

**MINUTES  
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION  
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 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, February 9, 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 Yola Doré.

**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; Leslie Isenberg, and Jeff Book.

**C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Borelli requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Raymond Rector, a longtime supporter of LA PRIDE. The agenda was unanimously approved on a motion by Commissioner Borelli, seconded by Commissioner Davis.

**D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the January 12, 2016, meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner Meltzer, seconded by Commissioner Borelli.

**E. PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Robert Gamboa, liaison from Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board, spoke about their recent study session and the items they will be honing into a workplan in upcoming meetings.

2. Nir Zilberman said there are people sleeping in the street who need medical care, and requested the City to take them to safety and care.

3. Terry Goddard, Jack Lorenz, and Maribel Ulloa of the Alliance for Housing and Healing (Aid for AIDS) spoke about the challenge of keeping

their agency in West Hollywood, and about locating a new property at 739-741 N. Fairfax Ave.

4. Victor Omelczenko said the Public Facilities Commission had unanimously recommended that the City Council consider opening warming centers, possibly in underused facilities. He also spoke about the Ellis Act.

5. Tai Esteban Sunnanon, founder of the nonprofit agency For the Social Good, said they are located on the second floor of the former French Market Place on Santa Monica Boulevard. They seek to provide affordable workspaces to help local businesses get off the ground.

6. Yola Doré, liaison from Senior Advisory Board, requested that the Human Services Commission place on their agenda the topic of Big Pharma, and cooperate with a town hall on this subject.

7. Michael Wojtkielewicz spoke about a neighbor who had difficulty having unused property removed from his porch, which caused a warning from building management. He also said the building itself has code violations, and that the house rules are excessive.

**2. CONSENT CALENDAR**

There were no items on the Consent Calendar.

**3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. REPROGRAMMING OF UNSPENT FUNDS**

Public Comment: Nir Zilberman said that the good work the City does is not good enough, and that the City should provide better services to seniors and others.

David Giugni provided a report on staff's recommendation to reprogram unspent funds from the 2014-15 Social Services contracts. He said from a total unspent amount of \$71,913.37, the amount of \$15,025.75 had previously been committed, and approved, to Jewish Family Services. Staff recommended contracting with the Alliance for Housing and Healing (AHA) in the amount of \$39,500, to assist in their relocation from their longtime headquarters at 8235 Santa Monica Boulevard to the larger space at 739-741 N. Fairfax Ave. Staff recommended retaining the remaining amount of \$17,387.62, to address any emergencies that may arise in the last six months of the Social Services contract year.

The Commissioners talked about the difficulty of keeping agencies inside city limits due to rent increases; the nature of additional services that will be negotiated with AHA as part of the increased support; about the Alliance becoming a HOPWA Regional Office; why unspent funds exist (such as agency staff turnover, billing disallowed expenses to a City contract, and related ways). David Giugni said the \$39,500 was an estimate, based on

assisting with \$3,000 per month in rent, and assistance with buildout and relocation.

Commissioner Davis moved to recommend the funding as presented by staff. This was seconded by Commissioner Meltzer.

Public Comment: Michael Wojtkielewicz spoke about West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation saying it is now gearing up for mental health care, although this was identified as a need in previous studies.

The motion was approved unanimously, with the understanding that the \$39,500 is an estimate.

**B. PREPARATION FOR 2016-2019 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: REVIEW OF THE EXHIBIT A (SCOPE OF SERVICES) TEMPLATE**

David Giugni and Leslie Isenberg showed slides of a sample Exhibit A (Scope of Services) from a Social Services agency's response to the City's Request for Proposals. The Commission will be reviewing actual ones later this year, leading to recommendations to the City Council for Social Services funding in 2016-2019. Staff went through each part of the Template, illustrating the information it provides.

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. 2016 GREATER LOS ANGELES HOMELESS COUNT**

Public Comment: Nir Zilberman spoke about homelessness in Los Angeles and the country, and asked why the problem still exists, even though a large amount of money has been spent on it. He spoke about homeless persons being denied hotel vouchers at the Sheriff's office because they were deemed to be not in a crisis condition.

Leslie Isenberg provided the results of the recent Homeless Count, which saw 87 instances (85 plus a car and a van). The Count was led by the Sheriff's Department and PATH, with some City officials, Commissioners, and staff assisting.

Commissioner Shandrick said the largest concentration of homeless people in the area he participated in surveying were on La Brea Avenue. He said there were fewer than he had expected in Plummer Park. He agreed with Councilmember Heilman's request to see if mental health outreach can be expanded, and with Mayor Pro Tem Meister's suggestion for more outreach by Tarzana Treatment Center and Safe Refuge.

The Homeless Count has moved from a 2-year cycle to a 1-year cycle, with direction from Peter Lynn, Executive Director of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA).

The Commission discussed reports of increased crime on the east side;

that not all homeless people commit crimes; and the possibility of leveraging county resources to assist locally.

David Giugni said the Public Safety Commission has formed a committee on homelessness and invited representatives from Human Services Commission to participate. Commissioner Borelli nominated Commissioner Shandrick to be one of the Human Services Commission members. This was seconded by Commissioner Palmieri and approved. Staff will notify Commissioners of the committee's meeting schedule, so the Commission can consider adding further representation in the future.

**5. EXCLUDED CONSENT**

There were no Excluded Consent items.

**6. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

David Giugni spoke about the Text PrEP program, and is working with the Communications Division on ways to give it higher visibility and usage.

Elizabeth Savage spoke about maintaining client confidentiality during consideration of proposals from Social Services agencies. She thanked the Social Services staff for their hard work on preparing the RFP, conducting the Homeless Count, and always being on call.

Leslie Isenberg invited Commissioners to the Senior Valentine's Dance, which is Feb. 11.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Nir Zilberman said that PATH outreach is only available during working hours, and that otherwise homeless people have nowhere to go but to the Sheriff's office, which only permits them to be there for five minutes. He said that crime has increased on the east side because the border with Hollywood makes it easy for people to evade law enforcement by moving from one side to the other. He asked why the Sheriff's Deputy in attendance had told him to not record the meeting.

2. James Wen thanked David Giugni for his presentation to the Transgender Advisory Board on the Request for Proposals process.

**8. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Davis said that since For the Social Good is located in West Hollywood, perhaps the Commission could hold one of its upcoming meetings there. He said he will attend the Valentine's Dance. He asked everyone to remember that a set amount of funding has been allocated for Social Services programming, and that there are myriad needs, not all of which can be met.

Commissioner Anderson attended the housing element workshop and the homeless collaborative.

Commissioner Borelli attended the housing element workshop and a large meeting with The Life Group LA that included PAWS L.A.

Commissioner Shandrick attended the Public Facilities Commission meeting, and confirmed they had asked the City Council to consider opening warming centers. He attended the homeless collaborative. He said he was aware of two instances of people who had been evicted, where Bet Tzedek had not been recommended to them as a resource. He asked staff to make sure that information is being made available.

Commissioner Cislowski asked about the new City bus service to Hollywood & Highland, and David Giugni reported that it's going well, and has increased every week as people become more familiar with it. Some people are also using it as an express from one side of West Hollywood to the other. She spoke about the Transgender Advisory Board's request that the Commission cooperate on transgender voter registration. She attended the Women's Advisory Board, which was working on the Status of Women report.

Commissioner Meltzer attended the housing element workshop. She said she spoke at the Joslyn Adult Center in Burbank, and that Mayor Horvath had presented the Aging in Place PowerPoint, which was well received. She distributed a press release from Senate President Pro Tem Kevin de León on announcement of the "No Place Like Home" initiative on homelessness.

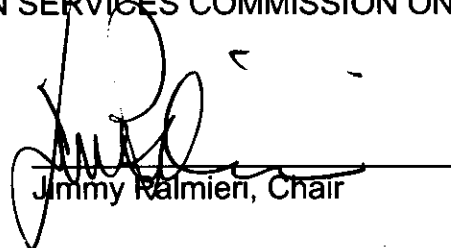
Commissioner Palmieri attended the first planning meeting for this year's #SIZZLE! at the Pride Festival. He spoke about concerns when Social Services providers bring agency clients to speak on their behalf to the Commission.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The Human Services Commission was adjourned at 9:07 pm, in memory of Raymond Rector. The next regular meeting is at 6 pm, Tuesday, March 8, 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 8<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MARCH 2016.



Jimmy Palmieri, Chair

Attest:



---

Jeff Book, Secretary