

**WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES – NOVEMBER 10, 2009**  
**COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM**

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Chair Chuck Henry at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 10, 2009, in the Community Conference Room of City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90069.

A. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Zangrando.

B. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Ruth Cislowski, Steven L. Davis, Debra Farmer, Charles Henry, Shirley Roberts, Hywel Sims, Mark Zangrando.  
Not Present: None.

A quorum was present at all times. City staff members included David Giugni, Craig Rhea, Leslie Isenberg, and Eva Wieland.

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**

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2009. Commissioner Cislowski seconded the motion. The Commission discussed the separation of the discussions with the Executive Directors in regard to the minutes. The position of the noted discussions was unclear to the Commission, who also asked that the more detailed discussion minutes be included in total within each packet. The motion to approve the minutes from the October 13, 2009 meeting passed by a 6-1 vote of the Commission, with Commissioner Zangrando dissenting.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. DISCUSSION WITH EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

The Commission met with the executive directors of Being Alive, Project Angel Food, McIntyre House, and Rainbow Bridge Community Services.

The guests discussed how the economic downturn has affected their agencies, including loss of public funds and decreases in private support, as well as increased need for many services. They also discussed what methods they follow to collaborate with agencies, and how these relationships enhance their performance. And they discussed the specific role that contracts with the City of West Hollywood have in the overall work of their agencies.

Commissioners posed a number of questions in discussion with the guests, including how the anticipated federal healthcare legislation would affect their agencies, and how the City and the Commission can provide additional support to their work.

B. LETTER OF INTENT PROCESS – RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUNDING

The Commission was asked to make recommendations to the City Council for expenditure of \$100,000 in augmented funding for supportive services for seniors or people with disabilities, and HIV prevention education to mitigate cuts made to these programs at the state and county level.

The Commission discussed the disconnect between the Letter of Intent and the responses from the various Agencies. The Commission intended that the letter reach those agencies whose individual clients would be affected by the economic cuts at the state and county level, especially in home service, not necessarily the specific Agency programs. Commissioner Henry read a paragraph from the September 8, 2009 meeting from which he assessed that the Letter of Intent should show a broader intention of how the funding cuts affect the public served.

The Commission then received Public Comment from:

Vanessa Marsot, from JFS Partners  
Hillary Selvin, from NCJW/LA  
Kevin Kurth, from Being Alive

Ava Rose, from NCJW/LA  
Cathy Reback, from Friends Research Institute  
Vivian Sauer, from JFS  
Jeff Bailey, from APLA  
Rueben Acosta, from LA Gay and Lesbian Center

Commissioner Farmer made a motion to table this Item until the next meeting.  
Commissioner Roberts seconded the motion.

The Commission discussed the motion:

Commissioner Davis spoke about the responsibility of the Commission to act promptly to get additional funds to agencies that responded to the RFP.

Commissioner Farmer spoke about her strong feelings that the intent of the Commission was not accurately portrayed through the letter of intent.

Commissioner Zangrando remarked that the miscommunication seems to have occurred between the Commission and Staff, not between the RFP and agencies that responded and therefore it would not be correct to table the item.

Commissioner Sims commented that though the document seems vague, the agencies that had questions worked with staff.

Commissioner Henry commented that he appreciated all of the responses to the RFP and that his responsibilities first lie with the needs of the residents of the City of West Hollywood and second with ensuring that the tax payers dollars are well spent.

The motion passed by a 4-2 vote, with Commissioners Zangrando and Davis dissenting.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. GENERAL PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Commissioners Zangrando and Henry gave an update on actions of the city's General Plan Advisory Committee.

VI. ITEMS FROM COMMISSION

Commissioner Farmer asked staff to follow up on the elimination of State funding for the California AIDS Clearinghouse. The Commission supports the new Chair in signing a letter of support on behalf of the Human Services Commission should a local agency be applying to continue the services of the Clearinghouse.

Commissioner Zangrando asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of the 13 people killed on November 5, 2009 at Fort Hood.

Commissioner Davis asked that the Commissioner also adjourn in memory of Ray Reynolds, Director of Community Development for the City of West Hollywood who passed away November 2, 2009. He also thanked Commissioner Henry for his good judgment and concise expression in his term as Chair of the Commission.

Commissioner Henry said thank you to the Commission.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Craig Rhea reminded the Commission of the upcoming Annual Congress to be held at Plummer Park on Saturday, November 14, 2009.

David Giugni spoke in regards to December 1, 2009 which is World AIDS Day. The City will hold a commemoration, more information is to follow.

VIII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The floor was opened for nominations for chair. Commissioner Roberts nominated Commissioner Farmer. This was seconded by Commissioner Zangrando. There were no other nominations. Commissioner Davis moved to close nominations and declare Commissioner Farmer elected. This was seconded by Commissioner Henry, and approved.

The floor was opened for nominations for vice chair. Commissioner Henry nominated Commissioner Sims. Commissioner Zangrando was nominated by Commissioner Davis. There were no other nominations. Commissioner Zangrando moved to close nominations. There were 4 votes for Commissioner Sims (Commissioners Henry, Roberts, Farmer, and Zangrando) and 2 votes for Commissioner Zangrando (Commissioners Sims and Davis). Commissioner Sims was elected.

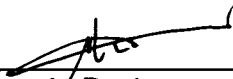
IX. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no additional items from the public.

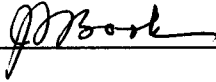
X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. in memory of Michael Grant Cahill, Major L. Eduardo Caraveo, Staff Sgt. Justin M. DeCrow, Capt. John P. Gaffaney, Spc. Frederick Greene, Spc. Jason Dean Hunt, Sgt. Amy Krueger, Pfc. Aaron Thomas Nemelka, Pfc. Michael Pearson, Capt. Russell Seager, Pvt. Francheska Velez, Lt. Col. Juanita Warman, Spc. Kham Xiong, whom were all victims in the November 5, 2009 Fort Hood shooting rampage. The meeting was also adjourned

in memory of Ray Reynolds, Director of Community Development in the City of West Hollywood who passed away on November 2, 2009.

Signed:   
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Steven L. Davis

Attest:

  
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