

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES – FEBRUARY 12, 2013
COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Vice Chair Steven L. Davis at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 12, 2013, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood.

A. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was repeated.

B. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Steven L. Davis, Jimmy Palmieri, Bob Shepard, Heidi Shink,
Anne-Marie Williams, Mark Zangrando

Not Present: Ruth Cislowski

A quorum was present at all times. Commissioners Shepard and Williams joined the meeting in progress. Staff members present included Daphne Dennis, Elizabeth Savage, David Giugni, Leslie Isenberg, Corri Planck, and Jeff Book.

Daphne Dennis noted that Sam Baxter, Director of Human Services and Rent Stabilization, has been promoted to Assistant City Manager. Daphne Dennis and Elizabeth Savage have served for different periods of time as Acting Director of Human Services and Rent Stabilization.

C. **POSTING OF AGENDA**

The secretary reported 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 Jan. 8, 2013, meeting were carried over to the next meeting.

III. **ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no items from the public.

IV. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. **NEW CITYLINE ROUTE**

Daphne Dennis said the Cityline system will become free to passengers on March 1, using the new routes that have been designed. The routes will be standard and feature more frequent buses.

B. PRESENTATIONS FROM SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCIES

In the continuing series of discussions with leaders of social services agencies about current social conditions and the impact of economic change on their agencies' programs, the Commission received presentations from Simon Costello, associate director of the L.A. Gay and Lesbian Center's Children, Youth and Family Services program; Curt Shepard, director of that program; and Dustin Kerone, director of the Center's Sexual Health program.

Simon Costello said the agency keeps track of youth who identify as West Hollywood residents, as is required under the social services contract, and that there are some who so identify in all aspects of the program. Curt Shepard spoke about the new facility the Youth program recently occupied, which he said lives up to the high quality intended for the program. There has been a major increase in the amount of emergency overnight beds available for appropriate situations. They are continuing to work on additional beds as well as employment and affordable housing issues affecting those in the program.

Dustin Kerone spoke about Sexual Health services at the Hollywood and West Hollywood (The Spot) locations, including the Rapid HIV test and other STD testing. Post-exposure prophylaxis and linkage to care for those who test positive are major priorities. He said that since 2009, services have increased by 70%. He noted loss of insurance, expanded hours, cutbacks in advertising. He spoke about press coverage of a treatment-resistant strain of gonorrhea which has been detected in Asia. STD treatment at The Spot is now 3 nights a week, up from the previous 1.

C. REPORT ON SABAN FREE CLINIC PROGRAM DOCUMENTATION

David Giugni said that on August 15, he and Craig Rhea did a site visit for program documentation at the Saban Free Clinic, covering the month of June, and found that ongoing West Hollywood patients were being included under the "new" category. Staff told the agency to correct the reports and resubmit them. Staff also reviewed previous file audits going back to 2008, and found that the error had not been made in those earlier timeframes. On January 29, David Giugni and Leslie Isenberg did a follow-up site visit to make sure the information is being reported correctly. They found that the error had been corrected, but the agency was only reporting people from zip code 90069, and had been omitting 90046 and 90048, which are also related to the city. The agency was asked to again revise and resubmit the reports, and with the corrected data, they are above goal for new patients, and approximately at goal with regard to patient visits. The agency will speak at the March Commission meeting, and there will be a follow-up site visit in May.

Commissioner Shink asked whether they can be required to speak, and this question was requested for an upcoming agenda.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM CONTRACT WITH JEWISH FREE LOAN ASSOCIATION

Leslie Isenberg presented a proposal to allocate \$25,000 to the Jewish Free Loan Association, using funds in the 2012-2013 budget, for the Rental Assistance Program. The previous program through the National Council of Jewish Women was a grant program, rather than loan.

Commissioner Zangrando expressed concern that this could be a step back from the grant program, and said the loan program could be in addition to the grant program, rather than replacing it. Commissioner Shepard said the funds could be a loan, and if repayment was impossible, they could be converted to a grant, with the lender, not the borrower, making this determination.

Commissioner Davis also spoke in favor of continuing the grant program along with the loan program, and would like the Commission's opinion on this to be included in the Council report. Commissioner Shink moved to move forward with the recommendation to Council regarding the \$25,000 loan allocation, while noting the Commission's view that this should be in addition to, rather than a replacement for, the grant program. This was seconded by Commissioner Shepard, and approved, 6 to 0.

B. HOMELESS COUNT 2013

Leslie Isenberg reported on the group that visited in the community to count the number of homeless persons, as part of an ongoing project conducted every second year on an evening in January. This year's count was 46 people, of which only one was less than 18 years old.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Palmieri asked if the City had met with the Sheriff's Department about the process of referrals for emergency overnight accommodations. Leslie Isenberg spoke about the sheriff's deputies taking people to the PATH facility, which now has an around-the-clock phone which can be called to verify availability of a bed. PATH notifies the Sheriff's office and Social Services by email every morning, regarding the bed availability that day.

Commissioner Shepard said the Center's new Youth facility is excellent.

Commissioner Shink said the "She" discussion group was postponed for this month, and will probably resume in March. She spoke about the February 14 V-Day event and One Billion Rising, and encouraged everyone to participate in the city election coming up on Tuesday, March 5, 2013.

Commissioner Zangrando wished everyone a happy Mardi Gras.

Commissioner Williams spoke about the Community Study to the Disabilities Advisory Board and the Women's Advisory Board.

Commissioner Davis attended an HIV+ focus group for the Community Study.

Commissioner Davis asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of his late partner, Jose D. Santos, who passed away at the age of 36 on Feb. 6, 1993, twenty years ago, at the Chris Brownlie Hospice. Commissioner Davis joined the Human Services Commission in November 1993.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Corri Planck spoke about the clothing drive for the Center's Youth program, which collected 55 large bags of clothes.

Corri Planck said the random survey for the Community Study has been distributed, and the general survey is open on the weho.org website until March 18. She said there have been more than 10 focus groups, with more scheduled to occur; 7 pop-up workshops; and stakeholder interviews. A major meeting on the Community Study is scheduled for Thursday, March 14, in Plummer Park Rooms 5 and 6.

Elizabeth Savage spoke about Rent Stabilization workshops. Since the law has been around for 28 years, it is appropriate to educate a new generation about it. The next is February 19, concerning who pays for what with regard to earthquake repairs. She also said a meeting for the Housing Element Update will be held from 9 am to noon on April 6.

Valentine's Day Dance is tomorrow from 3 to 5 pm, and the V-Day event on Thursday at the Sal Guarriello fountain.

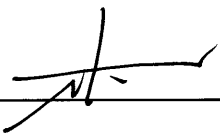
VIII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Robert Gamboa, liaison from Lesbian & Gay Advisory Board, gave the Commission a quote from President Obama's State of the Nation address to Congress, which took place this evening in Washington DC.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm, in memory of Jose D. Santos.

Signed:



A handwritten signature in black ink is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and appears to be the initials 'JD' followed by a flourish.