



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

**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

January 21, 2021
9:00 a.m.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Date/Time: January 21, 2021 / 9:01 a.m.

Chair Blumenfeld read the Civility Statement.

City Clerk Huma Ahmed swore in new Commissioner Noelle Freeman

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Freeman, Sharp, Saleh, 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 moved Tab #8 to Tab #2.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

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

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Freeman

CARRIED

REPORTS FROM PRIORITY AGENCIES

Beverly Hills Police Department

Police Lieutenant Max Subin, updated the Commission on the following:

- The Beverly Hills police provided a presence when the FBI arrested 3 Beverly Hills residents
- There were no incidents to report for January 21, 2021, Inauguration Day

Beverly Hills Unified School District

Beverly Hills Board of Education member, Dr. Amanda Stern, provided an update on the following:

- The school district has offered their schools as possible vaccine sites
- All the City programs have been halted through January due to the virus surge
- One of their librarians, from their middle school, won a prestigious national award from American Library Association (ALA)
- On Martin Luther King Day, service to others was the theme as a tribute
- Creating a Vision Board has been a project for the students
- The NormanAid Wellness Center continues to be a helpful online site
- The schools have been having Career Talks
- The High School has been getting ready for a dance concert on February 5, 2021
- Horace Mann school is providing Zoom Bedtime Stories
- There continues to be free food available for all Beverly Hills children

PRESENTATIONS

2. 2019 Hate Crime Report

Marshall Wong, from the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations, presented and reviewed the 2019 Hate Crime Report Executive Summary.

CONTINUED BUSINESS

3. Beverly Hills Homeless Initiative

Enisha Clark, Human Services Specialist, presented the issue of housing and treatment services for the chronic homelessness in the City of Beverly Hills for FY 2020-21. Additionally, Rachel Evans, Clinical Program Coordinator, provided updated advocacy and innovation ideas and policy issues. The Commission was provided suggestions of how they could be of assistance:

- Community Education
- Homeless Advocacy & Innovation such as:
 - Advocate for expanded outreach services by offering additional outreach hours during the early mornings, late nights, and weekend hours;
 - Raise awareness by partnering with regional service providers to observe annual deaths amongst our homeless community through a candlelight vigil or other symbolic gesture;
 - Continue to support our community partners who provide invaluable services to the homeless (i.e. Saban Health Clinic, Step Up on Second, PATH, All Saints, Bet Tzedek, etc.);
 - Advocate for a Department of Mental Health contracted social worker who can

- assist local law enforcement with administering expeditious 51/50 holds and on-going case management services;
- Adopt a trauma-informed approach to homeless outreach by law enforcement, Human Services, the Homeless Outreach team and other City staff and contractors including support for necessary staff trainings; and
- Recommend that the City Council take an innovative approach to homeless services and advocate for legislative policy reform on homelessness as part of the City's Legislative Platform.

MOTION by Sharp, SECONDED by Vice Chair Popovich Levyn to go forward with the recommendations that have been made regarding Community Education and Homeless Advocacy & Innovation. (5/0)

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

4. Community Assistant Grant Fund (CAGF) RFP

Rachel Evans, Clinical Program Coordinator, updated the Commission on the Community Assistant Grant Fund (CAGF) for 2021 – 2022.

- The application period closes on February 1, 2021 at 5pm
- No applications have been received as of today although several organizations have verbally confirmed that they will be submitting applications.
- Any questions regarding criteria, please contact Human Services at 310-285-1006
- Staff will continue to promote via social media
- Chair Blumenfeld appointed Commissioners Saleh and Sharp to be the Commission liaisons for the CAGF

5. Kindness Task Force

Enisha Clark, Human Services Specialist, provided the results of the Volunteer Survey:

- Of those who responded, 83% had been successful at contacting their match.
- 33% of the volunteers said they were no longer providing services to their matches as the most vulnerable no longer needed their assistance since they had in-home or family help
- Another 33% said their assistance was on an as-needed basis
- Over 90% of the volunteers said their KTF experience was rewarding
- Overall KTF participation has declined over time due to decline in need, pandemic fatigue, and some returning to pre-Covid commitments such as work or school
- Most KTF volunteer matches have naturally dissolved and those still in place will continue to have access to staff support
- If future volunteer assistance is required, KTF Volunteer Lists will be used as a resource
- KTF Volunteers will be formally thanked for their service during Kindness Week.

MOTION by Blumenfeld, SECONDED by Saleh to officially end the Covid Kindness Task Force. (4/1)

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

NEW BUSINESS

6. 2021 Kindness Week Planning

Rachel Evans, Clinical Program Coordinator, reviewed the week of events scheduled for Kindness Week, February 14, 2021 to February 19, 2021 per the Commission's recommendations:

- The City's Teen Advisory Committee (TAC) will be partnering with the Commission
- Thank you letters will be mailed out to all Kindness Task Force (KTF) volunteers
- The Beverly Hills Active Adult Club (BHAAC) will be adding a fresh flower to their senior meal delivery
- Social media challenges will occur daily during Kindness Week
- Author Leon Logothetis providing an online talk and Q&A
- Commissioners will read books on kindness to be shown during the City's Storytime for children which will be available on the Library's YouTube page
- Kindness banners will be placed throughout the City's parks and parking structures

MOTION by Freeman, SECONDED by Vice Chair Popovich Levyn to used Commissioner Sharp's poem as the attachment for the Kindness pin distribution and in the Roxbury Community Center Senior lunch deliveries. (5/0)

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

7. Human Relations Commission 2021-2022 Work Plan

James R. Latta, Human Services Administrator, reviewed with the Commission the status of their existing work plan and informed them to develop similar or new proposals for adoption at the February 2021 Commission meeting. Prior to the work plan selection process at the February meeting, each Commissioner will be given the opportunity to present their work plan idea. The Commission will begin the exercise by answering the following questions when selecting a potential work plan item:

- Is it a function of municipal government?
- Does it fall within the Commission's purview?
- Does it speak directly to the mission?

STATUS REPORTS

8. Beverly Hills Ambassador Program

Johnthon Hunter, Operations Manager, reviewed the current statistics with the Commission. His newly implemented projects include:

- Contacting businesses that are currently open
- Beverly Canon Gardens; receiving numerous calls regarding Code Enforcement violations
- Vice Chair Popovich Levyn asked about how the new smoking ordinance was being handled, the budget and suggested signage with the hotline number
- Administrator James R. Latta, reminded the Commission that the Ambassadors are providing education; they don't write tickets, Code Enforcement handles ticketing

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION

9. Chair Report

a) Mayor's Cabinet Meeting

- Meeting Minutes
Reviewed

b) Review Commission Meeting dates

Reviewed

c) Good and Welfare

Vice Chair Popovich Levyn shared photos of Kindness that she took while on her walks in addition to thanking Chair Blumenfeld for stating the Commission's Civility Statement during the Mayor's Cabinet Meetings.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF

10. Administrator's Report

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

- EOC activation following violent protest at the Capitol Building, January 6, 2021. Strategized appropriate preparation for planned and unplanned demonstrations including the weekly Saturday Freedom Rally.
- Revised Temporary Targeted Safer at Home Health Officer Order for Control of Covid-19: Tier 1 Substantial Surge Updated Response *Revised Order Issued: December 30, 2020.*
- Commissioner Noelle Freeman received recognition as an incoming Commissioner at the December 1, 2020 City Council Formal Meeting
- Human Services Administrator retired December 30, 2020, but still working as an annuitant until replacement gets identified.

11. Overview of Current and Pending Agenda Items

Reviewed

ADJOURNMENT

January 21, 2021 at 12:26 p.m.

Passed and Approved this 18th day of February, 2021



Ori Blumenfeld, Chair