



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

**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**
February 17, 2022
9:00 a.m.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Date/Time: February 17, 2022 / 9:00 a.m.

Chair Sharp read the Civility Statement.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Kaiserman, Nisim, Margo, Vice Chair Freeman, Chair Sharp
Commissioners Absent: None
Staff Present: Patty Acuna, 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 Sharp approved the Agenda as presented.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 20, 2022.
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.

Vice Chair Freeman read the two items in the Consent Calendar.

MOTION by Freeman, SECONDED by Nisim to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. (5/0)

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

REPORTS FROM PRIORITY AGENCIES

Beverly Hills Police Department

Welcoming of Chief Mark Stainbrook

- Chief of Police, Mark Stainbrook, provided an update to the Commission on the City's safety, general crime rates in addition to hate crimes, hate incidences and hate speech.

Beverly Hills Unified School District

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

- In line with Los Angeles County Public Health's announcement as of February 16, 2022, children were informed that outdoor masking is optional.
- Nationwide, there is a push for universal pre-school.
- February 2022 is Black History Month. A number of podcasts have been presented by NormanAid.

PRESENTATIONS

3. Assembly Bill 1126 Presentation, Assemblymember Richard Bloom
Assemblymember Richard Bloom informed the Commission on Assembly Bill (AB) 1126 Commission on the State of Hate, at the request of the Commission.

AB 1126 establishes the California Commission on the State of Hate within state government whose sole mission is to:

- Monitor and address current trends relative to hate crimes
- Produce annual reports on these trends
- Make policy recommendations to the Legislature, Governor and the relevant state agencies and departments in order to help the state be aware of, address and hopefully reduces instances of these crimes.

MOTION by Nisim, SECONDED by Freeman: Move that the Commission recommend to the Council that a letter of support be sent to the Governor urging him to include in the State budget, funding for the Commission on the State of Hate. (AB 1126 (2021)). (5/0)

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

4. Beverly Hills Police Department's Support of the City's Civility and Kindness Initiatives, Captain Elisabeth Albanese

Captain Elisabeth Albanese, in support of the City's Civility Initiative and Kindness Week, presented information on common concerns received from community members and proposed civility and kindness as alternative remedies to traditional law enforcement methods

NEW BUSINESS

5. Beverly Hills Unified School District (BHUSD) Engagement Project

Chair Rhoda Sharp presented a preliminary concept of the Beverly Hills Unified School District (BHUSD) Engagement Project at the January Commission meeting. The full Commission voted to explore the concept further. Chair Sharp requested that the film director, George Nicholas, who is interested in supporting the project, attend.

- Film director and producer, George Nicholas, presented a story and PSA concept, in addition to suggesting possible collaborators.
- The Commission agreed to continue discussions at the March meeting.

CONTINUED BUSINESS

6. FY 2022-23 Community Assistance Grant Fund (CAGF)

Rachel Evans, Human Services Administrator, reminded the Commission of the upcoming Community Assistance Grant Fund (CAGF) process:

- The application period closed on February 1, 2022.
- Over 30 completed applications were submitted; both returning and new applicants.
- After processing the applications, staff will be reaching out to the Commission's ad hoc committee to begin the reviewing process.

7. 2022 Kindness Week

Enisha Clark, Interim Clinical Program Coordinator, updated the Commission on the highlights of the Commission's planned Kindness events have transpired so far.

- The Beverly Hills Farmers' Market Sunday kick-off attracted visitors throughout the day.
- Installation of flags, banners and posters throughout the City, projected image on City Hall that Kindness Counts
- February 14, 2022, with the support of Beverly Hills Active Adults Club (BHAAC) roses and gift bags were handed out to the senior community.
- *Be Kind with Knowledge* was a partnership with the Beverly Hills Public Library. Kindness themed books were read to toddlers by the Commissioners.
- *Be Kind to Yourself* was a Mayor's Wellness Wednesday event.
- Thursday, February 17, 2022 is the final in-person event in Beverly Canon Gardens where the step and repeat will be available for the members of the Community to take photos.
- Kindness Week runs from Sunday, February 13, 2022 until Friday, February 19, 2022.

8. Beverly Hills Homeless Initiative

Enisha Clark, Interim Clinical Program Coordinator, provided an update on the Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count 2022 taking place February 23, 2022.

- The City of Beverly Hills count will take place early Thursday morning for the most accurate information.
- For safety, staff will be trained online in addition to an application being provided for information being tracked electronically.
- City staff, including Police, Rangers and Ambassadors, will be working this event.

9. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Awareness Initiative

Vice Chair Freeman continues to finalize details for the first speaker series entitled, *Critical Conversations*.

10. Inter-Commission Collaboration: Embrace & Celebrate Culture

Staff did not have any project to report on this month.

11. Kindness Recognition

This Kindness item allows Commissioners the opportunity to highlight Acts of Kindness that have occurred within the City of Beverly Hills.

- Commissioner Nisim recognized Dr. Sharona Nazarian who served as president of the Rotary Club of Beverly Hills and her continued service to charitable philanthropic endeavors.
- Vice Chair Freeman acknowledged the Farmers' Market staff for their assistance while the Commission held their Kindness booth.
- Chair Sharp recognized Vice Chair Lili Bosse as a best friend and kind human being.

STATUS REPORTS

12. Beverly Hills Ambassador Program

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

- There has been a decrease in pedestrian traffic with the end of the holiday season.
- With this decrease, several statistics have been affected; the panhandling has decreased 55%. Camping remained consistent with December.
- Outreach has increased by 8% with a success story of a services being provided to a person without housing.
- Business contacts have increased by 59%.
- The Commission presented Ambassador Oscar Flores with their Above and Beyond certificate. Ambassador Oscar has working with the City of Beverly Hills for 6 years, but has 15 years experience as an Ambassador. Lead Ambassador Oscar is relied on for his knowledge of the program and training of new employees.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION

13. Chair Report

- a) Mayor's Cabinet Meeting
 - Reviewed
- b) Review Commission Meeting dates
 - Reviewed
- c) Other items brief announcements, request for information, and brief reports on activities
 - Commissioner Margo suggested a future charity drive/event for the Community to participate in.

MOTION by Kaiserman, SECONDED by Nisim: Move to look further into collaborating with the Community on donations for Civility Week in October or throughout the year, not at this moment but in a couple of months. (4/0)

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

COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF

14. Administrator's Report

- Wellness Wednesdays will continue with new programming
- Beverly Hills Library Grab & Go Service – new updated hours
- Beverly Hills Library Presents a virtual author talk with Nick Davis on March 8, 2022: Competing with Idiots Human and Joe Mankiewicz, a Dual Portrait. Call: 310-288-2244 for reservations.
- Successful Vaccination Clinic at Roxbury Park


15. Overview of Current and Pending Agenda Items

- Reviewed.

ADJOURNMENT

February 17, 2022 at 11:50 a.m.

Passed and Approved this 17 day of March, 2022


Rhoda J. Sharp, Chair