



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

**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

May 20, 2021  
9:00 a.m.

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Date/Time: May 20, 2021 / 10:01 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.

James R. Latta introduced new staff member Chris Paulson

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**1. Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 15, 2021**

MOTION by Sharp, SECONDED by Saleh to approve the Meeting Minutes with noted correction. (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:

- Graduation ceremonies are coming up with ongoing celebrations
- The middle school held a Cinco de Mayo celebration
- Hawthorne school is organizing a virtual choir performance and a virtual art show
- The extra free lunches that the school provides are currently being transported to a food bank by PTA members and volunteers.
- The girl's soccer team at the high school has gain renown from their wins
- NormanAid continues to be a resource for students
- Sports home games are open to spectators

Beverly Hills Police Department

Acting Captain Max Subin, updated the Commission on the following:

- Incident in Beverly Cañon Gardens that happened during the 1am hour
- A large rally is scheduled on Sunday, May 23, 2021 in Beverly Gardens Park
- Interviews continue for the Chief of Police position

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **2. FY 2020-21 CAGF Update: The Maple Counseling Center**

Varina Bleil, M. ED, provided a quarterly progress report on The Maple Counseling Center (TMCC) to the Commission. TMCC provides low-cost comprehensive mental health services to individuals of all ages, couples and families throughout Los Angeles County.

## **CONTINUED BUSINESS**

### **3. FY 2021-22 Community Assistant Grant Fund (CAGF)**

Rachel Evans, Clinical Program Coordinator, updated the Commission on the 2021 – 2022 Community Assistant Grant Fund status and timeline.

- On May 17, 2021, the ad-hoc representatives from both the Human Relations and Charitable Solicitation Commissions presented the jointly programmatic and funding recommendations to the City Council Liaisons. The City Council Liaisons, Vice Mayor Bosse and Councilmember Mirisch, supported the Commission's recommendations and staff will present those recommendations at the June 1, 2021 City Council Meeting.
- Staff thanked the ad hoc committee for the hours they spent on this project.
- Chair Blumenfeld additionally thanked Commissioners Saleh and Sharp.
- Commissioner Saleh thanked staff for updating the presentation and additionally thanked Commission Sharp for the hard work she spent on the project.
- Commissioner Sharp thanked Commissioner Saleh for her leadership, patience and guidance.

### **4. 2021-22 Work Plan Update: Staff/ Resident Relations Initiative**

James R. Latta, Human Services Administrator, reviewed with the Commission the work plan:

- Four of the items were similar to prior years. The Staff/Resident Relations Plan discussion is being delayed due to City Council's ad hoc to examine the responsibilities of all the current Commissions.

**5. Beverly Hills Homeless Initiative**

Rachel Evans, Clinical Program Coordinator, updated the Commission on the Commission's Homeless Initiative:

- Two organizations submitted, via the Community Assistant Grant Fund, work with the homeless: Safe Parking LA and additional funding for Step Up on Second to expand the hours of the homeless outreach team.
- The basics of the Department of Mental Health evaluation team program was additionally supported by our City Council Liaisons. Staff will be presenting this program to City Council on June 1, 2021.
- Commissioner Saleh thanked Vice Mayor Bosse and Councilmember Mirisch for their support of these programs in addition to Chair Blumenfeld for bringing the Safe Parking LA program to the Commission.
- Commissioner Sharp additionally commended Chair Blumenfeld for bringing Safe Parking LA to the attention of the Commission.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**6. Response to Acts of Hate**

Enisha Clark, Human Services Specialist, reviewed with the Commission the recent events regarding hate incidents and discussed the Commission's response options to denounce acts of hate which included future social media posts encouraging the public to report hate incident to LA County Anti- Hate Hotline by calling 2-1-1; creating a Human Relations Anti-Hate Statement; adding a link on the HRC website to LA County's Hate Incident Report Form; and promoting cultural awareness during future HRC meetings.

- Commissioner Saleh had staff display the City Council's statement in addition to other ways to response to acts of hate.
- Vice Chair Popovich Levyn supported staff's ideas and additionally suggested the Beverly Hills Public Library have literature and books posted on their web site for the upcoming programs. The information could also be sent to the school district.
- Commissioner Freeman additionally thanked Commissioner Saleh for bringing this to the attention of the Commission and suggested starting with a communication plan in addition to education on what hate looks like.
- Jenny Rogers, Director of Community Services, reminded the Commission of the series that the Beverly Hills Public Library is supporting, Be The Change, which the Commission co-hosts and additionally informed the Commission that the Division's Communication and Marketing Coordinator can work on an outreach and communication plan.
- Chair Blumenfeld will take a lead role in drafting the Anti-Hate statement from the Human Relations Commission and requested all Commissioners to submit their suggestions to both himself and staff by May 27, 2021. Vice Chair Popovich Levyn advised having the statement written in a positive tone.

**7. Inter-Commission Collaboration, Embrace & Celebrate Culture**

Human Relations, Arts and Culture and Next-Gen : Vision of the Future Proposal

Jenny Rogers, Director of Community Services, thanked the Commission for the work

they have done on this program.

- Commissioner Saleh updated the Commission on the latest approved proposal: Beverly Hills Sing for Hope piano project for later summer 2021.

## **STATUS REPORTS**

### **8. Beverly Hills Ambassador Program**

Johnthon Hunter, Operations Manager, reviewed the March and April statistics, with the Commission:

- A trend of new transients have been entering the area. Shoplifting calls have increased.
- Staff has been advised to be consistent when approaching individuals; readily making contact and building relationships that can lead to acceptance of services. Individuals have made contact with the Step-Up on Second team
- Individual smoking has additionally increased in the Beverly Hills triangle area. Suggestions of how to remind patrons of the ordinance, such as signage, was discussed.
- Commissioner Sharp complemented Operations Manager Hunter for his training and selection of Ambassadors.
- Commissioner Freeman suggested response times being tracked to increase the value and expansion of the program.
- Chair Blumenfeld request a report with suggestions on being more effective in addition to financial resources to expand this program.
- Commission Saleh request a graphic of the Ambassadors for posting on social media.

## **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION**

### **9. Chair Report**

#### **a) Mayor's Cabinet Meeting**

- Meeting Minutes

#### **b) Review Commission Meeting dates**

#### **c) Good and Welfare**

- Commissioner Sharp suggested the Human Relations Commission acknowledge both the Fire and Police Department by honoring those outstanding members, suggested by those departments, as often as the Commission would like.

MOTION by Saleh, SECONDED by Sharp to agendize the law enforcement award, to include both the Fire and Police Departments, in the next Commission meeting, June 2021. (5/0)

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

- Vice Chair Popovich Levyn thanked the Community, in addition to the Park Rangers and Ambassadors, for being leaders during the current pandemic for following directions with the state mandate which allowed the City to reopen.
- Chair Blumenfeld thanked the upcoming Commissioners who attended the meeting.

## COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF

### 10. Administrator's Report

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

- Human Services Spring e-Newsletter
- May 3, 2021, City Hall opened for appointments only
- May 10, 11, 13, 14, 2021, COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic at Roxbury Park Community Center
- May 13 & 19, 2021, Best practice training on how to effectively deal with homeless individuals, for rangers, ambassadors and Human Service's staff
- Resident Contacts for Homeless Assistance
  - o 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**
  - o 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.
  - o For assistance in City Parks, talk to the on duty Ranger or contact a Ranger supervisor at **310-285-6835**

### 11. Overview of Current and Pending Agenda Items

- Reviewed

## ADJOURNMENT

May 20, 2021 at 12:31 p.m.

Passed and Approved this 17th day of June, 2021



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Ori Blumenfeld, Chair