

**MINUTES
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
LGBTQ+ COMMISSION**

**THURSDAY, JULY 13, 2023
7:00 P.M.**

**WEST HOLLYWOOD CITY HALL
1ST FLOOR – COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM
8300 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – City Clerk, Melissa Crowder called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

2. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT:** Read by Commissioner Egbuniwe
“The West Hollywood LGBTQ+ Commission acknowledges that the land on which we gather and that is currently known as the City of West Hollywood is the occupied, unceded, seized territory of the Gabrieleño Tongva and Gabrieleño Kizh peoples.”

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Commissioner Blood led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. **ADMINISTER THE OATH OF OFFICE TO NEWLY APPOINTED LGBTQ+ COMMISSIONERS**
The Oath of Office will be administered to the newly appointed Commissioners:
 - Chiedu Egbuniwe
 - Alec White
 - Renee F. Sotile
 - Patrick Ryan Blood
 - Nik Kacy
 - Amber Whittington
 - Ron Z. Cortes

5. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Patrick Ryan Blood, Ron Z. Cortes, Chiedu Egbuniwe, Nik Kacy, Renee F. Sotile, Alec White, Amber Whittington

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: City Clerk, Melissa Crowder
Community and Legislative Affairs Supervisor,
Jennifer Del Toro

6. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

ACTION: Approve the meeting agenda of July 13, 2023. Motion by Commissioner Blood, seconded by Commissioner Kacy, and approved.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Danny Hang – congratulated the Commissioners on being appointed and wished the Commission success.
Jackie Steele – congratulated the Commissioners on being appointed and suggested that future meetings be televised to create more visibility and accessibility.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

A. PRESENTATION BY THE CITY CLERK

The LGBTQ+ Commission received information from the City Clerk, Melissa Crowder, on the new LGBTQ+ Commission’s purview, by-laws, and draft work plan.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

10. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Blood

Thanked City Clerk, Melissa Crowder, City staff, fellow Commissioners, and Councilmember Meister for conducting the Oath of Office. Commissioner Blood also thanked Danny Hang and Jackie Steele for attending the meeting and offering their support to the Commission.

Commissioner Cortes

Thanked City Clerk, Melissa Crowder and suggested that the Commission highlight specific LGBTQ+ days of recognition. Commissioner Cortes made a motion to create an ad hoc subcommittee to explore which days should be identified and how the Commission can recognize and highlight them.

ACTION: Create an Ad Hoc subcommittee to explore potential LGBTQ+ days of recognition. Motion by Commissioner Cortes, seconded by Commissioner Kacy, and approved.

Commissioner Egbuniwe

Thanked City Clerk, Melissa Crowder, City staff, fellow Commissioners and Councilmember Meister for conducting the Oath of Office. Commissioner Egbuniwe also shared his experience working in the non-profit sector and interest in contributing his experience to assist the Commission in their work.

Commissioner Kacy

Thanked the City Clerk, Melissa Crowder, City staff, fellow Commissioners and Mayor Shyne for conducting the Oath of Office and expressed excitement about working on the Commission.

Commissioner Sotile

Thanked the City Clerk, Melissa Crowder, City staff, fellow Commissioners and Councilmember Meister for conducting the Oath of Office and expressed excitement about being a member of the Commission. Commissioner Sotile informed the Commission of the City's Trap, Neuter and Return (TNR) program, notified the Commissioners that October is Domestic Violence and Intimate Violence Awareness Month, and shared information about the Silent Silhouette Initiative. Commissioner Sotile congratulated the City's first Drag Laureate, Pickle, and asked the Commission to adjourn in memory of her sister.

Commissioner White

Thanked the City Clerk, Melissa Crowder, City staff, fellow Commissioners and Councilmember Byers for conducting the Oath of Office and expressed excitement about being a member of the Commission. Commissioner White also congratulated the City's first Drag Laureate, Pickle.

Commissioner Whittington

Thanked the City Clerk, Melissa Crowder, City staff, fellow Commissioners and Councilmember Byers for conducting the Oath of Office and expressed excitement about being a member of the Commission.

11. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Community and Legislative Affairs Supervisor, Jennifer Del Toro notified the Commission that City Council will consider adopting a resolution denouncing the U.S. Supreme Court's recent ruling regarding LGBTQ+ rights at the July 17, 2023, City Council meeting. Jennifer also informed the Commission that the City's Governmental Affairs Liaison, Hernan Molina, will be available to participate in future meetings to share the City's legislative priorities with the Commission and at the next Commission meeting, the Commissioners will be discussing the Rainbow Key Awards.

After discussion, the Commission decided to appoint a representative to speak on behalf of the LGBTQ+ Commission in reference to the resolution denouncing the U.S. Supreme Court's recent ruling regarding LGBTQ+ rights.

ACTION: The Commission voted by consensus to appoint Commissioner Kacy to speak on behalf of the Board regarding this resolution.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The LGBTQ+ Commission adjourned at 8:53 PM to its next regular meeting on Thursday, August 10, 2023, at 7:00 PM, at West Hollywood City Hall – 1st Floor – Community Meeting Room, located at 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard.

Chair Egbuniwe

Recording Secretary | Jasmine Duckworth

