



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

**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**  
September 23, 2021  
9:00 a.m.

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Date/Time: September 23, 2021 / 9:02 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.

Recording Secretary, Linda Kyriazi, read a public comment by Max Brockman.

**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 August 19, 2021

MOTION by Sharp, 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

Human Relations Commission Special Meeting Minutes  
September 23, 2021

## REPORTS FROM PRIORITY AGENCIES

### Beverly Hills Police Department

Captain Max Subin updated the Commission on the following:

- The department has received a number of complaints regarding the loud vehicles racing in the business area. The traffic enforcement has been spending additional time in that area. Citations have been issued and parking tickets are up 41% Citywide.
- The Just in Case program (emergency awareness) has been well received by the City in addition to the Neighborhood Watch (crime related). These programs are also supported by the Fire Department.

### Beverly Hills Unified School District

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

- Addressed the issues related to the resignation of Board Member Tristen Walker-Shuman and read a prepared statement.
- The Los Angeles Department of Public Health has provided a modified quarantine.
- At the High School, the College Center is sending out guides to parents on letters of recommendation.
- Sunday, September 16, 2021, there is a 5K race to raise money for Not Today Cancer.
- Flag football, cheer, and girls' volleyball have returned to the middle school.

## PRESENTATIONS

### 2. Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) Framework

Josette Descalzo, Program Manager Public Works

Josette Descalzo, Environmental Compliance and Sustainability Programs Manager, provided an update to the Commission on Climate Action and Adaptation Plan Framework.

## CONTINUED BUSINESS

### 3. Beverly Hills Homeless Initiative

Enisha Clark, Interim Clinical Program Coordinator, introduced Christopher Paulson, Recreation Services Manager, who oversees the Park Ranger Program, to update the Commission on the launching of the Ranger Bike Patrol Program.

- A team of seven Rangers were recruited for the Bike Patrol Program.
- These Rangers completed a 3-day bicycle course training that was run by the Beverly Hills Police Department.
- The Bike Patrol will patrol cover the patrolling of the 22 blocks of Beverly Gardens Park, in addition to La Cienega and Roxbury Parks, in a more timely and efficient manner.
- The Rangers will also be able to reach the mini parks, from their assigned location at the larger parks, for better patrolling.
- The Ranger Bike Patrol will be on hand at the October 16 & 17, 2021 Art Show.

### 4. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Awareness Initiative

Enisha Clark, Interim Clinical Program Coordinator, reviewed with the Commission their charge to promote a more inclusive and safe community for all.

Human Relations Commission Special Meeting Minutes  
September 23, 2021

- Commissioner Freeman proposed a quarterly speaker series that would cover diversity, equity & inclusion, and also highlight non-profits and start-ups that would engage the Community in addition to accomplishing the Commission's goal of giving a platform to these voices.
- Chair Blumenfeld appointed himself, along with Commissioner Freeman as an ad hoc to start this project.
- Chair Blumenfeld addressed the public comment by acknowledging the issues that were referenced and read the Beverly Hills Municipal Code regarding the Human Relations Commission.
- Commissioner Freeman suggested that the Beverly Hills Police representative's report focus more on the issues that the Community is interested in.

MOTION by Freeman, SECONDED by Blumenfeld to explore a Quarterly Speaker Series that addresses equity, inclusion and diversity. (5/0)

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

5. Inter-Commission Collaboration: Embrace & Celebrate Culture Initiative  
Enisha Clark, Interim Clinical Program Coordinator, updated the Commission on the successful Sing for Hope pianos, the public art project that concluded on September 6, 2021. The pianos are now being gifted to schools throughout the greater Los Angeles area.
- Commissioner Freeman noted that Community members from the surrounding areas came to Beverly Hills to experience the public art themselves.

6. Embrace Civility Award  
Rachel Evans, Clinical Program Coordinator, introduced the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Embrace Civility Award history, criteria and selection process. The award recognizes individuals or groups in the community that exemplify any or all of the following:
- Acts as a role model of positive behavior
  - Takes a stand in support of respect and responsible actions
  - Promotes positive neighbor to neighbor relations

After the Commission's ranking and discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION by Blumenfeld SECONDED by Nisim that the Embrace Civility Award honoree is #7, the 2<sup>nd</sup> place is #10 and the 3<sup>rd</sup> place is #3. (5/0)

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

The Commission looks forward to presenting the Embrace Civility Award to the honoree during the October 26, 2021 City Council Meeting.

Human Relations Commission Special Meeting Minutes  
September 23, 2021

**7. Civility Month**

In 2017, the Commission declared October as Civility Month in Beverly Hills to further the civility initiative in the City:

- To commemorate the month, banners and posters will be displayed throughout the City. Embrace Civility pins will be available for Commissioners, Park Rangers and Ambassadors to distribute to members of the Community demonstrating Civility.
- The Commission and City Council will be recognizing the Embrace Civility Award honoree at the October 26, 2021 Council meeting.
- New this year will be posting Civility Challenges on the City's social media accounts throughout the month.

**8. Kindness Recognition**

During the July 2021 Meeting, Commissioners voted to reinstate the Kindness tab to allow the opportunity to share acts of kindness that have occurred within the City of Beverly Hills. Commissioners are not required to present and it is suggested that all acts of kindness shared should be experienced on a first-hand account.

- No recognitions were presented this month.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**STATUS REPORTS**

**9. Beverly Hills Ambassador Program**

Johnthon Hunter, Operations Manager, reviewed the current statistics, with the Commission:

- The 2019 statistics were compared with 2021 to review pre-pandemic statistics and staff noticed an increase in outreach and referrals to the outreach team.

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION**

**10. Chair Report**

- a) Mayor's Cabinet Meeting
  - Meeting Minutes
- b) Review Commission Meeting dates
- c) Good and Welfare

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF**

**11. Administrator's Report**

Rachel Evans, Clinical Program Coordinator, updated the Commission on the following:

- The Ranger Bike Team.
- The Brown Act has been extended allowing virtual meeting to continue through January 2024 if needed.
- The Mayor's initiative, Wellness Wednesday's, continues with healthy programming. The next event being held on Wednesday, September 29, 2021, at 8am at Roxbury Park. The Community is welcome to join the Mayor in a Yoga class.
- The Beverly Hills Fall Art Show will be held in a smaller format October 16 & 17, 2021.

Human Relations Commission Special Meeting Minutes  
September 23, 2021

12. Overview of Current and Pending Agenda Items  
Reviewed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

September 23, 2021 at 10:54 a.m.

Passed and Approved this 21st day of October, 2021



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Ori Blumenfeld, Chair