



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

**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

February 18, 2021  
9:00 a.m.

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Date/Time: February 18, 2021 / 9:03 a.m.

Chair Blumenfeld read the Civility Statement.

**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.

Recording Secretary Linda Kyriazi read a public comment submitted by Lorraine Althea

**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 #3 to Tab #4; Tab #4 will move to Tab #6; Tab #5 will move to Tab #7; Tab #6 will move to Tab #5 and Tab #7 will move to Tab #3.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 21, 2021

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

AYES: Freeman, Sharp, Saleh, 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, Dr. Amanda Stern, provided an update on the following:

- Since Covid-19 numbers have dropped, staff is working to get back to school
- Seniors had a safe drive through Valentine's event
- Science & Engineering Virtual Fair was a success
- High School Virtual Open House for those entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade
- A Virtual Dance Concert was held on February 5, 2021
- Horace Mann Elementary School provided a Virtual Parents' Ed Night
- Hawthorne Elementary School was able to produce, through a volunteer effort, 3,200 Valentine cards, along with 1,000 cupcakes, made by community member Laura Margo, and those were delivered to the first responders
- Electronic survey letters were sent out to all parents to request their comfort level in their children returning to school or preferred the virtual setting

### **Beverly Hills Police Department**

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

- The first in-person Explorer meeting was held on Sunday, February 14, 2021, for those between the ages of 13 - 18
- Private armed security has a contract with the City through June 30, 2021 and will be deployed more on the weekends
- Robbery and burglary arrests were made with the help of city surveillance cameras in addition to witnesses
- No Hate Crimes have been reported in the City

## **PRESENTATIONS**

2. Covid-19 Vaccine Update  
Meena Janmohamed, Emergency Management Manager for the City of Beverly Hills, provided an update on Covid-19 vaccines to the Commission.

## **CONTINUED BUSINESS**

3. Beverly Hills Homeless Initiative  
James R. Latta, Human Services Administrator, updated the Commission on the Beverly Hills Homeless Initiatives that the Commission recommended. The details will be reviewed under the Work Plan Exercise Tab #6:
  - Advocate for expanded outreach services
  - Continue to support our community partners
  - Advocate for a Department of Mental Health
  - Adopt a trauma-informed approach to homeless outreach
  - Recommend that the City Council take an innovative approach to homeless services
4. Community Assistant Grant Fund (CAGF) RFP  
Rachel Evans, Clinical Program Coordinator, informed the Commission that 31 applications have been submitted which is the most staff has received. Of the 31 applications, seven were new and four had applied at other times but never received funding. Twenty seven applications were from social service agencies, four were for cultural programs and two

could be considered both. At the last meeting, Commissioners Saleh and Sharp were selected as the ad hoc committee for the CAGF and will be notified when the first meeting is scheduled.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **5. 2021 Kindness Week**

Rachel Evans, Clinical Program Coordinator, along with Enisha Clark, Human Services Specialist, informed the Commission on the successful activities that were taking place during Kindness Week.

- The Community was encourage to participate in Kindness Week activities online via social media. Kindness Week was heavily promoted thought our Community Life social media accounts across all platforms.
- Press included the Beverly Hill Courier, Beverly Hills Weekly, Beverly Press in addition to posters, banners and flags displayed around the City and parks.
- A Community Assistant Grant Fund partner, The Miracle Project, created a video for Kindness Week. The Miracle Project provides theater, film, social skills and expressive arts programs for individuals with autism and all abilities.
- The Commission worked with Beverly Hills Active Adult Club (BHAAC) which sponsored 200 roses to be delivered along with the senior meals in recognition of kindness and Valentine's Day.
- With the support of Commissioner Saleh, motivational speaker and author Leon Logothetis, provided a well-attended virtual keynote address on 2/16/2021 entitled: Let's Talk Kindness with Leon Logothetis. Chair Blumenfeld did a great job as moderator. A key takeaway: Kindness is simply helping someone feel less alone.
- Kindness challenges were available on social media such as a kindness window decorating challenge, kindness video tag, chalk the walk, encouraging reconnection with friends/family and Kindness rock challenges. Staff arranged for rocks decorating kits to be delivered to seniors participating in the meals program, with a special emphasis for those who live at Menorah Housing. Teen Advisory Committee (TAC), Preschoolers and Adventure Camp attendees additionally decorated rocks. The decorated rocks will be placed in the Rock Garden at Roxbury Community Center.
- Today's challenge is Chalk the Walk. Residents are encouraged to draw messages of Kindness on their sidewalk. Tomorrow is Be Kind to the Environment challenge. Thank you to the TAC for creating these challenges and using social media to promote.
- The Commission was thanked for submitting their videos of reading a children's book on Kindness. Those videos are displayed on the Library's YouTube web site in addition to the Commission's Kindness website page.
- The Commission thanked all of the Kindness Task Force (KTF) volunteers with a letter and a Beverly Hills Kindness pin. The Rangers and Ambassadors were additionally handing out Kindness pins.
- Commissioner Saleh requested that Kindness pins be send to The Miracle Project members who performed in the video they created and reminded staff to research of Kindness slide that could be projected next year.
- Commissioner Saleh showed photos of her Kindness Week shout-outs: thanking staff, Rose Kaiserman, Vanessa Sierra, Laura Margo for their participation in Kindness Week.

**6. Human Relations Commission 2021-2022 Work Plan Exercise**

James R. Latta, Human Services Administrator, reviewed with the 3 submissions by the Commissioners:

- Vice Chair Popovich Levyn's submission is to have all City Commissions say the Commission's embrace civility statement at the beginning of their Commission Meetings, which sets a mood to be civil while speaking. Some Commissions are using the statement but it also can be provided to other city programs.
- Commissioner Freeman additionally suggested the statement be on BHTV ahead of each Commission meeting.
- Commissioner Freeman submitted Online Civility. With the current wave of online meetings, there can be online harassment or a negative presence when one is behind a computer screen; suggested the Commission provide education on how harmful that can be or stepping in when you see it happening.
- Commissioner Freeman submitted Homelessness Advocacy Legislation; advocating for changes.
- Commissioner Freeman submitted Staff Resident Relations. The Commission will hear and attempt to resolve staff resident issues.
- Chair Blumenfeld requested a continuation and expansion of the Commission's Homeless Initiative which would include Safe Parking LA. Safe Parking LA submitted an application to the Community Assistant Grant Fund.
- Chair Blumenfeld supported an advocacy for a Department of Mental Health; contracted social worker who can assist local law enforcement with administering expeditious 5150 holds and on-going case management services. This would free up the police officers to focus on their emergency calls.

Staff reviewed with the Commission the submissions and noted the civility suggestions and the homeless initiative items can be incorporated.

MOTION by Freeman, SECONDED by Popovich Levyn to have staff explore the Staff Resident Relations in an effort to adopt it in our 2020-2021 Work plan. (5/0)

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

**STATUS REPORTS**

**7. Beverly Hills Ambassador Program**

Johnthon Hunter, Operations Manager, recognized one of his outstanding Ambassadors, Kevin Phantanom, for his kindness in returning a lost phone to a resident.

- The Commission presented Kevin with their Above and Beyond certificate
- The current statistics were reviewed and discussed
- The team focused on making contact with the local businesses to make sure they were meeting their needs especially since outdoor dining has reopened
- The Ambassadors provide soft educational enforcement regarding the wearing of masks; Code Enforcement is contacted if needed
- The expansion of their border patrolling was discussed

## COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION

8. Chair Report
  - a) Mayor's Cabinet Meeting
    - Meeting Minutes
  - b) Review Commission Meeting dates
  - c) Good and Welfare
    - Chair Blumenfeld thanked our future Commissioners for attending the meeting

## COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF

9. Administrator's Report
  - Recent Trends in Mortality Rates and Causes of Death Among People Experiencing Homelessness in Los Angeles County January 2021
  - *L.A.'s Homeless Count Was Canceled. Good Decision?* LA Times February 8, 2021
  - Resident Contacts for Homeless Assistance
    - a. Beverly Hills Outreach Team (BHOT) makes up the City's in-house homeless outreach team. They provide a citywide response and are in the field from 8am – 5pm, Monday – Friday. They can be reached at **310-487-0313**
    - b. The Beverly Hills Ambassador Program can be contacted 24/7 at **424-302-1487** and are deployed in the business triangle and South Beverly Drive. They work closely with the BHOT team to offer assistance
    - c. For assistance in City Parks talk to the on duty ranger or contact a ranger supervisor at **310-285-6835**
  - 107 Open BH Permits allowing restaurants to provide limited open air dining
  - Community Services is planning to open up park picnic tables temporarily without reservations needed
10. Overview of Current and Pending Agenda Items
  - Reviewed

## ADJOURNMENT

February 18, 2021 at 11:56 p.m.

Passed and Approved this 18th day of March, 2021



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Ori Blumenfeld, Chair