

**WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES – MAY 13, 2003**  
**COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL**

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. CALL TO ORDER

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Chair Peter Mackler at 6:05 p.m., Tuesday, May 13, 2003, in the Community Conference Room at 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

B. ROLL CALL

The Pledge of Allegiance was repeated.

Present: Ruth Cislowski, Steven Davis, Ponsella Gratton,  
Dr. Bill Griffin, Peter Mackler.

Excused: John D'Amico, Teresa DeCrescenzo.

A quorum was present at all times. Staff present included Daphne Dennis, Social Services Administrator; Tom West, City Clerk-designate; and Jeff Book.

C. POSTING OF AGENDA

The Secretary reported that 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 request form.

II. MINUTES

The minutes for April 8, 2003, were approved on a motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Griffin. Commissioner Mackler abstained due to his absence from that meeting.

III. COMMISSION PRESENTATION

All of the commissioners congratulated Tom West, the city's longest-serving social services program specialist, on his appointment as City Clerk. Commissioners said it would be difficult to find a replacement with the strengths that Tom brought to the social services division, and were glad that he will still be with the City in this new capacity.

Commissioner Mackler said there were many people in the community, including many who may not know Tom's name, whose lives are better because of Tom's participation in the design and execution of social services programs.

Tom said he had served 25 years in social services, including 15 for the City of West Hollywood. He thanked Daphne Dennis for her respectful, creative, and humane management, and said he hoped to emulate that in his new position.

#### IV. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Michael Arrigo, a public access television producer who is completing two terms on the Disability Advisory Board, introduced himself and said that he has applied to serve on the Human Services Commission.

David Lash, former executive director of Bet Tzedek, introduced Mitch Kamen, the attorney chosen as his successor there. Lash said he was proud of the relationship between the City and Bet Tzedek, and thanked staff, especially Daphne Dennis and Diane Kahn-Epstein, for their cooperation. Lash is joining O'Melveny & Myers as director of the firm's *pro bono* work statewide.

Mitch Kamen, new executive director of Bet Tzedek, greeted the commissioners and said he was looking forward to working with them.

#### V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

#### VI. NEW BUSINESS

##### A. NEW HOMELESS SHELTER OPTIONS

Joel Roberts of PATH had been scheduled to present an update on new homeless shelter options, but was unable to attend. Daphne Dennis presented the update, including news of a facility that PATH will operate near Covenant House in Hollywood, which is convenient to the West Hollywood community. PATH is also working on installing on its main property a transitional living program for persons living with HIV/AIDS. Its main program is consistently utilized at maximum capacity.

##### B. NATURALLY OCCURRING RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES

Daphne Dennis provided a handout from JFS regarding naturally occurring retirement communities (NORCs), which they anticipate will be the focus of a new program. The City will put together an advisory board, incorporating members

form the Senior Advisory Board and the Human Services Commission, to help JFS in forming the program. Federal funding is a good possibility.

Michael Sidler of West Hollywood said that many supportive services exist in the community, but there needs to be improved distribution of information about them by the persons and programs best able to do so. She asked to be notified of any meetings that are held to plan improved distribution of information about supportive services.

C. PUBLIC SCHOOL SUMMIT REPORT

Daphne Dennis reported on the public school summit held recently by call of Councilmembers Heilman and Land, which provided an excellent opportunity to share information and develop further cooperation among area schools. Future meetings are likely. There is discussion of whether a local school could become a charter school.

VII. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Cislowski asked how disability access to public locations is overseen. Daphne Dennis said that specific information about sites is needed, and that the Code Enforcement staff examines properties for compliance with the law. The Disabilities Advisory Board has brought several situations to the attention of the City.

Commissioner Mackler thanked Nancy Beard for the well-organized and meaningful Yom Hashoah program, which he said was one of the best things the City does.

Commissioner Mackler asked whether minutes or notices of actions were being provided to Council on a regular basis. Daphne Dennis and Jeff Book said the acting City Clerk met with staff liaisons recently to reorganize the provision of reports to Council on a timely basis, and that Council will be receiving regular informational items in their agenda packets regarding Commission actions and meetings. The Council is also planning to do a study session regarding board and commission staffing.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

There were no further items from staff.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

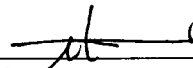
There were no further items from the public.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 10, 2003, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall.

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Signed:   
Steven L. Davis

Attest:

