

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD  
LGBTQ+ COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2024 – 7:00 P.M.

PLUMMER PARK – ROOMS 5 & 6  
7377 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD  
WEST HOLLYWOOD CA 90046

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair White called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm

A. LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT:

Read by Vice Chair White

*“The West Hollywood LGBTQ+ Commission acknowledges that the land on which we gather and that is currently known as the City of West Hollywood is the occupied, unceded, seized territory of the Gabrieleño Tongva and Gabrieleño Kizh peoples.”*

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Cortes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. ROLL CALL

**Present** Commissioner Ron Cortes  
Commissioner Chiedu Egbuniwe  
Commissioner Shane Ivan Nash  
Commissioner Michael Roberts  
Commissioner Renee F. Sotile  
Commission Chair Amber Whittington  
Commission Vice Chair Alec White

**Absent:** Commission Chair Amber Whittington

**Also Present:** Commission Liaison Jennifer Del Toro  
Recording Secretary Moya Márquez

D. APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 5, 2024 AGENDA

The Commission was asked to approve the December 5, 2024 Meeting Agenda as posted.

**ACTION:** Approval of the December 5, 2024 Agenda as posted was **motioned**

by Commissioner Cortes, seconded by Commissioner Roberts, and approved unanimously.

**E. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 14, 2024 MINUTES**

The Commission was asked to approve the November 14, 2024 Meeting Minutes.

**ACTION:** Approval of the November 14, 2024, meeting minutes was **motioned by Commissioner Sotile, seconded by Commissioner Cortes, and approved unanimously.**

**F. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Joe Green, liaison from the City's Disabilities Advisory Board, and member of the LA County Commission on HIV, notified the LGBTQ+ Commission of the Disabilities Advisory Board's, and the LA County Commission on HIV's events in December.

**2. CONSENT CALENDAR**

No items.

**3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. RAINBOW KEY AWARDS – 2024 AWARDS CEREMONY**

The LGBTQ+ Commission received an update from the Rainbow Key Awards subcommittee and/or staff on the 2024 Rainbow Key Awards Ceremony.

Staff shared updates on the planning for the event, including the solicitation of the Poet Laureate and Drag Laureate to perform at the Rainbow Key Awards Ceremony. The Commission also made decisions on which Rainbow Key Awardee they wished to present to:

Brian Sonia-Wallace will be presented to by Commisiner Cortes and Vice Chair White.

Vivian Escalante will be presented to by Commisisoner Sotile and the nominator.

LZ Love will be presented to by Commissioners Cortes and Nash

Jackie Beat will be presented to by Commissioner Egbuniwe.

Dr. Gitlin will be presented to by Commissioner Roberts.

Commissioner Cortes also asked to inquire about Vox Femina presenting as a chorus, and Commissioner Sotile recommended reaching out to Kathy Griffin.

Finally, staff reported that the autocourt closure planned for the event may not be feasible due to the ice rink planned for the park, as the parking impacts may be too great to consider the closure. Staff reported that the respite deck will serve as a 'plan b' to host a post-award after party, perhaps with a DJ and with heat lamps.

**ACTION:** None.

#### **4. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **A. PRESENTATION FROM THE L-PROJECT ON LESBIAN AND QUEER WOMEN'S VISIBILITY WEEK**

The LGBTQ+ Commission received a presentation from the L-Project on a proposed partnership and itinerary for the Commission's celebration of Lesbian and Queer Women's Visibility Week.

This item was tabled to the January 2025 meeting, as the L-Project had to cancel their presentation tonight. Staff informed the Commission that the L-Project had proposed organizing three events for Lesbian and Queer Women's Visibility Week, consisting of a film screening, business mixer, and an art market in one of the parks. Staff reported that the L-Project will return at the January meeting.

The Commission asked if other groups would be able to present if they had ideas, and staff reported that they can and any interested group should reach out to staff.

**ACTION:** None.

##### **B. LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE**

The Commission appointed Commissioner Nash, Vice Chair White, and Chair Whittington to the Legislative Subcommittee to meet with staff as needed.

**ACTIONS:** was motioned by Commissioner Cortes, seconded by Commissioner Roberts and approved unanimously.

#### **5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Joe Green, liaison from the City's Disabilities Advisory Board, and member of the LA County Commission on HIV, shared that he will be attending the C.I.T.Y. x1 Youth Groups' Tamale Wars event on the weekend and encouraged the Commission to attend.

#### **6. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Cortes spoke about the Artist Roundtable event to support and

develop artists in West Hollywood and spoke about the Arts Division's plans to include West Hollywood in the upcoming Olympics cultural events.

Commissioner Egbuniwe spoke about supporting the trans community.

Commissioner Nash spoke about US. v. Skremetti case and talked about the 660 bills against trans rights introduced throughout the country.

Commissioner Roberts reported that he completed the West Hollywood Civic Academy and encouraged everyone to apply for the next round.

Commissioner Sotile reported that there was a public safety meeting about new public safety technologies and encouraged other commissioners to attend. She also reported that she attended the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the City of West Hollywood, and that the GYM Bar will be hosting the first community cats adoption event on December 14.

Vice Chair White shared his attendance reports on local events.

## **7. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

### **A. LGBTQ+ Commission Workplan**

The Commission received updates from staff on the 2024-25 Commission Workplan.

Jennifer Del Toro, Staff Liaison, shared that there would be upcoming presentations on workplan items coming from different divisions in the next year, beginning in February.

She also shared that the Arts Division is hosting an upcoming WeHo Reads event titled "Queerly" taking place in the City Council Chambers, and that this Sunday, Dec 8, the Tamale Wars will be held in Plummer Park.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

The LGBTQ+ Commission adjourned at 8:37pm to its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, January 9, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. to be held in West Hollywood City Hall - 1st Floor Community Meeting Room at 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA 90069.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE LGBTQ+ COMMISSION ON THIS 13th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2025.



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Amber Whittington | Commission Chair



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Moya Márquez | Recording Secretary