

**WEST HOLLYWOOD
DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
September 24, 2008**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Tom Pavich called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Debra Chodash led the pledge.

3. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Debra Chodash, Tom Pavich, Joel Ring, Steven Sawyer, Link Schrader, Anna Swett, and Rick Watts

ABSENT: Suzanne Dietrich

STAFF PRESENT: Craig Rhea and Kim Patterson

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for September 24, 2008 was approved.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes for August 27, 2008 were approved.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Alex Ghaffari, Los Angeles resident, asked for the Board's support of an amended version of the Steve Grissom Relief Fund Bill for people who received HIV-tainted blood transfusions.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. COPPS TEAM REPORT

Sgt. James Farrell, the head of the West Hollywood Sheriff's Department's COPPS (Community Oriented Policing and Problem Solving) Team, reported that the incidents of crime in West Hollywood have remained at approximately the same level as last year. There has been an increase in grand theft (\$400 and up), but other types of crime have decreased or remained at the same level. Sgt. Farrell explained that dialing 911 from a cell phone routes the call to the CHP; he advised adding the West Hollywood Sheriffs Dept. number (310.855.8850) to one's cell phone speed dial.

B. 2008 DISABILITY SERVICE AWARDS

The Board heard from the following community members regarding the nominations for the 2008 Disability Service Awards:

- Andrew Rakos, Administrator of Fountain Day School
- Angie Cooper, Director at Jewish Vocational Services
- Michael Arrigo of West Hollywood
- Elliott Simmons of West Hollywood
- Sgt. Jim Farrell of the Sheriff's Department's COPPS Team

The DAB selected the following recipients for the 2008 awards:

- Anny Semonco for the Individual award
- Fountain Day School for the Business award
- The Volunteers on Patrol Program of the West Hollywood Sheriff's Department for the Non-Profit award.
- (There were no nominees in the Media category.)

Recipients will be honored at the Board's televised meeting on October 22, 2008.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. OCTOBER 22, 2008 TELEVISED MEETING

After discussion, the DAB finalized the program as laid out in the draft agenda. The Gay Men's Chorus will perform at the beginning of the meeting for approximately 10 minutes. Nancy Foster, wife of Long Beach Mayor Bob Foster, will be the only presenter on the agenda and will speak for 20-30 minutes (including time for questions and answers from the Board).

It was decided that the following Board members would join a Councilmember in presenting the 2008 Disability Service Awards:

- Individual Award to be presented by Anna Swett
- Business Award to be presented by Link Schrader
- Non-Profit Award to be presented by Rick Watts

9. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Craig Rhea made the following announcements:

- Joyce Rooney, Transportation & Transit Operations Supervisor, is seeking a volunteer from the DAB to assist with the City Line transit vehicle acquisition process. Link Schrader volunteered and noted that he's unavailable to meet during the day at this time. Anna Swett and Rick Watts also volunteered if Link is unable to participate.
- The DAB is encouraged to attend the Oct. 6th Council meeting to receive the Disability Awareness Month proclamation.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Michael Arrigo requested clarification between a business and a non-profit.

11. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/LIAISON UPDATES

Rick Watts reported that he was in Denver last month for the Democratic National Convention.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Pavich adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 22, 2008 at 6:00pm in the West Hollywood Auditorium, 647 N. San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90069.

Tom Pavich

Chairperson – Tom Pavich