

**HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2024
PLUMMER PARK - ROOMS 5 & 6
7377 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD
6:00 PM**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Eyres called the meeting to order at 6:01pm and read the Land Acknowledgement.

A. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Commissioner Borelli
Commissioner Davis
Commissioner Palmieri
Commissioner Williams
Commissioner Wyville
Vice-Chair Adolphson
Chair Eyres

Absent: None.

ALSO Leslie Isenberg, Acting Human Services Manager

PRESENT: Derek Murray, Acting Social Services Supervisor
Michelle Liberman, Commission Secretary, Human Services Specialist

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chair Eyres led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Human Services Commission is requested to approve the Agenda for March 12, 2024.

ACTION: Approved the Agenda of Tuesday, March 12, 2024. **Motion by Commissioner Borelli, seconded by Commissioner Palmieri and approved by roll call vote.**

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Human Services Commission is requested to approve the minutes of the Human Services Commission meeting of Tuesday, February 13, 2024.

ACTION: Approved the minutes of February 13, 2024. **Motion by Commissioner Davis** to approve, **seconded by Wyville, and approved by roll call vote.**

E. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR:

A. HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION 2024 WORK PLAN

ACTION: Approved as part of the agenda.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS TO THE CITY COUNCIL FOR APRIL, MAY, AND JUNE 2024

The Human Services Commission finalized liaison assignments for the upcoming three months. Commissioner Davis will attend the April 15th council meeting highlighting Sexual Transmitted Infection Awareness Month. Vice-Chair Adolphson will attend the May 6th council meeting highlighting Older Adult Month, as well as the May 20th council meeting highlighting Mental Health Awareness Month. Commissioner Wyville will attend the June 10th and 24th council meeting highlighting LGBTQ Month.

ACTION: Received and discussed.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

A. BET TZEDEK LEGAL SERVICES - EVICTION DEFENSE AND PREVENTION PROGRAM

The Human Services Commission received an update on the Eviction Defense and Prevention Program from Henrissa Basse, Directing Attorney of the Preventing and Ending Homelessness Project team at Bet Tzedek Legal Services. The program offers eviction prevention through free rapid response legal services, including advice and counsel or demand letters, and eviction defense through various legal procedures such as summons and complaints, filing paperwork, serving paperwork, settlements, trials, or dismissals. In the 2023-24 contract year, the program handled a total of 229 cases, serving 334 individuals in households. Support was provided for issues including nonpayment of rent, nuisance

complaints, habitability concerns, parking space disputes, repairs, heating, showers, and pest control.

Commissioners asked questions and expressed gratitude to Bet Tzedek for their dedicated hard work in serving the community.

ACTION: Received and filed.

B. RENT STABILIZATION ANNUAL UPDATE

The Human Services Commission will receive the Rent Stabilization annual update.

ACTION: Item was tabled.

5. ITEMS FROM STAFF:

Derek Murray, Acting Social Services Supervisor, informed the Commission that Health Care in Action received a \$500k grant to provide HIV care and services to community members experiencing homelessness. Additionally, he announced an upcoming harm reduction event organized by the Institute for Public Strategies on Wednesday, April 10th, from 1 PM to 5 PM at the southeast corner of La Brea and Santa Monica. Multiple contracted providers and community partners will be participating in this event, which aims to address the concerning trend of overdoses among unhoused community members.

Leslie Isenberg, Acting Human Services Manager, reminded the Commission about their liaison assignments to City Commissions and Advisory Boards. Additionally, she provided an update on scheduling the Commission's agency site visits. Lastly, she acknowledged the Commission's desire to host a televised meeting.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

7. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Davis expressed appreciation for the arrangement of the room.

Commissioner Palmieri inquired on the utilization of HIA's \$500k grant and also requested data regarding the number of unhoused community members currently benefiting from HIV services. Additionally, he expressed concerns regarding safe

needle disposal in public areas.

Commissioner Wyville echoed Commissioner Palmieri's emphasis on the importance of harm reduction strategies and safe needle disposal. Additionally, he requested staff to provide the demographic information presented by Bet Tzedek.

Commissioner Williams noted her recent public comment at the City Council meeting and pledged to direct questions raised to Diane Kahn-Epstein, Strategic Initiatives Supervisor. Commissioner Williams attended Movies in the Park and commended the recreation staff for organizing community events.

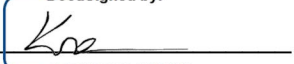
Commissioner Borelli noted his recent public comment at City Council, focusing on food and nutrition issues and expressed gratitude to Diane Kahn-Epstein, Strategic Initiatives Supervisor, for her informative input. He requested to adjourn in honor of LGBT activist David Mixner, highlighting his impactful work on both coasts, including in LA, NY, and DC.

Vice-Chair Adolphson thanked the staff for their work. She spoke of her attendance at the recent Public Safety Commission meeting and highlighted the valuable contributions of Block By Block within the city.

Chair Eyres thanked everyone for their hard work and highlighted her attendance at the City's social media and Brown Act training.

8. **ADJOURNMENT:** The **Human Services Commission** adjourned at 7:11pm to a regularly scheduled meeting on **Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at 6:00 pm** at the Plummer Park Community Center, Rooms 5 & 6, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, California.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION ON THIS 13th DAY OF
FEBRUARY, 2024.

DocuSigned by:

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KAREN EYRES,
CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:

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STAFF LIAISON

A copy of the audio recording of this meeting can be obtained from the City Clerk's office upon request.

(Disclaimer: Staff records the meetings for the sole purpose of composing the official meeting minutes; therefore, the recordings are not of commercial quality.)