

MINUTES
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
SEPTEMBER 12, 2017
6:00 PM
FIRST FLOOR COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM
8300 SANTA MONICA BLVD
WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90069

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Barbara Meltzer called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Yola Doré led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. ROLL CALL -

PRESENT: Elizabeth Anderson, Nate Clark, Steven L. Davis, Barbara Meltzer, Jimmy Palmieri, Patrick Shandrick
ABSENT: Sam Borelli
ALSO PRESENT: Elizabeth Savage, Director of Human Services and Rent Stabilization; Corri Planck, Leslie Isenberg, Derek Murray, Joan Mithers, Francisco Gomez, Jeff Book

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

There were no proposed changes to the agenda.

ACTION: Approve the Agenda for September 12, 2017. Motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Shandrick, and approved.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Approve the minutes of the July 11, 2017, meeting. Motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Shandrick, and approved. Please note there was no meeting in August.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Stephanie Harker spoke about a problem with crime and homelessness on the east side of the City. She read comments from people discussing the problem.

2. Victor Omelczenko spoke about crime, the good work that the Commission does, the need for greater funding for social services, and paparazzi. He read a message from Allegra Allison about the impact of

homeless people in the neighborhood, and asked that this be placed on a Commission agenda.

3. Ronda Dixon of JVS WeHo Works distributed their calendar of events for the month, and provided information on their programs for job seekers and skill building.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR:

A. RECOVERY MONTH

The Human Services Commission received a report on National Recovery Month, September 2017.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. 2017-2018 SOCIAL SERVICES CONTRACTS RENEWALS

Elizabeth Savage introduced staff recommendations for social services contract renewals for 2017-2018, the second year of a three-year cycle of funding. Representatives from several agencies which reported lower percentages of accomplishment toward goals were present for questions.

Commissioner Davis said the most recent quarterly report was not included and therefore it was difficult to make informed decisions on renewing funding. He objected to savings from the contract year being rolled into funding for only the substance abuse treatment agencies (Safe Refuge and Tarzana Treatment Center), without considering other agencies.

Commissioner Palmieri asked if any agencies were being placed on probation at this time. Staff said they were not, but this would be considered at the end of the year.

Commissioner Shandrick said it was valuable to use the saved funds to support funding for substance abuse treatment, but perhaps other agencies should be considered as well.

Staff noted that after returning to the system of reimbursing the substance abuse treatment agencies on a month-to-month basis, staff is able to track the expenditure and regards it as important to make sure there is sufficient funding available to complete the year for those agencies. Staff said both agencies have had improved utilization of funds this year.

Agency representatives spoke about their programs, including Jamie Baker, Being Alive; Ronda Dixon, JVS WeHo Works; Diane Kubrin, LA LGBT Center Behavioral Health; Tony Mills, Men's Health Foundation; and Benita Bruner, WCIL.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Victor Omelczenko asked how much flexibility exists to change goals in response to new challenges. Regarding Jewish Family Service's Nutrition program, he asked if they do outreach to and provide meals for the homeless.

ACTION: Commissioner Davis moved to support the staff recommendations that the Commission recommend to the City Council (1) renewing the 2017-2018 Social Services contracts; (2) rolling savings in the amount of \$64,479 from the 2015-2016 contract year into the 2017-2018 Social Services Treatment pool of funds; and (3) that \$199,731 be set aside in a pool of funds for Substance Abuse Treatment services with Safe Refuge and Tarzana Treatment Center; as well as determining what the City Council intends for the Commission to do with regard to contract savings. This was seconded by Commissioner Palmieri and approved 5 to 1, with Commissioner Shandrick dissenting.

B. 2017 GREATER LOS ANGELES HOMELESS COUNT

Staff said the City has been participating in the Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count since 2009. This year's count took place at the end of January, and showed a result of 105, up from last year's 81. Staff noted the figure is not an exact count of people, but is based on a formula that weighs different indications of a homeless presence, such as living out of cars.

Commissioner Anderson said that although the figure increased by 15 in West Hollywood, it increased by 10,000 countywide. This may indicate that efforts on homelessness in West Hollywood are having an impact.

Commissioner Shandrick said the increase in numbers reflects what people have been hearing and seeing in the city. He said this is being met with an aggressive and positive plan in cooperation with the social services agencies. He also noted that largest increase was in the downtown L.A. area.

C. AGING IN PLACE / AGING IN COMMUNITY 5-YEAR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN REPORT

Elizabeth Savage discussed the staff report and chart, which is a planning and tracking tool for the strategic plan. Of 77 strategies identified in the report, 58% are in planning, already beginning, or active and on track. The full evaluation report will be available later in September, for consideration by the Commission in October, and the City Council in November.

Commissioners discussed items within the chart, including bringing

agencies up to LGBT cultural competency; how to ensure that priorities are being met after being assigned to agencies; and how planning will continue in the out-years of the project.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Victor Omelczenko said he appreciated receiving the information. He said he is looking into how to preserve historical landmark apartment buildings, and the question of seismic retrofitting for historic buildings with cultural significance.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

A. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE UPDATE FOR THE WEHO PICKUP

Staff provided a detailed report on the WeHo Pickup, the City's free trolley, which covers specific routes on certain times and days. The pilot program was in August 2013, and it became a permanent service in 2014. The route and frequency was expanded in 2016.

Staff said 80 percent of riders are West Hollywood residents, and that usage suggests it may help reduce driving by people who have been drinking, though there has not been a study to confirm this. Commissioners discussed the possibility of distributing Social Services information on the trolley.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Victor Omelczenko said he uses this service.

5. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR:

There were no Excluded Consent items.

6. ITEMS FROM STAFF:

Staff provided flyers and handouts on current City activities. Elizabeth Savage said the first Healthier Living class is happening at the same time as the meeting. Classes will be balanced between Plummer and West Hollywood Park. She spoke about a mindfulness class that will be held.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Yola Doré thanked the Commission and staff for their work, and spoke about the importance of the health fairs. She thanked Elizabeth Savage, who is retiring in November, for her work as Director, and said she will be greatly missed.

8. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS/BOARD MEMBERS:

Commissioner Clark said that he and Commissioner Meltzer attended the homeless services collaborative meeting, and said the City was making a major effort regarding a very large problem which has no definitive means of solution.

He spoke about how the crowding of homeless people in downtown Los Angeles causes more to move north and west, and about the homeless services "meter" donation program.

Commissioner Palmieri said the Werle Building is up to 9,000 visits per month for recovery programs.

Commissioner Anderson said she is monitoring the agenda of the Transportation Commission for any items that are relevant to Human Services Commission.

Commissioner Davis said the homeless population increases greatly in the daytime. He said people have been hit and attacked, and that theft occurs frequently on Santa Monica Boulevard.

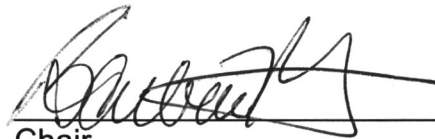
Commissioner Shandrick asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Gemmel Moore, who died in West Hollywood of a meth overdose.

Commissioner Meltzer spoke about the homeless services collaborative meeting. She also attended the Senior Advisory Board.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

In memory of Gemmel Moore, the Human Services Commission adjourned at 8:33 pm to its next regular meeting, which is at 6 pm, Tuesday, October 10, 2017, in the First Floor Community Conference Room at West Hollywood City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood 90069.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION ON THE
10TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2017.


Chair

Attest:


Secretary