



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

**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

April 15, 2021
9:00 a.m.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Date/Time: April 15, 2021 / 9:02 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: Jenny Rogers, 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 approved the agenda as presented.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 18, 2021

MOTION by Sharp, SECONDED by Saleh 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 Board of Education member, Dr. Amanda Stern, provided an update on the following:

- Both Middle & High Schools have returned to in-person learning
- Chair Blumenfeld has been appointed to the Facilities Committee by the BHUSD Board
- A health screening application has been used for the students
- The graduations for all the schools will be held in-person and outside
- The Beverly Hills Education Foundation (BHEF) announced summer in-person learning in addition to a virtual option
- Fire Chief Barton will be speaking to students regarding the City's disaster preparedness program, Just in Case

Beverly Hills Police Department

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

- The Beverly Hills Police Department, along with other agencies, is prepared for any unrest with high visibility along with private armed security for assistance
- The detective bureau has partnered with the FBI task force on hate crimes
- Officers additionally met with Los Angeles County of Mental Health regarding their evaluation team and how that would look in Beverly Hills

PRESENTATIONS

2. Connect Beverly Hills

Jessie Holzer, Transportation Planner, presented to the Commission an update on the Connect Beverly Hills: Meet Me on Wilshire and La Cienega project.

CONTINUED BUSINESS

3. FY 2021-22 Community Assistant Grant Fund (CAGF) HRC AD Hoc Report

Rachel Evans, Clinical Program Coordinator, reported that Commissioners Saleh and Sharp, met on March 24, 2021 to review the 31 applications and program proposals that were submitted. Additionally, the Charitable Solicitations Commission (CSC) ad-hoc committee, Vice Chair Galen and Commissioner Melamed, met to review each organization's fiscal status.

On April 6 and 7, 2021, the HRC ad-hoc committee met jointly with the CSC ad-hoc committee to review their findings and to meet with any new applicants and applicants where committee members had questions regarding programing or financial information.

From this meeting, a joint report was produced for review by each commission; Charitable Solicitations Commission will review the recommendations at their May Commission meeting. Today, the Human Relations Commission will review the recommendations from the Joint Ad Hoc meetings. In May, the ad-hoc representatives from each commission will present the jointly-approved programmatic and funding recommendations to the City Council Liaisons. Once approved by the City Council Liaisons, staff will present recommendations to City Council in June.

Commissioners Saleh and Sharp reviewed their recommendations and the Commission made the following motions:

MOTION by Freeman, SECONDED by Saleh to approve recommendations for the first six listed in the packet for the Community Assistant Grand Funding. That includes: Affordable Living for the Aging, All Saints' Homeless Assistance Program, Bet Tzedek Legal Services, Beverly Hills Active Adult Club, Beverly Hills CPR and Beverly Hills Education Foundation (BHEF). (5/0)

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

MOTION by Blumenfeld, SECONDED by Freeman move to not fund the program proposed by the Beverly Hills Theatre Guild. (3/2)

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

MOTION by Sharp, SECONDED by Freeman move to not fund the program proposed by the Breathe Southern California. (4/1)

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

MOTION by Sharp, SECONDED by Freeman move to not fund the program proposed by Cancer Support Community Los Angeles. (5/0)

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

MOTION by Sharp, SECONDED by Freeman move to not fund the program proposed by Chai Lifeline. (5/0)

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

PASSED:

MOTION by Sharp, SECONDED by Popovich Levyn move to recommend the program proposed by Chiron Center, Inc. for funding by City Council in the amount of \$30,000. (5/0)

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

MOTION by Blumenfeld, SECONDED by Sharp move to recommend the program proposed by Collins & Katz Family YMCA for funding by City Council in the amount of \$10,000. (5/0)

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

MOTION by Blumenfeld, SECONDED by Freeman move to recommend the program proposed by ETTA for funding by City Council in the amount of \$60,000. (5/0)

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

MOTION by Freeman, SECONDED by Popovich Levyn move to not fund the program proposed by Friendship Circle of Los Angeles. (5/0)

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

MOTION by Freeman, SECONDED by Sharp move to not fund the program proposed by Iranian American Jewish Federation. (5/0)

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

PASSED:

MOTION by Freeman, SECONDED by Blumenfeld to recommend the program proposed by IsraAID for funding by City Council. (2/3)

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

MOTION by Blumenfeld, SECONDED by Freeman move to not fund the program proposed by JEM Center. (5/0)

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

MOTION by Sharp, SECONDED by Popovich Levyn move to recommend the program proposed by Jewish Family Service for funding by City Council in the amount of \$410,000. (5/0)

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

MOTION by Sharp, SECONDED by Popovich Levyn move to recommend the program proposed by Jewish Free Loan for funding by City Council in the amount of \$75,000. (5/0)

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

MOTION by Popovich Levyn, SECONDED by Sharp move to recommend the program proposed by the Miracle Project for funding by City Council in the amount of \$35,000. (5/0)

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

PASSED

MOTION by Popovich, SECONDED by Saleh move to recommend the program proposed by OUR HOUSE Grief Support Center for funding by City Council in the amount of \$20,000. (5/0)

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

PASSED

MOTION by Popovich Levyn, SECONDED by Sharp move to recommend the program proposed by People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) for funding by City Council in the amount of \$100,000. (5/0)

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

PASSED

MOTION by Popovich Levyn, SECONDED by Sharp move to recommend the program proposed by Saban Community Clinic for funding by City Council in the amount of \$50,000. (5/0)

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

PASSED

MOTION by Blumenfeld, SECONDED by Sharp move to recommend the program proposed by Safe Parking LA for funding by City Council in the amount of \$50,000. (5/0)

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

PASSED

MOTION by Popovich Levyn, SECONDED by Blumenfeld move to recommend the program proposed by Step Up On Second for funding by City Council in the amount of \$90,000. (5/0)

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

PASSED

MOTION by Sharp, SECONDED by Freeman move to not fund the program proposed by The Braid. (5/0)

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

MOTION by Popovich Levyn, SECONDED by Sharp move to recommend the program proposed by The Maple Counseling Center for funding by City Council in the amount of \$185,000. (5/0)

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

MOTION by Freeman, SECONDED by Popovich Levyn move to recommend the program proposed by Theatre 40 for funding by City Council in the amount of \$50,000. (3/1)

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

MOTION by Sharp, SECONDED by Freeman move to recommend the program proposed by Tower Cancer Research for funding by City Council in the amount of \$50,000. (5/0)

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

MOTION by Popovich Levyn, SECONDED by Sharp move to recommend the program proposed by Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts for funding by City Council in the amount of \$10,000. (5/0)

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

MOTION by Freeman, SECONDED by Sharp move to recommend the program proposed by Westside Food Bank for funding by City Council in the amount of \$200,000 and have the applicant resubmit an addendum to that amount. (5/0)

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

4. Beverly Hills Homeless Initiative

James R. Latta, Human Services Administrator, updated the Commission on the details of the Beverly Hills Homeless Initiatives that the Commission recommended. Staff continues to work on the Commission's request:

- Advocate for expanded outreach services
On Wednesday March 31, 2021, Community Services, along with Police and Fire Department representatives, met with Program Managers from the Department of Mental Health's Emergency Outreach and Triage Division. They presented their Mental Health Evaluation Team partnerships with various police departments and municipalities throughout Los Angeles County. The presentation was well received and next steps would include an onsite visit to discuss what a partnership would look like with Beverly Hills
- Continue to support our community partners
- Advocate for a Department of Mental Health
- Recommend that the City Council take an innovative approach to homeless services
- Education: The pandemic has exacerbated the homelessness issue throughout Los Angeles County, California and the entire Nation. In Beverly Hills, residents have noticed an increase in visible homelessness in public areas. Last month, staff suggested the Commission take a proactive approach to educate the community on the homelessness crisis, the City's response, and encourage residents to be a part of the solution. The staff recommendation of hosting virtual community forums with the below topics required additional discussion:
 - Meet Beverly Hills Homeless Outreach Team, Rangers, & Ambassadors
 - Homeless Legislation with speakers from Sheila Kuehl and/or Richard Bloom's offices
 - Meet our Homeless Service Providers- PATH, Step Up on Second, local faith based groups
 - Challenges of Housing Chronically Homeless Individuals

5. Human Relations Commission 2021-22 Work Plan Update

James R. Latta, Human Services Administrator informed the Commission of the agreement of item #a - #d, but item #e, Staff / Resident Relations, needed clarification.

- a) Community Assistance Grant Funding (CAGF)
- b) Homeless Initiative
- c) Civility Month
- d) Kindness Week

e) Staff / Resident Relations

Commissioner Freeman, along with Vice Chair Popovich Levyn, provided detailed information on the Staff / Resident Relations work plan item and answered questions from the Commissioners.

MOTION by Freeman, SECONDED by Popovich Levyn move to adopt the Staff / Resident Relations and the ad hoc committee's proposal to the Commission's 2021 work plan. (4/0)

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

NEW BUSINESS

6. Response to Acts of Hate
Tabled

7. Inter-Commission Collaboration
Tabled

STATUS REPORTS

8. Beverly Hills Ambassador Program
Tabled

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION

9. Chair Report

- a) Mayor's Cabinet Meeting
 - Meeting Minutes
- b) Review Commission Meeting dates
- c) Good and Welfare
 - Commissioner Saleh wanted to thank outgoing Mayor Lester Friedman for his service during this unprecedented and difficult time in addition to congratulating our new Mayor Wunderlich and Vice Mayor Bosse.
 - Commissioner Saleh additionally thank Jenny Rogers Director of Community Services, for joining the Commission meeting today in addition to her Co-Commissioners for the hard work they provided to the Commission.
 - Vice Chair Popovich thanked the local businesses and our community for their civility during these difficult times

COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF

10. Administrator's Report

- Reviewed

11. Overview of Current and Pending Agenda Items
 - Reviewed

ADJOURNMENT

April 15, 2021 at 12:31 p.m.

Passed and Approved this 20th day of May, 2021



Ori Blumenfeld, Chair