



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**

October 19, 2023
9:00 a.m.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Date/Time: October 19, 2023 / 9:00 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Pam Kraushaar led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Freeman read the Civility Statement

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Kraushaar, Kaiserman, Nisim, Vice Chair Margo, Chair Freeman
Commissioners Absent: None
Staff Present: Christopher Paulson, Enisha Clark, Patty Acuna, Stephanie Harris,
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 moved Tab #8 up over Priority Agencies.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 21, 2023.

MOTION by Kraushaar, SECONDED by Nisim to approve the Meeting Minutes of September 21, 2023 as presented. (5/0)

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

CARRIED

8. Anti-Hate Initiative

Commissioner Nisim read a statement thanking the Mayor and City Council for introducing a Resolution standing in strong solidarity with Israel which passed at the October 17, 2023 City Council meeting.

a. Update on Anti-Hate Initiative

Commissioner Nisim updated the Commission on their conversation the ad hoc had with the State's Commission on Hate. At some point, they will be sharing the analytics they have gathered from various cities throughout California on the State of Hate.

b. Oct. 2 was World Day of Bullying Prevention

Christopher Paulson, Human Services Administrator, informed the Commission that October 2nd is recognized at World Day of Bullying Prevention. The date serves as a reminder of the importance of creating safe and inclusive environments for all individuals free from bullying and harassment.

REPORTS FROM PRIORITY AGENCIES

Beverly Hills Police Department

Lieutenant Evans provided an update:

- Reviewed the statistics for the months of August & September 2023.
- Reviewed the statistics from the Real Time Watch Center.
- Tip-A-Cop was held on Wednesday, October 18, 2023 at California Pizza Kitchen in Beverly Hills which was to raise funds for the Special Olympics in Southern California.
- October 25, 2023, is the Citizen's Police Academy Graduation.
- October 28, 2023, between 7:15 am - 12:30pm, the free Etch and Catch on catalytic converters event is scheduled.
- October 31, 2023, celebrate Halloween safely.
- Police staffing was reviewed.
- Organized Retail Theft Taskforce, Smash & Grab, was reviewed.
- Lieutenant Withers provided an update on the Drone Program.

Beverly Hills School District

Noah Margo, Beverly Hills Unified School District (BHUSD) Board President, provided an update:

- Informed the Commission that his orange shirt was for celebrating Unity Day on October 18, 2023.
- The district approved an Anti-Bullying consultant position.
- This Friday is the last home football game.

STATUS REPORTS

2. Beverly Hills Ambassador Program

Ambassador Manager Jonathon Hunter will provide a monthly update.

Ambassador Manager, Jonathon Hunter, provided highlights for the month of September.

- The Ambassadors had 192 interactions with the unhouse community; many were new to the area.
- Informed the Commission of a successful escort story from Ambassador Harris.
- The Rodeo Drive Commission praised Ambassador Turner for the times he was called on for assistance.

PRESENTATIONS

3. United Against Hate Week – November 12-18, 2023

Valentina D'Alessandro of the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations will provide a presentation regarding the LA vs. Hate campaign and how the County will be recognizing United Against Hate Week.

- Valentina D'Alessandro, Senior Human Relations Consultant, works on the LA vs Hate Team at the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations. She presented information on the LA vs Hate effort and how Los Angeles County will be recognizing United Against Hate Week.
- United Against Hate Week (November 12 - 18, 2023) is a call for seven days of local civic action by people in every community to stop the hate and implicit biases that are a dangerous threat to the safety and civility of our neighborhoods, towns, and cities.
- United Against Hate was created by civic leaders in direct response to the sharp rise in expressions of hate in our communities. The goal is to empower residents to take action in their local communities and alter the course of this growing intolerance. For more information and calendar of events visit: www.unitedagainsthateweek.org/current-events

4. Beverly Hills Police Department & Department of Mental Health Clinician

Officers Falossi and Rose will introduce the two Department of Mental Health Clinicians that are now partnering with the officers to form the Mental Health Evaluation Team (MHET).

- On May 24, 2022, City Council authorized the City Manager to negotiate and execute a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the County of Los Angeles Department of Mental Health for two licensed clinical social workers (LCSWs). The two LCSWs will work alongside BHPD Officers Falossi and Rose, forming the City's Mental Health Evaluation Team.
- The City welcomed the first social worker, Steven Garza, to the team in August 2023 and the second social worker, Maribel Mancillas, was added to the team in October 2023. Lieutenant Withers provided an overview and the clinicians introduced themselves and gave an overview of their scope of work for the community.
- Their goal is to provide an evaluation to determine if someone needs in-patient psychiatric care. If not, they'll be referred to the appropriate resources within the Community. The law enforcement team's goals are to reduce incarcerations, emergency room visits and to increase access to mental health services.

5. Beverly Hills Home Again Program

Rev. Daniel Tamm, All Saints Episcopal Church of Beverly Hills, and Kevin Conner of BHOT will provide an update on the program.

- The Home Again Program is an innovative program that supports the unhoused to reunify with their families if appropriate. Beverly Hills All Saints Episcopal Church and Step Up on Second are both CAGF partners contracted to serve our most vulnerable populations.
- Enisha Clark, Human Services Outreach Manager, introduced Reverend Daniel Tamm of Beverly Hills All Saints Episcopal Church and Kevin Conner, Beverly Hills Outreach Team Lead and Assistant Program Manager with Step Up on Second, who presented their recent collaborations and successes with the Home Again Program.

NEW BUSINESS

6. Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drill

At 10:19am on Thursday, October 19, 2023, millions of people will “Drop, Cover, and Hold On” in The Great ShakeOut, the world's largest earthquake drill ever! The Commission will participate in the drill.

- On October 19, 2023 at 10:19 a.m., the City of Beverly Hills will join the State of California, County and City of Los Angeles, and many other stakeholders, including the Beverly Hills Unified School District, in participating in the Great California ShakeOut drill. All participants will stop what they are doing and react as if an earthquake has occurred; responding by dropping to the ground, taking cover under something sturdy, and holding on: DROP, COVER and HOLD.
- Christopher Paulson, Human Services Administrator, reviewed with the Commission and staff how to prepare for an earthquake. Standing in a doorway is no longer the advice that is given, instead get under a surface and hold on.
- The Commission, along with staff, participated in the Great ShakeOut of 2023.

7. 2024 Kindness Week Planning

Kindness Week 2024 spans from Sunday, February 11 through Saturday, February 17.

Staff requested that Commissioners be prepared to provide suggestions for 2024 Kindness Week activities and events.

- After a robust discussion on what events were successful last year and the inclusion of new ideas, a draft of Kindness Week was agreed upon.
- An ad hoc meeting will be scheduled for the finalization of Kindness Week. Ad Hoc members are Vice Chair Margo & Commissioner Kaiserman.

CONTINUED BUSINESS

9. Mental Health Awareness

Chair Freeman shared information from the Organization for Social Media Safety's newsletter.

a) Mental Illness Awareness Week – October 1-7, 2023

Christopher Paulson, Human Services Administrator, informed the Commission Mental Health Awareness Week, which is the first week of October, October 1 – October 7, 2023. The week is to raise awareness about mental health and provide support and treatment options for mental health conditions.

- Next year staff will inform the Commission of these October dates in September.

b) October 10th is World Mental Health Day – World Health Organization (WHO)

- The objective of World Mental Health day is to raise awareness of mental health issues around the world and to mobilize efforts in support of mental health.

c) Chair's Mental Health Challenge

COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF

10. Administrator's Report

Embrace Civility Month & Award

- The Embrace Civility Award has been rescheduled to the November 7, 2023 City Council Meeting.

Community Services Events:

a. Beverly Hills Art Show – Saturday & Sunday, October 21 & 22, 2023.

- Held in four blocks along Beverly Gardens Park
- Celebrating 50 years of the Art Show

- b. Fall Funtastic Harvest Festival – Farmer’s Market – Sunday, October 29, 2023
 - The event includes pumpkin carving and decorating contests
 - A Day of the Dead element will be included
 - c. Doggy Daze 90210 – Roxbury Park – Sunday, November 5, 2023
- Community Services Event Calendar
- Reviewed

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION

11. Chair Report

- a) Mayor’s Cabinet Meeting
 - The September meeting was cancelled.
- b) 2023 Commission Work Plan – Revised
- c) Ad Hoc Committees
 - None to report
- d) Review Commission Meeting dates
 - Reviewed
- e) Good and Welfare. Other items brief announcements, request for information, and brief reports on activities.
 - Chair Freeman requested placing the Embrace Civility Election Statement on the November agenda to discuss and update to reflect the digital social media element. Commissioners agreed to add the item to the November agenda.

12. Kindness Matters

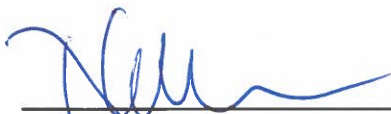
The Kindness agenda item allows commissioners the opportunity to highlight acts of kindness that have occurred within the City of Beverly Hills. Commissioners are encouraged to recognize a community member who has made an impact through their act(s) of kindness.

- Chair Freeman wished both Commissioner Nisim and Enisha Clark a happy birthday.
- Chair Freeman, as part of the Citizen’s Police Academy, acknowledged Officer Anderson, who was the officer during Chair Freeman’s ride-a-long as she was so attentive and kind.
- Vice Chair Margo acknowledged the Bake Sale that was organized to raise money for three charities: Magen David Adom Israel, Hadassah Hospital Israel and United Hatzalah Israel. A shout out to organizers Hela Karel, Ellie Yadegar, Jennifer Batterson, Taylor Wolf, Lorraine Eastman and Bahare Yektaraf. The bake sale was organized at the last minute and raised almost \$10,000.
- Vice Chair Margo additionally gave a shout-out to Deena Lewis Rose, who is organizing a blood drive, with Cedars Sinai, for her birthday which is scheduled for October 28, 2023, 10am – 4pm.

ADJOURNMENT

October 19, 2023 at 11:06 a.m.

Passed and Approved this 16th day of November, 2023



Noelle Freeman, Chair