

**MINUTES
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2016**

**WEST HOLLYWOOD LIBRARY COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM
625 NORTH SAN VICENTE BOULEVARD
WEST HOLLYWOOD 90069**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Chair Jimmy Palmieri at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 12, 2016, in the West Hollywood Library Community Meeting Room, 625 North San Vicente Boulevard, West Hollywood.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Steven L. Davis.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Elizabeth Anderson, Sam Borelli, Ruth Cislowski, Steven L. Davis, Barbara Meltzer, Jimmy Palmieri, Patrick Shandrick.

Not Present: None.

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, and Jeff Book.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was unanimously approved on a motion by Commissioner Borelli, seconded by Commissioner Meltzer.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were two typographical corrections to the minutes of the meeting of December 8, 2015, which were then approved on a motion by Commissioner Borelli, seconded by Commissioner Meltzer, with Commissioners Cislowski and Shandrick abstaining.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Elizabeth Bennett spoke about her very positive experience with JVS-WHEST, which helped her acquire a new position as Southern California sales director for Nfinity, a company selling cheerleading shoes. She said WHEST coached her through the job-seeking process by helping with her resume and improving her interviewing skills.

2. Michael Wojtkielewicz spoke about the importance of Commission members using their microphones when they speak during meetings, so that everyone in the audience is able to hear and understand what is being

said. He also spoke about tips on communications that were provided to Commission members at a City training.

3. William Seegmiller, representing the Los Angeles branch of CAST (Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking) spoke about Human Trafficking Awareness Month (January) and invited people to their Freedom Fair (8:30 a.m.) and 2-mile "Walk 4 Freedom" through Koreatown (9:15 a.m.) this Saturday, Jan. 16, based at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 3300 Wilshire Blvd. (at Berendo St.).

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

There were no items on the Consent Calendar.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no Unfinished Business.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. RECREATION UPDATE

Olivia Walker, Recreation Services Manager, and Chris Worland, Recreation Supervisor, provided information on current Recreation programs, co-sponsored activities, and events at City parks, including Tiny Tots for ages 18 months to 5 years; 60-youth Summer Day Camp; Twinkletoes dance group; WeHo Dodgeball; LAVA volleyball; the #BOOM! New Year's Eve event; 1,200 swim lessons in 2015; youth swim team; master swim team; junior lifeguards; water fitness; Teen Center; field trip to Pershing Square to teach use of public transit; senior projects; volunteering at Pride Festival, animal shelters, beach cleanup and other activities; ballroom dancing; yoga; art; Senior programs with Jewish Family Services; Russian Cultural Festival; VE Day; Red Circle Pow Wow; tennis programming; Baby and Tater Tot Boogie; Helen Albert Certified Farmers' Market; the Food Forward program (gleaning from farmers' markets to benefit local food banks); community garden; Veterans Day event at the Sal Guarriello Veterans' Memorial; the Rec Reader in print and online; upcoming review of park rules and regulations, as well as facility use practices; and improvements planned for Kings Road Park and West Hollywood Park.

Public Comment: Michael Wojtkielewicz spoke about a workshop for the Los Angeles County Park Needs Assessment, which is on the agenda of the Public Facilities Commission on January 13. He said the public has not been sufficiently notified or engaged to accomplish this assessment. He also spoke about a lack of activities which would draw seniors outdoors.

B. REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS PROCESS AND CALENDAR

David Giugni presented a proposed calendar for the Request for Proposals (RFP) process by which the City will solicit proposals to provide Social Services to the community for the 2016-2019 time period. These proposals

will be reviewed by the Human Services Commission and staff, with recommendations going to the City Council later this year. The proposed calendar is:

Tuesday, April 12, 2016 – 6 pm, City Council Chambers – HSC holds Public Hearing on Social Services Priorities

Tuesday, April 19, 2016 – 6 pm, Rooms 1 and 2, West Hollywood Community Center at Plummer Park – HSC discusses funding priorities; approval of RFP document

Monday, May 2, 2016 – 6:30 pm, City Council Chambers – City Council discussion of Social Services funding priorities; approval of RFP document

Wednesday, May 4, 2016 – 10 am, West Hollywood Library Community Meeting Room – RFP is issued (in print and on the City website); Bidder's Conference is held

Tuesday, May 10, 2016 – 6 pm, West Hollywood Library Community Meeting Room – Human Services Commission meeting

Wednesday, June 8, 2016 – Noon, City Hall – Proposals are due

Tuesday, June 28, 2016 – 1 pm, City Council Chambers – HSC review of RFPs with applicants

Tuesday, July 12, 2016 – 6 pm, City Council Chambers – HSC meeting; Public Hearing where staff presents recommendations for Social Services funding

Tuesday, July 19, 2016 – 6 pm, City Council Chambers – HSC meeting; Commission discusses and makes recommendations to the City Council

Tuesday, August 9, 2016 – Human Services Commission meeting is cancelled

Tuesday, September 6, 2016 – 6:30 pm, City Council Chambers – City Council action on Social Services funding recommendations

After discussion, Commissioner Davis moved to approve the calendar and schedule the meetings as stated here. This was seconded by Commissioner Borelli, and approved.

The Commission discussed pros and cons of how to seek input from the City's Advisory Boards: whether to invite one or two members of each Board to attend a Human Services Commission meeting to provide input after discussing the topic with their respective boards; or alternatively, for members of the Human Services Commission to visit each Advisory Board

meeting, to ask for input from each Board as a whole.

Commissioner Davis moved to designate part of the regular Human Services Commission meeting on March 8, 2016, as a study session, and invite representatives from the Advisory Boards to be present, after discussing the matter with their own Boards, to provide their input on Social Services funding. This was seconded by Commissioner Cislowski and approved 5 to 2, with Commissioners Meltzer and Palmieri dissenting.

Commissioner Borelli moved to ask the Public Safety and Rent Stabilization Commissions to also send representatives to that study session, to provide input from those Commissions. This was seconded by Commissioner Shandrick and approved 5 to 2, with Commissioners Cislowski and Davis dissenting.

David Giugni asked whether the Commission was interested in holding subcommittee meetings prior to the upcoming Human Services Commission meetings, to review the proposals from agencies in greater detail, as was done in the previous funding cycle. The time, location and agenda of the meetings would be publicly noticed as Commission meetings, and the public welcome to attend. Commissioner Davis moved to hold these subcommittee meetings. This was seconded by Commissioner Meltzer and approved. All Commission members will be invited to the sessions, and the subcommittee for each meeting will consist of whichever members are able to be present.

C. HOMELESS SERVICES DURING THE 2016 EL NIÑO STORM

Elizabeth Savage, Director of Human Services and Rent Stabilization, introduced a report on ongoing operations regarding community members who are homeless during wet and winter weather, and how the current season of El Niño storms will affect these.

Corri Planck, Social Services Supervisor, said the daytime contacts regarding homelessness are the PATH Outreach Team and the City's Social Services staff; the nighttime contact is the Sheriff's Office. PATH does ongoing street outreach and their staff is very aware of the homeless persons in West Hollywood who are in need or at risk in various ways. She said the goal pursued is to get people, if possible, into the coordinated system of services available from PATH and the LA Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA); or if a person declines that, to provide temporary emergency location in a dry and safe place; and if that also is declined, to provide emergency survival supplies. The PATH team and Sheriff's call 911 if they determine a person is at immediate medical risk.

PATH staff members Tescia Uribe and LaToi Pledger spoke about what they have been seeing this season, and what they expect in upcoming weeks and months. LAHSA has 17 winter shelters and has added 5 pop-up shelters. They said that when a homeless person is willing to go to a bed in

a shelter, PATH staff is able to locate one. When people decline, PATH staff continues to work with them, and is sometimes able to persuade them to go to a shelter bed on a later visit.

Commissioner Shandrick said he disagreed that there are a lot of beds available; he said there are 30 on Skid Row, and 50-60 on the Veterans Administration property, but each has restrictions on how and at what time they can be accessed. He spoke about Barbara Brown, a 60-year-old homeless woman who died of exposure on a Skid Row sidewalk this week.

David Giugni said that when staff learned that Love No Hate on Santa Monica Boulevard was accepting people for overnight stay, the PATH outreach team went there immediately, and provided links to services for those who were willing to accept them.

Commissioner Anderson asked if the PATH group is working closely with the Sheriffs, and they replied that they keep in very close touch with the deputies.

Commissioner Davis said that while homelessness has been an issue of great concern for many years, he is happy to see the attention being given to it right now. He said many renters are aware that they could be priced out of their apartments, or their apartments could be eliminated.

Commissioner Meltzer asked if the PATH team encounters families. They said that it is rare, but does happen. When families are encountered, they usually have smaller children, who are generally pre-school age. They said they see families come and go.

D. HOMELESS COUNT 2016

Leslie Isenberg, Social Services Program Administrator, spoke about the three-day Homeless Count being conducted at the end of January. West Hollywood will be counted on Thursday, January 28. The Count for West Hollywood has reached capacity for volunteers (20 people) at this point, but Los Angeles County still needs volunteers for other locations.

Commissioner Davis complimented the Sheriffs' Department for the work they do with the homeless in West Hollywood.

5. EXCLUDED CONSENT

There were no Excluded Consent items.

6. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Leslie Isenberg spoke about the Seniors' Valentine Dance being held on Feb. 11 at 3 pm in Fiesta Hall.

Corri Planck spoke about the clothing drive for the LGBT Youth Center on Highland – clothes can be brought to City Hall – and about CityLineX, the new

service linking West Hollywood to the Hollywood & Highland Metro station on Hollywood Boulevard. There is a launch celebration before the City Council meeting on January 19.

David Giugni spoke about the Pop-Up registration for Covered California, being held tomorrow, January 13, 2016, at City Hall, from 10 am to 2 pm. He also spoke about the new Text PrEP card (providing information on how to text to receive information about Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis), which will be in Spanish.

Elizabeth Savage spoke about the Housing Element open houses that will be held this month. She said there are 26 housing programs. Commissioner Shandrick said he had attended Rent Stabilization's Building Blocks programs, and found them useful.

Corri Planck said the Lesbian Speakers series is presenting Ginny Gilder, the former American competitive rower and Olympic silver medalist, at 6 pm on Wednesday, January 20, in the City Council Chambers. She will speak on her book, "Course Correction: A Story of Rowing and Resilience in the Wake of Title IX."

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

James Wen said the Transgender Advisory Board (TAB) has voted to have a Trans Voter Improvement project, to increase registration and turnout of transgender voters. TAB is interested in whether the Human Services Commission will support this project. Members of TAB and the Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board (LGAB) met recently with Congressman Mike Honda (17th District, California), who has been appointed by President Obama to lead a task force on transgender issues. Trans Chorus events are coming up on February 4 and March 31. Work continues on the concept of a New Deal for trans people, focused on economic empowerment of the community.

8. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Borelli thanked James Wen for these comments. He requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Barbara Brown, who was mentioned earlier, and Jeanne Córdova, the longtime lesbian and gay rights activist, who passed away this week.

Commissioner Anderson wished everyone a happy New Year.

Commissioner Davis commented on the handling of Consent Calendar items. It was clarified that the Commission will have the opportunity to pull any Consent Calendar item for later discussion, and that the approval of the agenda does not constitute approval of any items so pulled.

Commissioner Davis spoke about a friend being discouraged from attending a seniors' bridge game at the JFS Senior Center, and that the same friend had difficulty accessing services from Women Helping Women.

Commissioner Cislowski wished everyone a happy New Year. She attended the Get Organized day at Plummer Park, and was very interested in the audience, which included people who were seeking ways to help their family and friends. She said there is a significant need for these services.

Commissioner Shandrick said he was looking forward to helping with the Homeless Count later this month. He attended an east side neighborhood meeting on concerns about homelessness, crime, and crystal meth use. He said community members reported that the current level of problems is new, including young people.

Commissioner Shandrick attended the Public Safety Commission last night, and said they formed subcommittees on a number of issues, including one on homelessness, which would be interested in working with the Human Services Commission on the subject. He also attended the recent El Niño town hall meeting.

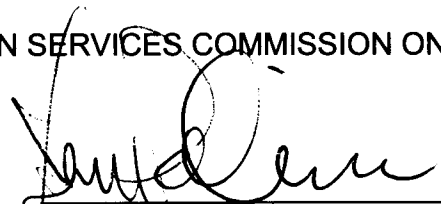
Commissioner Meltzer spoke about the David L. Ulin program from Friends of the Library and WeHo Reads, being presented on Friday, January 15. She also spoke about a presentation by Gennady Ermak, Ph.D., on emerging medical technologies, to be presented on Saturday, February 6, at the Library, with remarks in Russian at 11 am, and in English at 1 pm. Dr. Ermak is a Research Associate Professor at the USC Davis School of Gerontology.

Commissioner Palmieri said seniors in his area are concerned about whether they will lose services from JFS Senior Services due to changes in personnel. He spoke about #BOOM!, the sober New Year's Eve event, which had 725-745 in attendance at West Hollywood Park Auditorium. He said he was grateful to have had the opportunity to interview Jeanne Córdova, who will be greatly missed.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The Human Services Commission was adjourned at 9:18 pm, in memory of Jeanne Córdova and Barbara Brown. The next regular meeting is at 6 pm, Tuesday, February 9, 2016, in the West Hollywood Library Community Meeting Room, 625 North San Vicente Boulevard, West Hollywood 90069.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION ON THE 9TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2016.


Jimmy Palmieri, Chair

Attest:


Jeff Book, Secretary