

**MINUTES
WEST HOLLYWOOD CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING ON AIDS**

**APRIL 3, 1987
WEST HOLLYWOOD PARK
9:00 A.M.**

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Schulte called the meeting to order at 9:12 A.M. and introduced Lynn Shepodd, Stan Hadden and Steve Blazer from Senator Roberti's staff and Lloyd Long, Jodi Curlee and Ted Kitos from City Hall staff and thanked them all for their work that made this hearing possible.

Mayor Schulte introduced President Pro-tempore of the State Senate, David Roberti, and turned the meeting over to him.

Senator Roberti gave an overview of State efforts, funding and bills, to fight AIDS, including AIDS Mental Health services. He stressed education, especially in the medical and dental fields. He then outlined measures for all of us to take to further needed legislation for the unmet needs of persons with AIDS. He stated that he has noted the community and personal growth among gay people and lesbians and among those who are confronting AIDS on a personal level. The commitment of the volunteers and agencies has been much higher and more responsible than that of the State of California. "When the history of AIDS is written it will show that this community has been, frankly, the most responsive in developing compassionate, cost effective and humane models for patient care and educating others about AIDS prevention".

Senator Roberti introduced Bruce Decker, Chairman, California AIDS Advisory Committee, who gave a presentation on recent medical data; information on Life Line program; "aggressive intervention"; health care costs; and Robovirin and the FDA.

At this point in time the following public testimony was taken:

Eric Rofes, Executive Director of the Gay & Lesbian Community Service Center, spoke on the importance of AIDS not being caught up in a political machine; analysis and commitment are missing from all levels of Government, except for the City of West Hollywood. Resources need to be committed to prevention and year-round direct involvement and advocacy from the offices of elected officials is needed. AIDS is a long term problem.

Kimberly Miller, Vice Chair, Business Advisory Council, AIDS Project, L.A., discussed AIDS discrimination in the workplace and the need for support services and education in the workplace on a massive scale.

Scott Barry, Board member of Being Alive and a person with AIDS,

would like to see Medi-Cal requirements loosened and Ribovirin made available.

Elizabeth Yaruss, Chair Community Outreach, L.A. City/County AIDS Task Force, reported that the task force believes that education, services, treatment and a 5 year plan to expand County services are all needed.

Judy Spiegel, Director, Education and Training, AIDS Project L.A., stated that now is not the time to cut back on AIDS educational funding; education for youth and teens is especially needed.

Rev. Carl Bean, Executive Director, National Minority AIDS Council, spoke about the assistance needed to raise AIDS awareness in the Black and Latino communities. He stated that 50% of women with AIDS are black, 25% Latino.

John Mortimer, Director Government Affairs, AIDS Project L.A., spoke about Assembly Bill 816, which would revise Medi-Cal to better suit the needs of persons with AIDS.

Irma Strantz, Doctor of Public Health, Drug Abuse Program Director, L.A. County Drug Abuse Program, discussed AIDS and drug use and the efforts being made to raise awareness of the relationship between the two.

David Kessler, RN, President, Progressive Nursing Service, discussed home care and stated that there are no skilled nursing facilities that will accept AIDS patients.

Tom West, Executive Director, Aid for AIDS, stated that Aid for AIDS provides direct financial assistance to persons with AIDS for basic needs such as housing, food, and medical supplies. He stressed the need for permanent low income housing, home health care, hospice services in the home and the need to streamline public assistance programs and raise them above the poverty level.

Bob Heinbaugh, Director, Shanti Foundation, reported that more mental health services are needed, especially additional staff to avoid counselor "burn out" and to manage the caseloads. Additionally, he felt education of the clergy and more support from the churches would be very helpful.

Mimi Robbins, Director, Green Dental Clinic, AIDS Project L.A., discussed dental needs for persons with AIDS. It is imperative to keep good oral hygiene since there is a greater possibility of infections.

Steve Stroub, Case Manager, Client Services, AIDS Project L.A., gave an overview of what a caseworker encounters in working with AIDS patients.

Karen Pally, Housing and Development Specialist, AIDS Project L.A., emphasized the need for housing for persons with AIDS and stated they are eligible for special user rehab funds which could provide funds for a residential hotel, if there were additional funding.

Michael Weinstein, Director, L.A. Hospice Committee, felt we needed

to focus our efforts on hospice care.

Jean Conger, Executive Director, Southern Cal. Women for Understanding, stated that Lesbians are not in a high risk group, however the AIDS crisis does affect them as members of the community.

At this point Senator Roberti stated that he had to leave for another meeting, thanked all those present for their time and comments, and turned the meeting over to Mayor Schulte. Councilmember Land also had to leave for another appointment.

Sandra Jacoby Klein, resident of West Hollywood and member of Human Services Commission spoke on the needs of the families and friends of persons with AIDS who have died.

Jamie Henderson, APLA, Program Manager, Necessities of Life, gave an overview of program services.

Phil Wilson, Outreach Director, Stop AIDS, spoke about the lack of awareness among youth in Black and Latino communities and the need for funding. He stated the message is "white" and is not effective in educating the minority population. Education materials need to be directed to these areas.

Stan Hadden, Special Assistant to Senator David Roberti, stated that the State budget for AIDS (\$32.1 million) is 2/3 allocated toward research, and more is needed for care/education/prevention.

Helyne Meshar, lobbyist, gave an update on state bills. She cited a lack of information on AIDS among the State Legislators and felt that interested persons should write their legislators. She stated she could be contacted through City Hall and information could also be obtained through the California Association of AID Agencies, 1900 K Street, Room 201, Sacramento 95814.

Mayor Schulte thanked all those who attended, who testified, and who worked to make this meeting possible.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 P.M., to a regular adjourned meeting on April 6, 1987 at West Hollywood Park at 7:00 P.M.