

**HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 10, 2019
6 PM
WEST HOLLYWOOD CITY HALL**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Commission Chair Sam Borelli.

1. A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Marquita Thomas led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. INSTALLATION OF NEW MEMBER

Hon. Lindsey P. Horvath, Mayor Pro Tempore, thanked the Human Services Commission for the work it does, and administered the oath of office to Marquita Thomas as a new member of the Human Services Commission. Commissioners congratulated the new Commissioner, who spoke about being a longtime resident and former member of the Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board.

C. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Sam Borelli, Steven L., Davis, Barbara Meltzer,
Jimmy Palmieri, Andrew L. Reback,
Patrick Shandrick, Marquita Thomas

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: David Giugni, Social Services Manager;
Leslie Isenberg, Derek Murray, and Jeff Book.

D. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

ACTION: Approve the Agenda of Tuesday, September 10, 2019, and move Item 4.A., Rent Stabilization Annual Report, above Item 3, Unfinished Business. Motion by Commissioner Reback, seconded by Commissioner Meltzer, and approved unanimously.

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Approve the minutes of July 30, 2019. Motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Meltzer, and approved 6 to 0, with Commissioner Thomas abstaining.

F. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. John Erickson congratulated Commissioner Thomas on being appointed, and thanked the Commission members for their work on the new Social Services contracts.

2. Yola Doré welcomed Commissioner Thomas, thanked the Commission for its work on the new Social Services contracts, said October is National

Disability Awareness Month, and spoke about the Resource Fair, Disability Service Awards, and a Sept. 26 event at The Abbey to benefit the American Cancer Society.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR:

A. RECOVERY MONTH

The Human Services Commission received a report on National Recovery Month, September 2019.

ACTION: Approval of the Consent Calendar was moved by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Palmieri, and approved unanimously.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

A. RENT STABILIZATION ANNUAL REPORT

Peter Noonan, Rent Stabilization and Housing Manager, spoke about the 2017-18 Annual Report, saying Rent Stabilization promotes equity through consumer protection, including rents as well as the housing services connected with each rental unit. Rent Stabilization may be the most crucial program of the City for low-income and very-low-income residents, because it allows people to afford to remain in the community. Further discussion included the impact of the Ellis Act, the density bonus for new housing, and the potential for a statewide program of rent stabilization.

ACTION: The Annual Report was received and filed.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. HIV ZERO SURVEY ON STIGMA DATA ANALYSIS

The Human Services Commission received an update to the HIV Zero Initiative's Year 3 Mid-Year Report. David Giugni introduced Aaron Celious, Ph.D., who welcomed Commissioner Thomas. Dr. Celious presented slides with data on the City's HIV Zero efforts, with particular focus on results affecting women. Commissioners discussed the use of PEP, whether HIV-positive people were involved in drafting the Survey on Stigma, and other aspects of the data.

ACTION: Received and filed.

B. FENTANYL & OPIOID EDUCATION AND PREVENTION CAMPAIGNS

Staff spoke about the fentanyl and opioid education and prevention campaign and introduced Alex Medina, Director of Communications for APLA Health, who spoke about the campaign. Commissioners encouraged the use of more recent images on the campaign's materials and spoke about having a team to distribute fentanyl strips. Staff noted a RAND Corporation statement that the fentanyl/opioid situation should be treated like the early days of the HIV crisis.

ACTION: Received and filed.

C. 2019-2022 RFP PROCESS DEBRIEF

David Giugni welcomed input from Commissioners on the 2019 process of Social Services contracting. Commissioners spoke about their subjective experience with the processes used this year, including questions to the applicant agencies asked and answered in writing, in lieu of a meeting in which questions could be posed to representatives of the agencies.

Commissioner Meltzer said posing questions in writing was helpful because it provided time to think through the questions. Commissioner Davis said written questions moved the pressure of examining the agencies from a public meeting to home. Commissioner Palmieri noted that he felt stifled in asking questions because of the written procedure and that this was the hardest of the three he has experienced. Commissioner Shandrick said he wasn't sure that three meetings in July are needed, and that this work may be able to be accomplished in two. Commissioner Shandrick said he liked having the representatives from boards and commissions speak to the Human Services Commission directly. Commissioner Thomas said the composition of the Commission and the efficiency of staff came through in the selection process. Commissioner Reback said the Commission could send a representative to the boards and commissions to ask them to speak at a single meeting of the Commission. Commissioner Davis congratulated Chair Borelli for a good job on presiding during the process. Chair Borelli said the representatives from the boards and commissions were really helpful, and applauded staff for being very responsive throughout the process.

Commissioners discussed having a representative speak at the City Council meeting that considers the Social Services contracts. Some Commissioners plan to speak as individuals.

4. NEW BUSINESS (resumed)

B. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

The Human Services Commission will elect a Vice Chair to complete the term ending in November 2019.

ACTION: Commissioner Palmieri nominated Commissioner Reback to be Vice Chair. There were no other nominations. In the absence of other nominations, Commissioner Davis moved to close nominations and declare Commissioner Reback elected. This was seconded by Commissioner Thomas, and unanimously approved by roll-call vote.

5. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR:

There were no Excluded Consent Calendar items.

6. ITEMS FROM STAFF:

Staff distributed information about testing at Pride this year and noted that a question has been raised about changing the date of the October meeting. David Giugni noted that the Annual Congress of Boards and Commissions will be held tomorrow.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no additional Public Comment.

8. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Reback thanked the Commission for its confidence in the election for Vice Chair, and spoke about translating publications not only into Russian but Spanish as well. Commissioner Thomas has met with the Chair and staff, and is looking forward to service on the Commission. Commissioner Shandrick noted serving as Interim Director of Communications and Public Policy at the Downtown Women's Center. Commissioner Palmieri spoke about the #BOOM! event to be held on New Year's Eve. Commissioner Meltzer attended the Senior Advisory Board, where a representative spoke about volunteer opportunities. Commissioner Meltzer said civic engagement is within the domain of the Human Services Commission, and asked if a volunteer database could be developed. Commissioner Davis attended a transit tour presented in August, which was very informative and well done.

Commissioner Meltzer spoke about rescheduling the October 8 meeting. Staff said that Rooms 5 and 6 in the West Hollywood Community Center at Plummer Park were available on October 15. Commissioner Reback moved to reschedule the October 8 meeting to October 15, 2019, in Rooms 5 and 6. This was seconded by Commissioner Thomas and unanimously approved by roll-call vote.

- 9. ADJOURNMENT:** The Human Services Commission was adjourned at 8:35 pm to a special meeting to be held Tuesday, October 15, 2019, at 6:00 pm, in Rooms 5 and 6 of the West Hollywood Community Center at Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Boulevard, 90046. The address is the same for rideshare or drop-off.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION ON THE 15TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2019.


Chair

Attest:


Secretary