

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD  
SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVISORY BOARD  
AGENDA  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2024  
6:00 P.M.**

**West Hollywood City Hall  
1st Floor - Community Meeting Room  
8300 Santa Monica Boulevard  
West Hollywood, CA 90069**

Special meeting-related accommodations (e.g., transportation) may be provided upon written request to the Community & Legislative Affairs Division at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. For information on public transportation, call 323-GO-METRO (323-466-3876) or go to [www.metro.net](http://www.metro.net).

To comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Assistive Listening Devices (ALD) will be available for check out at the meeting. If special assistance to participate in this meeting is required, (e.g., an American Sign Language interpreter for people who are Deaf or hard of hearing), you must call or submit your request in writing to the Community & Legislative Affairs Division at (323) 848-6559 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. The City TTY line is (323) 848-6496.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

*“The West Hollywood Social Justice Advisory Board 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**

**4. ROLL CALL**

**5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

The Advisory Board is requested to approve the January 23, 2024, Meeting Agenda as posted.

*RECOMMENDATION: Approve the January 23, 2024, Meeting Agenda as posted.*

**6. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

The Advisory Board is requested to approve the October 24, 2023, Meeting Minutes.

*RECOMMENDATION: Approve the October 24, 2023, Meeting Minutes.*

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

The Social Justice Advisory Board values your comments; however, pursuant to the Brown Act, the Social Justice Advisory Board cannot act on items not listed on the posted agenda. The public is given the opportunity to address the Advisory Board on agenda items or items of general interest within the jurisdiction of the Social Justice Advisory Board. Speakers are limited to two minutes each. An additional public comment period is offered at the end of the meeting.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. JUNETEENTH 2024**

The Social Justice Advisory Board will receive an update on the City of West Hollywood's annual Juneteenth event, discuss programming for Juneteenth 2024, and provide feedback related to the event.

*RECOMMENDATIONS: 1) Receive update and discuss, 2) Provide staff with an approved date and time, and proposed programming for the event, and 3) If necessary, form a subcommittee for Juneteenth 2024.*

**9. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

This time is set aside for City staff to provide information or feedback to the Social Justice Advisory Board on items of interest to the Advisory Board.

**10. PUBLIC COMMENT**

This time has been set aside for the public to address the Social Justice Advisory Board on any item of interest within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Advisory Board that could not be heard under Item 7 at the beginning of the meeting.

**11. ITEMS FROM ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS**

This time is set aside for brief general comments, requests, memorial adjournments, and other issues of concern from members of the Social Justice Advisory Board.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The Social Justice Advisory Board will adjourn to its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, April 23, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. to be held in the West Hollywood City Hall - 1st Floor Community Meeting Room at 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA 90069.

**ITEM 6  
ATTACHMENT**

**MINUTES  
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD  
SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVISORY BOARD**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2023  
6:00 P.M.**

**WEST HOLLYWOOD CITY HALL  
1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR – COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM  
8300 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD  
WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90069**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** – Jasmine Duckworth called the meeting to order at 6:09 pm.
- 2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT:** Read by Advisory Board Member Demuir  
*“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** – Advisory Board Member Washington led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 4. ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Chela C. Demuir  
Eden A. Luna, (arrived at 6:16pm)  
Tiondrae Pier  
Jorge S. Seperak  
Giselle Y. Washington  
Jonathan K. Wilson

**ABSENT:** **Karim D. Abay**

**ALSO PRESENT:** City Clerk, Melissa Crowder  
Community Services Director, Yvonne Quarker  
Governmental Affairs Liaison, Hernan Molina  
Staff Liaison, Jasmine Duckworth  
Recording Secretary, Moya Márquez

**5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:**

**ACTION:** Approve the meeting agenda of October 24, 2023. Motion by Advisory Board Member Wilson seconded by Advisory Board Member Washington and approved.

**6. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

**ACTION:** Approve the August 7, 2023 special meeting minutes. Motion by Advisory Board Member Wilson seconded by Advisory Board Member Demuir and approved.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None.

**8. NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Melissa Crowder, City Clerk, administered the election for the Chair of the Advisory Board. Board Member Jonathan Wilson nominated himself. There were no other nominations.

**ACTION:** Election of Board Member Wilson as Board Chair, approved by consensus.

**B. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR**

Melissa Crowder administered the election for the Vice-Chair of the Advisory Board. Board Member Wilson nominated Board Member Giselle Washington. There were no other nominations.

**ACTION:** Election of Board Member Washington as Board Vice-Chair, approved by consensus.

**C. CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD HISTORY CONTEXT STUDY**

The Social Justice Advisory Board received a summary report on the Historical Context Study prepared by Architectural Resources Group (ARG). ARG staff member Elysha Paluszek, explained the subject for the study, which aimed to examine historical discriminatory policies enacted in the West Hollywood area and how those policies, throughout history, created the economic, social, and spatial landscape of the West Hollywood area.

Paluszek also covered how data was collected, including finding primary and secondary sources in various historical records and archives, as well as conducting

two listening community sessions and collecting comments via a web form.

Paluszek described how the study covers three periods: 1600-1945, 1945-1984, and 1984 to the present. ARG researched general societal trends and legal policies that would have affected any groups of people in West Hollywood. Paluszek stressed that the document includes no recommendations on the enactment or support of future policies, as it is intended to be an informational document to provide context to the City and its decision makers.

Board Members asked questions about the research process and methodology.

Board Member Pier asked if ARG found any trends in social equality movements that progressed slower than others. Paluszek shared that issues related to equality in housing were particularly hard to track and quantify.

Board Member Luna asked if ARG had reached out to indigenous groups or historians that could help connect with those communities and collect information on the indigenous histories in the WeHo area. ARG indicated that they did not initiate contact with any of these groups for the purpose of this study.

Board Member Wilson asked what ARG would likely consider their focus if there was a second round of research to supplement this first study. Paluszek mentioned that herself, personally, would incorporate more of the social history of the West Hollywood Community, focusing on stories that were smaller and community-based rather than of significance to be printed in papers or other archival sources.

**ACTION:** Receive and file.

#### **D. LEGISLATIVE AFFIARS PRESENTATION**

The Social Justice Advisory Board received a presentation from Hernan Molina, Government Affairs Liaison, on the City's Legislative Priorities and reviewed the City's list of opposed/supported legislation.

Hernan reported that the California legislative session works in two-year sessions, and that they are currently in recess. He presented the board with a list of 45 bills in the California legislature that the City is tracking, as well as a list of the City's legislative priorities. Tracked bills include both supported and opposed bills, depending on their alignment with the City's core values and legislative priorities. Hernan asked if there are any glaring irregularities based on the City's list of tracked legislation, or any comments or feedback on the legislative priorities.

Board Member Wilson suggested supporting legislation that provides grant opportunities to support entrepreneurship from underrepresented communities.

Board Member Demuir asked how individuals and small groups from diverse communities can suggest initiating legislation to help the community. Staff member

Molina responded that other than trying to meet directly with representatives and their staff, working with other larger organizations that already do political advocacy work can help push forward new initiatives. Molina stressed that this time, during a California Legislative recess, is when elected officials are typically more able to listen to their communities about future laws and policies.

**ACTION:** Receive and file, provide input on the priorities.

#### **E. REVIEW OF SOCIAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DISCUSS DIVISION/DEPARTMENT UPDATES AT FUTURE SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVISORY BOARD MEETINGS**

The Social Justice Advisory Board reviewed the Social Justice Task Force's recommendations and discussed the prioritization of which City Departments/Division should be invited to future Advisory Board meetings to provide updates.

The Board debated on the priority of how they should move forward on implementation. The Board debated multiple strategies including: beginning on sections that may be faster to implement; beginning on sections that the community might feel is more important; or working with homelessness first as a kind of baseline that other aspects will build upon.

Board Member Wilson suggested that there should be more frequent meetings to follow through with implementations. Staff mentioned that the process of implementation of these policies will take a long time, and more regular meetings will not increase the pace in which the work will take place within each relevant division.

Board Member Luna suggested starting with Economic Development goals, as there is no body that reviews economic development policies, and therefore the board may have a larger impact on setting policy on those areas.

**ACTION:** By unanimous consensus, the Board decided to move towards implementing the policies in the following order: Economic Development, Public Safety, Homelessness.

#### **9. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

Staff Liaison, Jasmine Duckworth, announced that the Board will be asked to make liaison appointments to other City Board and Commissions at the next meeting. In addition, the Board will also discuss plans for the hosting of the City's Juneteenth celebration in 2024.

#### **10. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

## 11. ITEMS FROM ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Advisory Board Member Luna expressed their gratitude and hope for the future.

Advisory Board Member Seperak talked about discrimination and community spaces that are lost and how that impacts the city.

Advisory Board Member Washington requested a progress report on the public safety item heard by the Board in August.

Advisory Board Member Wilson put forward a motion to request that City staff and the City Clerk put forth a process so that the Board can meet more than quarterly. The motion was seconded by Board Member Washington and approved unanimously.

Board Member Wilson also put forward a motion to request a special meeting between now and the January meeting. The motion was seconded by Board Member Seperak and approved unanimously.

Board Member Wilson also put forward a motion to request that the Center for Police Equity be invited to give a presentation to the Board that was given to the Public Safety Commission and City Council. The motion was seconded by Boardmember Luna and approved unanimously.

## 12. ADJOURNMENT

The Social Justice Advisory Board adjourned at 8:20 PM its next regular meeting on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, at 6:00 PM, at West Hollywood City Hall – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor – Community Meeting Room, located at 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard.

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Chair | Jonathan Wilson

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Recording Secretary | Moya Márquez