

**HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
MINUTES
NOVEMBER 12, 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

Rob Bergstein led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: Jimmy Palmieri

ALSO PRESENT: David Giugni, Social Services Manager; Corri Planck, Strategic Initiatives Manager; Elizabeth Anderson, Diane Kahn-Epstein, Jeff Book

D. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Davis requested that Item 4.D. (Election of Officers) be placed before Item 4.A. (Agency Presentation). There were no objections.

ACTION: Approve the Agenda of Tuesday, November 12, 2019, as amended. Motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Shandrick, and approved unanimously by roll-call vote.

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Approve the minutes of October 15, 2019. Motion by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Meltzer, and approved unanimously by roll-call vote.

F. PUBLIC COMMENT

Rob Bergstein, who is chair of the Rent Stabilization Commission, spoke about smoke-free housing and the danger of second-hand smoke; said the City Council will be considering this policy for West Hollywood; and invited participation in a group working on this.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR:

A. 2019-2020 AGENCY DEVELOPMENT FUNDS

The Human Services Commission received a report on programming to commemorate World AIDS Day 2019.

ACTION: Approval of the Consent Calendar was moved by Commissioner Meltzer, seconded by Vice Chair Reback, and approved unanimously.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. 2019 HOMELESS DEMOGRAPHIC REPORT

Corri Planck introduced Abby Arnold, the consultant who has been working with the City on the Homeless Demographic Report. The report provides a demographic survey of people experiencing homelessness in West Hollywood, including number, age, gender, orientation, veteran status, health conditions, race/ethnicity, and length of stay in Los Angeles County, based on the responses of those participating in the survey. There was also discussion of reasons for homelessness; history of violence or abuse; human trafficking and sex work; involvement in legal and care systems; pets; chronic homelessness; employment; government assistance; and related matters.

Commissioners spoke about differences between West Hollywood and L.A. County regarding chronic homeless vs. newly homeless; noted a decrease in people going on Medi-Cal and health services; the significance of comparing West Hollywood data with Continuum of Care data; and higher incidences in some categories.

4. NEW BUSINESS

As approved with the agenda, Item 4.D. was taken up before 4.A.

D. ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The floor was opened for nominations for Chair for the term ending November 2020. Commissioner Meltzer nominated Vice Chair Reback. There were no further nominations. A motion to close nominations and declare Vice Chair Reback elected was made by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Thomas, and approved by a unanimous roll-call vote.

The floor was opened for nominations for Vice Chair for the term ending November 2020. Commissioner Meltzer nominated Commissioner Davis. There were no further nominations. A motion to close nominations and declare Commissioner Davis elected was made by Commissioner Reback, seconded by Chair Borelli, and approved by a unanimous roll-call vote.

Staff and Commissioners congratulated outgoing Chair Borelli and former Vice Chair Nate Clark on an outstanding year, which included the Social Services funding process.

A. PRESENTATION TO THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION FROM SOCIAL SERVICES PROVIDERS (LA LGBT CENTER SENIOR SERVICES)

Tripp Mills, deputy director of LA LGBT Center Senior Services, provided an update on their program. He said they have seen an increase of older people experiencing homelessness who appeal to the program for help, as well as LGBT seniors. He said they are beginning to collaborate with Jewish Family Service. He spoke about intergenerational programming at the Anita May Rosenstein campus, which was designed to enhance this collaboration.

B. AGING IN PLACE/AGING IN COMMUNITY YEAR THREE EVALUATION REPORT

The Year Three Evaluation Report of the Aging in Place/Aging in Community program was presented by staff, beginning with the program's background as a response to the 2013 Community Study. The program encompasses 10 domains or ways to analyze well-being. Plans for the fourth and fifth years were discussed. Corri Planck thanked the staff team that worked hard to get the survey out and responses back, including Elizabeth Anderson, Diane Kahn-Epstein, and Jenny Ivanova.

C. REPORT ON THE MENTAL EVALUATION TEAM (MET)

In response to seeing more mental health incidents in the City, the City Council approved a contract for the City to have its own Mental Evaluation Team (MET) instead of relying on the one for the larger area. This has reduced response time to 5-10 minutes in West Hollywood,

5. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR:

There were no Excluded Consent Calendar items.

6. ITEMS FROM STAFF:

Staff spoke about preparing to provide information on housing opportunities through the LA GLC Center's Senior Services; Cal Fresh sign-up opportunities in cooperation with Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and Jewish Family Service.

Corri Planck spoke about the LAHSA Homeless Count which will be held January 23, with a Homeless Connect Day on March 4. David Giugni spoke about an upcoming Food & Nutrition Connect Day, and a Covered California pop-up with signups on site, at City Hall, on December 11. World AIDS Day events will be held Monday, December 2, 2019, including Warrior Awards, with recognition by the City Council and an event following in the West Hollywood Park Auditorium. An update of the Social Services guide is being designed, and will be issued in English, Russian, and Spanish.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Alana Roshay, who is co-chair of the Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board (LGAB), said that group is preparing a new workplan, in which one of the goals will be providing trainings, with a possibility of Board and Commission members being invited. The speaker also expressed interest in the MET Teams, as described in Item 4.C.

Chair Borelli thanked Alana Roshay for giving information to the Commission about LGAB's recommendations for priorities for social services, during the funding process.

B. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

Vice Chair-elect Davis noted serving 26 years on this Commission and watching the City's social services develop to where they are today; and said he was very honored to serve as Vice Chair again.

Commissioner Meltzer attended the Disability Resource Fair; the Senior Advisory Board, which is preparing its new workplan; and an AARP Livable Communities team meeting in Sacramento.

Commissioner Shandrick congratulated Chair Borelli for the year as chair, and for grace and effortlessness in conducting the Social Services funding process.

Commissioner Thomas, who was celebrating her 25th year as a resident of West Hollywood, thanked Chair Borelli for his work, and noted that Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (LAGLCC) has changed its name to Los Angeles LGBTQ Chamber of Commerce.


Chair-elect Reback thanked veterans who are City residents; thanked staff for producing the new Social Services brochure in Spanish and for presentations and reports provided this evening; congratulated outgoing Chair Borelli on having done an excellent job; and thanked the Commissioners for providing the opportunity to serve as Chair.

Chair Borelli noted that Elizabeth Anderson, now with Social Services staff, had joined the Human Services Commission at the same time Chair Borelli did. He thanked staff, including those not present tonight. He spoke about the funding process and the authorization to do a citywide mailing.

C. ADJOURNMENT:

In memory of Dr. Margaret Ray, sister of former Human Services Director Elizabeth Savage, the Human Services Commission was adjourned at 8:17 pm to the next regular meeting, on Tuesday, December 10, 2019, at 6:00 pm in the First Floor 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 10TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2019.


Chair

Attest:


Secretary