

**HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 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 Wyville
Chair Eyres

Absent: Commissioner Williams
Vice-Chair Adolphson

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: Commissioner Borelli led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Human Services Commission is requested to approve the Agenda for April 9, 2024.

ACTION: Approved the Agenda of Tuesday, April 9, 2024. **Motion by Commissioner Borelli, seconded by Commissioner Wyville 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, March 12, 2024.

ACTION: Approved the minutes of Tuesday, March 12, 2024. **Motion by Commissioner Borelli** to approve, **seconded by Davis, and approved by roll call vote.**

E. PUBLIC COMMENT:

YOLA DORE, CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD – Spoke about limited resources for catastrophic illnesses. She encouraged the Commission to support persons affected by cancer, HIV, MS, and other chronic illnesses.

JOESEPH GREEN, CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD – Spoke about an upcoming Harm Reduction Event by the LA County Commission for HIV in partnership with the Harm Reduction Institute taking place on Monday, April 29th, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm on 6th and Vermont.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR:

A. OLDER ADULT MONTH PROGRAMMING 2024

The Human Services Commission received information on activities taking place during May in recognition of Older Adult Month.

ACTION: Approved as part of the agenda.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF THE HOLLOWAY INTERIM HOUSING PROGRAM

The Human Services Commission received an update from Francisco Gomez, Strategic Initiatives Program Administrator, on the progress of the Holloway Interim Housing Program.

Commissioners expressed unanimous support for the project and asked clarifying questions.

Commissioner Davis raised questions regarding the relocation of the entrance/exit from Santa Monica to Holloway. He sought clarification on code compliance, emergency exits, security arrangements, and the funding allocation.

Commissioner Palmieri expressed full support for the project, anticipating increased community backing once operational. He inquired about policies regarding emotional support animals and commended Ascencia's involvement for their compassionate sheltering approach.

Commissioner Wyville inquired about the project's timeline feasibility and potential acceleration. He sought clarification on harm reduction policies, duration of stay, and explored avenues for community support and financial assistance.

Commissioner Borelli acknowledged construction challenges and expressed strong support for the project design, emphasizing solar integration and an open yet secure layout. He also inquired about transitional housing options.

Chair Eyres conveyed enthusiasm for the project and sought clarification on the funding allocation and the City's maintenance responsibilities. She also inquired about guest policies, security measures, and received information on 24/7 on-site security and surveillance systems.

ACTION: Received and filed.

B. COMMISSION AND ADVISORY BOARD LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS

The Human Services Commission discussed Commission and Advisory Board liaison assignments.

Commissioner Eyres will serve as the primary liaison for the Older Adult Advisory Board, and the secondary for the Disability Advisory Board. Commissioner Borelli will serve as the primary liaison for the Disability Advisory Board, the secondary for the Older Adult Advisory Board, and has been removed as the liaison for the Transportation and Mobility Commission. Commissioner Wyville will serve as the primary liaison for the Rent Stabilization Commission, and the secondary for the Public Safety Commission.

ACTION: Received and discussed.

C. WEHO PRIDE 2024 PARADE PARTICIPATION

The Human Services Commission called for volunteers for members interested in riding on the WeHo Pride Parade float on Sunday, June 2, 2024.

ACTION: Commissioner Davis and Commissioner Palmieri were selected as participants for the pride float.

5. ITEMS FROM STAFF:

Derek Murray, Acting Social Services Supervisor, announced in recognition of HIV and AIDS Awareness Day, an upcoming harm reduction outreach event hosted by the Institute of Public Strategies. Scheduled for Wednesday, April 10th from 1 pm to 5 pm, the event will take place at the southwest corner of Santa Monica and La Brea. The purpose of the event is to provide access to vital services offered by 11 different agencies, including Being Alive, Healthcare in Action, APLA, LGBT Center. Services include HIV testing, health screenings, needle exchange, harm reduction supplies, and more.

Derek announced that the Human Services Division will feature a booth at the upcoming Pride Festival, scheduled for Saturday, June 1st, and Sunday, June 2nd, from 12 pm to 8 pm. Human Services Commissioners are encouraged to volunteer to distribute harm reduction supplies such as fentanyl test strips, drink test spiking strips, and other giveaways.

Derek shared that Health Care in Action will be presenting to the Public Safety Commission on Monday, May 13th, 6pm in the Council Chambers.

Leslie Isenberg, Acting Human Services Manager, expressed her gratitude to the Commission for their unwavering commitment and continued support of the work of the Human Services Division. She announced that Derek Murray, Acting Social Services Supervisor, would serve as the Commission's primary staff liaison moving forward. Additionally, Leslie shared that the recruitment process is underway for a Human Services Division Manager.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

7. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Davis shared news of his appointment to a board on homelessness by Assemblymember Zbur. He will be attending in a citizen capacity and will report back to the Commission. Commissioner Davis expressed great excitement about this opportunity and extended congratulations to Leslie on her retirement.

Commissioner Palmieri recently attended an event hosted by Being Alive, featuring Mark S. King, who shared his experiences living with HIV. Additionally, he spoke about organizing a successful Facebook birthday fundraiser, where he raised over \$500 for Alliance for Housing and Healing, emphasizing the importance of community support.

Commissioner Palmieri thanked Leslie for her dedicated years of service and her invaluable contributions to the community. He acknowledged Leslie's consistency and extensive knowledge, expressing heartfelt appreciation and best wishes for her future endeavors.

Commissioner Wyville announced the appointment of two Commissioners for the inaugural LA County LGBTQ Commission, noting the conclusion of the Executive Director search. Furthermore, Commissioner Wyville emphasized his participation at the Williams Institute Gala, highlighting the remarkable advocacy work for LGBTQ individuals at both local and national levels. Finally, he extended heartfelt congratulations to Leslie on her retirement.

Commissioner Borelli emphasized the impactful work of the Williams Institute and extended congratulations for reaching their 25th year anniversary. Additionally, he announced his participation in an NCJW Advocacy Panel and will report back to the Commission. Commissioner Borelli also expressed intentions to connect with Chair Dore to discuss critical needs surrounding catastrophic illnesses. He thanked Leslie for her longstanding service, noting his tenure on the Public Safety Commission since 2003 and subsequent transition to the HSC in 2015.

Chair Eyres echoed the sentiments of the Commissioners and extended gratitude to Leslie. She highlighted the popularity of last year's Pride swag items, particularly the mini collapsible dog bowls with water. Chair Eyres expressed interest in further exploring the potential of sharing community resources beyond City Council meetings and would like to discuss additional options.

8. **ADJOURNMENT:** The **Human Services Commission** adjourned at 7:12pm to a regularly scheduled meeting on **Tuesday, May 14, 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 11th
DAY OF JUNE, 2024.

DocuSigned by:

3A770360964C485...
KAREN EYRES,
CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

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STAFF LIAISON

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

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