen, updated the Commission on the parks compliance and enforcement efforts. Both the police and the rangers are working together on outreach with the homeless population.

Homeless Advocacy and Innovation

- Safe Parking Los Angeles

Silvia Gutierrez, Executive Director of Safe Parks LA, provided additional information at the request of the Commission. After reviewing and discussing, the following motion was made:

MOTION by Friedman, SECONDED by Sharp moved to recommend the \$50,000 package for Safe Parking LA. (5/0)

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

5. FY 2020-21 Community Assistance Grant Fund Update

Enisha Clark, Human Services Specialist, updated the Commission on the Community Assistance Grant Fund (CAGF):

- The first virtual orientation for the 2020 – 2021 Community Assistance Grant Fund Partners has been scheduled for September 23, 2020 at 1pm. This meeting is to bring all the applicants together, so they understand the requirements in submitting their application and insurance on-time in addition to making internal referrals to partnering agencies.

6. 2020 Embrace Civility Award Update

After a preliminary vote, tally and discussion, the Commission made their selection for the 2020 Embrace Civility Award.

MOTION by Friedman, SECONDED by Sharp moved to award to the 2 people that was the tie vote. (4/1)

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

NEW BUSINESS

7. Civility Month

Rachel Evans, Clinical Program Coordinator, updated the Commission on the outreach planned for October 2020 being Civility Month and encouraged the Commission to spread the word:

- Chair Blumenfeld announced Civility Month at the Mayor's Cabinet meeting in addition to the September 15, 2020 City Council meeting.
- Posters and banners will be placed throughout the City.
- Civility pins will be distributed to the Commissioners to be distributed in a safe manner.
- #Civil City will be reintroduced for social media postings.

8. Kindness Task Force

Enisha Clark, Human Services Specialist, updated the Commission on the Kindness Task Force:

- The Kindness Task Force has officially transitioned over to the Human Relations Commission, which was agreed upon at the August 28, 2020 online meeting.
- This Task Force supports the Neighbor to Neighbor initiative and gives Beverly Hills residents an opportunity to support those who are vulnerable.
- The Task Force, that was created when the pandemic started, has created food drives, to donate to local pantries, blood drives to donate to the Red Cross. Face mask donations have been solicited for first responders. Community members have provided an overwhelming response.
- The vulnerable seniors continue to be served through the weekly lunch delivery program.
- The weekly volunteer grocery shopping program for seniors also continues.
- Volunteer phone callers also continue to check on the most vulnerable who are alone.

9. Inter-Commission Initiative- Embrace and Celebrate Culture

Jenny Rogers, Director of Community Services, presented to the Commission the Inter-Commission Initiative – Embrace Civility and Celebrate Culture project that she presented at the City Council Formal Meeting on September 15, 2020.

- The Commission appointed a Cultural Engagement sub-committee consisting of Commissioner Saleh and Vice Chair Popovich Levyn, to focus on providing ideas for hosting community forums, lectures or a speaker series on diversity and kindness for community engagement in addition to co-sponsoring the culture programs that the Library will be offering.
- Karen Buth, the City Librarian, informed the Commission of the Be The Change Series: Inclusion – Diversity – Equity – Antiracism, which begins on September 24, 2020 with a Conversation with Los Angeles Times Columnist Gustavo Arellano along with Eric Nusbaum, author of Sealing Home. The Commission agreed to support the Be The Change Series.

10. 2020 Conflict of Interest Code

After reviewing the 2020 changes, the Commission made the following motion:

MOTION by Saleh, SECONDED by Vice Chair Popovich Levyn move to adopt the 2020 Conflict of Interest Code, Exhibits A & B for the City of Beverly Hills Human Relations Commission as presented. (5/0)

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

PASSED

STATUS REPORTS

11. Beverly Hills Ambassador Program

Ben Scott, Operations Manager for the Beverly Hills Ambassadors, reviewed the statistics and informed the Commission of the most current developments that impact the Ambassadors which include wearing masks and social distancing.

- The Ambassadors have been working closely with the Parking Division to discuss creative ways to working with the transients that have been sleeping in the parking lot stairwells.

- There has been an increase with transients this past month with tourism picking up in the City which provides an opportunity for pan handling.
- With the state wildfires, the air quality has been an issue so the Ambassadors have been issued and wearing N95 masks.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION

12. Chair Report

- a) Mayor's Cabinet Meeting
- b) Review Commission Meeting dates
- c) Good and Welfare
 - Commissioner Sharp thanked all the Commissioners for welcoming her in addition complementing staff for assembling the Commission packet.
 - Vice Chair Popovich Levyn thanked staff in addition to the Park Rangers who deliver the packets.
 - Vice Chair Popovich Levyn additionally displayed 2 photos of Kindness.
 - Commissioner Saleh welcomed and complemented Commissioner Sharp at her 2nd Commission meeting, in addition to thanking staff.
 - Chair Blumenfeld thanked the Commission's future selected Commissioners.
 - Chair Blumenfeld reminded candidates to be civil and to run civil campaigns.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF

13. Administrator's Report

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

- Emergency Operation Center (EOC) virtual activation continues with COVID-19 Pandemic and ongoing monitoring of protests.
- COVID-19 Community Development Block Grant Funds: Senior Meals and Rent Assistance
- Administrative Citations and Updates from enforcement efforts. 32,831 contacts made by City staff in the business triangle have resulted in 224 citations issued since September 6, 2020.
- Golden Handshake 10/31/20 – 02/28/21 update. Mr. Latta announced that he will be retiring 12/30/2020, but will return as an annuitant until his replacement is found.

14. Overview of Current and Pending Agenda Items Reviewed.

ADJOURNMENT

September 17, 2020 at 12:41 p.m.

Passed and Approved this 15th day of October, 2020



Ori Blumenfeld, Chair