

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

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 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 White led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**C. ROLL CALL**

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

**Absent:** Commissioner Amber Whittington

**Also Present:** Community & Legislative Affairs Manager Andi Lovano  
Recording Secretary Moya Márquez

**D. APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2025 AGENDA**

The Commission was asked to approve the September 11, 2025 Meeting Agenda as posted.

**ACTION:** Approval of the September 11, 2025 Agenda as posted was motioned by Commissioner White, seconded by Commissioner Egbuniwe, and approved unanimously.

**E. APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 14, 2025 MINUTES**

The Commission was asked to approve the August 14, 2025 Meeting Minutes.

**ACTION:** Approval of the August 14, 2025, meeting minutes was **motioned by Commissioner Egbuniwe, seconded by Commissioner Sotile, and approved unanimously.**

**F. PUBLIC COMMENT**

JOE GREEN, West Hollywood, Oct 9 is DAB Health and Wellness Event in Plummer Park. The Disability Advisory Board also selected its awardees for the Disability Service Awards.

**2. CONSENT CALENDAR**

None.

**3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. 2026 WORKPLAN**

The Commission will receive a brief presentation on last year's workplan and begin initial discussion to formulate a workplan for 2026.

Community and Legislative Affairs Manager Andi Lovano provided an introduction to the Workplan document and noted that the proposed updates included in the meeting packet is a work-in-progress.

On the task to "Attend City Council Meetings", Commissioner Cortes shared that he attended City Council Meetings in the past year and suggested having Commissioners attend the City Council Meeting by assigning a schedule so that people can attend. Commissioner Peñafiel suggested creating a method by which to submit approved items to City Council.

On the task for WeHo Pride Festival and Parade, Commissioner Egbuniwe shared that the Commission should add attending the WeHo Pride City Council Subcommittee as a task.

The Commission decided to add a task on "Receiving Presentations on Social Service Programs for the LGBTQ+ Community".

On the Lesbian Speakers Series task, Commissioner Cortes asked if they could receive an annual report on what events, if any, are scheduled.

On the item regarding LGBTQ+ Discrimination at Nightlife Establishments and

involvement on the Rainbow District Initiative, staff suggested breaking up the workplan items into two parts. Staff also asked if there are any concrete goals that they want to achieve on these topics. Commissioner Peñafiel suggested adding safety as a main concern on this workplan item. Commissioner Roberts suggested partnering with businesses and offering incentives to businesses for partnering with the Commission for trainings. Commissioner Egbuniwe suggested adding Digital Surveillance as a possible concrete goal. Commissioner Roberts suggested finding a legal mechanism to fine businesses that receive complaints of discrimination or non-safety.

Staff suggested removing LQWW and the Bi+ Visibility Week items from the workplan. Commissioner Egbuniwe suggested leaving the item on the workplan in order to provide a mechanism for the public to give comments on the events.

On the item of Preserving LGBTQ+ History, Commissioner Peñafiel suggested adding a task to have the City present a monthly post on social media focused on West Hollywood history. Commissioner Egbuniwe suggested having the City's archivist come to speak to the Commission. Commissioner Roberts shared that there should be a partnership with the Historic Preservation Commission. Peñafiel suggested having content creators monetize the history on social media. Commissioner Cortes suggested adding as a task the formation of a Subcommittee to generate ideas.

On the Commission Mission Statement item, Commissioner Peñafiel suggested keeping the item to add language on protecting LGBTQ+ civil rights.

Commissioner Cortes suggested having the Arts Division attend a future meeting to give a brief presentation for the WeHo Pride LGBTQ+ Arts Festival.

Commissioner Cortes suggested merging the Commission's Visibility and Impact at Pride' task with the other Pride task as long as it's explicitly called out.

Commissioner Egbuniwe suggested a quarterly update on the workplan items.

**ACTION:** None.

## **5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Councilmember Danny Hang, West Hollywood, thanked the Commission for their valuable work.

## **6. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Ron Cortes shared his perspective on the structure of the LGBTQ+ Commission and suggested the Commission to consider what they want their

impact to be.

Commissioner Chiedu Egbuniwe shared that he participated in the Arts Grant Panel for the City, and said that the panel recommended to Council to increase the Arts Grant budget.

Commissioner Steve Peñafiel shared his perspective on global LGBTQ+ rights. He shared that that Pride should pivot more towards more of a protest instead of a party in 2026.

Commissioner Michael Roberts thanked the Commission for their work.

Commission Vice Chair Renee F. Sotile thanked Councilmember Hang for attending the meeting. She shared that she loved the LA Kids Book Fair in West Hollywood Park. She also shared that the West Hollywood Community Cats program rescued thirteen cats through the program since the last meeting, which includes trap, neuter, and release or adoption.

Commission Chair Alec White thanked Councilmember Hang for attending the meeting. He shared various events that he attended across the County.

#### **7. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

Community & Legislative Affairs Manager Andi Lovano shared that next month's meeting is cancelled. Staff shared details on the upcoming Bi-Visibility event, which is being organized by Rewrite the Bi Line.

#### **8. ADJOURNMENT**

The LGBTQ+ Commission adjourned at 8:50pm to its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, November 13, 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 NOVEMBER 2025.



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Alec White | Commission Chair



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Moya Márquez | Recording Secretary