

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD  
LGBTQ+ COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES**

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 2025 – 7:00 P.M.**

**WEST HOLLYWOOD CITY HALL  
1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR – COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM  
8300 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD, WEST HOLLYWOOD CA 90069**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair White called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

**A. LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT:**

Read by 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 Roberts led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**C. ROLL CALL**

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

**Absent:** Commissioner Steve Peñafiel

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

**D. APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 14, 2025 AGENDA**

The Commission was asked to approve an amended agenda of the August 14, 2025 Meeting, moving item 3.A. to the end of the meeting, after item 4.B.

**ACTION:** Approval of the August 14, 2025 Agenda as amended was motioned by Commissioner Egbuniwe, seconded by Commissioner Cortes, and approved unanimously.

**E. APPROVAL OF THE JULY 10, 2025 MINUTES**

The Commission was asked to approve the July 10, 2025 Meeting Minutes.

**ACTION:** Approval of the July 10, 2025, meeting minutes was **motioned by Commissioner Egbuniwe, seconded by Commissioner Roberts, and approved unanimously.**

**F. PUBLIC COMMENT**

NYALLAH NOAH, expressed frustration with the City's process for the WeHo Pride community group grant program, noting she is still awaiting full reimbursement.

NALANI SANTIAGO, WEST HOLLYWOOD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, spoke about the launch of the new WeLead Academy and encouraged Commissioners to help share information to increase awareness.

JASON JENN, PALMDALE, discussed receiving a 40th Anniversary grant to update and relaunch Stuart Timmons' West Hollywood LGBTQ+ Walking Tour, which will be presented to the community in October.

**2. CONSENT CALENDAR**

None.

**3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. BI+ VISIBILITY WEEK**

The LGBTQ+ Commission received information from Rewrite the BiLine related to the City's programming for Bi-Visibility Week.

ReWrite the BiLine's founder Christina Fialho shared statistics on the bisexual community and details about an upcoming panel discussion on Bi+ narratives in film and television, scheduled for Friday, September 19, in the City Council Chambers. Commissioners discussed ways to help promote and support the event.

**ACTION:** Received presentation.

**B. RAINBOW KEY AWARDS – 2025 AWARDEES CEREMONY**

The LGBTQ+ Commission discussed the scheduling of the Rainbow Key Awards ceremony for 2025 awardees.

Recording Secretary Márquez provided multiple dates for consideration and asked the Commission to identify three preferred dates to ensure flexibility.

**ACTION:** Selection of the dates of Jan 29, Jan 30, and Feb 20, by consensus.

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

##### **A. UPDATES ON THE CITY'S RAINBOW DISTRICT INITIATIVE AND EXPANSION OF THE BYSTANDER TRAINING PROGRAM**

The LGBTQ+ Commission received updates related to the City's Rainbow District Initiative and the expansion of the bystander training program for West Hollywood businesses.

Paolo Kresdpadit, Economic Development Division, shared information about the Rainbow District Initiative. He shared information on the City's methodology for researching the current state of the Rainbow District and how to improve it.

Commissioner Egbuniwe advocated for an inclusion of West Hollywood's history in visitor guides.

Commissioner Cortes emphasized the importance of involving the Commission earlier in program development and suggested promoting West Hollywood as a lunch destination.

Commissioner Whittington inquired about the consulting firm involved. Staff shared that they are in negotiations with a firm, so they couldn't disclose the company name – but shared it is both a local and LGBTQ+ owned firm.

Laura Biery, Director of Economic Development, noted that the City has conducted outreach targeting local office workers including at the PDC to promote dining in the Rainbow District.

Danny Rivas, Director of Community Safety, provided updates on the bystander training program.

Commissioner Whittington shared a recent discrimination incident she witnessed, stressing that training alone may not be enough.

Commissioner Egbuniwe suggested additional tools such as surveillance cameras or expanding the Business License Commission's oversight role.

Commissioner Sotile expressed concern about crime hurting the City's image, referencing the parody video Phone Stealing Club

Danny Rivas noted the department could create flowcharts to help community members understand reporting options and legal remedies.

**ACTION:** Received presentation.

## **B. WEHO PRIDE 2025 DEBRIEF AND 2026 PLANNING**

The LGBTQ+ Commission received a post-event report regarding WeHo Pride 2025, provide feedback related to the event, and share input related to the 2026 event.

Kerry McCormick shared information regarding the WeHo Pride 2025 festival, and asked for feedback from the organization.

Public Comment was heard for this item from:

NYALLAH NOAH, reiterated concerns about the WeHo Pride community grant program and delays in receiving reimbursement from the City.

Commissioner Whittington and Commissioner Egbuniwe, shared that they know the public commenter and hope that it can be resolved soon.

Commissioners Whittington and Egbuniwe expressed support for resolving the public commenter's concerns.

Commissioner Cortes asked about establishing a clearer reimbursement timetable and making the application process more transparent.

Commissioner Egbuniwe proposed incorporating a stronger political component into Pride 2026.

Commissioner Roberts felt Pride 2025 was positive but agreed that a political statement would be valuable.

Commissioner Cortes supported the idea of adopting an overarching theme for the event.

Commissioner Sotile praised improvements to accessibility and water stations, while suggesting refinements to float logistics

**ACTIONS:** Received presentation.

## **5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Catherine "KT" Tomas, WEST HOLLYWOOD, expressed WAB's interest in collaborating with the LGBTQ+ Commission.

## **6. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Ron Cortes appreciated the meeting and highlighted opportunities available for musicians and performers to be added to the City's Musicians and Performers Roster which closes at the end of the month.

Commissioner Chiedu Egbuniwe reiterated disappointment at the Commission not being engaged earlier in the Rainbow District process but added that he feels safe

in West Hollywood despite troubling national news.

Commissioner Michael Roberts expressed gratitude for living in West Hollywood.

Vice Chair Renee F. Sotile echoed concerns about the lack of Commission involvement in shaping Rainbow Business District programs.

Chair Alec White shared updates on recent City events and cautioned that marriage equality could face challenges this year.

## 7. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Jennifer Del Toro, Staff Liaison, shared that the Commission will discuss their workplan and priorities for the next year at the next meeting.

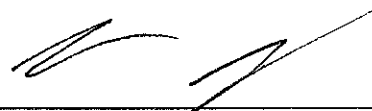
### A. LGBTQ+ Commission Workplan

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

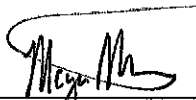
## 8. ADJOURNMENT

The LGBTQ+ Commission adjourned at 8:54pm to its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, September 11, 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 11th DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2025.



Alec White | Commission Chair



Moya Marquez | Recording Secretary