

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES – MAY 14, 2013
COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Vice Chair Steven L. Davis at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 14, 2013, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood.

A. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Roger Coggan.

B. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Ruth Cislowski, Steven L. Davis, Jimmy Palmieri, Bob Shepard,
Heidi Shink, Anne-Marie Williams, Mark Zangrando

Not Present: None.

A quorum was present at all times. Commissioner Cislowski joined the meeting in progress. Staff members present included Elizabeth Savage, Director of Human Services and Rent Stabilization; Daphne Dennis, Social Services Manager; David Giugni, Leslie Isenberg, and Corri Planck. Council Deputy Michelle Rex was also present.

C. **POSTING OF AGENDA**

The secretary reported notices for the meeting had been posted as required.

D. **PROCEDURE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

Persons desiring to address the meeting were asked to complete a form.

II. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the April 16, 2013, meeting were amended by adding a period to the last sentence in the second paragraph on Page 3, and then approved on a motion by Commissioner Shepard, seconded by Commissioner Zangrando.

III. **ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Council Deputy Michelle Rex spoke about the city's upcoming Harvey Milk Day recognition, and invited commission members to participate in the community photo project, which will feature residents and visitors with signs featuring quotes from speeches by the late San Francisco supervisor.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. MID-YEAR REPORT ON SOCIAL SERVICES

David Giugni introduced the mid-year report from social services agencies, noting that the sequester reducing Federal expenditures is in effect and likely to have an impact on housing, among other things.

Staff is recommending probation for the Gay & Lesbian Center's legal services program, due to low progress toward goals. Their relocation and staff issues were noted, as well as the news that numbers had improved in the April report.

The Commission received public comment from: Roger Coggan, GLC legal services; Marco Miranda, GLC legal services; Glenn Lindsay, GLC mental health services; Brett Holland, WeHo Life; Simon Costello, GLC youth services; and Maribel Ulloa, Aid for AIDS.

Commissioners discussed and received clarification of data submitted by the agencies, including PAWS L.A., and the Saban Clinic. Commissioner Shink noted that 40% or above is regarded as good at mid-year, but 35% or lower is a problem, and why the 5% difference is significant. Daphne Dennis said it depends on the nature of the category being reported.

Commissioner Zangrando noted the intake numbers for Center for Civic Mediation were low, which raised a concern about how resolutions of problems will be kept high in the future. Octavio Olivas from the Center for Civic Mediation said that the holidays tend to be a time of low intake, but that this increases from April/May through the end of the year. Commissioner Zangrando said he would be interested in what the numbers show on the next report.

B. CONDOM DISTRIBUTION PACKAGING AND PROGRAMS

Brett Holland of WeHo Life discussed trends in condom distribution, such as including a flat aluminum lube container rather than a 'pillow' container, and focusing advertising on more explicit material that draws the viewer's attention and interest. He distributed copies of images proposed for ads, including couples engaging physically in several locales: the tennis courts on top of the five-story parking structure in West Hollywood Park (with the Pacific Design Center in back); a bar, where he said the bottles of liquor would be obscured; and an alley or parking area, which he identified as the parking area behind the Gold Coast bar on Santa Monica Boulevard.

Commissioners disagreed on the suitability of the images. Commissioner Cislowski did not approve of images showing sexual activity in the park. Commissioner Palmieri said he was okay with the images as presented. Commissioner Zangrando said there is an element in the city which would only notice the location of the photos. Commissioner Shink said the efficacy of the approach is the most important element, and that what works, works. Commissioner Shepard said he was okay with the concept of the campaign

but not with the use of the tennis courts as a venue for depicting sexual activity. Commissioners Davis and Palmieri discussed not blurring the alcohol bottles in the bar photograph, because it was part of the location. Daphne Dennis said commissioners had provided the program with useful feedback.

C. REPORT ON RFP SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Daphne Dennis said the subcommittee on the social services request for proposals met today. Meetings of the subcommittee will be posted as public meetings, so more than three commissioners may be present if they wish to be. She said commissioners will be receiving a box of proposals, along with a form that Social Services staff uses to help review the contenders, as well as a summary of proposals by the staff, noting how they differ from existing programs.

D. SCHEDULE FOR THE RFP REVIEW MEETING WITH APPLICANTS

Commissioners discussed scheduling the RFP review meeting with applicant social services agencies, and settled on 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 25, 2013.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. HIV PREVENTION CAMPAIGN

David Giugni said June is HIV Prevention Month, and distributed images for an upcoming campaign, depicting powerful women and allies; transgender; couples with HIV+ and HIV- partners; and others.

B. RENOVATION AND USE OF WERLE BUILDING'S SECOND FLOOR

Daphne Dennis reviewed progress on improving the condition and use of the second floor of the Werle Building, 626 N. Robertson Blvd. at El Tovar Place, including ADA accessibility, inclusion of an elevator, and configuring space that can be used for programs. Council has approved moving forward with plans, and will consider funding the project in the future.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Shink spoke about the Senior Health Fair on May 22, the runoff election on May 21, and the Rainbow Key Awards on June 11.

Commissioner Cislowski attended the Kids Fair with her family.

Commissioner Davis spoke about the Tribe discussion group, the Being Alive event on aging and HIV medications, and a housing focus group.

Commissioner Zangrando asked that the meeting be adjourned in honor of Monsignor Jeremiah Murphy, who is celebrating his 50th year in the priesthood.

Commissioner Williams said APLA is holding a gathering for people who have worked there. She thanked the City for its work on homeless issues. She spoke about

Julyssa Guerva, who has been active with the West Hollywood Women's Leadership program, and recently lost her aunt, Maria Orosco.

Commissioner Palmieri spoke about the upcoming Recovery Row at Pride Festival, including Bill's Café. He said CSW had been good to work with in developing these aspects of the festival. He said the Institute for Public Strategies is funding this effort.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Elizabeth Savage spoke about the Rainbow Key awards, being held on June 11 in conjunction with The Lavender Effect. She thanked commissioners for their work.

Daphne Dennis spoke about Living in Limbo, the photography exhibit currently at the West Hollywood Library, and about Ivy Bottini being honored at this year's Dyke March.


VIII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no additional items from the public.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. in honor of Monsignor Jeremiah Murphy, pastor of Saint Victor Catholic Church, West Hollywood, on the occasion of his 50th anniversary in the ministry.

Signed:



5-9-15

Date