

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

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2024
7:00 P.M.**

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Vice-Chair Whittington called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.
2. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT:** Read by Vice-Chair Whittington
“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 White led the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. **ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Ron Cortes, Nik Kacy, Renee F. Sotile, Alec White, and Amber Whittington

ABSENT: Chiedu Egbuniwe

5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

ACTION: Motion to approve the January 11, 2024, Agenda as posted by Commissioner Kacy, seconded by Commissioner White, and approved.

6. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

ACTION: Motion to approve the December 14, 2023, Meeting Minutes by Commissioner Kacy, seconded by Commissioner White, and approved.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

8. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. INFORMATION ON SOCIAL SERVICES AVAILABLE TO THE WEST HOLLYWOOD COMMUNITY, AS WELL AS SOCIAL SERVICES NEEDS ASSESSMENTS AND DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

The LGBTQ+ Commission received information on social services available to the West Hollywood community, as well as social services needs and demographic information as collected in the 2019 West Hollywood Community Study and the Social Services Needs Assessment Focused on Communities of Color.

ACTION: Received and filed.

Joseph Green, Co-Chair Pro Tempore on the LA County Commission on HIV shared information on their annual meeting which included an update on Post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) and Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and use throughout the County, and implored the Commission to educate the community about resources available.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. RAINBOW KEY AWARDS

The LGBTQ+ Commission received an update from Moya Marquez, the City's Community Programs Coordinator, on the 2023 Rainbow Key Awards Ceremony. Staff provided an update on the Poet and Drag Laureate's participation in the event and noted the Commission's interest in ensuring the TransChorus performed at the event.

Staff discussed nominee assignments. Commissioner Sotile agreed to introduce Brody Schaffer and Commissioner White agreed to introduce Bert Champagne.

Staff informed the Commission that each Commissioner will receive a script template and be responsible for drafting the script for the nominee they are presenting an award to.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

11. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Cortes

Commissioner Cortes thanked staff for sharing the report and update on Social Services programs and asked how the Commission can help ensure services are extended to residents who need them most. Commissioner Cortes provided a brief attendance report and thanked the City for cosponsoring the VIBEZ New Year's Eve event for the sober community.

Commissioner White

Commissioner White apologized for not being able to attend the last meeting, provided a brief attendance report, and expressed excitement about the upcoming City Council meeting and Mayoral Installation.

Commissioner Kacy

Commissioner Kacy thanked Moya for their work and efforts in the production of the 2023 Rainbow Key Awards Ceremony, as well as staff for their support and assistance

throughout the planning process. Moving forward, Commissioner Kacy requested that staff ask whether Commissioners want printed copies of the agenda packet and supporting documentation, asked about the public comment process at the Transgender Advisory Board meetings and inquired whether Social Services staff can attend a future Commission meeting as follow-up to the consent item on this agenda.

Commissioner Sotile

Commissioner Sotile thanked staff for their support and guidance in the planning of the 2023 Rainbow Key Awards event and asked for an update on 2024 Rainbow Key Awards nominations at the next meeting. Commissioner Sotile proposed the idea of allowing individuals to vote for 2024 Rainbow Key Award nominees via a QR code and provided a brief attendance report. Commissioner Sotile also suggested that the Commission partner with the event producers of the Long Beach Trans Pride for a future Commission event.

Staff liaison, Jennifer Del Toro notified the Commission that we have received a total of 8 nominations and the Commission will receive an update at the next Commission meeting.

Commissioner Sotile expressed concern with the Commission's involvement in Pride 2024 and asked how the Commission could be involved in the review of RFP's/applications, selection of the event producer, coordination and planning of the Dyke March, and other aspects of the Pride Event.

Yvonne Quarker, Director of Community Services, responded to Commissioner Sotile and explained that staff is scheduled to bring an update to Council at the January 22nd Council meeting. After the item is approved by Council, staff will be attending the Commission's February meeting to provide an update on WeHo Pride 2024 planning and gather feedback from the Commission. Yvonne provided clarity on the importance and role of the City's Commissions and spoke about the difference in areas of focus of the previously disbanded Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board and the LGBTQ+ Commission. Yvonne also clarified that the 2024 Dyke March would be produced by the Women's Freedom Festival and L Project and the West Hollywood City Council gives final approval of each approved RFP.

Commissioner Kacy asked how the Commission could partner with the L Project and Women's Freedom Festival in producing the Dyke March. Staff informed the Commission that the next meeting will include an item with an overview of upcoming programming and events scheduled for WeHo Pride 2024.

Vice-Chair Whittington echoed the sentiments expressed by Commissioner Sotile and Commissioner Kacy and shared her experience with the Dyke March. Vice-Chair Whittington shared interest in ensuring the Commission was more involved in the planning and production of the Dyke March.

Vice-Chair Whittington

Vice-Chair Whittington informed the Commission of her participation in the MLK Day parade and expressed excitement about the 2024 Mayoral Installation. Vice-Chair Whittington asked staff if the item about racial and disability discrimination occurring at bars and nightclubs could be brought back to the Commission. Lastly, Vice-Chair Whittington reminded the Commission of her involvement on District Attorney George Gascón's LGBTQ+ Advisory Board and told the Commission she would share details about an upcoming event at the next Commission meeting.

A. LIAISON REPORTS

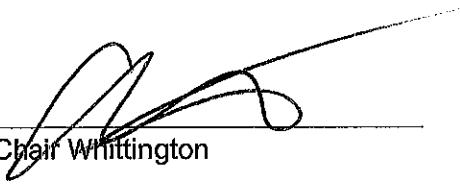
No liaison reports.

12. ITEMS FROM STAFF

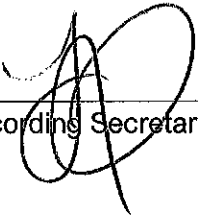
Jennifer Del Toro, staff liaison notified the Commissioners that they will receive a Pride update at their next meeting, in addition to a brief update on the 2024 Rainbow Key nominees, followed by a larger discussion at the Commission's March meeting.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The LGBTQ+ Commission adjourned at 8:01pm to its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, February 8, 2024, 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.



Vice Chair Whittington



Recording Secretary | Jasmine Duckworth