

**HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2025
WEST HOLLYWOOD PARK PUBLIC MEETING ROOM - COUNCIL CHAMBERS
625 N. SAN VICENTE BOULEVARD,
WEST HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA 90069
5:30 PM**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Adolphson called the meeting to order at 5:30 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 Christine Safriet, Assistant to the City Manager

PRESENT: Derek Murray, Social Services Supervisor
DeeA'na Saunders, Social Services Program Administrator
Michelle Liberman, Social Services Program Administrator
Maribel Ulloa, 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 April 8, 2025.

ACTION: Approved the Agenda of Tuesday, April 8, 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 March 11, 2024, Human Services Commission meeting.

ACTION: Approved the minutes of March 11, 2025, **motion by Commissioner Davis** to approve, **seconded by Commissioner Eyres**, and approved by roll call vote.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

Eugene Maysky, WEST HOLLYWOOD – Advocated for protecting rent control, preventing unjust evictions, expanding affordable housing, and offering full-cycle immigration support for LGBTQ and political refugees.

Joseph Green, WEST HOLLYWOOD - Supported Rainbow Key awards.

John Allendorfer, WEST HOLLYWOOD – Urged more activities for older adults on the west side of town, particularly at West Hollywood Park.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR:

3. PUBLIC HEARING

A. PUBLIC HEARING ON SOCIAL SERVICES PRIORITIES

1. Katja Nelson, APLA Health - Urged continued support for APLA Health and highlighted the new site and pharmacy on Santa Monica Blvd.

2. Yola Dore, West Hollywood - Called for ensuring support for individuals with disabilities and older adults, emphasizing essential services like Jewish Family Service (JFS), the LA LGBT Center, and nutrition programs.

3. Sally Valenzuela, Pathways LA - Requested a larger space for the West Hollywood Preschool to accommodate more children, especially infants.

4. Irene Sanchez, West Hollywood - Advocated for expanding the West Hollywood Preschool to meet the needs of working parents seeking reliable childcare.

5. Gabey Rojas, Safer WeHo Coalition - Called for continued investment in substance use prevention, harm reduction, and the creation of substance-free social spaces.

6. Martha Ortega, West Hollywood Preschool - Urged investment in expanding the West Hollywood Preschool to serve more families.

7. Shannon Huston, Pathways LA - Emphasized the need to expand

the West Hollywood Preschool to include infant and toddler care, with mixed delivery models for subsidized and fee-based families.

8. Jamie Baker, Being Alive - Urged continued funding for HIV services in light of potential federal funding cuts.

9. Andy Sacher, WeHo Works - Requested that service providers offer affordable health benefits to part-time employees to improve retention.

10. Marina Berkman, Jewish Family Service - Highlighted the increasing need for eviction protection services and requested funding to support those not qualifying for government aid.

11. Tamara Gurevich, West Hollywood - Praised JFS for its support of older adults and non-English speakers, helping connect them to vital resources.

12. Reene Sotil, West Hollywood - Suggested low-cost handyman and veterinary services for older adults and people with disabilities.

13. Helen Henson, West Hollywood - Raised concerns about transportation issues for older adults, requesting better customer service and prioritized grants for residents.

14. Alexandra Magallon, TransLatin@ Coalition - Supported increased funding for LGBTQ+ services, particularly in housing, workforce development, and HIV programs.

15. Bamby Salcedo, TransLatin@ Coalition - Urged continued funding to support transgender, gender nonconforming, and intersex (TGI) communities.

16. Joe Green, West Hollywood - Called for creative solutions to address funding cuts for HIV prevention and treatment programs.

17. Joe Baumgaertner, West Hollywood - Expressed gratitude for the West Hollywood Preschool and its impact on his daughter's development.

18. Eduardo Tejada, Housing Works - Advocated for equitable wages for frontline workers and for West Hollywood to lead in compensating them fairly.

19. Damon Akins, Housing Works - Called for livable wages and trauma-informed care for frontline staff.

20. Maria de Jesus Gomez, Housing Works - Emphasized the need for support and healing spaces for frontline staff to continue offering care.

21. Celina Alvarez, Housing Works - Highlighted the strain on homeless

services and the need for better support for frontline workers.

22. Scorpio, West Hollywood - Supported the JFS lunch program that delivers meals seven days a week.

23. Maria Roman-Taylorson, TransLatin@ Coalition - Highlighted the success of their partnership with the City, supporting vocational scholarships and housing for TGI individuals.

24. Andrew Solomon, West Hollywood - Advocated for the expansion of childcare services in the city.

25. David Nash, West Hollywood - Expressed gratitude for the city's social services, highlighting the support from Disability Community Resource Center (DCRC), APLA Health, Being Alive, and JFS.

26. Rob Lester, Men's Health Foundation - Urged continued support for PrEP and PEP (pre- and post-exposure prophylaxis) to prevent HIV.

27. Mikie Friedman, West Hollywood - Expressed gratitude for the support received from JFS and DCRC.

28. Stacie Dean, TransLatin@ Coalition - Supported the Coalition's role in providing medical care and mental health support for TGI communities.

29. Farrah Fang, West Hollywood - Praised the TransLatin@ Coalition for its support in housing, food, and education funding.

30. Winter Camila Rose, West Hollywood - Shared her journey from homelessness to hope, expressing gratitude for the support from Hope House and the Coalition.

31. Bill Harrison, West Hollywood - Highlighted the need for careful funding allocations to effectively support homeless services.

32. Rick Watts, City of West Hollywood - Acknowledged the challenging position the Commission faces in addressing community needs.

33. Steve Trapasso, Seeds of Hope - Requested support for expanding their program, which serves 500 people weekly in West Hollywood.

34. Abigail Sefa-Boakye, Pathways Preschool - Advocated for expanding the preschool to provide more opportunities for child development.

35. Michael McFadden, LA LGBT Center - Emphasized the importance

of funding for the daily meal program serving 200 seniors.

36. Marisol Alfaro, LA LGBT Center - Requested continued support and expansion of housing navigation services for West Hollywood clients.

37. David Kruskall, DCRC - Supported continued funding for transition services and home modifications to support independent living.

38. Jonathan Wilson, West Hollywood - Urged consideration of DEI initiatives in the funding process and proposed a nonprofit enablement center.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. DISCUSSION ON SOCIAL SERVICES FUNDING PRIORITIES

DeeA'na Saunders and Michelle Liberman presented to the Human Services Commission on the process for gathering input to develop clarity on the City's social services funding priorities in preparation for the 2025-2028 Request for Proposals process.

Commissioners thanked everyone and reiterated the importance of several key priorities, including pet services, children and family services, livable wages, and improvements to agency intake processes.

Public Comment:

Helen Henson - spoke about the limitations of the Dial-A-Ride service and her support for DCRC.

ACTION: Received and discussed.

6. EXCLUDED CONSENT

7. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Maribel Ulloa reminded everyone that staff and commissioners must avoid discussing the RFP with applicants outside of the formal process, and all questions should be submitted according to the guidelines in the RFP document to ensure a competitive environment.

Derek Murray outlined key dates for the RFP process: the RFP will be presented at the City Council meeting on April 21, with a Bidders Conference on May 7 and proposals due by June 5. The Human Services Commission will review proposals at their July 8 meeting, make funding recommendations on July 22, and staff will present recommendations to the City Council on August 18.

Christine Safriet provided updates on upcoming City Council items related to

the budget and the City's approach to homelessness.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Emmanuel Ares, West Hollywood, Safer WeHo Coalition, called for stronger harm reduction, crisis services, and advocacy.

Alex Salaberia, raised concerns about the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station.

9. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Wyville thanked all and encouraged the community to stay involved in the RFP process.

Commissioner Eyres provided attendance reports and requested an update on the Holloway at the next Commission meeting.

Commissioner Palmeri requested that the RFP schedule be emailed to the commission.

Vice Chair Williams expressed appreciation for the Picasso Pets event and thanked Recreation staff for their work.

Chair Adolphson expressed appreciation for everyone's time and efforts and adjourned the meeting in honor of Vice Chair Williams' parents' anniversary and in memory of Michael Liberman, Michelle Liberman's father.

10. ADJOURNMENT

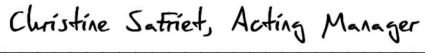
The Human Services Commission adjourned the meeting in honor of Vice Chair Williams' parents' anniversary and in memory of Michael Liberman, staff member Michelle Liberman's father, **at 8:02 pm to its next Regular Meeting on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 6:00 pm at Plummer Park.**

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 13th
DAY OF MAY, 2025.

Signed by:

9FFE53E1DA8D1A9B
SARAH ADOLPHSON,
CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:
Signed by:

13AE2F92B1RD40E
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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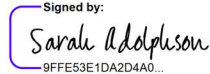
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 sarah@theartemis.agency
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