



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

**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

October 15, 2020  
9:00 a.m.

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Date/Time: October 15, 2020 / 9:01 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: 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.

- Recording Secretary Linda Kyriazi read a statement from Sonia Berman regarding the retirement of Sergeant Sean Smollen.

**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 approved the agenda as presented.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. Consideration of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 17, 2020.

MOTION by Friedman, SECONDED by Sharp 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:

- In support of branding and marketing of the Beverly Hills school district, the new logo of the various schools was shown to the Commission via a hat, mug, sweatshirt and various other items that are available for purchase on their website.
- The Reflections Art Contest is underway. October 16, 2020 is the deadline for submission. The theme this year is: "I Matter Because....".
- Parent Education night is October 28, 2020.
- The next Board Meeting is October 27, 2020 at 5pm.

### **Beverly Hills Police Department**

Sergeant Sean Smollen updated the Commission on the following:

- Still working with the Committee on the new Just In Case BH program. 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.
- The Freedom Rallies that have been held in the city have been peaceful.
- The Commissioners, in addition to staff, congratulated Sergeant Smollen on his retirement and thanked him for his many years of contribution both to this Commission and to the City of Beverly Hills.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **2. City of Beverly Hills Housing Element Update**

Staff from the Community Development Department will provide an overview of the Housing Element Update project.

- Timmi Tway, Senior Planner, informed the Commission on the City's plan to update the Housing Element of the General Plan required by State Law.

### **3. Library Presentation**

Karen Buth, Library Administrator/City Librarian will update the Commission on the services and programs being offered by the Library under the current circumstances and future plans.

- Karen Buth, City Librarian, presented to the Commission on the services and programs being offered by the Library under the current Covid-19 circumstances and future plans.

### **4. The Great California ShakeOut**

At 10:15 a.m., the City of Beverly Hills will join the State of California, the County and City of Los Angeles in participating in the Great California ShakeOut drill.

## **CONTINUED BUSINESS**

### **5. Beverly Hills Homeless Initiative**

- James R. Latta, Human Services Administrator, updated the Commission on the status of the Safe parking LA initiative in addition to the homeless encampment on the Burton Way

median. Residents are advised to contact [www.la-hop.org](http://www.la-hop.org), which is the homeless outreach portal for Los Angeles County, for issues outside of the City of Beverly Hills.

- Kevin Conner, of the Beverly Hills Homeless Outreach Team (BHOT), presented to the Commission the new trends in the homeless and transient community, the impact that COVID-19 has had on the homeless and resourced providers and personal accounts of BHOT's interventions with subsequent outcomes.

**6. Community Assistance Grant Fund (CAGF) Partners Meeting Update**

- Enisha Clark, Human Services Specialist, provided an update on the September 23, 2020, first virtual, Community Assistance Grant Fund (CAGF) Partners Meeting Update.
- Over 40 participants in attendance from our partner agencies. Staff reviewed CAGF requirements, insurance recommendations, and reporting standards.

**7. 2020 Embrace Civility Award Review**

- Rachel Evans, Clinical Program Coordinator, congratulated the Commission on their successful 2020 Embrace Civility Award winner and the scheduled events which included a virtual online celebration with family, friends and staff in addition to presentation at City Council.
- The Commission reviewed the nomination process which is always open for discussion.

**8. Civility Month Update**

- Rachel Evans, Clinical Program Coordinator, reminded the Commission on the marketing plan for October being Civility Month, which included the placement of flags, banners and posters throughout the City. Staff will continue to promote Civility month through the City's social media channels and encourage the Commissioners and the community to post on social media using #BHCivilCity.

**9. Kindness Task Force**

- Enisha Clark, Human Services Specialist, provided an update on the Kindness Task Force past activities which included food drives, a virtual book club, an expanded meal delivery, hosted blood drives with the American Red Cross and the Kindness Rock Garden.
- Staff is following-up with all volunteer grocery shoppers to provide additional support.
- Recent donation of cloth face masks donated to local seniors.

**10. Inter-Commission Initiative - Embrace and Celebrate Culture**

- Enisha Clark, Human Services Specialist, provided an update on the Inter-Commission project, between the Arts and Culture and the Human Relations Commissions:
- The speaker series, Be The Change, launched on September 24, 2020 with Eric Nusbaum, author of the book, Stealing Home. This event honored Hispanic / Latinx Heritage month.
- Upcoming events include Native American Heritage Month with a conversation with Walter R. Echo-Hawk on November 5, 2020.

- Vice Chair Karen Popovich Levyn and Commissioner Saleh were appointed to serve as the HRC liaisons for the inter-commission project. Vice Chair Popovich Levyn will serve to promote speakers of the Be The Change series and provided an update on the Stealing Home book event.
- Commissioner Saleh gave an update on author Leon Logothetis and the possibility of working with him during February 2021 Kindness Week. Also, the art events that have a message of inclusion which includes an art installation in addition to a display of art works from emerging voices which will be projected on windows on the facade of buildings such as the Wallis Annenberg Center on Santa Monica Boulevard during the week of November 19 – 29, 2020.
- A collaborative project between the City and United Talent Agency (UTA), will be using the empty store fronts to display art, entitled Beyond 2020 slated for December 2020.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **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; for the month of September 2020 it was the smoke from the local and bay area fires in addition to the reoccurring heat and smog.

### **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION**

#### **12. Chair Report**

- a) Mayor's Cabinet Meeting
  - Reviewed
- b) Review Commission Meeting dates
  - Reviewed
- c) Good and Welfare
  - Commissioner Saleh requested if anyone knows of any property owners that have an empty store front to use for the United Talent Agency (UTA) project to contact her.
  - Vice Chair Popovich Levyn displayed photos of Kindness that she captured around the City in addition to the kind and friendly Farmers' Market employee Cecilia Bradley.
  - Commissioner Sharp thanked Jim Latta and his staff for the monthly commission packets that they assemble in addition to thanking Chair Blumenfeld for his job as Chair.

### **COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF**

#### **13. Administrator's Report**

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

- Rotation of Chair and Vice Chair for 2021.
- Election 2020-Voter information Guide.
- Emergency Operation Center (EOC) virtual activation continues with COVID-19 Pandemic and ongoing monitoring of protests.
- Los Angeles County Development Authority: 2020-2021 Permanent Local Housing Allocation (PLHA) Program for Urban County Participating Cities.

- Administrative Citations and updates from enforcement efforts. 42,403 contacts made by City staff in the business triangle have resulted in 322 citations issued since October 6, 2020.
- Golden Handshake 10/01/20 – 02/28/21 update.

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

- Reviewed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

October 15, 2020 at 11:36 a.m.

Passed and Approved this 19th day of November, 2020

  
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Ori Blumenfeld, Chair