

**MINUTES
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
SPECIAL MEETING**

**DECEMBER 11, 2018
6:00 PM**

**WEST HOLLYWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER IN PLUMMER PARK
ROOMS 5 AND 6
7377 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD
WEST HOLLYWOOD 90046**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Sam Borelli called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

B. ROLL CALL –

PRESENT: Sam Borelli, Nate Clark, Steven L. Davis, Barbara Meltzer,
Jimmy Palmieri, Patrick Shandrick.

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: David Giugni, Social Services Manager; Corri Planck, Strategic Initiatives Manager; Leslie Isenberg, Derek Murray, Joan Mithers, and Jeff Book.

There is one vacancy on the Commission at this time.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Meltzer, to approve the agenda. The motion was approved unanimously by roll call vote.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Clark, to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 13, 2018. The motion was approved 5 to 0 by roll call vote, with Commissioner Palmieri abstaining.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment.

2. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

There were no items on the Consent Calendar.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. YEAR-END REPORT ON SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAMS 2017-2018

David Giugni presented the Year-End Report on Social Services Programs for 2017-2018. Commissioners spoke about the diversity of services supported by the City, and thanked the staffs of the social services agencies for their work on behalf of the people of West Hollywood.

A slide presentation discussed total clients served, age breakdown, ethnicity, gender, gender by service category. Staff spoke about the number of trans clients and homeless clients.

Corri Planck spoke about the homeless services programs supported by the City, including Ascencia, Step Up on Second, and the LA LGBT Center's homeless program. Many other agencies operate in cooperation with these programs.

Staff spoke about the reports from individual agencies, including Housing Works, the JFS Comprehensive Services Center, SOVA Food Pantry, WeHo Works, Pathways, Alliance for Housing and Healing, APLA, Being Alive, Men's Health Foundation, McIntyre House, PAWS LA, Friends, Project Angel Food, St. Thomas the Apostle, and others.

Staff noted savings of \$78,758 in Social Services contract expenditures, and recommended that these funds be re-programmed by amending the LA LGBT Center's Sexual Health and Education Program contract in the same amount. Commissioners discussed the reports and the recommendation for re-programming.

Clifford Roberts spoke about a training held yesterday in the community room, which included a therapist who is a feminist woman of color. Efren Chacon, program manager at Men's Health Foundation, responded to a question about the use of PEP this year, saying that use has increased. Diego Bluvol, director of operations, Saban Community Clinic, spoke about their program. Rhonda Dixon, program manager, WeHo Works, discussed their expenditures.

Darrel Cummings, chief of staff of the LA LGBT Center, spoke about spikes in cases of sexually-transmitted infections (STI) in Los Angeles County, and discussed reports of lack of funding for STI testing. Supervisor Sheila Kuehl has proposed an additional \$6 million in LA County support, and the Center hopes to receive an augmentation of \$1.2 million, but is still in need of additional funds to raise the numbers of tests.

ACTION:

Commissioner Davis moved to recommend that the City Council approve the

re-programming of \$78,758 in contract savings, and increase the contract with the LA LGBT Center's Sexual Health and Education Program in the same amount. This was seconded by Commissioner Meltzer and approved unanimously by roll-call vote.

B. REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT SERVICES

David Giugni presented the text of a Request For Proposal (RFP) for Substance Abuse Treatment, which staff proposed to issue to seven current agencies who provide this service. Commissioner Davis discussed whether the RFP should be issued to all providers, but agreed to the limitation to seven due to time constraints.

ACTION:

Commissioner Clark moved to approve the issuance of the Request for Proposal for Substance Abuse Treatment. This was seconded by Commissioner Davis and unanimously approved on roll call vote.

C. HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION WORK PLAN CALENDAR 2019

Staff provided an update on the Commission's planned work calendar for 2019, which will include determination and issuance of Social Services contracts for the 2019-2022 period. Commissioner Borelli recommended keeping the work plan calendar on the agenda every few months, to remind the Commission of the steps in this year's process.

D. 2019 WEST HOLLYWOOD COMMUNITY STUDY UPDATE

Staff provided an update on the West Hollywood Community Study, which includes a statistically valid random sample study, to which only those who were randomly selected respond, as well as the general study, which is open to all.

4. NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business.

5. EXCLUDED CONSENT

There were no items of Excluded Consent.

6. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

The position of Vice Chair was vacant due to the resignation of Commissioner Elizabeth Anderson, who is joining the City of West Hollywood in the Strategic Initiatives Division.

The floor was opened for nominations for Vice Chair. Commissioner Davis nominated Commissioner Clark. This was seconded by Commissioner Meltzer. Chair Borelli provided opportunity for other nominations. In the absence of further nominations, Commissioner Borelli moved to close nominations and declare

Commissioner Clark elected. This was seconded by Commissioner Davis and unanimously approved.

7. ITEMS FROM STAFF

David Giugni thanked Commissioners who were able to attend World AIDS Day, and thanked Corey Roskin for putting so much work into organizing this very meaningful and successful event.

In response to a question from Commissioner Borelli, David Giugni spoke about reports of closure of the Klean Treatment Center in West Hollywood. The City provided Klean with a list of agencies and contacts who could provide help needed in the transition.

Staff said the next West Hollywood Homeless Count will be held on Thursday, January 24, 2019.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Sarah Blanch, resident of Venice who works in West Hollywood, spoke about BOOM!, the alcohol- and substance-free New Year's Eve celebration, which is marking its sixth year. She thanked the City and the Human Services Commission for their support.

9. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Clark thanked everyone for the good year on the Commission.

Commissioner Shandrick hoped that everyone would enjoy the holidays, and noted that in 2019 the Human Services Commission will be quite busy.

Commissioner Meltzer spoke about LA Found and Project Lifesaver, and the need for education about helping people who may be wandering. She said Commissioner Anderson, who has resigned from the Commission to join the Social Services staff of the City of West Hollywood, will provide so much value in that role.

Commissioner Palmieri said that if any of the clients of Klean are West Hollywood community members, he hopes they are receiving proper aftercare following the closure. He also wished everyone a happy holiday, said it had been a joy to work with Commissioner Anderson, and congratulated Commissioner Clark on his election as Vice Chair.

Commissioner Davis noted that Commissioner Palmieri should be recognized for his role in creating BOOM!, which likely would not have happened but for his persistence and persuasion. Commissioner Davis asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Phyllis Dennis, who passed away at age 99. She is the mother of former Social Services Manager Daphne Dennis.

Commissioner Borelli thanked Yola Doré for her presence as liaison from the

Disabilities Advisory Board.

10. ADJOURNMENT

In memory of Phyllis Dennis, the Human Services Commission was adjourned at 8:25 pm to its next regular meeting, to be held at 6:00 pm, Tuesday, January 8, 2019, in the First Floor Community Conference Room at West Hollywood City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, 90069. The rideshare/drop-off address is 1085 North Sweetzer Avenue, 90069.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION ON THE 8TH DAY OF JANUARY 2019.



Chair

Attest:



Secretary