



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

**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

December 17, 2020
9:00 a.m.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Date/Time: December 17, 2020 / 9:00 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.

Sonia Berman submitted a public comment for Tab 10

Future Human Relations Commissioner, Laura Margo, spoke about a request for 5,000 cards for Valentine's Day for healthcare workers at Los Angeles County + USC Medical Center as one of their Meal to Heal projects.

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 November 19, 2020

MOTION by Sharp, SECONDED by Saleh 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:

- Introduced newly installed board member Dr. Amanda Stern who will be taking over the position of liaison to the Human Relations Commission going forward.
- The schools are in finals week with testing and winter performances.
- A parent education night was scheduled for all of the schools.
- A career talk was scheduled for the middle schools.

Beverly Hills Police Department

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

- Weekend protests are slowing down
- The policy directives that the new District Attorney has put in place will not affect the way the Beverly Hills department does business
- There will be full staffing throughout the holidays

PRESENTATIONS

None

CONTINUED BUSINESS

2. Beverly Hills Homeless Initiative

Rachel Evans, Clinical Program Coordinator, updated the Commission:

- The Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count has been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic for the safety of both the homeless individuals and volunteers. Los Angeles County obtained a waiver from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and plans on having a more meaningful count in 2022.
- Staff is rescheduling to meet with the Commission's City Council liaisons to review the Safe Parking LA Proposal to the City of Beverly Hills.

3. Community Assistant Grant Fund (CAGF) RFP

Rachel Evans, Clinical Program Coordinator, updated the Commission on the promotion plan for the 2021 – 2022 Community Assistant Grant Fund.

- The Request for Proposal (RFP), was released on December 1, 2020. All prior recipients received notice.
- Ads have been placed in the local papers in addition to a press release blast and social media postings, which will continue until the deadline of February 2, 2021.
- Ads were placed in the Community Services brochure and e-newsletters.
- For more information, to access the application and to view last year's CAGF recipients, please visit: www.beverlyhills.org/cagf

4. FY 2020-21 CAGF Update: All Saints Homeless Assistance Program

Tracy Jarvis, All Saints Homeless Assistance Program Volunteer and Barbara Linder, Former Human Relations Commissioner provided an update regarding use of the community assistance grant funding.

- Food drives are scheduled at All Saints' Church every Sunday between 1:30pm – 4pm. Upon driving in, volunteers will safely remove the donations from your vehicle.
- For more information such as what the most needed items are, please email Barbara Linder at blinder01@roadrunner.com

5. Inter-Commission Initiative - Embrace and Celebrate Culture

Enisha Clark, Human Services Specialist, updated the Commission on the Inter-Commission Initiative:

- Visions in Light: Windows on the Wallis ran from November 19 – 29, 2020. It was an extraordinary drive-by art experience projected on the windows of the Wallis 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, *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, has been delayed due to the Safer At Home order. The new date is January 2021.
- Be The Change Series continued through November 2020. 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.
- To honor Black History Month, the next author in the speaker series will be Richard Rothstein, *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America*, Thursday, February 4, 2021.
- Ad hoc member Commissioner Saleh informed the Commission they were able to help raise more than \$38,000 from private donors which made the project possible. Commissioner Saleh additionally thanked those responsible for this event and informed the Commission of the press that was generated which explained the meaning of the event. The press included the Los Angeles Times in addition to Art publications.

6. Kindness Task Force

At the Commission's November 2020 meeting, Commissioner Saleh spoke to the Commission about the Beverly Hills Community Farm. The Commission was interested to hear more about the program

- Jen Levy, Beverly Hills Community Farm (BHCF) Executive Director along with Hope Levy-Biehl, Chief Strategist and Gaby Reims Alexander, Development Director, presented their program to the Commission hoping to connect The Farm with low-income residents to provide them with local fresh produce. Additionally, the Farm's goal is to educate the community of the ease and benefits of growing one's own food.
- Chair Blumenfeld thanked the Beverly Hills Community Farm and said the Commission, along with staff, would discuss the next steps from the suggestions that were presented.

NEW BUSINESS

7. 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 Library suggested Commissioners record themselves reading a book about Kindness for story time at the Library. Those recordings will be posted on the City's social media sites during Kindness Week.
- Other City organizations, such as Beverly Hills Active Adult Club (BHAAC) and The Miracle Project are excited about working with the Commission during Kindness Week.
- Celebrating all the volunteers that are on the Kindness Task Force, such as sending letters and including a Kindness pin.
- Commissioner Saleh updated the Commission that Leon Logothetis is available for a virtual event, such as a motivation speech in addition to answering questions. Staff to contact Mr. Logothetis to discuss what type of event and logistics.
- Commissioner Sharp suggested stickers for restaurants, elevators and cars. The Commission thought that this might be difficult during Covid in addition to the City's ordinances regarding signage.
- Vice Chair Popovich Levyn supported all the ideas that the Commission can do for Kindness Week since Civility is the main mission of the Commission. Additionally, she suggested that the Teen Advisory Committee participate.
- Commissioner Saleh brought up a suggestion from future Commissioner, Laura Margo, for 5,000 cards for healthcare workers at Los Angeles County hospital for Valentine's Day and suggested asking for donations for the printing of the cards. Chair Blumenfeld suggested the discussion of managing of the project continue offline.
- Commissioner Friedman suggested two Commissioners make a presentation at next month's meeting. Chair Blumenfeld selected Commissioners Saleh and Sharpe to speak to future Commissioner Laura Margo on how the Commission can participate on the project.

8. 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

9. Beverly Hills Ambassador Program

Since former Ambassador Operations Manager, Ben Scott, resigned, Paulita Elliott, Director of Operations, Southwest Region, has been filling in. The new Operations Manager for the Beverly Hills Ambassador Team is Johnthron Hunter.

- Paulita and Johnthron answered questions and discussed developments that impacted the Ambassador team.

- The 2019-20 statistics were reviewed.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION

10. Chair Report

- a) Mayor's Cabinet Meeting
 - Meeting Minutes from November 9, 2020 Reviewed.
- b) Review Commission Meeting dates Reviewed.
- c) Good and Welfare
 - Goodbye to Commissioner Friedman
The Commission, along with staff, thanked Commissioner Friedman for his years of service on the Commission as his term ended.
 - Commissioner Sharp thanked staff for their Kindness while she was recuperating.
 - Vice Chair Popovich displayed photos of Kindness that she took from walks in her neighborhood.
 - Commissioner Saleh wished everyone happy holidays.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF

11. Administrator's Report

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

- EOC continues to be activated every Saturday to manage the weekly Freedom Rally
- Summary of AB 992: The Brown Act and Social Media from City Attorney Larry Wiener regarding revised Brown Act regulations pertaining to social media
- California Announces Regional Safer-At-Home Order: *Order Issued if Regions Reach 15% ICU Capacity*
- Commissioner Friedman received recognition as an outgoing Commissioner at the December 1, 2020 City Council Formal Meeting
- Future Commissioner Noelle Freeman received recognition as an incoming Commissioner at the December 1, 2020 City Council Formal Meeting
- Chair and Vice Chair rotation for the 2021 term

12. Overview of Current and Pending Agenda Items

- Reviewed

ADJOURNMENT

December 17, 2020 at 12:04 p.m.

Passed and Approved this 21st day of January, 2021



Ori Blumenfeld, Chair