



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**

December 21, 2023
9:00 a.m.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Date/Time: December 21, 2023 / 9:00 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Freeman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Freeman read the Civility Statement

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Kraushaar, Kaiserman, Vice Chair Margo, Chair Freeman
Commissioners Absent: Nisim
Staff Present: Christopher Paulson, Enisha Clark, 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.

- Mayor Julian Gold spoke and congratulated Chair Freeman on a job well done during her term as Chair.
- In-Person speakers spoke on Tab #11 from: Commissioner Deborah Frank, Andy Licht, Daniel Batista and Mr. Freeman.
- Staff read written statements on Tab #11 from: Commissioner Lee Hilborne, Commissioner Amie Sherry, Jean Marks and Commissioner Cathy Baker.

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 November 16, 2023.

MOTION by Kraushaar, SECONDED by Kaiserman to approve the Meeting Minutes of November 16, 2023 as presented. (4/0)

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: Nisim

ABSTAIN: None

CARRIED

REPORTS FROM PRIORITY AGENCIES

Beverly Hills Police Department

Lieutenant Evans provided an update:

- The statistics for the months of October & November 2023 were reviewed.
- A DUI Checkpoint was scheduled for December 15, 2023 between N. Santa Monica Boulevard & Crescent Drive between 7pm & 2am. The location was based on reported incidences.
- The hate crime that occurred on December 9, 2023 was reviewed.
- Holiday safety tips were reviewed.
- Today was Lieutenant Evans' last meeting as Lieutenant Myers will be the representative to the Commission in 2024.

Beverly Hills School District

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

- The high school held a No Cellphone Challenge from November 27, 2023 to December 1, 2023, trying to reduce screen time with students. Students received awards for the most reduction in screen time.
- December 6, 2023 were Husky High Five "Be Respectful" recipients at Horace Mann School.
- January 2024 is Wellness Month at Beverly Vista Middle School (BVMS).
- Destressing for Finals occurred at Beverly Hills High School.
- Dr. Amanda Stern is the current Beverly Hills Unified School District President.

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, for the month of November 2023, were shared.
- The Ambassadors have been handling, along with the Beverly Hills Police Department, aggressive panhandlers on Rodeo Drive.

PRESENTATIONS

3. Mental Health Awareness

a. Mental Health Around the Holidays (LA Co. DMH)

Enisha Clark, Human Services Outreach Manager, introduced Elizabeth Figueroa from the United Mental Health Promoters Program through the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, who provided a brief presentation regarding services and support during the holidays.

- The United Mental Health Promoters Program aims to reduce stigma associated with mental illness among culturally underserved communities in Los Angeles County by

increasing awareness about mental health issues, removing barriers and improving timely access to culturally and linguistically appropriate resources.

- The various services that are provided in Service Planning Area 5, which serves the cities of Beverly Hills, Culver City, Malibu, Santa Monica, as well as the neighborhoods within the City of Los Angeles and unincorporated communities within the County of Los Angeles, were reviewed.
- b. Chair's Mental Health Challenge
Chair Freeman's final Mental Health Challenge of the year is a Mindful Minute to think about your breath and breathe.

4. CAGF Partner Presentation: Theatre 40

The Artistic and Managing Director, David Hunt Stafford, will be attending and discussing the various services provided by Theatre 40, a CAGF partner organization.

- The Artistic and Managing Director, David Hunt Stafford of Theatre 40, a current CAGF partner, provided a brief presentation about their current season which includes 8 plays and their critically acclaimed production of The Manor, which will be returning to Greystone Mansion on select days in January and February of 2024.
- Theatre 40 is a professional theatre company that has been operating in Beverly Hills for over 56 years. Theatre 40 produced approximately 470 professional theatre productions and has been awarded over 380 drama critic's awards for excellence in theatre, over the years.
- The plays they produce are both classic and contemporary of various genres. For more information about their 2023-2024 schedule review visit <https://theatre40.org/>

5. CAGF Partner Presentation: Westside Food Bank

Westside Food Bank is a long-standing CAGF partner that provides vital food assistance to those in need. President & CEO, Genevieve Riutort, will provide an update on their program.

- Genevieve Riutort, President & CEO of Westside Food Bank provided an update on their work to combat food insecurity in Los Angeles County. Westside Food Bank is a long-standing CAGF partner that provides vital food assistance to those in need. According to a report, *Food Insecurity in Los Angeles County, July 2023*: Food insecurity increased in 2023, with 3 in 10 (30%) households experiencing food insecurity. This is a 6 percentage-point increase from 2022, when rates were 24%.
- Westside Food Bank (WSFB) was founded in 1981 by the Westside Ecumenical Council, when several Westside social service agencies worked together to create a food bank warehouse that could deal with food purchases and collections on a larger scale. WSFB collaborates with a host of community coalitions and multi-sector partners to strengthen the food assistance network.
- WSFB continues to make an indelible impact on households every day that experience food insecurity. For more information about their services and programs visit <https://www.wsfb.org/>
- The Commission presented Ms. Riutort cans of food to be donated to the Westside Food Bank.

NEW BUSINESS

6. 2024-25 Community Assistance Grant Funding Process

Staff will provide an overview of the revised process, note any changes from previous grant cycles, and share upcoming dates related to the application.

Christopher Paulson, Human Services Administrator, reviewed the updated changes in the Community Assistance Grant Funding Process for 2024-25:

- The FY 2024-25 Community Assistance Grant Funding (CAGF) Request for Proposal (RFP) will be released on Thursday, January 18, 2024. The application will be available online at www.beverlyhills.org/cagf or by contacting the Human Services office.
- Applications must be postmarked no later than Thursday, February 29, 2024, or submitted by email to humanservices@beverlyhills.org by 5:00pm on that date.
- For 2024, staff will sort the organizations into two groups and removing one of those groups from the CAGF process. The first group of organizations are those that provide crucial services to the community and cannot be replicated by City-staff. Serious unintended consequences may be experienced by residents should services not be made available. The City will enter into contractual agreements for services rendered, based on billable hours for Beverly Hills residents, separately and outside of the CAGF process.
- The next group of organizations, which are the bulk of grantees, are those that provide a General Social Service Program that provides quality of life services to the community that are otherwise not being provided; services are not urgent in nature and no serious consequences are present should services be delayed. This group also contains a few organizations that provide Cultural Arts Programs.

CONTINUED BUSINESS

7. Election Civility Statement

At the November 2023 Commission meeting it was agreed for this item to be part of the Commission's Civility Ad Hoc which includes Vice Chair Margo and Commissioner Kaiserman. Commissioners were encouraged to return to the December meeting with ideas and suggestions for updating the statement.

Chair Freeman requested the following updates to the Civility Statement:

- Keep the first paragraph: The Human Relations Commission of the City of Beverly Hills strives to promote positive human relations in all aspects of community life. Proposed to add following: We recognize the significant role of digital media and all online platforms in shaping public discourse. We encourage all community members to engage in online discussion with respect and empathy, fostering an environment where diverse perspectives are valued.
- Keep the following paragraph: We believe that the examination of diverse candidates and challenging issues can be conducted with great civility. Then add: without resorting to personal attacks or the spread of misinformation.
- Nothing has been removed from the current statement, just adding to it.
- Continue with: While our schools may provide civics education in the classroom, we citizens are obligated to provide our young people with a real model of positive civic behavior that we teach by example. Add: We emphasize the importance of honesty and integrity in all aspects of civic engagement. Honesty builds trust, and integrity ensures that our community's values are upheld. Together let us exemplify the values of transparency, fairness, and ethical conduct to inspire the next generation of civic leaders.
- This item will now go forward to a temporary ad hoc consisting of Chair Freeman and Vice Chair Margo.

8. 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.

- Commissioner Kaiserman, along with Vice Chair Margo, reviewed the schedule planned for Kindness Week. The final update will be provided in the January agenda.

9. Beverly Hills Homeless Initiative

Staff will provide an Advocacy & Community Education Update.

- Christopher Paulson, Human Services Administrator, reminded all of the City-wide hotline number that is being answered 24/7, 310-285-BHOT (2468). Please call if you see an individual person in the Community who is experiencing homelessness and is need of assistance.
- The 2024 Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority's Point-in-Time Count will take place January 23 – 25, 2024. The Count in Beverly Hills will take place on January 24, 2024 and will be conducted by the City of Beverly Hills' outreach teams.
- Enisha Clark, Human Services Outreach Manager, informed the Commission that today is Homeless Persons' Memorial Day. For over 30 years, communities across the country have gathered to remember and read the names of people experiencing homelessness who died in the past year, marking Dec. 21st, first day of winter, as Homeless Persons' Memorial Day.

10. Anti-Hate Initiative

a. LA County Hate Crime Report Conference

- Enisha Clark, Human Services Outreach Manager, informed the Commission that on November 29, 2023, LA County Commission on Human Relations hosted a Hate Crime Conference to release the finding of the 2022 Hate Crimes Report.
- Key takeaways included, "following two years of double-digit increases, reported hate crimes in Los Angeles County grew 18% from 790 to 929, the second largest number in more than 20 years." For the past 8 years, hate crimes have been trending upward and since 2013 there has been a 143% increase."
- The reporting are a year behind and a representative will be presenting more in-depth findings at an upcoming meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF

11. Administrator's Report

Human Relations Commission – 2023 Year in Review

Christopher Paulson, Human Services Administrator, showed a PowerPoint presentation that reviewed Commissioner Freeman chaired events throughout the year.

- The Commission, along with staff, thanked Chair Freeman for replacing prior Commissioner Rhoda Sharp with the duties of Chair and leading the Commission through an amazing year of activities focusing on her initiative of Mental Health Awareness.
- Several Public Comments were read, in addition to in-person, to congratulate Chair Freeman on her year as Chair.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION

12. Chair Report

a) Mayor's Cabinet Meeting

- The Mayor's Cabinet Meetings can be viewed at [beverlyhills.org](https://www.beverlyhills.org)

b) 2023 Commission Work Plan – Revised

- Will be reviewed in 2024.

- c) Ad Hoc Committees
 - Will be reviewed in 2024.
- d) Review Commission Meeting dates
 - Reviewed
- e) Good and Welfare. Other items brief announcements, request for information, and brief reports on activities
- f) Chair's Farewell
 - Chair Freeman thanked the Commission and staff for the support she was given during her year as Chair.

13. Kindness Matters

Commissioner Kaiserman, along with the other Commissioners, honored Ali Norman-Franks, who is the lead counselor at Beverly Hills High School (BHHS) and is the founder of the BHHS NormanAid Wellness Center (NAWC). She has consistently gone above and beyond to help others in need.

ADJOURNMENT

December 21, 2023 at 11:38 a.m.

Passed and Approved this 18th day of January, 2024



Laura Margo, Chair