

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Commissioner Davis called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm and read the Land Acknowledgment.

A. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Commissioner Borelli
Commissioner Davis
Commissioner Palmieri
Commissioner Williams
Commissioner Wyville
Chair Eyres ***arrived at 6:17pm***

Absent: Vice Chair Adolphson

ALSO Wendy Barreno, Human Services Manager

PRESENT: Derek Murray, Social Services Supervisor
Amy Valdepeña, Commission Secretary, Human Services Specialist

- B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Jamie Baker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Human Services Commission is requested to approve the meeting agenda for November 12, 2024.

ACTION: Approved the Agenda of Tuesday, November 12, 2024, with the amendment of moving Item 4.A after 4.B **motion by Commissioner Borelli, seconded by Commissioner Wyville and approved by roll call vote.** Noting the absence of Vice Chair Adolphson and Chair Eyres.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Human Services Commission is requested to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2024, Human Services Commission meeting.

ACTION: Approved the minutes of October 8, 2024, with the amendment of Commissioner Palmieri, **motion by Commissioner Wyville** to approve, **seconded by Commissioner Borelli, and**

approved by roll call vote. Noting the absence of Vice Chair Adolphson, and Chair Eyres.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

Arash Shamsian, Beverly Hills – Spoke on Population Health Management for Senior Services in the City of West Hollywood.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR: None

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

4. NEW BUSINESS

Item moved under 4.B

A. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

The Human Services Commission elected a Chair and Vice Chair for the term ending in November 2025 in an election conducted by Lulu Morales, Assistant City Clerk with the City of West Hollywood.

ACTION: Commissioner Palmieri motioned to nominate Vice Chair Adolphson as Chair and approved unanimously, noting the absence of Vice Chair Adolphson.

Commissioner Davis motioned to nominate Commissioner Williams as Vice Chair and approved, noting a no vote from Commissioner Palmieri and noting the absence of Vice Chair Adolphson.

B. AGENCY DEVELOPMENT GRANT RECIPIENT REPORT

The Human Services Commission received a report from the recipients of Agency Development Grants in 2023-24. The following agencies provided a brief presentation: Being Alive - Jamie Baker, Executive Director, Housing Works - Celina Alvarez, Executive Director and James Moran, Director of Permanent Supportive Housing, and Maple Counseling - Kathleen Kim, Senior Director of the Briskin | Wilder Welcome Center.

Commissioners thanked the presenters and followed up with brief questions and comments.

ACTION: Receive and discuss.

C. PAUL ANDREW STARKE WARRIOR AWARDS

The Human Services Commission received a report on the Paul Andrew Starke Warrior Awards, along with the programming scheduled for the 24th annual Paul Andrew Starke Warrior Awards taking place at the City Council Chambers on Wednesday, December 4th, 2024, with reception at 5:30pm and programming at 6:30pm. This event will recognize staff and volunteers who provide outstanding HIV prevention and care services to the West

Hollywood community. Non-profit organizations and local businesses that participate in the City's HIV and Substance Use Prevention Providers Collaborative select one individual to be awarded at the event.

Award assignments were discussed with the Commission. Commissioners were invited to volunteer as co-presenters for the Paul Andrew Starke Warrior Awards.

ACTION: Receive and discuss.

D. COMMISSION AND ADVISORY BOARD LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS

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

Commissioner Davis will replace Commissioner Palmieri as the primary liaison for the LGBTQ+ Commission. All other assignments will remain the same.

ACTION: Receive and discuss.

5. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Derek Murray gave the Commission a brief update about On-Call Transportation Services provided by contracted provider Ambiance for older adults and people with disabilities. He also informed that City staff will come back with a presentation to the Commission for discussion.

Wendy Barreno informed the Commission that at its October 21, 2024, meeting, the City Council approved two actions to increase visibility for the Human Services Commission and available social services. First, the City Council directed City staff to initiate a pilot program to video-record all Commission meetings, with a six-month review to evaluate its impact and consider expanding to all Boards and Commissions. Second, staff were tasked with creating a marketing campaign to highlight contracted human and social services available to West Hollywood community members. She also informed the Commission that staff can bring this back for additional discussion.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

NA

7. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Davis– Requested to have public commenter Arash Shamsian come back to the Human Services Commission and present more on Population Health Management for Senior Services. He also informed Staff and the Commission that he is interested in providing public comment for December's City Council meeting. In addition, he informed the Commission that he is in agreement with some concerns that Commissioner Palmieri addressed. He thanked Chair Eyres for an amazing job as Chair of the Human Services

Commission.

Commissioner Palmieri– Informed the Commission that the Ambiance app had not been functioning, but that rides could still be requested by phone. He shared his long-standing experience with the Commission, recalling when he brought attention to the conditions associated with PATH funding. He noted that, despite initial staff opposition, the BOOM New Year’s Eve event became a major success, drawing over 700 attendees. Similarly, when he initially sought funding for SIZZLE, it was met with resistance, but the event has since become the top Pride destination.

Commissioner Palmieri further explained that he would not participate in the Warrior Awards this year, despite it being a favorite event, because of the nomination process. He was required to choose only one nominee, despite having two nominees. He expressed that the awards have transitioned from being the Commission’s awards to what he perceives as staff-directed awards. Additionally, he voiced concern that the Commission's responsibilities and visibility were being diminished by not livestreaming the Commission meetings. He also questioned the inconsistency of allowing only two minutes for Commissioners’ comments at City Council meetings, while other public commenters, even those who shout or use inappropriate language, were not similarly restricted.

Commissioner Borelli– Shared that he supports Commissioner Palmieri.

Commissioner Williams– Expressed appreciation for Commissioner Palmieri’s comments. She noted that she had been advocating for marketing efforts for nearly 10 years without success. She also thanked Chair Eyres for a great job with the Human Services Commission.

Commissioner Williams shared that several residents had recently reached out to her, asking for a support group following the election. Incidents of defacement, including tagging, stickers, and slurs, had caused some residents to feel unsafe in their neighborhoods. Commissioner Williams spoke with several Councilmembers about creating a safe, supportive space for residents. She emphasized the need for the Commission to consider how they could help restore a sense of security and empowerment within the West Hollywood community, acknowledging that safety concerns were now a priority.

Commissioner Wyville– Showed appreciation to all for sharing. He empathized that we need to continue moving forward with making people's lives better.

Chair Eyres– Congratulated the new Chair Adolphson and Vice Chair Williams on being elected for the Human Services Commission.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The Human Services Commission adjourned at 7:45 pm, to its next Regular Meeting on Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at 6:00 pm at the Plummer Park Community Center, Rooms 5 & 6.

Notice: Written materials distributed to the Human Services Commission within 72 hours of this meeting are available for public inspection immediately upon distribution at the Department of Human Services and Rent Stabilization, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, California, 90069, during normal business hours. They will also be available for inspection at the staff liaison's table during the Commission meeting.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION ON THIS 10th DAY OF DECEMBER, 2024.

Signed by:

9FFE53E1DA2D4740
SARAH ADOLPHSON,
CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:
DocuSigned by:

E04B90E0D728E0
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.)

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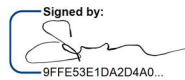
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Sarah Adolphson

sarah@theartemis.agency

Security Level: Email, Account Authentication
(None)

Signature

Signed by:

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Signature Adoption: Drawn on Device

Using IP Address: 76.50.246.27

Signed using mobile

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DEREK MURRAY

DMurray@weho.org

Social Services Supervisor

Security Level: Email, Account Authentication
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In Person Signer Events

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Certified Delivery Events

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Carbon Copy Events

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