

**MINUTES
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVISORY BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2024
6:00 P.M.**

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:14pm

2. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:** Read by Board Member Pier

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Led by Board Member Demuir

4. **ADMINISTER THE OATH OF OFFICE TO NEWLY APPOINTED SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER**

The Oath of Office was administered to the newly appointed Social Justice Advisory Board Member, Justin Powell.

5. **ROLL CALL:**

PRESENT: Eden Luna, Tiondrae Pier, Justin Powell, Jorge S. Seperak, Giselle Y. Washington, Jonathan Wilson

ABSENT: Karim D. Abay, Queen Chela Demuir

ALSO PRESENT: Community and Legislative Affairs Manager, Andi Lovano
Community Services Director, Yvonne Quaker
Community and Legislative Affairs Coordinator, Jasmine Duckworth
Recording Secretary, Amy Valdepeña.

6. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

ACTION: Approve the Special Meeting Agenda of April 9, 2024. Motion by Vice Chair Washington, seconded by Board Member Seperak, and approved.

7. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

ACTION: Approve the Special Meeting Minutes of March 12, 2024. Motion by Board Member Pier, seconded by Vice Chair Washington, and approved.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. UPDATE REGARDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES WITHIN THE SOCIAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Social Justice Advisory Board received updates from the City's Economic Development Department and the City's Finance and Technology Services Department regarding the Economic Development initiatives within the council-approved Social Justice Task Force recommendations.

Recommendation #1

Board Member Luna and Board Member Pier suggested including drop down options on the City's Annual Business Registration Form that include language that is more inclusive of gender-neutral, Trans, and non-binary folk that reflects intersectionality of race and ethnicity. Examples provided were:

- Delete the option of selecting Trans Woman and Trans Man and provide option within the Man and Woman category for those that choose to identify as Trans.
- Intersex and Two-spirit should be options for individuals that choose to identify as such.
- There are individuals that may racially identify as either White or Black and Hispanic or Latino, and options should allow for both.
- Gay Male option should be replaced with an option that is more inclusive.

Board Member Pier requested that the City safeguard personal data and gender identity data that is collected via the Business Registration Form so it's protected.

City Attorney, Lauren Langer clarified that data would be stored in a way where it would not be connected to a particular company/business.

Recommendation #2

Chair Wilson asked staff to confirm when the webpage would be completed.

Laura Biery, Economic Development Director clarified that the dedicated City webpage outlining the step-by-step business guide for opening a business in West Hollywood would be completed by December 2024.

Recommendation #3

Laura Biery, Economic Development Director informed the Advisory Board that staff is looking into offering accelerator programs in addition to the incubator program for BIPOC businesses that may not have access to the capital or networks to start a business in West Hollywood.

Chair Wilson asked that staff incorporate an educational component to this work.

Recommendation #4

Laura Biery, Economic Development Director informed the Advisory Board that staff is suggesting that the City host a series of workshops and seminars to engage with existing DBE certified businesses and encourage them to participate in the City's RFP and bidding process; the first workshop will be scheduled for July 2024. The City is partnering with LAEDC, LA County, and LA28 to host these workshops.

Chair Wilson asked how the LAEDC verifies their list of BIPOC owned businesses and requested staff ensure this list is as accurate as possible.

Recommendation #5

Laura Biery, Economic Development Director notified the Advisory Board, that the City's current subscription for Planet Bids allows the City to go beyond the paywall and send RFP's to a greater audience of businesses that may not be in the existing applicant pool. The City is also hoping that the suggested workshops and seminars will aid in its goal of increasing engagement with minority-owned/BIPOC businesses.

Board Member Pier also asked if the City could begin collecting demographic data related to RFP's to see how many BIPOC businesses apply to the City's RFP's to ensure West Hollywood is meeting its goals in increasing engagement with BIPOC businesses.

City Attorney, Lauren Langer informed the Board of the limitations set by Prop 209 and notified the Board that she will be working with EDD staff to see what options are available.

Chair Wilson asked if EDD staff could provide an update in six months to track progress.

B. UPDATE FROM COMMUNITY SAFETY DEPARTMENT ON SOCIAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Social Justice Advisory Board received updates from the City's Community Safety Department regarding the Council-approved Social Justice Task Force recommendations.

Recommendation #1 and Recommendation #1a

Danny Rivas, Community Safety Director informed the Advisory Board that there has been one cannabis related arrests, occurring in 2022, and zero cannabis related arrest in 2023. At this time, staff does not feel that the data supports the Task Force's recommendation to expand restorative justice or cannabis equity programs and expand legal services and resources to provide expungement or reduced offenses for non-violent cannabis related crimes.

Danny also informed the Board that the Human Services Division currently contracts with Bet Tzedek, a non-profit law firm, to provide legal services to residents and community members.

Chair Wilson, Board Member Luna, and Board Member Pier emphasized the importance of the City remaining committed to providing resources and legal services to any individuals that may have cannabis-related convictions.

Recommendation #2

Danny Rivas, Community Safety Director notified the Board that the City adopted a resolution to declare sex work related arrests as low-level arrests. Danny also reported that there have been zero sex-work related arrests in 2022 and 2023.

Chair Wilson, Board Member Luna, and Board Member Pier emphasized the importance of the City remaining committed to providing resources and legal services to any individuals that may have sex-work related arrests or convictions.

Recommendation #3

Danny informed the Board that the Center for Policing Equity item has been finalized and the City recently approved a 5-year annual contract with the Sheriff's Department – updates will be provided at a further date.

Chair Wilson expressed frustration with the public safety updates provided and asked staff to re-examine how the City could assist the Advisory Board in actualizing the Social Justice Task Force recommendations related to public safety.

The Board also asked that LGBTQ+ sensitivity training be provided to deputies and Sheriff's personnel at the West Hollywood Sheriff's station.

Board Member Luna suggested that the LGBTQ+ sensitivity training be provided by a third-party instead of the Sheriff's Department.

The Board also suggested that the City implement performance metrics to measure and optimize contract performance outcomes and incorporate BIPOC-sensitivity training to be required trainings for the Sheriff's Department.

C. WEHO PRIDE 2024 PARTICIPATION

The Social Justice Advisory Board selected Board Member Pier and Chair Wilson to represent the Advisory Board on the WeHo Pride Parade float on Sunday, June 2, 2024.

D. SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

The Social Justice Advisory Board voted to amend their meeting schedule to monthly instead of quarterly. Staff informed the Board that this recommendation will be forwarded to the City Clerk and City Council for formal consideration.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. JUNETEENTH 2024

The Social Justice Advisory Board received an update on Juneteenth 2024 programming and provided suggestions for additional panelists to invite to participate in a Juneteenth panel discussion. The Board also suggested inviting entertainers and influencers that speak to race/equity related topics to attract a wider audience to the event, and incorporate resource tables to provide information on HBCU's, black fraternities and sororities, and non-profits and organizations dedicated to equipping previously incarcerated and soon-to-be released individuals with the tools and resources needed to find employment and successfully re-enter the workforce.

11. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Community and Legislative Affairs Manager, Andi Lovano notified the Board of the City's Public Safety Commission and encouraged the Board to appoint a liaison to that Commission to provide updates on the City's contract with the Sheriff's Department.

ACTION: Motion to agendize an item to appoint liaisons to the City's Advisory Boards and Commissions at the Advisory Board's next meeting by Chair Wilson, seconded by Board Member Powell, and approved.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

13. ITEMS FROM ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Board Member Pier emphasized the need for more LGBTQ+ sensitivity training for City staff and individuals frequenting Social Justice Advisory Board meetings.

Board Member Luna also echoed Board Member Pier's statements on LGBTQ+ sensitivity training and encouraged the City to do more.

Chair Wilson echoed the sentiment and purpose of the Advisory Board and its commitment to ensuring all Board Members feel seen, safe, heard, and respected, and apologized if there were any members that felt disrespected at any point during the meeting. Chair Wilson also asked for feedback from the Board on policies, recommendations, or suggestions for talking points for the Sacramento Legislative Action Day for Elected Officials.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The Social Justice Advisory Board adjourned to its regular meeting scheduled for Tuesday, July 23, 2024, at 6:00pm at West Hollywood City Hall.

DocuSigned by:

Jonathan Wilson

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Chair | Jonathan Wilson

DocuSigned by:

Jasmine Duckworth

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Staff Liaison | Jasmine Duckworth