

**HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION  
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD  
MINUTES  
TUESDAY, MAY 13, 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. ADMINISTER THE OATH OF OFFICE TO NEWLY APPOINTED COMMISSIONER:**

Mayor Byers administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed Human Services Commissioner Jackie Steele.

**B. ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Commissioner Borelli

Commissioner Eyres

Commissioner Palmieri

Commissioner Steele

Commissioner Wyville

Vice-Chair Williams

Chair Adolphson

ABSENT: None

ALSO Christine Safriet, Assistant to the City Manager (By Zoom)

PRESENT: Derek Murray, Social Services Supervisor

Maribel Ulloa, Social Services Program Administrator

Isaac Arredondo, Social Services Program Administrator

Amy Valdepeña, Commission Secretary, Human Services Specialist

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

**B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The Human Services Commission is requested to approve the meeting agenda for May 13, 2025.

**ACTION:** Approved the Agenda of Tuesday, May 13, 2025, **motion by Commissioner Eyres seconded by Commissioner Wyville and approved by roll call vote.**

**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Human Services Commission is requested to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2025, Human Services Commission meeting.

**ACTION:** Approved the minutes of April 8, 2025, **motion by Commissioner Borelli to approve, seconded by Commissioner Eyres, and approved by roll call vote, noting the abstention of Commissioner Steele.**

**D. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Steven Davis** reflected on his first commission meeting in 1993 after being appointed by John Heilman, expressing gratitude for 31 years of service. He shared how meaningful it had been to serve the community. Steven praised the City's staff, acknowledged support from fellow commissioners during personal challenges, and encouraged continued outreach to ensure residents are aware of available services.

**Victor Omelczenko** celebrated "Bike to Work Day". He advocated for

faster progress on protected bike lanes and praised recent improvements, including painting lanes green. He applauded the recent Older Adult Fair and emphasized the importance of printed resources and outreach, especially around rent stabilization and LGBTQ+ immigrant support services.

**Sam Elbaz**, a volunteer, shared that the weekly pop-up in Plummer Park has grown. She described Tuesdays as a key opportunity for coordinated outreach from service providers to streamline care and support for clients.

**Mayor Byers** thanked Steven Davis for his decades of service and acknowledged the difficult decisions facing the commission due to federal funding cuts. Mayor Byers encouraged commissioners to participate in upcoming budget subcommittee meetings to support expanded funding and expressed appreciation for their continued work amid complex challenges.

2. **CONSENT CALENDAR: None.**

3. **PUBLIC HEARING: None.**

4. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.**

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **[HIV PREVENTION MONTH](#)**

The Human Services Commission received a presentation from Katja Nelson, Local Affairs Specialist at APLA Health, on HIV Prevention Month, current data, available resources, and risks to HIV prevention funding amid broader policy challenges.

Commissioners thanked Katja and asked how they could help bridge funding gaps and strengthen advocacy efforts.

**Public Comment:**

Victor Omalchenko, spoke about the serious budget threats facing us under the current federal administration. He referenced the past and emphasized the importance reaching out across, especially to moderate representatives and to focus on building broader coalitions to push back against these proposed cuts during this time of fiscal uncertainty.

**Joe Green** raised concerns about the lack of HIV prevention funding leading up to West Hollywood Pride, pointing out that even basic services like condom distribution were missing. He cautioned that without consistent prevention, the city could see a significant rise in new HIV cases. Joe also took a moment to commend fellow advocates for their continued efforts and urged the City to remain proactive in protecting public health.

**ACTION:** Received and discussed.

**B. MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH**

The Human Services Commission received a presentation from Marina Berkman, Program Director at Jewish Family Service's Comprehensive Services Center, on the mental health and wellness services available to the community.

Commissioners thanked Marina and followed up with questions about service metrics, also noting the positive impact of JFS classes in addressing social isolation.

**ACTION:** Received and discussed.

**C. EVALUATION OF THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TO DELIVER SOCIAL SERVICES TO THE WEST HOLLYWOOD COMMUNITY**

The Human Services Commission received a presentation from Maribel Ulloa and Isaac Arredondo on the evaluation process for the 2025–2028 RFP cycle, including an overview of the evaluation tool.

**Public Comment:**

Victor Omalchenko thanked and praised the commission for using an objective evaluation rubric. With the City planning to hire three full-time billboard specialists, he encouraged commissioners to speak up during the upcoming budget process and advocate for directing some of the new billboard revenue toward human services.

**ACTION:** Received and discussed.

**6. EXCLUDED CONSENT: None.**

**7. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

**Maribel Ulloa** provided an update on Older Adult Month, highlighting the recent Older Adult Community Health Fair at Plummer Park, which offered free health screenings, emergency preparedness resources, and a "Know Your Rights" workshop. She announced that the annual Adult Service Awards would be held on Wednesday, May 14th, honoring Richard Colbert, and shared details about an upcoming Utility Assistance and Energy Conservation Workshop on Thursday, May 15th, co-hosted with ONEgeneration.

**Amy Valdepeña** asked the Commission if anyone would volunteer to speak at the City Council meeting on Monday, June 9, for PRIDE Month. Chair Adolphson volunteered to take over former Commissioner Davis's speaking role.

**8. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**9. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

**Commissioner Wyville** welcomed Commissioner Steele and expressed enthusiasm about working together again. He also extended heartfelt congratulations to Steven Davis for his many years of service.

**Commissioner Eyers** reported attending the LGBTQ+ Suicide Memorial/Monument subcommittee meeting, which included service providers and

clinicians, with a follow-up Zoom scheduled for the next day. She also attended Spring Fest at the ARC and planned to join the Medicaid rally, hosted by 30+ health organizations including the LA LGBT Center and Men's Health Foundation. She formally requested that the Commission discuss strategies for communicating social services to the community, a request supported by fellow commissioners.

**Commissioner Borelli** focused his remarks on Steven Davis, praising his 30+ years of service and his sharp financial insights. He recalled their spirited debates and thanked Davis personally and on behalf of the city for his dedication.

**Commissioner Palmieri** thanked Steven Davis and shared a memory of a meticulous budget discussion that revealed his commitment. He welcomed Commissioner Steele, recalling their early collaboration on the Tweakers Project.

**Commissioner Steele** thanked the Commission for the warm welcome. She expressed gratitude for Steven Davis's years of service. She asked City staff if she could attend the LGBTQ+ Suicide Memorial subcommittee meeting since Steven Davis is no longer on the Commission. (staff followed-up with the City Clerk and only Commissioners appointed by the full body can attend). She suggested revisiting the idea of reserving city billboard space for Human Services messaging.

**Vice Chair Williams** welcomed Commissioner Steele and praised Steven Davis for his compassion, intelligence, and mentorship, especially regarding budgeting. She shared her experience helping Steven Davis with his husband and thanked the city staff and the sheriff's department for their support. She also attended the Kids' Fair at West Hollywood Park and was involved with youth activities and expressed appreciation for the city's generosity toward its youth.

**Chair Adolphson** welcomed Commissioner Steele and thanked Steven Davis for his generous mentorship, and guidance. She felt fortunate to have worked with him and closed by adjourning the meeting in memory of Gary Meltzer, brother of former Chair Barbara Meltzer.


**10. ADJOURNMENT**

**The Human Services Commission** adjourned the meeting in memory of Gary Meltzer, brother of former Chair Barbara Meltzer, **at 8:05 pm to its next Regular Meeting on Tuesday, June 10, 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 10<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 2025.

Signed by:  
  
9FF53E1DA2D8A0  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SARAH ADOLPHSON,  
CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:  
Signed by:  
  
9E0A3A05E900478  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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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Document Pages: 7	Signatures: 2
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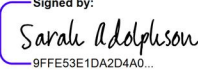
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In Person Signer Events	Signature	Timestamp
Editor Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Agent Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Intermediary Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Certified Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Carbon Copy Events	Status	Timestamp
Witness Events	Signature	Timestamp
Notary Events	Signature	Timestamp
Envelope Summary Events	Status	Timestamps
Envelope Sent	Hashed/Encrypted	6/26/2025 5:32:23 PM
Certified Delivered	Security Checked	6/26/2025 5:33:45 PM

<b>Envelope Summary Events</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Timestamps</b>
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