

**WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES – MARCH 14, 2006**  
**COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Chair Steven L. Davis at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 14, 2006, in the Rent Stabilization Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was repeated.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Gary Augeri, Ruth Cislowski, Steven L. Davis,  
Deb Farmer, Charles Henry, Peter Mackler, Shirley Roberts.

Not Present: None.

A quorum was present at all times. Commissioner Cislowski joined the meeting in progress. Staff present included Lloyd R. Long, Director of Human Services; Daphne Dennis, Social Services Administrator; David Giugni, Leslie Isenberg, 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. INSTALLATION OF NEW COMMISSIONER

Newly-appointed Commissioner Deb Farmer repeated and signed the oath of office, and was welcomed to the Commission.

III. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of February 14, 2006, were moved by Commissioner Mackler, seconded by Commissioner Augeri, and approved, 5 to 0, with Commissioner Farmer abstaining.

IV. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no items from the public.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. AGENCY REPORTS

Neil Aves provided the monthly update on AIDS Healthcare Foundation, which he said was doing well on meeting program goals. Commissioner Henry asked for the agency to be sure to break down data by West Hollywood and non-West Hollywood categories. David Giugni noted that this completes the six-month probation for AIDS Healthcare Foundation.

Micky Robbins and Jason Roundy provided the update from APLA, noting that Medicare problems are changing from enrollment issues to fulfillment issues, and that they expect an influx of new cases this month. David Giugni noted that this is the end of the six-month probation for APLA.

Commissioner Henry asked that a discussion about the kinds of data being collected be scheduled.

Tripp Mills reported on community mobilization on behalf of WeHo Life, including outreach and discussion achievements, and condom distribution figures. Probation for this group is in the fourth month, and continues through May. Commissioner Henry said he would need to be persuaded of the importance of this program in the context of other challenges facing the City, with regard to funding for upcoming years.

B. COMMUNITY STUDY RESULTS

Following Sara Kocher's presentation at a previous meeting, Cathy Berger Kaye provided information about the forum and focus groups conducted for the community study, including meetings with persons with disabilities, persons living with HIV/AIDS, families with children, G/L, Russians, seniors, and women.

Some themes that emerged from these meetings were: (1) small town in a big city; (2) social services; (3) affordable housing; (4) traffic and parking; and (5) the arts. These themes will be explored in more detail when the final report is submitted.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. JOINT STUDY SESSION WITH ADVISORY BOARD CHAIRS

The Commission welcomed comment from chairs of the city's advisory boards, with regard to social services priorities for 2006-2008.

Lyndia Lowy of the Women's Advisory Board spoke about the need to maintain a welcoming atmosphere for women in the city, and a need for a good one-stop

source of information about social services. The L.A. Jewish Community Guide is an example of reference material gathered in one location, and the City could do something similar. She also spoke about self-defense training; rape victim resources; and after-school programs at all grade levels.

Ric Rickles of the Senior Advisory Board spoke about the high cost of housing, with rents rising faster than Social Security, and presenting a hardship to many living on a fixed income. He also spoke about maintaining good transportation options, and the cost of prescription drugs. He thanked the Council, Commission, and department for being very supportive of seniors in West Hollywood.

Andrey Pronin of the Russian Advisory Board spoke about immigrants as a major group in West Hollywood, and said that for immigrants from the former Soviet Union, important services included legal and mediation programs, landlord/tenant services, case management, advocacy, medical, nutrition, employment, mental health, substance abuse, and HIV prevention. He also spoke about improving services for children, teenagers, and problem youth, and about a need for citizenship programs.

Harrison Kline-Aguado of the Disabilities Advisory Board spoke about the need for accessibility to always be considered in community-wide services, including streets, meetings, and information services. He noted the recent prize to the city for accessibility, an award which also went to Cambridge, Mass., and Austin, Texas.

The Lesbian & Gay Advisory Board will discuss this topic at their next meeting, and give comments to staff and commissioners through its co-chairs, Ivy Bottini and Jeff Yarbrough.

Commissioner Henry asked what social services were working well and which were not. Ric Rickles said that many issues affect all the people of the city, including safety, protection from abuse, identity theft. Harrison Kline-Aguado added emergency preparedness as a topic crossing all boundaries.

## VII. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Farmer noted that she cannot be at the March 28 public hearing, and Commissioner Mackler said he may be late to that meeting.

Recognition plaques are in process for Commissioner Cislawski's service as chair, and for former Commissioner Gratton.

The Council reorganization meeting is on April 17.

## VIII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Daphne Dennis discussed the accessibility prize.

IX. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Kelly Alexander introduced herself as a liaison from the Women's Advisory Board.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

The next meeting is a public hearing scheduled for 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 28, 2006, in Rooms 5 and 6, Plummer Park Community Center, 7377 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 11, 2006, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 7377 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Steven L. Davis

Attest:

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