



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**

May 18, 2023

9:00 a.m.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Date/Time: May 18, 2023 / 9:00 a.m.

Chair Freeman read the Civility Statement

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Kaiserman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: Christopher Paulson, Enisha Clark, Stephanie Harris, Patty Acuna,
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. Chair Freeman approved the Agenda as presented.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 20, 2023.

MOTION by Kaiserman, SECONDED by Kraushaar to approve the Meeting Minutes of April 2023 as presented. (5/0)

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

CARRIED

REPORTS FROM PRIORITY AGENCIES

Beverly Hills Police Department

Lieutenant Evans, along with 2 Police Officers from the Mental Health Evaluation Team, Adam Falossi and Lowell Rose, provided an update:

- The May 7, 2023 Police Services Day was well attended by local families.
- June 14, 2023 is Coffee with the Cops at Ferrarini Café, 9622 Brighton Way, from 3pm – 5pm.
- National Night Out is scheduled for August 1, 2023.
- A Security Assessment for home and businesses can be scheduled through the Police Department by emailing bhpdinfo@beverlyhills.org
- The Beverly Hills Outreach Team (BHOT) will contact the PD Mental Health Team when they feel the presence of an Officer is helpful.

Beverly Hills School District

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

- Schools are preparing for their graduation ceremonies.
- The Wellness Center for the middle school continues to look for bids for this service.
- The Dude Be Nice event continues where students thank others for their kindness.
- May has been Jewish American Heritage Month which has students creating several meaningful projects.
- Parent University is established at the Middle School to assist parents in providing guidance in certain behaviors.

STATUS REPORTS

2. Beverly Hills Ambassador Program

Ambassador Manager Jonathon Hunter will provide a monthly update.

- Ambassador Manager Jonathon Hunter updated the Commission on three success stories highlighting the Ambassadors hospitality and safety escort services.

PRESENTATIONS

3. The Miracle Project – *Take Action for Mental Health Los Angeles*

Representatives from The Miracle Project, a CAGF recipient, will provide a presentation about mental wellness services provided, including their role in the countywide initiative.

- Elaine Hall, Founder and Artistic Director, along with Margaret Mendenhall, Grants Manager, updated the Commission on the methods developed and how the trained staff, along with volunteers, work with children with disabilities.
- The Miracle Project is a fully inclusive theater, film and expressive arts program focused on building communication, self-esteem, job, and social skills for neurodiverse and/or disabled individuals – speaking and non-speaking. Through shared experiences with peers and volunteers, individuals with diverse abilities and backgrounds find their voice, develop their talents and rehearse for life.
- The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is the artistic home for The Miracle Project, an innovative performing arts program for young people with autism and all abilities.
- May 28, 2023, The Wallis and The Miracle Project Presents: *The Miracle Project Takes The Cake*. An interactive and improvised mystery told in two parts, performers with and without disabilities will task audience members with cracking the case of a harrowing cake heist. Show #1 at 2pm, Show #2 at 4:30pm.

CONTINUED BUSINESS

4. Mental Health Awareness

Chair Freeman provided an update on the following:

- a) Mindfulness Mondays
 - May 1, 2023 was Mindfulness Monday's kick-off video services on Beverly Hills Television.
- b) Day of Wellness
 - Chair Freeman, along with Commissioner Kraushaar, met with both the Recreation and Parks and Health & Safety Commissioners in addition to presenting to their City Council Liaisons. The City Council Liaisons approved the Day of Wellness to move forward to full City Council approval.
 - The event is scheduled for Sunday, September 10, 2023 from 10am – 3pm at Roxbury Park & Community Center.
- c) Chair's Mental Health Challenge
 - Chair Freeman suggested a simple challenge of checking in with one another.

5. Community Assistance Grant Funding (CAGF)

Christopher Paulson, Human Services Administrator, updated the Commission on the May 17, 2023 Liaison Meeting.

- Vice Mayor Friedman, Councilmember Bosse, in addition to Chair Freeman, Commissioner Kraushaar, Charitable Solicitations Commissioner Steven Smith and staff, met to review the 2023-2024 Community Assistant Grant Fund (CAGF).
- The City Council Ad Hoc reviewed the 30 applicants' recommended funding and supported their findings with a caveat for one applicant.
- The final step is the full City Council approval scheduled for June 6, 2023.

6. Beverly Hills Homeless Initiative

a) Advocacy & Community Education Update

Christopher Paulson, Human Services Administrator, updated the Commission on the coordinated homeless outreach efforts including:

- 310-285-2468 Hotline which is answered 24/7.
- If the issue is an immediate threat or danger, dial 911.
- The BHOT Team will attempt to engage the person, which can be a long process.
- Enisha Clark, Human Services Outreach Manager provided an update on latest developments of the San Vicente Inside Safe Operation. Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky's office in collaboration with LA City Mayor moved 25 people into motels.

b) Launch of Community Survey on Homelessness

- Unhoused Engagement & Outreach Consultants Abby Arnold and Jennifer Swan have prepared an online survey for the community to take to assess the community's thoughts and ideas on the issue of homelessness. The survey can be found at www.beverlyhills.org/homelesssservices and will be available through June 10th, 2023. Residents, business owners, and other stakeholders are encouraged to take the survey and provide their experiences and insight. The survey will be included in the draft of the Unhoused Engagement & Outreach plan that will be presented to the Unhoused Council Liaisons for initial feedback.

7. Anti-Hate Initiative

a) Update on Anti-Hate Initiative

- Commissioner Nisim provided an update on the following:
 - o Purpose
 - o Key Findings &
 - o Next Steps include:
 - Identify community-driven solutions
 - Identify opportunities to work together with neighboring communities
 - Create community survey
 - Identify available tools to help educate the community on how and when to report hate
 - Continue meetings with community leaders
- An update will be provided at the next meeting about moving forward into Phase 2.

b) CA vs Hate – New Hotline

- The California Civil Rights Department (CRD) is dedicated to combatting hate incidents and hate crimes. CRD has established a non-emergency reporting hotline and portal, CA vs. Hate Resource Line and Network (CA vs. Hate) to support individuals and communities targeted for hate.
- This non-emergency hate incident and hate crime reporting hotline and online portal is available to anyone who has experienced or witnessed an act of hate.
- Reports can be made online (<https://stop hate.calcivilrights.ca.gov/s/>) at any time or by calling (833) 866-4283 or 833-8-NO-HATE, Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and talking to a trained civil rights agent.

c) Critical Conversations – Jewish American Heritage Month

- The Commission's next Critical Conversations is scheduled for May 31, 2023, at 6:30pm in City Hall.

d) Beverly Hills Reads!

- Vice Chair Margo provided an update on Beverly Hills Reads!
- The August 27, 2023 11am PT event will be via Zoom, Live from London with author Bonnie Garmus discussing her book *Lessons in Chemistry*

COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF

8. Administrator's Report

Christopher Paulson, Human Services Administrator, provided updates on the following Community Services Events:

- Public Works Day at the Farmers' Market: May 21, 2023
- Jewish American Heritage Month: includes Critical Conversations, May 31, 2023, City Hall
- 50th Anniversary – Beverly Hills Art Show: May 20 – 21, 2023, Beverly Gardens Park
- Beverly Hills Pride Concert: June 1, 2023, Beverly Canon Gardens
- Make Music Day Beverly Hills: June 21, 2023, Various locations

Community Services Event Calendar

- Reviewed.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION

9. Chair Report

a) Mayor's Cabinet Meeting

- Mayor Gold, during the May 16, 2023 City Council Meeting, acknowledged the work provided by the Tower Cancer Research Foundation, which is one of the Commission's Community Assistant Grant Fund recipients.
- b) 2023 Commission Work Plan – Revised
- c) Ad Hoc Committees
- d) Review Commission Meeting dates
 - Reviewed.
- e) Good and Welfare. Other items brief announcements, request for information, and brief reports on activities
 - Stephanie Harris, Director of Community Services, announced that Christopher Paulson was appointed as Human Services Administrator.

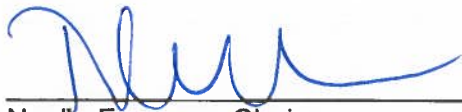
10. Kindness Matters

- Commissioner Kaiserman acknowledged that we lost a student police explorer which has been a difficult time for the group. A former lieutenant has been checking in daily with each member providing comfort during this time of grieving.

ADJOURNMENT

May 18, 2023 at 10:24 a.m.

Passed and Approved this 15th day of June, 2023



Noelle Freeman, Chair