



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 16, 2021
9:00 a.m.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Date/Time: December 16, 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: Jenny Rogers, 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 #6, Beverly Hills Homeless Initiative, prior to Tab #4 to accommodate guest presenters.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

MOTION by Freeman, SECONDED by Nisim 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

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 Sharp, SECONDED by Freeman for 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:

- December 19, 2021, there was a Town Hall Meeting with the new Chief of Police. The residents were informed that the safety and the well-being of the community is a priority.
- A drone program has been initiated. The drones do not replace staff but provide support. The drones can provide real time photos and videos. Additionally, a drone can look inside a high-risk vehicle.

Beverly Hills Unified School District

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

- On December 14, 2021, the Beverly Hills Unified School District (BHUSD) held an Organizational Board of Education meeting and installed Mary Wells as its newest president.
- The Board of Education approved Gabriel Halimi as its provisional appointee until November 2022.
- The first semester of school is ending.
- At Hawthorne Elementary School, the Scholastic Book Fair raised \$8,000 for Library books.
- At the middle school, students saw an instructional video on anti-bullying.
- To commemorate the 15th anniversary of The Vahagn Setian Charitable Foundation, there was a tree planting ceremony on December 5, 2021 at Roxbury Park. The Foundation has worked to raise awareness of and advocate for mindful choices.

PRESENTATIONS

3. Drought Update Report

Debby Figoni, Water Conservation Administrator, Public Works

Debby Figoni, Water Conservation Administrator, Public Works, updated the Commission on the state's drought.

- Debby is available for any home inspection or group discussion and can be reached at: dfigoni@beverlyhills.org or 310-285-2492

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) was released on Wednesday, December 1, 2021. The application is available online at www.beverlyhills.org/cagf or by contacting the Human Services office.
- The RFP has been promoted through the following resources: Press releases, direct email, ad placements in Beverly Hills newspapers, advertising in the winter 2021 Community Services Brochure, Community Services e-blast and weekly promotion on the City's social media platforms.
- Staff attended the Charitable Solicitations Commission meeting to review the process and their involvement. They additionally selected an ad hoc committee that will be jointly be meeting with this Commission's ad hoc in March 2022.
- The deadline to submit an RFP is February 1, 2022.

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, updated the Commission on what events have been scheduled for Kindness Week which runs from Sunday, February 13, 2022 until Friday, February 19, 2022.

- Sunday, February 13, will be the kick-off at the Beverly Hills Farmer's Market where kindness pins and the calendar of events will be handed out.
- Monday, February 14, Beverly Hills Active Adult Club (BHAAC) will be distributing flowers to senior members of the Community.
- Tuesday, February 15, the Library's Storytime will be held where Commissioners can volunteer to read to the toddlers.
- Thursday, February 17, is our Human Relations Commission meeting where the events will be reviewed and discussed.
- Media challenges will be placed on the City's social media platforms.
- Kindness cards will be distributed when acts of kindness are observed.
- Chair Blumenfeld requested Commissioners to volunteer for these events.
- Vice Chair Sharp asked if the Commission would be allowed to be together in the Library this year as opposed to virtually reading book. Since the event will be outdoors, there will be face to face time but having refreshments may not be an option at this time.
- Commissioner Margo suggested a Step and Repeat where the photos are hash-tagged on social media sights. Vice Chair Freeman suggested combining this with a Kindness Wall.
- Commissioner Freeman suggested providing the school crossing guards with pins and reminded staff of the decal superimposed on City Hall in addition to contacting the Boys & Girls Clubs about their Kindness Director and Initiative.
- Vice Chair Sharp suggested signs in building elevators.
- Commissioner Margo suggested kindness decals on laptops that are seen during meetings.
- Commissioner Nisim volunteered to assist with doing something kind for the earth.
- Commissioner Margo volunteered to contact Ali Norman-Frank, the Wellness Counselor at the school, who is active in Kindness Week.

- Commissioner Margo suggested a charity event such as a jacket drive or food drop-off.
- An Ad Hoc was formed with Commissioners Freeman and Nisim.

CONTINUED BUSINESS

6. Beverly Hills Homeless Initiative

- Jill Kline, Field Deputy for Los Angeles City Councilmember Paul Koretz, who represents the 5th District of Los Angeles, provided an update regarding the Burton Way Median's no camping enforcement and plans to connect individuals experiencing homelessness with housing resources.
- Jill Kline can be contacted at jill.kline@lacity.org or 323-866-1828

7. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Awareness Initiative

Enisha Clark, Interim Clinical Program Coordinator, informed the Commission that the Ad Hoc met to discuss ideas for the speaker series.

- Commissioner Freeman updated the Commission that a partnership with the library was secured and the Commission will team up with the Library on a virtual platform.
- The first speaker is scheduled for February.
- Chair Blumenfeld appointment Commissioner Sharp as his replacement on the Ad Hoc.

8. Inter-Commission Collaboration: Embrace & Celebrate Culture

Commissioner Freeman updated the Commission on the Inter-Commission Collaboration:

- The team launches the second *Visions of the Future* installation at 445 N. Canon Drive, featuring artwork by artist Kevin Hees.

9. Kindness Recognition

Commissioner Sharp recognized Shawn and Angela Saeedian, owners of Beverly Hills Market for their Acts of Kindness for the past 22 years. They have always known the importance of community involvement. Their store remained open during the pandemic to provide food and produce to residents which included door-to-door delivery if needed.

STATUS REPORTS

10. Beverly Hills Ambassador Program

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

- Due to the holiday season, the Ambassadors have noticed an increase in pedestrian traffic in key corridors throughout the triangle. Those key locations are being monitored.
- The Ambassador Team's outreach and hospitality contacts have risen this past month.
- Two Ambassadors were thanked for going above and beyond for ensuring the safety of the businesses on Rodeo Drive.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION

11. Chair Report

- a) Mayor's Cabinet Meeting
 - Reviewed

b) Review Commission Meeting dates

- Reviewed

c) Good and Welfare

- Chair Blumenfeld's end of term

As Chair Blumenfeld's term has come to an end, former and current Commissioners, in addition to staff, thanked Chair Blumenfeld for the projects and programs he initiated and worked on during his time as a Commissioner in the Human Relations Commission.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF

12. Administrator's Report

- The Mayor's Wellness Wednesday's events can be viewed by going to the City's web site: <http://www.beverlyhills.org/wellnesswednesdays>
- Roxbury Park held their annual Senior Holiday Lunch
- Community Services Department Presents a Dress Your Pet Challenge. Submit your photo by January 6, 2022 to www.beverlyhills.org/dressyourpet
- Frieze Week in Beverly Hills, launching February 17, 2022

Jenny Rogers, Director of Community Services, updated the Commission on the activities for Frieze Week in Beverly Hills.

13. Overview of Current and Pending Agenda Items

Reviewed

ADJOURNMENT

December 16, 2021 at 11:57 a.m.

Passed and Approved this 20th day of January, 2022

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rhoda J. Sharp", written over a horizontal line.

Rhoda J. Sharp, Chair