

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

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2023
7:00 P.M.**

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Egbuniwe called the meeting to order at 7:08pm.
2. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT:** Read by Chair 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 Sotile led the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. **ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Ron Cortes, Chiedu Egbuniwe, Nik Kacy, Renee F. Sotile, and Amber Whittington

ABSENT: Alec White

5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:**

ACTION: Motion to approve the December 14, 2023, Agenda as posted by Commissioner Kacy, seconded by Commissioner Sotile, and approved.

6. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

ACTION: Motion to approve the November 9, 2023, Meeting Minutes by Chair Egbuniwe, seconded by Commissioner Kacy, and approved.

7. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Nicholas Roybal introduced himself to the Commission and spoke about an incident that occurred at a recent City Council meeting.

8. RAINBOW KEY AWARDS

The LGBTQ+ Commission continued the discussion on the 2023 Rainbow Key Awards Ceremony, discussed production elements in connection with the event, and voted by consensus to approve a start time of 7:00pm for the 2023 Rainbow Key Awards.

Based on similar events, staff recommended an event start time of 7:00pm with a projected event end time of 9:00-9:30pm.

Commissioner Kacy asked staff if the majority of attendees at previous Rainbow Key Award events have been West Hollywood residents.

**Commissioner Cortes arrived at 7:18pm.*

Commissioner Sotile informed the Commission that attendance at previous events has been on the lighter side. Staff notified the Commission that the event will be televised so folks who are not able to attend in-person will be able to watch, and that staff can begin promoting during the nomination period. Staff will also work with the Commission and subcommittee to identify non-profits and organizations to help spread the word about the event. All City Commissioners and Advisory Board Members will also be invited to attend the event.

Nicholas Roybal – spoke about previous Rainbow Key Awards recipients, Val and Noel, who were recognized for their kindness and support to Nic and other West Hollywood residents and community members.

ACTION: Motion to appoint Chair Egbuniwe to the Rainbow Key Awards subcommittee, by Commissioner Sotile, seconded by Commissioner Kacy, and approved.

Commissioner Cortes – will be introducing nominee Rev Dr. Steve Peters
Chair Egbuniwe – will be introducing nominee Steven Reigns

Chair Egbuniwe made the suggestion to include the City's Laureates to take part in the Ceremony.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

10. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Kacy

Commissioner Kacy expressed an interest in making sure that next year's Rainbow Key Awards are shared with the community, offered support and assistance to the Rainbow Key Awards subcommittee, and wished everyone happy holidays.

Commissioner Cortes

Commissioner Cortes appreciated the decision to keep the Commission's December meeting and expressed excitement about future events.

Commissioner Sotile

Commissioner Sotile echoed Commissioner Kacy's sentiments about spreading the word about the Rainbow Key Awards. Commissioner Sotile also suggested that moving forward, the name of the person nominating a possible honoree is kept anonymous to create more equity. Commissioner Sotile also shared her experience attending the Fan Girl Café and encouraged the Commission to support the business, expressed interest in nominating Diana Nyad for a future Rainbow Key Award and wished everyone happy holidays.

Vice-Chair Whittington

Vice-Chair Whittington echoed the sentiments of Commissioner Kacy and Commissioner Sotile to spread the word about the Rainbow Key Awards to make sure community is aware. Vice-Chair Whittington also thanked the Commission for their work during their last meeting and wished everyone happy holidays.

Chair Egbuniwe

Chair Egbuniwe spoke about his lack of awareness about the Rainbow Key Awards and expressed interest in spreading the word. Chair Egbuniwe also reminded staff about the Commission's interest in providing feedback about Pride, provided a brief attendance report which included the City's TDOR event, West Hollywood Day, and a recent Planning Commission meeting. Chair Egbuniwe expressed gratitude for being on the Commission and thanked the Commission for their work.

A. LIAISON REPORTS

No liaison reports.

11. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Jennifer Del Toro, staff liaison thanked the Commission for providing their feedback on the Rainbow Key Awards and informed the Commission that staff will be having discussions about future Lesbian Speaker Series events.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The LGBTQ+ Commission adjourned at 8:10pm to its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, January 11, 2023, at 7:00 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.

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Chiedu Egbuniwe

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Chair Egbuniwe

DocuSigned by:

Jasmine Duckworth

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Recording Secretary | Jasmine Duckworth