



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
Room 280A
455 North Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90210
Telephonic / Video Conference Meeting

**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

August 19, 2021
9:00 a.m.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Date/Time: August 19, 2021 / 9:00 a.m.

Chair Blumenfeld read the Civility Statement.

Huma Ahmed, City Clerk, swore in new Commissioners Laura Margo and Vered Elkouby Nisim

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Nisim, Margo, Vice Chair Sharp, Chair Blumenfeld

Commissioners Absent: Freeman

Staff Present: Jenny Rogers, Rachel L. Evans, Enisha Clark, 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 Blumenfeld noted that Tab 3 will be tabled

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Consideration of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of June 17, 2021

MOTION by Sharp, SECONDED by Blumenfeld to approve the Meeting Minutes with as presented. (2/0)

AYES: Vice Chair Sharp, Chair Blumenfeld

NOES: None

ABSENT: Freeman

ABSTAIN: Nisim, Margo

CARRIED

REPORTS FROM PRIORITY AGENCIES

Beverly Hills Police Department

Acting Captain Max Subin, updated the Commission on the following:

- 7 Explorers are currently in the Police Explorer Academy.
- Bicycle officers are deployed from 6am – 4pm to address the homeless individuals in addition to any calls. They work with Human Services if anyone is requesting service.
- The department has received numerous calls regarding panhandling in addition to car racing. Two motor officers have been deployed on Friday and Saturday nights.

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

- August 13, 2021 was the first day of school. Screenings continue when students and staff arrive. The state has mandated that all school employees are vaccinated or are tested. The District follows the Los Angeles Department of Public Health guidance.
- The high school students can change their grade to pass or fail if they're not happy with the letter they receive.
- The athletics have started up
- The middle school is having a back to school carnival August 20, 2021.
- Chair Blumenfeld reminded Dr. Stern that October is Civility Month and the Commission looks forward to engaging the students to participate.

CONTINUED BUSINESS

2. Beverly Hills Homeless Initiative

Enisha Clark, Interim Clinical Program Coordinator, provided an update on the status of the Beverly Hills Homeless Initiative:

- With the additional Community Assistant Grant Funding (CAGF) that the Commission recommended for Step Up on Second, an additional outreach worker was hired to provide coverage on Saturdays, Sundays in addition to early morning and late evening coverage. Outreach services are now available seven days a week.

3. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Awareness Initiative

Tabled

4. Inter-Commission Collaboration: Embrace & Celebrate Culture Initiative

Jenny Rogers, Director of Community Services, provided a background on this initiative for the new Commissioners in addition to updating the Commission on the current active collaborations:

- Sing for Hope Pianos: 16 pianos were decorated and disbursed around the City. After September 6, 2021, they will be gifted to local schools and communities throughout Los Angeles
- The Visions of the Future is a collaboration with the Next Beverly Hills Committee. The kick-off art reception was held on July 14, 2021 where a dedication ceremony celebrated a new art pop-up featuring artist James Goldcrown at 455 N. Canon Drive. The exhibit will be available through the end of August 2021.
- Currently, both the Arts and Cultural and Human Relations Commission are working on new exhibits which will be announced soon.
- Chair Blumenfeld requested Commissioner Freeman remain as the liaison and requested Commissioner Margo replace Commissioner Saleh.

NEW BUSINESS

5. Embrace Civility Award

Rachel Evans, Interim Human Services Administrator, updated the Commission on the presentation of the Embrace Civility Award in October 2021.

- Chair Blumenfeld announced the nomination period at the July 2021 Mayor's Cabinet Meeting. The deadline to submit a nomination is Friday, September 3, 2021.
- The promotion and marketing plan was reviewed and though nominations have been submitted, the Commission is encourage to continue to promote the award.
- The nomination form can be located and submitted online at:
<https://www.beverlyhills.org/embracecivilityaward>
- The Commission agreed to present the award at the October 26, 2021 City Council meeting.

6. Civility Month

Rachel Evans, Interim Human Services Administrator, updated the Commission on the activities for October being Civility Month:

- Banners and posters will be placed throughout the City.
- The Embrace Civility pins will be distributed to the Commissioners, Rangers and Ambassadors to hand to well deserving community members demonstrating civility.
- The Commission agreed to announced Civility Month at the September 21, 2021 City Council meeting.

7. Kindness Recognition

Enisha Clark, Interim Clinical Program Coordinator, reviewed with the Commission that during the July 2021 meeting, the Commissioners voted to reinstate the Kindness tab to allow the opportunity to share Acts of Kindness:

- Commissioner Sharp recognized staff member Linda Kyriazi for her kindness and going above and beyond in her role as the Commission's Recording Secretary.

8. Conflict of Interest Code

The State Government Code requires that each local agency that has adopted a Conflict of Interest Code review its Code every year. The Commission reviewed the Conflict of Interest Code for their Commission and made the following motion:

MOTION by Blumenfeld, SECONDED by Sharp to adopt the 2021 Conflict of Interest Code with Exhibits A & B for the City of Beverly Hills Human Relations Commission as presented. (4/0)

AYES: Nisim, Margo, Vice Chair Sharp, Chair Blumenfeld
NOES: None
ABSENT: Freeman
ABSTAIN: None
CARRIED

STATUS REPORTS

9. Beverly Hills Ambassador Program

- Rachel Evans informed the Commission that the Ambassadors will be returning to the School locations on August 30, 2021 so additional staff will be hired.
- Calls for services have increased over the summer with Los Angeles County reopening.
- Johnathon Hunter, Operations Manager, will attend next month's meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION

10. Chair Report

- a) Mayor's Cabinet Meeting
 - Meeting Minutes
 - Commissioners to review highlights
- b) Review Commission Meeting dates
 - The September meeting has been rescheduled to a Special Meeting on September 23, 2021.
- c) Good and Welfare
 - Vice Chair Sharp welcomed new Commissioners Margo and Vered and each spoke of their activity in the community.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF

11. Administrator's Report

Rachel Evans, Interim Human Services Administrator, updated the Commission on the following:

- Edwin Chavous, new Outreach Coordinator, joined the Beverly Hills Outreach Team (BHOT). BHOT expanded hours to include weekend coverage and earlier morning and later evenings
- Community Assistance Grant Fund (CAGF) orientations. Staff has been meeting with all the each organization and meeting all the team members.
- Mayor Wunderlich launches Wellness Wednesdays with two exercise gatherings already underway.
- Jenny Rogers, Director of Community Services, informed the Commission that staff is open to any ideas they would have to support healthy and wellness in our community.
- Vice Chair Sharp reminded staff that Vice Mayor Bosse had invited Deepak Chopra to speak at a City event, and asked if staff could look into a speaker like him to conduct a Wellness Wednesday event.
- Commissioner Margo suggested during one of the Wellness Walks, having piano players at the Sing for Hope Pianos. Staff informed the Commission that is the next Wellness Wednesday event.

12. Overview of Current and Pending Agenda Items

- Reviewed

ADJOURNMENT

August 19, 2021 at 10:19 a.m.

Passed and Approved this 23rd day of September, 2021



Ori Blumenfeld, Chair