



**CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS**

Room 280A  
455 North Rexford Drive  
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

February 19, 2020  
9:00 a.m.

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Date/Time: February 19, 2020 / 9:05 a.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Noelle Freeman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Blumenfeld read the Civility Statement.

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present: Friedman, Vice Chair Popovich Levyn, Chair Blumenfeld

Commissioners Absent: Saleh, Berman

Staff Present: James R. Latta, Rachel L. Evans, Enisha Clark, Linda Kyriazi

Commissioner Saleh arrived at 9:07 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: Mark Elliot spoke on Item #8.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

With the concurrence of the Commission, the Chair may choose to amend the order of the items on the agenda. Chair Blumenfeld moved up both Tab 7 and Tab 8 to accommodate guest speakers.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. Consideration of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 16, 2020.  
Consideration of the All Commission Training Minutes of the Special Meeting of January 21, 2020.

MOTION by Friedman, SECONDED by Popovich Levyn to approve both sets of Meeting Minutes. (3/0)

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

## **REPORTS FROM PRIORITY AGENCIES**

Beverly Hills Unified School District\

Staff from the Beverly Hills School District was unable to attend.

Beverly Hills Police Department

Sergeant Sean Smollen updated the Commission on the following:

- The next quarterly Coffee with the Cops will be held on April 29, 2020 at the Starbucks at 9811 South Santa Monica Boulevard from 9am – 10:30am.
- The handling of the traffic and street closures due to the arrival of the President of the United States.
- 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 888 777
- Residents can still schedule one-on-one home inspections.

## **CONTINUED BUSINESS**

### **2. 2020-2021 Work Plan Exercise**

James R. Latta, Human Services Administrator, along with the Commissioners, reviewed the proposals that were submitted by the Commission.

- Chair Blumenfeld requested an agenda item to establish The Homeless Initiative Task Force to tackle homelessness in any way that the Commission has the ability to do so; to also address the stigma Beverly Hills has in both the City and County of Los Angeles regarding homelessness and to show Los Angeles that Beverly Hills is an active and caring member of our community.
- The proposals for the 2020-2021 Work Plan include:
  - a. Homeless Initiative that includes Community Education and homelessness innovation
  - b. Welcoming new residents with a letter and possible gift
- Staff to research the proposals and return to the Commission with workable plans.

MOTION by Blumenfeld, SECONDED by Friedman to establish the Homeless Outreach Taskforce as a formal Tab for the Human Relations Commission to begin addressing issues related to Homelessness. (4/0)

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

**3. 2020 Kindness Week**

Rachel Evans, Clinical Program Coordinator, reviewed the schedule for Kindness Week. The Commission will be celebrating Kindness Week from Sunday, February 16 until Friday, February 21, 2020. Staff displayed the City Hall projection image in addition to photos of the banners that have been hung at City Hall, the schools and Community Centers in addition to valet posters in the parking lots for Kindness week.

- The Farmers' Market booth was successful with both adults and children stopping by to show their support for Kindness Week.
- Staff read Kindness books to children during the Library's Storytime.
- March 20, 2002 will be the screening of The Blind Side movie at Roxbury Park Community Center.

**4. Beverly Hills Homeless Services**

James R. Latta, Human Services Administrator, at the request of the Commission reviewed the Homeless Services that the City provides.

- Commissioner Saleh requested a press release be sent out with this information.

**5. 2020 Beverly Hills Homeless Count**

Rachel Evans, Clinical Program Coordinator, updated the Commission on the successful 2020 Homeless Count. Staff thanked all the volunteers which included the Police, Rangers, Ambassadors, City staff and Commissioners, including Chair Blumenfeld. Seventeen homeless Individuals were counted this year and one RV.

**6. FY 2020-21 Community Assistance Grant Fund**

Rachel Evans, Clinical Program Coordinator, updated the Commission that by the deadline of January 31, 2020, 23 applications were received. After the deadline, two more were submitted.

- The processing schedule was reviewed.

**7. Bet Tzedek CAGF Progress Report**

Cynthia Chagolla the Directing Attorney for the Homeless Prevention Project at Bet Tzedek, provided to the Commission the critical legal services that Bet Tzedek provides to the Beverly Hills community.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**8. Sustainability Update**

Josette Descalzo, Environmental Compliance and Sustainability Programs Manager, provided information to the Commission on the draft Sustainable City Plan. The Commission's feedback, that is in their purview, is requested.

- Due to time restriction, Chair Blumenfeld requested the Commission to prepare any feedback and comments and they will be submitted collectively.
- Vice Chair Popovich Levyn requested their return to next month's meeting for further discussion.

**9. Municipal Election Update**

Huma Ahmed, City Clerk, provided an update on the Municipal Election and answered questions.

**10. Tenant Landlord Handbook Review**

Helen Morales, Deputy Director of Rent Stabilization, reviewed the updated and revised version of the Tenant Landlord Rights and Responsibility Handbook with the Commission

**11. HRC Welcome Letter**

James R. Latta, Human Services Administrator, reviewed the Welcome Letter that was requested by a past Human Relations Commissioner, to welcome new residents into the City in addition to providing useful information such as City Services.

- The Commission agreed to post the Welcome Letter on both the Commission website in addition to the Tenant Landlord Handbook.

**STATUS REPORTS**

**12. Beverly Hills Ambassador Program**

Kris Zagya, Ambassador Program Operations Manager, reviewed the monthly statistics with the Commission, which included hiring, recruitment and turnovers.

- Chair Blumenfeld requested that the Ambassadors patrol the Wilshire & Beverly Boulevards corner more often as that is where the birds and 2-wheel scooters are being left and along with construction, there is nowhere to stand.
- The Ambassador Hotline, which is available 24/7, is 424-302-1487.
- James R. Latta, Human Services Administrator, informed the Commission that the new contract for the Ambassadors is up for renewal. The Commission had requested wages of other cities so those were provided in addition to the turnover statistics.

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION**

**13. Chair Report**

- a) Mayor's Cabinet Meeting
  - January 27, 2020 Highlights
- b) Other items: brief announcements, request for information and brief reports on activities.
- c) Good and Welfare
  - As this is Kindness Week nationally, Commissioner Popovich Levyn provided a photo, that a Commissioner took while on a trip to Africa, that showed a Kindness sign posted in a children's center.
  - Commissioner Friedman thanked Commissioner Berman for staying home while not feeling well in addition to thanking Recording Secretary Linda Kyriazi for keeping them informed.

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF**

**14. Administrator's Report**

James R. Latta, Human Services Administrator, updated the Commission on the following:

- The latest Public Health Announcement and Emergency dated February 3, 2020

- The All Commission Workshop can be viewed online
- The discussion with Westside Cities Council of Governments
- Census Day, April 1, 2020

15. Overview of Current and Pending Agenda Items
- Reviewed

## ADJOURNMENT

February 19, 2020 at 11:24 a.m.

Passed and Approved this 19<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2020

  
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Ori Blumenfeld, Chair