



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

**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

November 19, 2020
9:00 a.m.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Date/Time: November 19, 2020 / 9:03 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.
None

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 informed the Commission that Tab 4 is scheduled for 10am and Tab 9 at 10:15am.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Consideration of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of October 13, 2020

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

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

Consideration of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 15, 2020

MOTION by Sharp, 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 President, Isabel Hacker, along with ASB Head Row President, Nahal Sarafian, provided an update on the following:

- Isabel Hacker informed the Commission of her term ending December 2020.
- World Kindness Day was held on November 13, 2020.
- The schools have partnered with Big Sunday and have committed to collect and distribute needed items for Thanksgiving for those in need.
- Giving Tuesday, December 1, 2020, is a global day of giving.
- The schools launched the PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) program. PBIS is a school-wide systems approach to improve school climate and create safer and more effective schools.
- The Board of Education adopted a resolution supporting anti-bias in Beverly Hills Unified School District.
- The District will be supporting the holiday toy drive on November 30, 2020.
- Tristen Walker-Shuman, Board Member, greeted the Commission.
- The Commission congratulated Nahal Sarafian on becoming Head Row President and thanked Isabel Hacker for her years of service.

Beverly Hills Police Department

Police Lieutenant Max Subin, along with Chief Gregory Barton, Fire Inspector Alvin Cuna and resident Vera Markowitz updated the Commission on the following:

- Election week: the Emergency Operating Center (EOC) was completely staffed up which included additional security companies.
- Officers are scheduled to facilitate the weekly peaceful Saturday protests.
- One suspect was arrested in a hate crime that occurred November 4, 2020.
- Updated the Commission on the Just In Case, BH Emergency Preparedness program. This is a team effort bringing the residents, businesses and City Services together in case of a disaster in addition to preparing for one. Staff is additionally talking to high school students for their involvement. The plan is for the community to be able to together take care of themselves in their neighborhood area. The Just In Case, BH web site is: <https://www.beverlyhills.org/departments/firedepartment/justincasebh/justincase/web.jsp>

PRESENTATIONS

None

CONTINUED BUSINESS

2. Beverly Hills Homeless Initiative

James R. Latta, Human Services Administrator, along with Rachel Evans, Clinical Program Coordinator, updated the Commission on the Homeless Initiative.

- Unfortunately, the liaison meeting was cancelled and will be rescheduled.
- January 2021, The Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count is currently under review of how it will be handled during the COVID-19 pandemic. The City will not be asking for volunteers, but instead relying on City staff.

3. Community Assistant Grant Fund (CAGF) RFP

Rachel Evans, Clinical Program Coordinator, reminded the Commission that the 2021 – 2022 application process has begun.

- The Request for Proposal (RFP), will be released on December 1, 2020. All prior recipients will receive notice.
- The deadline for submission is February 1, 2021.
- A marketing and press campaign has been coordinated for the two month duration so the community is aware of how to apply for this grant.
- Staff will be adding another question to the application asking about issues that have arisen from COVID-19.

Commissioner Friedman departed at 9:55 a.m.

4. FY 2020-21 CAGF Update: The Miracle Project

Julia Moss, Advancement Director of the Miracle Project, along with Hannah Warren, Chief Operations & Program Officer, provided an overview of The Miracle Project to the Commission which included:

- The importance of providing a fully inclusive performing and expressive arts program for a neurodiverse community that utilizes groundbreaking evidence-based approaches to build communication skills, social skills and build greater self-esteem.
- The Officers additionally addressed what adjustments they have made to provide effective programming during the COVID-19 public health crises.
- Highlighted, The Influencer, The Miracle's Projects original musical that has recently premiered via Broadway On-Demand.

5. 2020 Civility Month Review

Enisha Clark, Human Services Specialist, reviewed with the Commission how October's Civility Month was promoted throughout the City:

- Banners and posters were displayed throughout the City
- Embrace Civility pins were delivered to the Commissioners, Rangers and Ambassadors to hand out to community members who demonstrated civility.
- The City's social media channels were utilized such as #BHCivilCity.
- From the many submitted embrace civility nominees, the Commission's selection of Thomas Recupero was honored by the Mayor and City Council.

6. Inter-Commission Initiative - Embrace and Celebrate Culture

Ad hoc members Vice Chair Popovich Levyn and Commissioner Saleh updated the Commission on the events scheduled for embrace and celebrate culture project:

- Visions in Light: Windows on the Wallis will run from November 19 – 29, 2020 from 8pm – 11pm. It's an extraordinary drive-by art experience projected on the windows of the Walls to inspire joy, wonder and awareness. This is in collaboration with the Arts & Cultural Commission in addition to TZ Projects and the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts.
- The initiative will also include *Beyond 2020*, an exhibition collaboration with United Talent Agency (UTA), involving various art installations in vacant storefronts that celebrate diversity and reflect artistic expression of diverse artists.
- Be The Change Series: Inclusion Diversity Equity Antiracism. Events will build collective understanding of systemic racism, elevate the voices and stories of Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC), and inspire our community to be the change. They are led by Glendale Library, Arts & Culture in partnership with the Southern California Library Cooperative.

NEW BUSINESS

7. Kindness Task Force

James R. Latta, Human Services Administrator, update the Commission on the Kindness Task Force (KTF).

- To date, ongoing projects have been stable with over 90 volunteer matches in place who serve as either volunteer grocery shoppers and/or emotional support phone callers.
- Commissioner Saleh introduced the Beverly Hills Community Farm project that was submitted to the Commission. Staff spoke to the Executive Director and discussed how the farm grown food could be distributed to the City's needy or elsewhere.
- The Commission agreed to agendaize this item for next month meeting and to submit questions to staff who will be providing further information.

8. 2021 Kindness Week Planning

Next year's Kindness Week will run from Sunday, February 14, until Friday, February 19, 2021. Rachel Evans, Clinical Program Coordinator, reviewed with the Commission the previous projects that had been scheduled for Kindness Week. Due to COVID-19, the previous activities may have to be modified. Staff along with the Commission, discussed these changes and suggested new options.

- The Commissions will continue to utilize and display the Kindness Week banners and posters throughout the City.
- The Library can once again suggest and display books on Kindness.
- Commissioner Saleh, or staff, to contact author and speaker, Leon Logothetis, for his availability for a possible virtual event.
- Vice Chair Popovich recommended including the City's businesses, Ambassadors and the Miracle Project; also suggested window or sidewalk decals for businesses.
- Commissioner Sharp suggested a film be made on Kindness for students.
- Enisha Clark, Human Services Specialist, informed the Commission that staff thought of acknowledging the volunteers of the Kindness Task Force at this time.
- Staff to research all suggestions and provide an update at next month's meeting.

STATUS REPORTS

9. Beverly Hills Ambassador Program

Ben Scott, Operations Manager for the Beverly Hills Ambassadors, reviewed the October statistics and informed the Commission of the most current developments that impact the Ambassadors.

- The Ambassadors assisted the City during Election week by providing extra security.
- The Ambassadors continue to provide education on wearing masks at this time. Though the Ambassador do not give out citations, they inform the individual that they can be fined.
- Ben informed the Commission of his resignation from this position as he relocates to the east coast. Both the Commission and staff congratulated Ben and thanked him for the work he provided to the Ambassadors and the City of Beverly Hills.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION

10. Chair Report

- a) Mayor's Cabinet Meeting
 - Reviewed.
- b) Review Commission Meeting dates
 - Reviewed.
- c) Good and Welfare
 - Chair Blumenfeld thanked the three future Commissioners for joining the meetings.
 - Commissioner Saleh additionally expressed her excitement in having the future selected Commissioners join.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF

11. Administrator's Report

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

- EOC activation from October 31, 2020 to cover election week if needed
- Hate Crime update
- Commissioner Friedman receiving recognition as an outgoing Commissioner at the December 1, 2020 City Council Formal meeting at 7pm
- Chair and Vice Chair rotation update for 2021
 - Tabled

12. Overview of Current and Pending Agenda Items

- Reviewed

ADJOURNMENT

November 19, 2020 at 12:28 p.m.

Passed and Approved this 17th day of December, 2020



Ori Blumenfeld, Chair