



**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 18, 2021  
9:00 a.m.

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Date/Time: November 18, 2021 / 9:00 a.m.

Chair Blumenfeld read the Civility Statement.

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present: Nisim, Margo, Freeman, Vice Chair Sharp, Chair Blumenfeld  
Commissioners Absent: None  
Staff Present: 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 reassigned Tab #2, Great ShakeOut Drill, close to 10:21 a.m. and will present Tab #3 after Reports from Priority Agencies.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

MOTION by Margo, SECONDED by Freeman to approve the Meeting Minutes with as presented. (5/0)

AYES: Nisim, Margo, Freeman, Vice Chair Sharp, Chair Blumenfeld  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
CARRIED

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2. Resolution of the Human Relations Commission of the City of Beverly Hills Continuing to Authorize Public Meetings to be Held Via Teleconferencing Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e) and Making Findings and Determinations Regarding the Same.

Recent legislation was adopted allowing the Human Relations Commission to continue virtual meetings during the COVID-19 declared emergency subject to certain conditions and the proposed resolution implements the necessary requirements.

MOTION by Freeman, SECONDED by Nisim to approve the Resolution to continue virtual meetings during the COVID-19 declared emergency. (5/0)

AYES: Nisim, Margo, Freeman, Vice Chair Sharp, Chair Blumenfeld  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
CARRIED

## REPORTS FROM PRIORITY AGENCIES

### Beverly Hills Police Department

Lieutenant Giovanni Trejo updated the Commission on the following:

- The Los Angeles Marathon was held Sunday, November 7, 2021 with no incidences to report.
- A vaccination clinic is being held today, November 18, 2021, at Roxbury Community Center. Safety and security will be provided for the participants.
- The City's holiday lighting ceremony is being held this evening with both Police and Traffic Control Officers monitoring the event.
- Will be supporting the Just in Case BH CERT program in whatever capacity is needed.
- The Department is on top of the current crimes that have taken place in Beverly Hills and is partnering and collaborating with outside law enforcement to ensure the safety of both the residents and visitors of Beverly Hills.

### Beverly Hills Unified School District

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

- Gabriel Halimi is their newly elected Board member.
- The Maple Counseling Center is offering a free, four-part parenting series starting November 9, 2021.
- The district has a very low number of COVID case rates.
- The Beverly Hills Education Foundation (BHEF) is hosting a science fair on December 8, 2021.
- Horace Mann School had a multi-cultural week celebration.

## PRESENTATIONS

3. FY 21-22 CAGF: Jewish Family Service

Susan Belgrade, LCSW, Senior Director of Multipurpose and Senior Centers, and Lika Litt, LCSW, Program Director from Jewish Family Service (JFS) presented an overview of the Beverly Hills Care Management Program, funded by the City's Community Assistance Grand Fund (CAGF) program.

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## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **4. FY 2022-23 Community Assistance Grant Fund (CAGF)**

Rachel Evans, Interim Human Services Administrator, reminded the Commission of the upcoming Community Assistance Grant Fund (CAGF) process in addition to the marketing plan.

The FY 2022-23 Community Assistance Grant Funding Request for Proposal (RFP) will be released on Wednesday, December 1, 2021. The application will be available online at [www.beverlyhills.org/cagf](http://www.beverlyhills.org/cagf) or by contacting the Human Services office. This year the City will again be accepting applications for cultural grants. These grants must still meet the same basic criteria, but must also be current Beverly Hills organizations that have demonstrated a history of exemplary cultural opportunities which respond to community needs

Chair Blumenfeld selected Vice Chair Sharp to remain on the ad hoc and appointed Commissioner Nisim to additionally join the ad hoc.

### **5. 2022 Kindness Week Planning**

Enisha Clark, Interim Clinical Program Coordinator, informed the Commission that Kindness Week will run from Sunday, February 13, 2022 until Friday, February 19, 2022. Prior events were discussed in addition to new ideas:

- Commissioner Margo suggested having the Ambassadors hand out cards for Kindness or positive behavior. The person's name is placed on the card and drawings are held for a small reward or their name is posted and they are recognized by the Commission.
- Commissioner Margo additionally suggested using social media, a hash tag such as #KindnessWeekBeverlyHills for residents to submit photos during the year.
- Commissioner Freeman added by suggesting to be kind on social media in addition to sharing a kindness moment on video.
- Staff relayed the plans of prior years of a calendar being created that included the week's events and the yearly events of a booth at the Farmers' Market, in addition to the Commissioners reading Kindness books to children will be researched. #BHKindness has been used in the past for social media.
- Staff will continue to partner with the Beverly Hills Public Library recommending books on Kindness in addition to the distribution of City of Beverly Hills Kindness pins and cards.
- Vice Chair Sharp reminded the Commission of the Kindness Tab that is in the packet for monthly shout-outs.

Staff will review all of the suggested ideas and will return next month with a summary and calendar for Kindness Week 2022.

## **CONTINUED BUSINESS**

### **6. Beverly Hills Homeless Initiative**

Enisha Clark, Interim Clinical Program Coordinator, provided an update to the Commission for information and to consider:

- An update on Councilmember Koretz's resolution to place a temporary camping ban along Burton Way median.
- Human Services will be participating in the annual Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count. The count will be held the evening of Wednesday, January 26, 2022. COVID-19 safety protocols will be adhered to.

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**7. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Awareness Initiative**

The Commission agreed to explore a quarterly speaker series entitled, Critical Conversations. This series is meant to facilitate discussions on DEI issues in an effort to enhance community awareness. Chair Blumenfeld and Commissioner Freeman provided the Commission with an update:

- The Commission would like to have a quarterly Diversity, Equity & Inclusion speaker series with the first virtual event starting February 2022. Both non-profits and the Beverly Hills Public Library will be contacted to partner with for future in-person events.

MOTION by Freeman, SECONDED by Nisim to start the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion speaker series called Critical Conversations kicking off in February 2022. (5/0)

AYES: Nisim, Margo, Freeman, Vice Chair Sharp, Chair Blumenfeld  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
PASSED:

**8. Inter-Commission Collaboration: Embrace & Celebrate Culture Initiative**

As part of the City's *Visions of the Future* exhibition program to activate empty storefronts, City Council approved an art installation at 445 N. Canon at their November 2, 2021 meeting. This program is an element of the Citywide Embrace & Celebrate Culture Initiative approved by City Council in September of 2020, and is a partnership of the Arts & Culture and Human Relations Commissions and the Next Beverly Hills Committee. Commissioner Freeman provided an update:

- Moving forward with the next installation with local artist, Kevin HEES, who incorporates music in his vibrant art, in the 445 N. Canon space.

**9. Kindness Recognition**

The Kindness tab allows Commissioners the opportunity to highlight acts of kindness that have occurred within the City of Beverly Hills.

- Vice Chair Sharp reminded the Commission that this would be the time to recognize an Act of Kindness and encouraged all to acknowledge acts of kindness going forward.
- Commission Margo informed the Commission of an interaction she had with eight Firefighters who were all very professional, kind and respectful towards the residents who remained in the surrounding space of an incident.
- Staff will begin sending out reminders prior to the monthly Commission Meetings.

**STATUS REPORTS**

**10. Beverly Hills Ambassador Program**

Johnthon Hunter, Beverly Hills Ambassadors Operations Manager, reviewed the latest statistics with the Commission:

- The Ambassadors have noticed changes during the month of October: more individuals are camping in the lower levels of the City's parking structures due to the colder weather. Most are new to the business triangle.
- The calls for services have increased by 92%; most calls are during the morning shifts. These calls are from both residents and City staff to report camping activity.
- Panhandling has decreased by 36%.

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- The Ambassadors have relied on their relationship with the Beverly Hills Outreach Team (BHOT) to connect with these individuals.
- The Ambassadors are being prepared for the holiday season through engagement and hospitality training.

## **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION**

### **11. Chair Report**

- a) Mayor's Cabinet Meeting
  - Meeting Minutes are attached
- b) Review Commission Meeting dates
  - Reviewed
- c) Good and Welfare
  - Chair Blumenfeld acknowledged future Commissioner Rose Kaiserman and former Commissioner Sonia Berman.
  - Chair Blumenfeld, along with the rest of the Commission and staff, acknowledged the passing of Commissioner Margo's father-in-law, Philip Margo, who was well-known in both the Beverly Hills and entertainment communities.
  - Commissioner Nisim congratulated Chair Blumenfeld on his engagement.
  - Commissioner Nisim informed the Commission that the California legislature passed Assembly Bill No. 1126 which established the first ever Commission on the State of Hate. Last month, Governor Newsom signed the bill into law. This bill was sponsored by Assemblymember Richard Bloom. This Commission, composed of experts, will propose new policies to address rising hate crimes to the California legislature, Governor and will produce an annual report with suggestions for all Californians. This bill urges members of the local Human Relations Commissions to serve on the new state wide Commission. Commissioner Nisim suggested inviting Assemblymember Bloom to present his bill to the Commission to be briefed on its impact and its potential benefits to the City of Beverly Hills.

MOTION by Nisim, SECONDED by Vice Chair Sharp to have Assemblymember Richard Bloom present his bill to our Commission and for us to participate in that Committee. (5/0)

AYES: Nisim, Margo, Freeman, Vice Chair Sharp, Chair Blumenfeld  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
PASSED:

## **COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF**

### **12. Administrator's Report**

Rachel Evans, Interim Human Services Administrator, provided the following information to the Commission:

- The Mayor's initiative, Wellness Wednesdays, continues with healthy programming.
- Flu shots and COVID vaccines will be available at Roxbury Community Center, in partnership with Cedars-Sinai on November 18, 2021.
- A reminder for Commissioners to use their City email addresses.
- The City's holiday lighting event is being held this evening starting at 5pm to 8pm. The event will also be broadcast live on BHTV.

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13. Overview of Current and Pending Agenda Items  
- Reviewed

**ADJOURNMENT**

November 18, 2021 at 10:36 a.m.

Passed and Approved this 16th day of December, 2021



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Ori Blumenfeld, Chair