MEETING CALLED TO ORDER
Date/Time: September 19, 2019 / 9:03 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Sergeant Sean Smollen led the Pledge of Allegiance.
Chair Saleh read the Civility Statement.

ROLL CALL
Commissioners Present: Berman, Friedman, Popovich Levyn, Chair Saleh
Commissioners Absent: Vice Chair Blumenfeld
Staff Present: James R. Latta, Rachel L. Evans, Linda Kyriaizi

Commissioner Friedman departed at 10:04 a.m.

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.

Speakers: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
With the concurrence of the Commission, the Chair may choose to amend the order of the items on the agenda. By order of Chair Saleh, Items #3 and #4 be moved ahead to accommodate guest speakers.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION by Friedman, SECONDED by Popovich Levyn to approve the Meeting Minutes. (4/0)

AYES: Berman, Friedman, Popovich Levyn, Chair Saleh
NOES: None
ABSENT: Vice Chair Blumenfeld
ABSTAIN: None
CARRIED

Recordings of the Human Relations Commission's meetings are available online at www.beverlyhills.org
REPORTS FROM PRIORITY AGENCIES
Beverly Hills Unified School District
A representative was not able to attend today’s meeting

Beverly Hills Police Department
Sergeant Sean Smolen updated the Commission on the following:
- This week’s dignitary protection went smoothly.
- Another Coffee with the Cops is scheduled for October 2, 2019, at Peet’s Coffee on South Beverly Drive from 8:00am – 9:30am.
- Reminding everyone of their free mobile app for the Beverly Hills Police Department is called “Beverly Hills Police.”
- Nixle communication: register to receive alerts by texting bevhillspd 888777

CONTINUED BUSINESS
2. Rent Stabilization Update
Helen Morales, Deputy Director of Rent Stabilization, discussed and reviewed with the Commission the status of the Rent Stabilization Commission, the revised Tenant Landlord Rights and Responsibilities Handbook and the legal support provided by Bet Tzedek.
- Ms. Morales will return to the Commission after the Commissions has had time to review the updated handbook in addition to the suggestions the City Attorney’s office has in regards to the Civil Code sections.

3. The Kindness Program
Every month Commissioners have the opportunity to share Acts of Kindness that occur within the City of Beverly Hills.
- Commissioner Berman gave a shout-out to City staff from Public Works for their quick response for an issue she reported, in addition to a friend who adopted a senior dog with a number of health issues who will now be given a wonderful life here in the City for the time he has.
- Commissioner Popovich Levyn gave a shout-out to Jamie from Dry Dock Fish, a vendor at the City’s Sunday Farmers’ Market who shuffles the fish out to customers so quickly in such a kind manner.
- Commissioner Popovich Levyn showed a photo of her grandson touching his grandfather which is a natural instinct and shows that kindness is ageless. A reminder that November 13th is World Kindness Day.
- Commissioner Popovich Levyn acknowledged Chair Alissa Roston from the Recreation and Parks Commission who always reads the Civility Statement prior to each meeting.
- Chair Saleh invited guest Archna Tuli to inform the Commission about her work in fostering and nursing dogs that are abandoned, traumatized or about to be euthanized. Ms. Tuli works three (3) different rescue foundations: Rogue Dogs Foundation, Toby’s Dream Dog Rescue and The Bella Foundation.
- The Commission invited guest Leon Logothetis, author of The Kindness Diaries and host of the TV show of the same name, to share his experiences with the Commission and to start a discussion to see if there is an interest in working together in the future as the Commission’s goals align with his philosophy.
Chair Saleh reminded the Commission of the Kindness Recognition recommendations they provide for the Mayor. The next Kindness Recognition will be on October 29, 2019 to recognize Ray and Donna Flade and November 19, 2019 for Bruno and Daniel Morra.

4. Embrace Civility Award

Chair Saleh introduced the Embrace Civility Award which was established in 2012 and recognizes people who exemplify any or all of the following:

- Acts as a role model of positive behavior
- Takes a stand in support of respect and responsible actions
- Promotes positive neighbor to neighbor relations

The Commission launched the Embrace Civility Award nomination period at the July 15, 2019 Mayor's Cabinet Meeting. Commissioners were asked to encourage community participation in the award program and motivate people to complete a nomination application. The nomination period closed Friday, September 6, 2019.

A total of eight (8) complete nominations were submitted by the nomination deadline on Friday September 6, 2019. Public recognition of the winner will occur at the October 29, 2019 Formal City Council meeting.

After a discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION by Chair Saleh, SECONDED by Friedman move to nominate #6 Friend as the Commission’s first selection for the 2019 Embrace Civility Award and #2 Neighbor as the runner-up. (4/0)

AYES: Berman, Friedman, Popovich Levyn, Chair Saleh
NOES: None
ABSENT: Vice Chair Blumenfeld
ABSTAIN: None
PASSED

The Commission discussed the gathering of past winners of the Embrace Civility Award prior to the October 29, 2019 City Council meeting to unveil the plaque.

- The name tags for prior winners were discussed and it was agreed to provide both the name tag and name plates for the past winners. Samples will be made and submitted to the Commission.
- Chair Saleh will proceed in acquiring a refreshment sponsor for the party.
- A small program was requested with the winners and Commissioners listed.
- A time-line was discussed and created.

NEW BUSINESS

5. Civility Month

Beginning in 2017, the Commission declared October as Civility Month in Beverly Hills to further the civility initiative in the City. This year, the Commission will also introduce the Embrace Civility plaque to the community, with a reception prior to the October 29, 2019 Council meeting to celebrate past honorees.
To commemorate the month, banners and posters will be displayed throughout the City. Additionally, in 2018, Embrace Civility pins were made to give out to community members demonstrating civility. The Commissioners promoted Civility Month at the September 17, 2019 City Council Meeting.

- Commissioner Popovich Levyn requested letters be sent out to the Chairs of the City’s Commissions reminding them that October is Civility Month and request that the Civility Statement is read at the beginning of their Commission Meeting.
- Commissioner Popovich Levyn had photos displayed of I Love (heart) LA in addition to a print/decal on the sidewalk as a possible suggestion for Kindness Week.

6. Conflict of Interest Code
The Commission reviewed the 2019 Conflict of Interest Code.

MOTION by Chair Saleh, SECONDED by Berman Move to adopt the 2019 Conflict of Interest Code, Exhibits A & B for the City of Beverly Hills Human Relations Commission as presented. (3/0)

AYES: Berman, Popovich Levyn, Chair Saleh
NOES: None
ABSENT: Friedman, Vice Chair Blumenfeld
ABSTAIN: None
PASSED

STATUS REPORTS
7. Beverly Hills Ambassador Program
Human Services Administrator James R. Latta, informed the Commission that both he and Kris Zagyva, Ambassador Program Operations Manager, attended Block by Block’s Share and Connect Conference which included Ambassador teams across the nation
- The new school year has started so representation is being organized.
- Permitting procedure was discussed.
- As of September 3, 2019, the Ambassadors started collecting Bird scooters.
- The Ambassador’s new blue uniforms were displayed.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION
8. Chair Report
a) Mayor’s Cabinet Meeting
   - August 19, 2019 Highlights Reviewed.
b) Other items: brief announcements, request for information and brief reports on activities.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF
9. Administrator’s Report
Human Services Administrator James R. Latta provided updates on the following:
   o Westside Cities Councils of Government (WSCCOG) Board Meeting Homeless Services Task Force.
o Ambassador’s Share and Connect Conference (September 16-18, 2019) this year focuses on outreach and challenges related to the street population.

o 14th Annual Senior Adult Health Fair Monday September 23, 2019, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm at Roxbury Community Center. The Commission is welcome to come visit the Human Services booth.

o September 25, 2019 6:00 pm La Cienega Park & Recreation Complex Town Hall Meeting.

o Public Works is promoting the Urban Forest Master Plan survey (www.beverlyhills.org/ufmp).

- Calendar for 2019 – 2020 Regular Meetings

10. Overview of Current and Pending Agenda Items

- The Civility Award/Month was requested for next month’s agenda.
- Ranger Lino will be providing a presentation on the duties of the Rangers at each City park.
- A sample of the nameplates for the Embrace Civility honorees will be emailed to the Commissioners.
- Commissioner Popovich Levyn reminded the Commission of the March election coming up and an Embrace Civility statement was included in the packet and signed by the Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

September 19, 2019 at 11:31 a.m.

PASSED, Approved and Adopted on this 17th day of October 2019.

Annette Saleh, Chair