

**HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2025
PLUMMER PARK - ROOMS 5 & 6
7377 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD
6:00 PM**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Adolphson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and read the Land Acknowledgement.

A. ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Christof Schroeder, Director of Human Services
Christine Safriet, Assistant to the City Manager
Derek Murray, Social Services Supervisor
Maribel Ulloa, Social Services Program Administrator
DeeA'na Saunders, Social Services Program Administrator
Michelle Liberman, Social Services Program Administrator
Isaac Arredondo, Social Services Program Administrator
Amy Valdepeña, Commission Secretary, Human Services Specialist

- B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Chair Adolphson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Human Services Commission is requested to approve the meeting agenda for January 14, 2025.

ACTION: Approved the Agenda of Tuesday, January 14, 2025.
Motion by Commissioner Borelli seconded by Commissioner Eyres and approved by roll call vote.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Human Services Commission is requested to approve the minutes

of the December 10, 2024, Human Services Commission meeting.

ACTION: Approved the minutes of December 10, 2024, **Motion by Commissioner Davis** to approve, **seconded by Commissioner Wyville**, and noting the abstain of Commissioner Palmieri.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

LIZA CEBALLOS, WEST HOLLYWOOD – Introduced Stacey Dean, the new Program Coordinator for the TRUE program with, the TransLatin@ Coalition.

RENEE SOTILE, WEST HOLLYWOOD – Spoke about Community Cats and would like the program to be in the WeHo Pages brochure.

SAM ELBAZ, WEST HOLLYWOOD – A volunteer with the SOVA meal program, proposed an idea to provide free daytime lockers outside city facilities.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR:

A. [2024-25 AWARD OF AGENCY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS](#)

The Human Services Commission received a report on the 2024-25 funding awards for Agency Development Grants.

Commissioner Davis expressed his satisfaction on the 2024-25 funding awards for Agency Development Grants report.

ACTION: Received and filed. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.**

B. [GRANTS IN THE SCHOOLS PROGRAM UPDATE](#)

The Human Services Commission received a report on the 2024-25 Grants in the Schools program.

ACTION: Receive and filed. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.**

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. [2024-25 YEAR-END REPORT ON SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAMS](#)

The Human Services Commission received the year-end report on social Services programs for the 2024-25 contract year.

Staff gave a verbal report and presented a slide deck summarizing the

2023-24 Year-End Report on Social Services Programs.

Commissioners thanked staff and agencies for their work and asked questions. Commissioner input was limited and supportive; overall they seemed to view the programs as very successful and were mindful that agencies are working hard to meet and often exceed their goals.

Commissioner Borelli - Thanked everyone and expressed his satisfaction with the overall progress, noting fewer concerns compared to past reports. He praised the care-first model. Feedback included:

- Suggested that staff explore ways to simplify the reporting process for providers.
- Encouraged efforts to improve food access for youth.
- Urged further efforts to raise awareness of DCRC services.
- Suggested WehoLife program outreach expand beyond LGBT-focused spaces, particularly with drink test strips for women.

Commissioner Davis - Commended staff and agencies for their work, noting the report was well-prepared and readable. Praised the opening of the women's house. Feedback included:

- Raised concerns about Awakening Recovery, suggested efforts to increase utilization and reach more people.

Commissioner Palmeri – Commended Awakening Recovery for exceptional placements. Feedback included:

- Suggested Awakening Recovery's fee-for-service programming should be measured by individual outcomes rather than annual goals
- Encouraged WeHoLife to expand distribution to Sunset and Melrose.

Commissioner Eyres – Praised the city's approach to addressing homelessness, emphasizing the number of permanent and transitional housing placements. Acknowledged Seeds of Hope for supporting housed individuals with fresh produce and SOVA for providing ready-to-eat options tailored to unhoused individuals.

Commissioner Wyville - Thanked staff for the comprehensive report and expressed gratitude to the providers for their dedicated work. Feedback included:

- Encouraged all to remain mindful of community members who may not live in West Hollywood but still require assistance.

Vice- Chair Williams - Highlighted the Translatin@ Coalition for successfully placing people in jobs. Feedback included:

- Noted Project Angel Food's progress and suggested they should aim for 100% service to all eligible residents, not just seniors or those with medical needs.

Chair Adolphson - Thanked the providers and staff for their exceptional work, highlighting positive impacts. Feedback included:

- Noted potential for collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce to help connect job seekers with local opportunities. Suggested exploring a formal partnership to support local job placement efforts.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

SAM ELBAZ, WEST HOLLYWOOD - Thanked the providers and staff for their work, highlighting the impact of their efforts. Inquired about transitional housing to permanent housing.

LIZA CEBALLOS, WEST HOLLYWOOD – Thanked the Commissioners and staff for the opportunity to serve in the community.

JOHN GILE, LOS ANGELES – From Project Angel Food, an ambassador and delivery driver for the organization, expressed deep gratitude to the West Hollywood community.

CELESTE GARCIA, EAST HOLLYWOOD – Case manager from Translatin@ expressed her gratitude to West Hollywood for the collaborative relationship.

YOLE DORE, WEST HOLLYWOOD – Expressed gratitude to the Commissioners and staff.

ANDY SACHER – Expressed his honor in serving the West Hollywood community. He also shared their recent West Hollywood Diversity Job Fair.

ACTION: Received and filed.

B. [HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION 2025 WORK PLAN](#)

The Human Services Commission reviewed the 2024 Work Plan and discussed its Workplan for 2025.

Commissioners discussed and approved their 2025 workplan. They will be focusing on the 3-year Social Services RFP process throughout the spring and summer and requested to have HIA and Block by Block Presentation and the Pilot Program from NCJW (wherever they fit into the work plan).

ACTION: Received and filed.

C. [CITY COUNCIL LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS 2025](#)

The Human Services Commission discussed the continuation of City Council liaison assignments and designated representatives to speak about social services programs during the public comment period at City

Council meetings through June 2025.

| Month: | Topic: |
|---------------|---|
| Jan 2025 | Cervical Health Awareness <i>(removed from calendar during Commission discussion)</i> |
| Feb 3, 2025 | Mental Health Awareness (Commissioner Borelli) |
| Feb 18, 2025 | Cervical Health Awareness (Chair Adolphson) |
| Mar 3, 2025 | Nutrition (Commissioner Wyville) |
| Apr 7, 2025 | Sexually Transmitted Infection Awareness (Commissioner Davis) |
| May 5, 2025 | Older Americans (Commissioner Eyres) |
| May 19, 2025 | Mental Health Awareness (Commissioner Eyres) |
| Jun 9, 2025 | PRIDE Month (Commissioner Davis) |
| Jun 23, 2025 | Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month (Vice-Chair Williams) |

ACTION: Received and approved as discussed.

5. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff provided updates on the Holloway schedule; a recap of the city’s response to the wildfires including evacuation transportation, free crisis counselling, and masks; resources related to price gouging; and the increase in commissioner stipends to \$100 per meeting. Staff noted the next Council Meeting (Jan 21) will focus on items related to community safety and well-being, including several items related to homelessness and human services.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

SAM ELBAZ, WEST HOLLYWOOD – Highlighted the need for clearer information on the Holloway Interim Housing Program.

ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Wyville – Acknowledged that it has been a heavy week for many people.

Commissioner Eyres - Congratulated Commissioner Palmieri on the success of the VIBEZ New Year’s Eve event. Highlighted local events. Requested the meeting be adjourned in memory of Debrina Kawam.

Commissioner Borelli – Requested the meeting be adjourned in memory of those who lost their lives in the fires. Thanked Sam Elbaz for her engagement and passion and expressed appreciation for John Gile leadership with Project Angel Food.

Commissioner Palmeri - Shared the success of the Vibez event and thanked

Being Alive for donating supplies. Shared resources for wildfire victims. Expressed frustration over disruptive and disrespectful behavior by members of the public at City Council meetings. Regarding meeting minutes, clarified that he is supportive of the proposed "live to tape" option, as it allows for archived footage, instead of live television broadcasts.

Commissioner Davis - Expressed gratitude to everyone for their attendance and dedication, highlighting the smooth running of the last Council meeting without interruptions.

Vice-Chair Williams - Shared her experience regarding the fires. Expressed concern over the lack of a crisis communication plan. Suggested creating a crisis communication plan, including a phone tree to ensure seniors receive vital information and assistance.


Chair Adolphson - Acknowledged the challenging week, expressed empathy, and praised the county's resilience. Requested the meeting be adjourned in memory of Debrina Kawam and those lost to the fires.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The Human Services Commission **adjourned in memory of Debrina Kawam and those who lost their lives in the wildfires at 8:10 pm** to its next Regular Meeting, which will be held on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at 6:00 pm at the Plummer Park Community Center, Rooms 5 & 6.

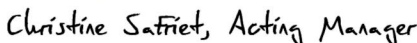
Notice: Written materials distributed to the Human Services Commission within 72 hours of this meeting are available for public inspection immediately upon distribution at the Department of Human Services and Rent Stabilization, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, California, 90069, during normal 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 11th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2025.

Signed by:

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SARAH ADOLPHSON,
CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:

Signed by:

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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.)

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Signer Events

Sarah Adolphson
sarah@theartemis.agency
Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

Signature

Signed by:

9FFE53E1DA2D4A0...
Signature Adoption: Pre-selected Style
Using IP Address: 76.50.246.27

Timestamp

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Viewed: 2/18/2025 4:55:25 PM
Signed: 2/18/2025 4:56:55 PM

Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:

Accepted: 2/18/2025 4:55:25 PM
ID: 36fb7b40-2879-49ff-82ce-ca766f6c2129

Christine Safriet, Acting Manager
CSafriet@weho.org
Assistant to City Mgr
Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

Signed by:

13AE2F92B1BD40E...
Signature Adoption: Pre-selected Style
Using IP Address: 146.75.146.175
Signed using mobile

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| In Person Signer Events | Signature | Timestamp |
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| Editor Delivery Events | Status | Timestamp |
| Agent Delivery Events | Status | Timestamp |
| Intermediary Delivery Events | Status | Timestamp |
| Certified Delivery Events | Status | Timestamp |
| Carbon Copy Events | Status | Timestamp |
| Witness Events | Signature | Timestamp |
| Notary Events | Signature | Timestamp |
| Envelope Summary Events | Status | Timestamps |
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| Certified Delivered | Security Checked | 2/18/2025 5:52:56 PM |
| Signing Complete | Security Checked | 2/18/2025 5:53:36 PM |

| Envelope Summary Events | Status | Timestamps |
|---|------------------|----------------------|
| Completed | Security Checked | 2/18/2025 5:53:36 PM |
| Payment Events | Status | Timestamps |
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