



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**

January 18, 2024
9:00 a.m.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Date/Time: January 18, 2024 / 9:00 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Noah Margo, Beverly Hills Unified School District Board Member, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Margo read the Civility Statement

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Kraushaar, Freeman, Vice Chair Nisim, Chair Margo
Commissioners Absent: Kaiserman
Staff Present: Christopher Paulson, Enisha Clark, Susana De La Torre, Joana Torres,
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 Margo approved the Agenda as presented.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

MOTION by Freeman, SECONDED by Kraushaar to approve the Meeting Minutes of December 21, 2023 as presented. (4/0)

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: Kaiserman

ABSTAIN: None

CARRIED

REPORTS FROM PRIORITY AGENCIES

Beverly Hills Police Department

Lieutenant Myers provided an update:

- The statistics for the months of November & December 2023 were reviewed.
- The application process for Citizen Police Academy has opened for Spring 2024.
- Today, January 18, from 9:30am – 11:30am, is Coffee with a Cop, at Café Sheera, 443 N. Bedford Drive.
- January 24, 2024, the Police will be assisting Human Services in the 2024 Homeless Count.
- Back to Basics: “Robbery” is the taking of property in the possession of another against their will by means of force or fear. “Burglary” is the act of entering a residential, commercial structure or locked vehicle with the intent to commit a petty or grand theft.

Beverly Hills School District

Noah Margo, Beverly Hills Unified School District board member, provided an update:

- The high school held a De-Stress Fest prior to finals which featured supervised crafts and games.
- A screening of the documentary film “Trustworthy” was shown which is about the importance of truth in journalism and the negative effects and misinformation on social media.
- The middle school is continuing Mental Wellness Month with activities.
- The film, “The Social Media”, was screened on January 11, 2024, which provided insight on the dangers of social media.
- Hawthorne Elementary kicked off the Kid’s Heart Challenge on January 17, 2024. February 2nd is Career Day and February 14th is Walk to School Wednesday with the Human Relations Commission & Kindness Week.

PRESENTATIONS

2. Proposed Water and Wastewater Rates

Shana Epstein, Director of Public Works, will update the Commission on the proposed Water and Wastewater Rates.

Shana Epstein, Director of Public Works, reviewed the mailing that was sent to Beverly Hills residents regarding the proposed Water and Wastewater Rates.

- The mailing notes their attendance at the February 20, 2024, City Council Meeting to present these proposed rate adjustments.
- Everyone is going to have a different effect with their rates. There is a cost calculator on their web site: www.beverlyhills.org/departments/publicworks/waterrateadjustments/
- Our water utility provides potable, reliable water to your home. Our goal is to provide high quality water which takes a lot of infrastructure.
- For questions email askPW@beverlyhills.org or call 310-285-2467.
- If you disagree, you may send in a protest vote to the City Clerk’s office which needs to be received by mail.
- There was a Town Hall Meeting last night and another one will be held on February 1, 2024, at 6pm at Beverly Hills City Hall.

3. CAGF Partner Presentation: OUR HOUSE Grief Support Center

Julia Miele, Executive Director of OUR HOUSE Grief Support Center, will provide an update on the various programs and resources offered.

Julia Miele, Executive Director of OUR HOUSE, presented to the Commission the services the organization provides to those whose mental health is adversely impacted by grief and loss.

- The mission of OUR HOUSE is to provide the community with grief support services, education, resources, and hope. Since 1993, OUR HOUSE has helped thousands of grieving children, teens, and adults as they embark upon their journeys to hope and healing.
- Services provided include:
 - In-House Adult and Children Grief Support Groups
 - School-Based Grief Support
 - Professional Grief Trainings
 - On-Site Grief Response
 - Grief Support Tools & Resources
- Information & services can be found at www.ourhouse-grief.org or by calling: 888-417-1444

NEW BUSINESS

4. 2024 Human Relations Commission Work Plan

Commissioners are asked to review the 2023 work plan, suggest modifications if so desired, and then adopt the 2024 Commission Work Plan.

Christopher Paulson, Human Services Administrator lead the Work Plan discussion:

- The Commission was asked to review the status of the existing 2023 Work Plan, add or delete items, and vote to adopt the 2024 Work Plan.
- The Work Plan should reflect the mission of the Human Relations Commission (HRC) and focus on integrating the principles of tolerance, acceptance and civil discourse into established City and Community Services events, programs, and services. Commissions were asked to prioritize no more than five work plan items.
- The Commission reviewed the current (2023) work plan: Except for the Election Civility Statement, all other 2023 Work Plan items have been completed.

Ongoing Council Priorities and Commission Agenda Items:

1. Community Assistance Grant Fund (CAGF)
2. Beverly Hills Ambassador Program
3. Homeless Initiative

Events:

1. Annual Civility Month Celebration and Embrace Civility Award
2. Kindness Week
3. Critical Conversations
4. BH Reads!
- 5A. Mindfulness Monday
- 5B. Day of Wellness

Commission Presentations & Reports:

- A. Kindness Matters
- B. Election Civility Statement
- C. Anti-Hate Initiative
- D. Mental Health Awareness

The Commission agreed to keep the Kindness Matters Tab in honor of prior Commissioner Rhoda Sharp. Commissioners were assigned months to speak on that tab.

After a robust discussion, the Commission made the following motion:

MOTION by Freeman, SECONDED by Nisim: Move to remove the Reception from the annual Civility Month celebration keeping the Civility Award. Keeping Kindness Week, One (1) Critical Conversation, Two (2) BH Reads! and the Day of Wellness, as well as re-airing the 2023 videos from Mindfulness Mondays for our 2024 Work Plan. (4/0)

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: Kaiserman

ABSTAIN: None

PASSED

CONTINUED BUSINESS

5. 2024-25 Community Assistance Grant Funding (CAGF)

Staff will provide an overview of this year's application process and timeline.

Enisha Clark, Human Services Outreach Manager, updated the Commission on the Community Assistant Grant Funding:

- The FY 2024-25 Community Assistance Grant Funding (CAGF) Request for Proposal (RFP) was launched today, Thursday, January 18, 2024.
- The CAGF is how the City supports local and regional social services partners who provide vital resources to our most vulnerable in the Community.
- Cultural Arts proposal are also accepted.
- The application is available online at www.beverlyhills.org/cagf or by contacting the Human Services office at 310-285-1006.
- Applications must be submitted via the City's website no later than 5:00pm on Thursday, February 29, 2024.

6. Kindness Week 2024

The Civility Ad Hoc Committee will provide the Commission with final updates on the planning for Kindness Week 2024 activities, taking place February 11-17th.

In accordance with the Random Acts of Kindness (RAK) Foundation, the City of Beverly Hills will recognize Kindness Week from Sunday, February 11 through Saturday, February 17, 2024.

- Chair Margo reviewed the 2024 Schedule of Events:

Sunday, February 11	<i>Kindness Kickoff @ Farmer's Market</i>
Monday, February 12	<i>BHAAC Valentine's Day Dance @ Roxbury Community Center</i>
Tuesday, February 13	<i>Beverly Hills Public Library Story Time</i>
Wednesday, February 14	<i>Walk to School Wednesday and Giving Tree Project</i>
Thursday, February 15	<i>Thankful Thursday – Service Appreciation</i>
Friday, February 16	<i>Social Media Challenge (Heart/Hand gesture) #BHKindness</i>
Saturday, February 17	<i>Self-Care Saturday</i>

7. Election Civility Statement

At the December 2023 Commission meeting, a temporary ad hoc committee consisting of Chair Freeman and Vice Chair Margo was created to finalize the proposed language and return to the January meeting with the revised statement ready for Commission review.

- Commissioner Freeman read the Election Civility Statement that included her updated edits.
- The Commission reviewed and accepted the updated edits and the following motion was made:

MOTION by Freeman, SECONDED by Nisim: Move to adopt the updated Election Civility Statement. (4/0)

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: Kaiserman

ABSTAIN: None

PASSED

- This item will be forwarded to a City Council Liaison Meeting for consideration and then adoption by the full City Council.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF

8. Administrator's Report

Christopher Paulson, Human Services Administrator, provided the following update:

- Community Services Event Calendar
 - Reviewed
- Wednesday, January 24, 2024, is the 2024 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count.
 - The count will begin at 8pm and conducted by the City's Outreach Team members that include: the Mental Health Evaluation Team (MET), BHOT, Park Rangers, Police Officers, Ambassadors along with Human Services staff and other volunteers.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION

9. Chair Report

- a) Mayor's Cabinet Meeting
 - The January Mayor's Cabinet Meeting was postponed
- b) Ad Hoc Committees – TBD
 - The Ad Hoc committees will be assigned at February's meeting
- c) Review Commission Meeting dates
 - The Commission agreed to go dark in August 2024.

MOTION by Nisim, SECONDED by Kraushaar: Move for the Commission to go dark on August 15, 2024. (4/0)

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: Kaiserman

ABSTAIN: None

PASSED

- d) Good and Welfare. Other items, brief announcements, request for information, and brief reports on activities
 - Vice Chair Nisim provided an update on Anti Hate
 - a. The California State Commission on Hate published its 2023 Annual Report providing an overview of hate activities in the state. This report was pivotal in understanding hate crimes and how we strategize to counteract them.
 - b. The State report indicated that hate crimes in California have reached a ten-year high with a significant increase of over 30% in 2020 & 2021. This trend underscores the need for effective intervention.

10. Kindness Matters

- Commission Kraushaar gave a shout-out to BVMS Bulldog Aid Center as they have dealt with a variety of Wellness Events such as: social, mental and physical wellness. Each one includes a variety of events.
- Vice Chair Nisim gave a shout-out to Nooshin Meshkaty. Her actions have been a reminder of kindness and support that can and should cross all cultural and religious lines.

ADJOURNMENT

January 18, 2024 at 11:07 a.m.

Passed and Approved this 15th day of February, 2024



Laura Margo, Chair