



**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**

November 16, 2023

9:00 a.m.

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Date/Time: November 16, 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, Susana De La Torre, 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 October 19, 2023.

MOTION by Kaiserman, SECONDED by Kraushaar to approve the Meeting Minutes of October 19, 2023 as presented. (5/0)

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

CARRIED

Christopher Paulson, Human Services Administrator, introduced new staff member, Susana De La Torre, who is the Human Services Division's new Human Services Specialist.

## **REPORTS FROM PRIORITY AGENCIES**

### **Beverly Hills Police Department**

Lieutenant Evans provided an update:

- Reviewed the statistics for the months of September & October 2023.
- Reminded the Commission of the Rodeo Drive Lighting Ceremony being held this evening from 5pm – 8pm
- Today, November 16, 2023, is the Police Department's monthly Cedars Sinai Children's Unit visit.
- December 14, 2023, Cocoa With A Cop is taking place at andSons Chocolates, 9548 Brighton Way from 8:30am – 10am.
- The Holiday Safety Tips were reviewed: lock your car doors, keep windows rolled up, don't leave packages in sight and shop during daytime hours.
- Try not to post your holiday plans or photos on social media.

### **Beverly Hills School District**

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

- Students can anonymously report safety concerns using Titan QR codes.
- A Unity Vigil was held on Monday, October 30, 2023, in honor of victims in the Middle East.
- The schools participated in the 2023 Great ShakeOut earthquake drill.
- Students were provided maps for the safest routes to get to school.
- BulldogAid Wellness Center celebrated their Grand Opening on Wednesday, November 8, 2023 in the BulldogAid Wellness Center.

## **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.

- Two stories highlighting the successes of the Ambassador Team's safety escorts were shared.
- The Ambassadors will be out tonight at the Rodeo Drive Holiday Lighting Celebration and will be providing hospitality assistance and safety escorts for the public.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **3. Anti-Hate Initiative**

#### **a. CA vs. Hate**

California Civil Rights Department (CRD) will be providing a virtual presentation on the CA vs Hate program. CRD staff joining will include Becky Monroe, Deputy Director of Strategic Initiatives and External Affairs; James Williams, Jr., Community-Based Organization Manager; and Chantel Bermudez, Senior Manager.

- California vs Hate staff updated the Commission on their non-emergency reporting system designed to support communities targeted for hate. The main goals of the program include identifying next steps after an act of hate,

connecting victims with resources, and improving reporting data to enhance prevention and response.

- Their mission is to protect the people of California from unlawful discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and from hate, violence, and human trafficking.
- Identify options along with next steps for individuals and communities targeted for hate and connect with culturally competent resources.
- An online portal, CAVsHate.org, includes a form in 15 languages.
- Phone calls: short in-language processing for phone calls along with longer in-language follow up calls.

Alex Watts, Senior Advisor to the California Civil Rights Department, provided an overview to the Commission on the State of Hate from the Civil Rights Department.

b. Update on Anti-Hate Initiative

Brief update on United Against Hate Week November 12-18, 2023

- A toolkit is available that includes suggested ideas for participating in United Against Hate Week.
- More information on events is available at the United Against Hate Week website or by reaching out to [info@lavshate.org](mailto:info@lavshate.org).

4. CAGF Partner: OPICA Adult Day Program & Counseling Center

Mary Michlovich, Executive Director of OPICA, will provide a presentation on the programs offered by this new CAGF recipient and bring awareness to National Family Caregiver Awareness Month of November.

- November is National Family Caregivers Month (NFCM). Optimistic People In a Caring Atmosphere (OPICA) is one of Human Services' new Community Assistant Grant Funding (CAGF) partners. OPICA is the first Adult Day Program (ADP) and Counseling Center in Los Angeles to serve adults challenged with memory loss and their families.
- OPICA is a non-profit that fosters an active cognitive lifestyle for its member which has been shown to increase quality of life and slow cognitive decline.
- Executive Director, Mary Michlovich, discussed the various services provided by OPICA that includes: Support for adults with memory loss and their families along with powerful tools for caregivers.

5. Mental Health Awareness

a. Mental Health Legislation Update

Cynthia Owens, Municipal Affairs Program Manager, will provide an update on Assembly Bill 531 (Irwin) - The Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act of 2023 and Senate Bill 326 (Eggman) - The Behavioral Health Services Act.

- Cynthia Owens, Municipal Affairs Program Manager, provided details on the Mental Health Legislation:
- Senate Bill 326 modernizes the Mental Health Service Act
- Assembly Bill 531 includes a \$6.38B bond which would build new treatment beds and supportive housing units in addition to outpatient services. The City Council has declared their support of both bills.
- Proposition 1, the Behavioral Health Service Program and Bond Measure is on the ballot for March 5, 2024.

b. Chair's Mental Health Challenge

- Chair Freeman shared a phone feature called "greyscale mode" which sets your phone screen to black and white. Phone users, in particular children, are enticed by the bright colors on the screen. Being addicted to one's phone can lead to lack of sleep and improper movement.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **6. Election Civility Statement**

At the October 2023 Human Relations Commission, the Commission asked for a discussion of updating the Election Civility Statement be added to the November agenda.

- The Chair noted that social media was not a political tool when this statement was created and adopted in 2010 like it is today, and the statement should be updated to reflect that reality. This would be incorporated into the City's Candidate Handbook.
- After a discussion, it was agreed for this item to be part of the Commission's Civility Ad Hoc which includes Vice Chair Margo and Commissioner Kaiserman in addition to the Commissioners returning to next month's meeting with ideas and suggestions for direction.

## **CONTINUED BUSINESS**

### **7. Embrace Civility Month & Award**

- Public recognition of the 2023 winner, Tina Wiener, took place at the November 7, 2023 Formal City Council meeting. The honoree received a proclamation, a personalized name plate on the Embrace Civility Plaque, and offered the opportunity to share their perspective on how to embrace civility.
- Staff shared photos of the October is Civility Month promotion in addition to the Embrace Civility award process, selection, and final presentation at City Council.

### **8. Kindness Week 2024**

The Commission Ad Hoc met since the October Commission meeting to further develop the ideas generated at that meeting. The Commission reviewed the draft outline of the various elements of Kindness Week 2024 for further input and discussion.

- The Community Assistance Grant Fund (CAGF) partners are being considered to participate.
- The Commission will again participate in the Beverly Hills Active Adult Club (BHAAC) Valentine's Day dance in addition to the Beverly Hills Public Library's Storytime that will include Kindness literature being read by the Commissioners to the toddlers.

### **9. Beverly Hills Homeless Initiative**

#### **a) Advocacy & Community Education Update**

- Community members are encouraged to contact the centralized unhoused hotline number if they encounter someone in need at (310) 285-BHOT (2468).
- Staff continues to work with Step Up on Second on the Scattered-Site Permanent Supportive Housing Program, as well as participating in regional efforts with the County of Los Angeles, LAHSA, West Side Cities Council of Governments, and Los Angeles Council District – 5 (Yaroslavsky).

- Staff has an upcoming meeting with Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, LAHSA, as it's time to plan for the January 2024 Homeless Count.

## **COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF**

### **10. Administrator's Report**

- a) Introduction of Susana De La Torre, new Human Services Specialist
- b) Community Services Events:
  - Rodeo Drive Holiday Lighting Celebration on Rodeo Drive, Thursday, November 16, 2023.
  - Holidays at Greystone at Greystone Mansion & Gardens, Saturday & Sunday, December 2 & 3, 2023 from 10am - 4:30pm. Tickets are required.
  - Greystone Gala Family Dance at Greystone Mansion & Gardens, Saturday, December 9, 2023 from 6pm to 9pm.
  - Holiday Craft Fair & Cookie Baking Contest at Beverly Hills Farmers' Market on Sunday, December 10, 2023 from 8am - 1pm.
- c) Community Services Event Calendar
  - Reviewed

## **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION**

### **11. Chair Report**

- a) Mayor's Cabinet Meeting
  - The last two Mayor's Cabinet Meetings have been cancelled due to conflicts.
- b) 2023 Commission Work Plan – Revised
- c) Ad Hoc Committees
- d) Review Commission Meeting dates
- e) Good and Welfare. Other items, brief announcements, request for information, and brief reports on activities
  - Chair Freeman mentioned a situation a tenant was having with their landlord more on the human services side. Christopher Paulson, Human Services Administrator, advised the Chair to direct the person to Human Services.

### **12. Kindness Matters**

- Staff recognized and thanked Chair Freeman for attending the Beverly Hills Active Adult Club's (BHAAC) Thanksgiving Luncheon and volunteering to serve the senior citizens.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

November 16, 2023 at 11:13 a.m.

Passed and Approved this 21st day of December, 2023



Noelle Freeman, Chair