



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
Room 280A
455 North Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

September 15, 2022
9:00 a.m.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Date/Time: September 15, 2022 / 9:03 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chair Margo led the Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Freeman read the Human Relations Commission's Civility Statement.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Kaiserman, Nisim, Vice Chair Margo, Chair Freeman

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: Jenny Rogers, Patricia 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.

One Public Comment was made by Mr. Austin.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

With the concurrence of the Commission, the Chair may choose to amend the order of the items on the agenda. Chair Freeman requested moving Tab #11 up in the agenda to Tab #4.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 21, 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.
Tabled.

MOTION by Nisim, SECONDED by Kaiserman to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. (4/0)

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

REPORTS FROM PRIORITY AGENCIES

Beverly Hills Police Department

Lieutenant Giovanni Trejo along with Sergeant Jesse R. Perez updated the Commission on the following:

- The department's Traffic Bureau held two DUI Enforcement Checkpoints. The goals of such operations are to educate more than enforce.
- Officers have participated in a number of Neighborhood Watch meetings with the Community. If a neighborhood is interested in having the police facilitate such a meeting, please contact Sgt. Jesse Perez at jrperez@beverlyhills.org
- The next Coffee With A Cop is scheduled for September 29, 2022 at Pompadour, 9466 Charleville Boulevard from 9am – 11am.
- Thursday, September 22, 2022 is the Beverly Hills Police Officers Benevolent Fund's Reimagined Gala being held at the Waldorf Astoria in Beverly Hills.

Beverly Hills Unified School District

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

- The schools participated in Club Rush where students and view the various Clubs offered.
- Hispanic Heritage Month is being celebrated.
- The months of September & October are promoting Bullying Prevention.
- NormanAid, that assists with emotional well-being, who are situated at the high school, is continuing with their podcasts. These can be viewed on the NomanAid website.

PRESENTATIONS

None

NEW BUSINESS

3. Chair and Vice Chair Rotation

Historically, the Human Relations Commission conducts their Chair and Vice Chair rotation every January. However, due to the recent passing of Chair Rhoda Sharp, the position is now vacant.

- It is recommended that Vice Chair Noelle Freeman be seated as Chair of the Human Relations Commission at the September 15, 2022 meeting. Her term is expected to be from September 2022 to January 2024.
- This is a one-time, early rotation due to this unique and unfortunate circumstance and does not change the normal rotation process for the Human Relations Commission.
- The recruitment for the vacant position is in process, with an expected appointment of January 2023.

4. 2022 Conflict of Interest Code – Human Relations Commission
Review of the 2022 Conflict of Interest Code

The Commission is asked to review the 2022 Conflict of Interest Code, make the necessary changes, if any, and have the Chair sign the Statement of Review page.

MOTION by Nisim, SECONDED by Margo to approve the 2022 Conflict of Interest Code of the City of Beverly Hills Human Relations Commission as presented. (4/0)

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

CONTINUED BUSINESS

5. Civility Month

In 2017, the Commission declared October as Civility Month in Beverly Hills to further the civility initiative in the City. This year, the Commission will be hosting their inaugural *Day of Giving* as the central event of the month. Ad Hoc members, Commissioner Margo and Commissioner Kaiserman provided updates.

- Commissioner Kaiserman updated the Commission on the scheduled October 23, 2022 *Day of Giving* event where the Commission will have a booth at the Beverly Hills Farmers' Market. Various organization, such as the Beverly Hills Unified School District (BHUSD), have been contacted for their participation. Attendees will bring the needed items to the Farmers' Market booth for drop off.
- Vice Chair Margo encouraged community member to attend, participate and assist in promoting. One of the four organization that the Commission will be collecting for is Kathy Bronte from the BHUSD will be representing Los Angeles County Animal Shelter.
- Rachel Evans, Human Services Administrator, reminded the Commission of the yearly event of announcing the Embrace Civility Award winner.
- Banner and posters will additionally be placed around the City.

6. Embrace Civility Award

Chair Freeman reviewed the Commission's Embrace Civility Award process that was established in 2012, which 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

The Commissioners were provided with the content of the submitted forms minus the name of the nominee. After a discussion of each Commissioners top three ranking, a tally was taken, tabulated and a nominee was selected.

MOTION by Freeman, SECONDED by Kaiserman to nominate our nominee #1 as our Embrace Civility Award winner with a back-up of #5. (4/0)

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

The winner will be recognized at a City Council Meeting in October 2022.

7. Mental Health Awareness

Dorit Haroni, a National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI) board member and Debbie Brazil, Resource Navigator, provided the Commission with an overview of services offered at the West Los Angeles location.

- The Commission discussed a number of options of working with NAMI, either at the schools or with the Community with the free resources they have in addition to ways of promoting the organization.
- Staff will present the suggested ideas at a future meeting.
- Commissioner Kaiserman informed the Commission about a team organized by Beverly Hills NormanAid for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention called Walk With Us, for the American Suicide Prevention Walkout on October 22, 2022 at 3rd Street Promenade in Santa Monica.

8. Beverly Hills Unified School District Engagement Project

The Beverly Hills Unified School District (BHUSD) Engagement is currently tabled until the Commission participates in their annual work plan priority setting in January 2023.

9. Beverly Hills Homeless Initiative

Jill Kline, Field Deputy of Los Angeles City Councilmember Paul Koretz of District 5, informed the Commission how our cities can continue to work collaboratively to address homelessness in the region and provided updates on areas of concern.

Kevin Connor and Edwin Chavous, from the Beverly Hills' Homeless Outreach Team (BHOT), provided updates on the recent successful interventions. The Home Again Program is made possible through the City's Community Assistance Grant funded (CAGF) partner All Saints' Homeless Assistance Program.

- Commissioner Kaiserman asked the BHOT team if there were any items they were in need of which the Commission could collect during their *Day of Giving* event. BHOT suggested toiletries. Staff will check their inventory and will let the Commission know.

Chair Freeman reviewed the appropriate entities for residents to contact should they encounter individuals experiencing homelessness who require assistance suggesting a central number would be more convenient to call.

- Jenny Rogers, Director of Community Services, informed the Commission that the City is currently working on an enhanced approach on how the City would address homelessness. Staff looks forward to presenting this plan to the Commission soon.

10. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Awareness Initiative

Chair Freeman, along with Commissioner Nisim, provided an update on the Commission's *Critical Conversation* Program. Donzaleigh Abernathy was the Commission's inaugural *Critical Conversations* series speaker on August 24, 2022. Ms. Abernathy is the daughter of Reverend Ralph David Abernathy, the co-founder of the civil rights movement, and close friend and advisor to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The event was a huge success and warmly embraced by Mayor Lili Bosse and members of the wider community. The event served as a catalyst to encourage critical dialogue and increase community awareness of the civil rights issues our society faces today.

11. Kindness Recognition

Chair Freeman recognized the passing of former Chair Rhoda Sharp. The Commissioners, along with staff, spoke about her dedication to Kindness which included her ending her emails with "Kindness Matters." Chair Freeman requested renaming the Kindness Recognition tab to "Kindness Matters."

MOTION by Freeman, SECONDED by Nisim to change the Kindness Recognition Tab to Kindness Matters in honor of Rhoda Sharp. (4/0)

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

STATUS REPORTS

12. Beverly Hills Ambassador Program

Johnthon Hunter, Beverly Hills Ambassadors Operations Manager, updated the Commission on the following:

- The prior two months, the team has been documenting an increase of new transients. This is logged via the camping statistics. This statistic has increased by 76% in July and has continued to increase in August by 95%. This number is 30% less than last year's numbers. The current transients are displaying more aggressive behavior.
- The Ambassador Team has had a number of successful stories referring transients to the Beverly Hills Outreach Team (BHOT).

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION

13. Chair Report

- a) Mayor's Cabinet Meeting
 - Reviewed
- b) Review Commission Meeting dates
 - Reviewed
- c) Good and Welfare. Other items brief announcements, request for information, and brief reports on activities
 - Chair Freeman reminded all of Commissioner Kaiserman's Suicide Prevention Walkout on October 22, 2022.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF

14. Administrator's Report

Rachel Evans, Human Services Administrator, updated the Commission on the following:

- National Night Out: The staff reviewed with the Commission their productive Human Services booth during National Night Out
- Business with Bosse dates: Wednesday, September 14, 2022, 5:30pm – 7:00pm, Tatel Restaurant, 453 N. Canon Drive
- Live with Lili dates: Tuesday, September 13, 2022, 7pm – 8pm, City Hall Municipal Gallery & Monday, October 10, 2022, 7pm-8pm City Hall Municipal Gallery
- Mayor's Mental Wellness Series: Dr. Deepak Chopra, Friday, September 23, 2022, 11:30am – 12:30pm, Crescent side of Beverly Hills City Hall
- Free Household Hazardous and Electronic Waste Drive-Thru, Saturday, September 24, 2022, 9am – 3pm, West Third Street between Foothill Road and Civic Center Drive
- Beverly Hills Art Show, Saturday, October 15 – Sunday, October 16, 2022, Beverly Gardens Park

15. Overview of Current and Pending Agenda Items

- Reviewed

ADJOURNMENT

September 15, 2022 at 11:35 a.m.

Passed and Approved this 20th day of October, 2022



Noelle Freeman, Chair