

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES – MARCH 11, 2014
LIBRARY COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Chair Steven L. Davis at 6 p.m., Tuesday, March 11, 2014, in the Community Meeting Room at the West Hollywood Library, 625 N. San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood.

A. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Richard Maggio.

B. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Rob Bergstein, Steven L. Davis, Barbara Meltzer,
Andrew Oldershaw, Jimmy Palmieri, Anne-Marie Williams.

Not Present: Ruth Cislowski.

A quorum was present at all times. Staff present included: Elizabeth Savage, Director of Human Services and Rent Stabilization; David Giugni, Social Services Manager; Peter Noonan, Rent Stabilization & Housing Manager; Leslie Isenberg, Corri Planck, and Jeff Book.

C. **POSTING OF AGENDA**

The secretary reported that notices for the meeting had been posted as required.

D. **PROCEDURE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

Persons desiring to address the meeting were asked to complete a form.

II. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the February 11, 2014, meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner Bergstein, seconded by Commissioner Meltzer, with Commissioner Palmieri abstaining.

III. **ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Richard Maggio, Chair of the Rent Stabilization Commission, spoke about the work of that Commission and the Rent Stabilization and Housing Division of the City. He urged people to speak with Rent Stabilization staff if they have questions or concerns, and showed copies of the Rent Stabilization Guide and a booklet on hearings and remedies. He spoke about the Building Blocks seminars, which cover key topics in rent stabilization, such as how evictions work, or whether pets are permitted. The Commission thanked Commissioner Maggio for the update. Commissioner Bergstein is the Human Services Commission's liaison to the Rent Stabilization Commission.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. PRESENTATION FROM JEWISH VOCATIONAL SERVICES

Marguerite Womack of Jewish Vocational Services provided an overview of their work, including a wide variety of approaches to help people become better candidates for employment, such as updating skills, and being aware of what jobs are available. She said the agency follows up after one week and one month with people placed in jobs, to see how they are doing and if they need further help. She discussed various questions from the Commission, including employment for seniors, the nature of jobs available, transportation issues, and the use of social media for outreach.

B. HOMELESS SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE

Commissioner Davis reported on the most recent meeting of the Homeless Services Subcommittee, which was held at the Sheriff's Department. The report developed by the Subcommittee will be brought to the Commission and the City Council. He praised the work of Rudy Salinas, former director of outreach for PATH.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. FRONTIERS FOUNDATION

Corri Planck reported that the Frontiers Foundation, one of this year's Social Services contractors, has resigned from their contract as of March 4, saying they no longer had the capacity to meet the demands of the contract, which dealt with social media. Staff will continue fiscal review with the agency, and finalize that review before closing out. Staff will also be considering ways to address the needs that led to the contract with the Foundation.

David Giugni said staff would report in April on unspent funds, for consideration for reprogramming. The results of the fiscal review will be shared with the Commission.

B. ATTENDANCE AT OTHER MEETINGS

Commissioner Oldershaw will be the liaison to the Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board. Commissioner Palmieri will be liaison to the Planning Commission, with Commissioner Bergstein as a substitute.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Bergstein asked that the City publicize suicide prevention resources. He also spoke about Urban Harvester gleaning, which he recommended for the Agenda, and noted that today is his 10th wedding anniversary.

Commissioner Meltzer spoke about the Women's Leadership Conference, where she is producing a panel on Boomers and Beyond, with Val Zavala moderating. She also

spoke about "The Future of Aging. A California Conversation," which is a one-day symposium sponsored by the USC Davis School of Gerontology and the California Commission on Aging, to be held March 18, 2014.

Commissioner Meltzer said she is again raising the issue of family caregivers as something which needs to be investigated for the scale of the problem. She suggested asking a speaker to address the Commission on this topic. Commissioner Davis said this may be a good topic to be addressed by a committee.

Commissioner Williams said she met with Chris Clarkin on Public Safety Commission Topics. She spoke about current issues in public safety, violence in the home, unarmed patrols on bikes, and the Public Safety Awards.

Commissioner Palmieri said the Community Advisory Board that assisted with the #BOOM! New Year's event is considering doing something similar for CSW/Pride.

Commissioner Oldershaw left the meeting at this point.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

David Giugni presented the most recent data from the City's arrangements with the Tarzana Treatment Center and the Substance Abuse Foundation of Long Beach.

In response to a question from Commissioner Palmieri about whether the Frontiers Foundation contract had ended due to incomplete funding or because the program didn't work, David Giugni said that the scope of services had been negotiated to match the level of funding, and was not unrealistic. There was interest in knowing what to look for during future funding procedures, to avoid awarding contracts that will be unavailing in this way.

Leslie Isenberg spoke about Senior Month in May, including the Health Fair on May 21 and the televised meeting of the Senior Advisory Board.

Corri Planck said there will be a Social Services pop-up at the Library on March 25, from 3 to 5 pm, with an enroller for the Affordable Care Act available.

Women in Leadership Awards are coming up, with Daphne Dennis, Alla Chasnik, Cathy Berger Kaye, and others among the honorees. The program benefits the City's Youth Scholarship Fund.

Elizabeth Savage spoke about the displacement of NCJW operations due to the flooding of their workspace on Fairfax. The City has helped with space to continue their programs while the building is being repaired.

Elizabeth Savage spoke about Connect Our Stories, being held March 24, 2014, as a collaborative event for the Russian, Transgender, and Lesbian and Gay Advisory Boards. The event is in the Library Community Meeting Room at 7 pm.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

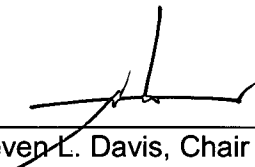
Larry Block, West Hollywood, said there are still cracks in the safety net, caused by

needs in addition to those addressed by the City's social services programming, and also by the reality that many people on Disability income cannot receive more money without losing their basic benefit. He also suggested that meetings could begin at 7 pm instead of 6 pm, so more people could attend.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 pm.

Signed:



Steven L. Davis, Chair

7-8-14

Date