



## **CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS**

Room 280A  
455 North Rexford Drive  
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

In-Person / Telephonic / Video Conference Meeting

### **HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

February 16, 2023  
9:00 a.m.

#### **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Date/Time: February 16, 2023 / 9:00 a.m.

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioners Kaiserman & Chair Freeman read the Human Relations Commission's Civility Statement and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present:	Kraushaar, Kaiserman, Nisim, Vice Chair Margo, Chair Freeman
Commissioners Absent:	None
Staff Present:	Patricia Acuna; Christopher Paulson, Stephanie Harris, Enisha Clark, Ben Johnson, Lisa Crespo and 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. Tab #10: speakers will not be present but an update will be provided.

#### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 19, 2023.
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 Kaiserman, SECONDED by Nisim to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. (5/0)

AYES: Commissioners Kraushaar, Kaiserman, Nisim, and Vice Chair Margo,  
Chair Freeman

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

CARRIED

## REPORTS FROM PRIORITY AGENCIES

Beverly Hills Police Department

Captain Giovanni Trejo updated the Commission on the following:

- The month of January 2023 to now has been a concerning trend in thefts of catalytic converters.
- Sunday, March 12, 2023 is the Vanity Fair post-Academy Award event. Street closures begin February 28 and end March 16, 2023.
- Sunday, March 19, 2023 is the Los Angeles Marathon.

Beverly Hills Unified School District

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

- A lock-down event happened at the school which appeared to be a hoax. The event was resolved quickly along with the information being relayed swiftly to all concerned.
- Mayor Bosse, along with NormanAid at the high school, had a KBEV podcast titled: Make Today Well Lived. Mayor Bosse spoke of values of inclusion and diversity.

## PRESENTATIONS

### 3. Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DIB) Committee

Gabriella Yap, Senior Policy & Management Administrator, and Anthony Rizzuto, Library Clerk II, are both members of the City's Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging Employee Committee and will provide an overview of the Committee's Mission, Vision, and Values.

Gabriella Yap, Senior Policy & Management Administrator, and Anthony Rizzuto, Library Clerk II, updated the Commission on the DIB's Mission, Vision and Values.

- Mission: To advance a culture that inspires, supports and celebrates each individual.
- Vision: A culture where we can thrive and be our best selves
- Values: Integrity / Trust / Support / Equity / Civility

### 4. Embrace & Celebrate Culture Initiative – Festival BH

Benjamin Johnson, Recreation Services Manager, will provide an overview of Festival BH, taking place on Sunday, March 12, 2023.

Benjamin Johnson, Recreation Services Manager, updated the Commission on Festival Beverly Hills:

- Sunday, March 12, 2023 from 8:00am to 12:30pm at the Beverly Hills Farmers' Market.
- The Inaugural Festival will feature: Culturally Diverse Activities, Expanded Kid Zone, Global Arts Workshops and Craft Making along with a Youth Food Competition that will be Oscar themed.
- Diverse Music and Dance Showcases

## CONTINUED BUSINESS

### 5. 2023 Commission Work Plan Schedule

At the January 19, 2023 Human Relations Commission meeting, the Commission reviewed the 2022 work plan, made some modifications, then adopted the 2023 Commission Work Plan.

- Staff, along with the Commission, reviewed a table that organized the various projects and programs under each initiative, then placed them into a calendar for the year so staff and Commissioners can properly prepare for and schedule each item.

### 6. Embrace Civility: 2023 Kindness Week – February 12 – 17

Kindness Week is currently underway with a successful kick-off event held Sunday, February 12, 2023 at the Farmers' Market. Staff presented a slideshow displaying photos of events that had occurred so far:

- Monday, February 13: Be Kind to Seniors
- Tuesday, February 14: Be Kind & Connect
- Wednesday, February 15, Teach Kindness to Kids
- The final 2-day event, In the Business of Kindness – Kindness Crawl, will commence today, Thursday, February 17 at noon at Beverly Canon Gardens.

### 7. Anti-Hate Initiative:

#### a. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Awareness – Critical Conversations Event Report

- Staff presented a short slideshow on the Commission's successful Critical Conversations event where the State of Women's Rights in Modern Times was discussed.
- Staff, along with the Commissioners, thanked Chair Freeman for moderating the event.

#### b. Anti-Hate Ad Hoc update

Ad Hoc members Chair Freeman and Commissioner Nisim, updated the Commission in their decision to roll-out this initiative in phases:

- Phase 1: Research & Analysis: Meetings with leaders in area of Anti-Hate
- Phase 2: Collecting Data from the local community
- Phase 3: Create an educational roadmap on the collected data and research
- Phase 4: Implementation of roadmap
- Phase 5: Follow-up Review
- Chair Freeman commended Commissioner Nisim on her leadership with this ongoing project.

### 8. Community Assistance Grant Funding (CAGF): FY 2023-24 Update

The FY 2023-24 Community Assistance Grant Funding (CAGF) Request for Proposal (RFP) was released on Thursday, December 1, 2022 and made available online at [www.beverlyhills.org/cagf](http://www.beverlyhills.org/cagf).

- On Monday, January 23, 2023 the application period closed.
- Staff is currently compiling all applications for the Human Relations Commission Ad Hoc review.

**9. Mental Health Awareness**

Lisa Crespo & Corrina Lesser, Recreation Supervisors, will provide a report on the January 29, 2023 Youth Mayor's Mental Wellness Event.

- Lisa Crespo, Recreation Supervisor, provided a report from the Mayor's Youth Mental Wellness Event that was held in partnership with the Teen Advisory Committee on Sunday, January 29, 2023.

**10. Beverly Hills Homeless Initiative**

Fernando Morales, Deputy Chief of Staff, and Vanessa Saldana, Field Deputy, for Los Angeles City Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky – Council District 5, will provide an update on the ongoing work and priorities of Councilwoman Yaroslavsky as it pertains to housing and homelessness.

- Representatives from Council District 5 rescheduled to next month.
- Advocacy Update: Community members are encouraged to contact the centralized unhoused hotline number if they encounter someone in need at (310) 285-BHOT (2468).
- Community Education Update: Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) 2023 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count took place January 24- January 26, 2023. The SPA 5 Homeless Count was conducted Wednesday January 25, 2023.
- The data numbers will be released later this year.
- The new Case Management software, Apricot 360, currently in Beta mode, will launch soon. This system will record data on the unhoused and will be used by the Rangers, Ambassadors and the City's BHOT Team.

**STATUS REPORTS**

**11. Beverly Hills Ambassador Program**

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

- The Ambassador Team had 205 interactions last month and provided information on a successful interaction.
- The Ambassadors additionally provide 24-hour safety escorts to anyone within the City's triangle area. This service has been helpful for people leaving their workplace at night to parking structures or bus stops.
- City staff, along with Block by Block's Ambassador's staff, provided training to the Beverly Hills team which included initiating public engagement. The Ambassadors can be reached at: 424-302-1487.

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION**

**12. Kindness Matters**

The Kindness agenda item allows commissioners the opportunity to highlight acts of kindness that have occurred within the City of Beverly Hills.

- Vice Chair Margo recognized Kathy Bronte, for providing over 300 Valentine's Day cards, made by the district students, to distribute to the City's senior community. Kathy is someone who can "get it done" and a real concept of kindness.
- Vice Chair Margo additionally acknowledged City staff member, Traffic Control Officer Elena Chavez, in the Police Department for her understanding demeanor and assistance in resolving a frustrating situation.

- Rosa, from Menorah Housing, was additionally acknowledged. Rosa assisted staff, along with Vice Chair Margo, as they distributed roses for Valentine's Day.
- Commissioner Kaiserman recognized Chair Freeman for her hard work this past year.

**13. Chair Report**

- a) Mayor's Cabinet Meeting
  - Reviewed
- b) 2023 Commission Work Plan
  - Reviewed
- c) Ad Hoc Committees
  - Reviewed
- d) Review Commission Meeting dates
  - Reviewed
- e) Good and Welfare. Other items brief announcements, request for information, and brief reports on activities

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF**

**14. Administrator's Report**

Christopher Paulson, Interim Administrator, provided updates on the following:

- Mayor's Initiatives
  - Business with Bosse:  
Monday, February 27, 2023, 5pm – 6:30pm, Hideaway Beverly Hills, 421 N. Rodeo
  - Live with Lili:  
Tuesday, March 14, 2023, 7pm – 8pm, City Hall Municipal Gallery  
If you cannot attend in-person, Live with Lili can be watched at [beverlyhills.org/live](https://beverlyhills.org/live)
- Community Services Events
  - Art Walks – Sunday, March 5, 2023, 11am, Beverly Gardens Park Lily Pond
  - Art Walks – Sunday, March 26, 2023, 11am, Beverly Gardens Park Lily Pond

**ADJOURNMENT**

February 16, 2023 at 11:06 a.m.

Passed and Approved this 16th day of March, 2023

  
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Noelle Freeman, Chair