

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 9, 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 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 9, 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 Corey Roskin.

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; Corri Planck, Leslie Isenberg, Corey Roskin, Derek Murray, Andi Lovano, and Jeff Book.

David Giugni introduced Derek Murray, who is new as Social Services Program Specialist.

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 July 8, 2014, meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner Bergstein, seconded by Commissioner Meltzer, with Commissioners Oldershaw and Palmieri abstaining due to absence.

III. **ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no items from the public at this time.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. RENT STABILIZATION AND HOUSING ANNUAL REPORT

Andi Lovano, Project Development Administrator, presented highlights from the annual report of the Rent Stabilization and Housing Division, which is also available online and in print. Public input is received from the community study and the update of the Housing Element of the General Plan.

Commissioners asked about the number of rental units in the City prior to the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act of 1995, in comparison to now, and discussed the number of units that have been withdrawn from the market pursuant to the Ellis Act. They also asked whether the total number of units available in the City would increase above earlier levels because of new construction.

They discussed correction of code violations in apartment buildings, which is a complaint-driven process rather than one of door-to-door inspections.

B. SOCIAL SERVICES CONTRACT RENEWALS

David Giugni thanked non-profit agency staff for their work with the City in providing social services to community members, and presented City staff recommendation for the second year (2014-2015) of the current three-year funding cycle (2013-2016). A 2% cost-of-living adjustment is included in the proposal, as previously approved in the City budget for FY 2014-2015. The City Council will receive the recommendation at its Sept. 22, 2014, meeting.

Two programs originally approved for this funding cycle are not continuing: the Frontiers Foundation previously withdrew from its contract, and Aviva Family and Children's Services is not continuing its SAFE (Student Aftercare for Enrichment) program. Due to these changes, savings of \$60,130 in contract funds are available for reprogramming. Staff recommended that these savings be expended by an increase of \$50,000 to Housing Works' Mobile Integrated Service Team; \$2,450 to Tarzana Treatment Center and the Substance Abuse Foundation of Long Beach; and \$7,680 to JFS/West Hollywood Comprehensive Center.

Garry Bowie and Daniel Robison spoke on behalf Being Alive, the long-time West Hollywood social services provider. They talked about the services the agency provides and about a need for more people to be aware of the quality and diversity of the program.

Drían Juarez spoke on behalf of the Transgender Economic Empowerment Project (TEEP) at the LA LGBT Center. The agency is challenging companies, including other social services providers, to hire a trans person. They are holding a job fair to bring the subject to additional awareness.

Commissioner Bergstein moved to approve the recommendations for funding as presented by staff. This was seconded by Commissioner Meltzer.

Commissioner Oldershaw asked what other programs were considered strongly for allocation of some of the saved funding, and David Giugni said that staff looked at Pathways, Light Up a Library, and other alternatives, but settled on this combination because of the opportunity brought by 10 new vouchers for Shelter Plus.

Commissioner Davis said he was reluctant to vote for two additional years of funding, particularly with regard to the reallocation of funding, because he was interested in seeing all the agencies able to seek those funds by proposing what they would do with them. David Giugni said the report to City Council would provide that this allocation is for FY 2014-2015, and that the third year of funding, including the allocation of saved funds, would return to the Commission and the City Council next year.

Commissioner Davis asked if the maker and seconder of the motion would incorporate that provision, providing that funding for the three programs from saved funds would come up against next year, and they agreed.

The motion was approved unanimously, 6 to 0.

C. FRIENDS RESEARCH INSTITUTE OUTPATIENT TREATMENT

David Giugni and Dr. Cathy Reback of Friends Research Institute spoke about FRI's outpatient treatment for LGBT clients. David Giugni said this was mostly an informational item which illustrated challenges in executing a contract for these kinds of services.

Commissioner Meltzer asked how priority constituencies are determined. David Giugni said it is through information from the Community Survey, and questions brought to bear during Commission and City Council consideration of funding.

D. HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION STUDY SESSION

Corri Planck said staff recommends holding a study session from 4 to 8 pm on the same day as, and in lieu of, the next regular meeting on Oct. 14, 2014. The location is yet to be determined. Commissioners agreed to this, with Commissioner Palmieri requesting that whatever location is selected be publicly accessible and with free parking, so that attendance by the public is not discouraged.

E. NOVEMBER MEETING

Since the November 2014 regular meeting falls on Veterans Day (Nov. 11), which is a City and Federal holiday, the Commission moved that meeting one week later, to 6 pm on Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2014, in Fiesta Hall, Plummer Park.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Bergstein asked staff to copy and distribute an op-ed article from the Los Angeles Times on words used with regard to trans people. He attended a study session by the Rent Stabilization Commission, and did a site visit of the Comprehensive Services Center in Plummer Park. He asked staff to provide more information on how AIDS services organizations have developed over the years, and said he was interested in additional site visits to APLA and Alliance for Housing and Healing (Aid for AIDS).

Commissioner Oldershaw was also interested in site visits to PATH and Housing Works. He spoke about his school schedule, and practicums with APLA and the LGBT Center.

Commissioner Meltzer is speaking to the Women's Advisory Board next month, and without objection was selected as this Commission's liaison to WAB.

Commissioner Williams spoke about a discussion on social media she attended, thanked David Giugni and Leslie Isenberg for help with constituent problems, and noted this is National Suicide Prevention Week.

Commissioner Palmieri attended the Planning Commission meeting regarding the proposed development at 8899 Beverly Boulevard (former ICM headquarters).

Commissioner Palmieri said Being Alive, even though a longtime social services provider, has always had a bit of problem with outreach, and he asked how the City can help get the word out about the program. David Giugni said he would be meeting with Garry Bowie next week, and that Derek Murray will be overseeing the program now.

Commissioner Meltzer said a number of agencies had mentioned having problems with social media outreach, and that this could be a topic for further discussion. Commissioner Oldershaw said this could be a topic at the study session.

Commissioner Davis said he visited McIntyre House. He also spoke about the passing of former Commissioner Gary Augeri, and request that the meeting be adjourned in his memory.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

David Giugni spoke about the Ethics training on Sept. 29; the Annual Congress of Boards and Commissions on Oct. 8; and the agency orientation on Oct. 9.

Corri Planck said the Disabilities Advisory Board is hosting a community awareness event, and will be presenting Disabilities Service Awards at their meeting of Oct. 22.

Elizabeth Savage spoke about changes to Section 8 housing and how the City is responding.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Larry Block spoke about jobs programs, including WHEST and TEEP, and said that all social services providers should notify these agencies of any positions they have.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm, in memory of former Human Services Commissioner F. Gary Augeri.

Signed:



Steven L. Davis, Chair

5-9-15

Date