

**MINUTES
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2022
6:00 PM**

***TELECONFERENCE MEETING**

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

A. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Commissioner Darvish led the pledge.

B. **ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Chelsea Byers, Adam Darvish, Steven Davis, Joy Freiberg, Barbara Meltzer, Jimmy Palmieri

ABSENT: Sam Borelli

STAFF: David Giugni, Leslie Isenberg, Joan Mithers, Katie Egan, Jenny Ivanova, Joyce Britton

C. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

ACTION: Approval of the March 8, 2022, meeting agenda was motioned by Vice-Chair Meltzer, seconded by Commissioner Byers, and approved by roll call vote.

D. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

ACTION: Approval of the February 8, 2022, meeting minutes noting corrections from Commissioner Freiberg to item 7 was motioned by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Freiberg, and approved by roll call vote.

E. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Yola Dore, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke on the necessity of case management being included with other social services to support vulnerable community members, such as seniors and people living with a disability, and the need for empathy to those struggling with world events like the pandemic and the situation in Ukraine.

2. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

A. **SOCIAL SERVICES REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND RELATED ACTIVITIES—FINAL DRAFT**

The Human Services Commission received an updated 2022 Request for Proposals schedule of meetings and related activities.

ACTION: Received and filed. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.**

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAM PRIORITIES 2022-25 FUNDING PROCESS

David Giugni, Social Services Manager, provided an overview of the service priorities that the Human Services Commission will discuss for the 2022-25 Social Services funding process with the Chairs (or designee) of the Advisory Boards, the Public Safety Commission, the Rent Stabilization Commission, and the Social Justice Task Force.

Commissioner Kerri Balbone, Public Safety Commission, spoke about the need for more public support of constituents with various needs.

Commissioner Karen Eyres, Rent Stabilization Commission, spoke about continued needs of assistance for renters outside of the COVID response.

Chair Patrick Blood, Disability Advisory Board, spoke about the need for better services for people living with disabilities and the need for more access.

Boardmember Zekiah Wright, Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board, spoke about the need for increased services and greater access to those services.

Boardmember Robert Gamboa, Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board, spoke about the need for more service providers to be located in West Hollywood so that constituents don't have to go elsewhere for those services.

Boardmember Eugene Maysky, Russian Advisory Board, spoke about needs for the ease of access to information by the Russian community.

Boardmember John Allendorfer, Senior Advisory Board, spoke about various needs for senior constituents, including housing, social services and transportation.

Boardmember Eden Luna, Transgender Advisory Board, spoke about various needs and concerns of Transgender community members.

Boardmember Angela de Silva, Women's Advisory Board, spoke about the need for education and access to services.

Jonathan Wilson, Social Justice Task Force, spoke about the findings of the City of West Hollywood Social Services Division of August 16, 2021 regarding access to social services by community members of color.

ACTION: Received and discussed.

B. TRANSGENDER ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT PROJECT REPORT

The Human Services Commission received a status report on the Transgender Economic Empowerment Project (TEEP).

ACTION: Received and discussed.

C. PREPARATION FOR THE 2022-2025 SOCIAL SERVICES FUNDING PROCESS

The Human Services Commission received a training on the Exhibit A: Scope of Services document, a required component of proposals submitted in response to the 2022-25 Social Services Request For Proposal (RFP).

ACTION: Received presentation and discussed.

4. NEW BUSINESS

There are no items under New Business.

5. EXCLUDED CONSENT

None.

6. ITEMS FROM STAFF

David Giugni, Social Services Manager, provided updates on services provided in response to COVID-19 and updates on the HIV and Substance Abuse Prevention Providers Collaborative. He introduced new Human Services and Rent Stabilization support staff, Joyce Britton.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Boardmember Wright, Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board, spoke about determining how much funding goes toward service providers and the value of the services.

8. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Darvish spoke about the Russian/Ukrainian conflict, urged compassion and encouraged support for Ukrainians in West Hollywood.

Commissioner Davis reported that the Transgender Advisory Board is looking for members to represent them at Lesbian and Queer Visibility Week.

Commissioner Byers spoke about the city's responsibility to provide affordable housing, address transportation gaps, and the need to support survivors and victims of sexual violence. Commissioner Byers also raised questions about the Joint Women's Safety Task Force.

David Giugni provided a response to Commissioner Darvish's comment that Derek Murray and Dee Saunders have developed a page for resources for Ukrainian refugees that is located on the Social Services page of the City's website.

Commissioner Freiberg asked for statistics on rape and sexual assault and asked for information on the Disability Advisory Board's survey. Commissioner Freiberg also asked if the Social Service booklet could be included with the Rent Stabilization welcome letter.

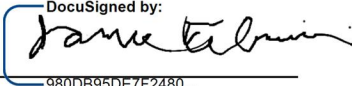
Vice-Chair Meltzer spoke about the lack of technology for older adults and the Russian-speaking population.

Chair Palmieri mentioned in memoriam, the life and legacy of Frank Galassi, a marriage and family therapist, who made significant contributions to the Los Angeles LGBT Center.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The Human Services Commission adjourned at 8:00 pm to its next regular meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 12, 2022, at 6:00 pm via teleconference.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION ON THE 8TH DAY OF MARCH 2022.

DocuSigned by:

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Chair

Attest:

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Liaison