

**MINUTES
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 23, 2024
6:00 P.M.**

**West Hollywood City Hall
1st Floor - Community Meeting Room
8300 Santa Monica Boulevard
West Hollywood, CA 90069**

1. ADMINISTER THE OATH OF OFFICE TO NEWLY APPOINTED SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER

At 6:18pm the Oath of Office was administered to the newly appointed Social Justice Advisory Board Member, Kenneth L. Jones.

2. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:20pm

3. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: Read by Board Member Powell

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Board Member Jones

5. ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Kenneth L. Jones, Eden Luna, Tiondrae Pier, Justin Powell, Jorge S. Seperak, Jonathan Wilson

ABSENT: Karim D. Abay, Queen Chela Demuir, Giselle Washington

ALSO PRESENT: Community and Legislative Affairs Manager, Andi Lovano
Community and Legislative Affairs Coordinator, Jasmine Duckworth

6. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

ACTION: Motion to approve the Meeting Agenda of July 23, 2024, by Chair Wilson, seconded by Board Member Seperak, and approved.

7. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

ACTION: Motion to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of April 9, 2024, by Chair Wilson, seconded by Board Member Powell, and approved.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Chair Wilson and Board Member Seperak nominated Vice Chair Washington.

ACTION: The Social Justice Advisory Board elected Vice Chair Washington as Chair, for a term through June 30, 2025.

B. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Board Member Seperak nominated Chair Wilson, who declined the nomination. Assistant City Clerk, Lourdes Morales notified the Board that the Chair was not eligible to be nominated for the position of Vice Chair.

Chair Wilson nominated Board Member Powell.

Board Member Powell accepted the nomination and nominated Board Member Pier. Board Member Pier accepted the nomination.

ACTION: The Social Justice Advisory Board elected Board Member Pier as Vice Chair, for a term through June 30, 2025.

**Board Member Luna arrived at 6:29pm.*

C. UPDATE REGARDING HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS AND SOCIAL SERVICES INITIATIVES WITHIN THE SOCIAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Social Justice Advisory Board received an update from the City's Human Services Division regarding the Housing & Homelessness and Social Services initiatives within the council-approved Social Justice Task Force recommendations.

Recommendation 1:

Allocate funds for ongoing operations and services related to Project Homekey through 2025.

Recommendation 2:

Designate multiple safe places for resources. Ideally, every park in West Hollywood should have a space where people can receive wrap-around services; such as lockers/storage space, phone charging stations, showers, and bus passes. Wrap-around services will include essential resources on diversion strategies to connect people to housing and services.

Board Member Luna thanked the Human Services team for their work and service to the West Hollywood community and asked how staff is preparing to continue to provide services to the community.

Board Member Pier asked for details on Project Homekey and how the neighboring residents and businesses are responding to the development. Board Member Pier also asked staff about the pathways to employment opportunities for LGBTQ+ community members who may be experiencing homelessness.

Derek Murray, Social Services Supervisor informed the Board that the City is partnering with various organizations to provide vocational training and job skills training.

Board Member Luna notified the Board of the various opportunities provided by many of the organizations the City currently contracts with.

Board Member Powell asked about the intake process for Project Homekey.

Chair Wilson asked about the IHOP next to the Holloway property.

Recommendation 3:

Allocate funds to prioritize hiring of diverse staff (including staff with lived experience) to support the West Hollywood Five-Year Plan to Address Homelessness in Our Community.

Chair Wilson asked about the current contracted organizations and if there is a scorecard, or review management metric in place to ensure they are hiring diverse staff. Chair Wilson also encouraged staff to develop a metric to track this data for each of the contracted organizations. Additionally, Chair Wilson suggested providing a ratio of diverse staff to the ratio of individuals seeking services.

Recommendation 4:

Provide additional funding to the Social Services Division for rental assistance to keep people in their homes and continue to support City policies for affordable housing and tenant protections in West Hollywood.

Board Member Pier asked staff to think about implementing ways to gather more information and feedback from individuals seeking services.

D. JUNETEENTH DEBRIEF

The Social Justice Advisory Board debriefed on the 2024 Juneteenth event, provided feedback related to the event, and made recommendations for Juneteenth 2025 programming.

Feedback on 2024 Juneteenth event

- The Board thanked Community & Legislative Affairs staff for their work and contributions to the 2024 Juneteenth event.
- The Board liked the educational component of the event and wants to see that replicated in future events.

- The Board would like to increase the number of attendees that participate in future Juneteenth events.

Recommendations for 2025 Juneteenth event

- Hold larger event
- Collaborate with non-profits/community groups and organizations doing similar work
 - Board Member Luna mentioned Center South as a potential example
- Board Member Powell suggested maintaining an educational aspect as a core part of future Juneteenth event and also recommended adding musical elements as well as highlighting BIPOC vendors and entrepreneurs
- The Board asked staff to agendaize a discussion about Juneteenth at the next meeting. Staff informed the Board that moving forward, there will be routine item on agendas to discuss Juneteenth planning and updates.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. LIAISON APPOINTMENTS

The Social Justice Advisory Board received a schedule of the City's Advisory Board and Commission meetings and discussed which bodies the Social Justice Advisory Board was interested in appointing liaisons to.

Chair Wilson – is now liaison to Public Safety Commission in addition to the Business License Commission

Chair Jones – is now liaison to the Disabilities Advisory Board

11. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff liaison, Jasmine Duckworth shared details about the next WeHo 40 Strategic Plan Virtual Community Meeting. The purpose of the event is to gather feedback as part of West Hollywood's next citywide strategic plan, WeHo 40.

Jasmine will confirm that the 1st Floor – Community Meeting Room is available for the Board's Special meeting on Tuesday, August 27th at 6pm.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

13. ITEMS FROM ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Board Member Luna asked about the upcoming schedule of departmental updates.

Chair Wilson suggested that the Board discuss the departmental updates that have been received thus far and provided an update on his experience at the Sacramento Legislative Action Day for Appointed Officials.

Board Member Pier emphasized the need for the City to prioritize waste management and mentioned the tennis courts at Poinsettia Park as an example. Board Member Pier also mentioned the concept of AI and how it can be utilized to provide City services.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The Social Justice Advisory Board adjourned at 7:57pm to a special meeting scheduled for Tuesday, August 27, 2024, at 6:00pm at West Hollywood City Hall.

DocuSigned by:

Jonathan Wilson

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Chair | Jonathan Wilson

DocuSigned by:

Jasmine Duckworth

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Staff Liaison | Jasmine Duckworth