

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD  
LGBTQ+ COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 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**

Vice Chair Sotile called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm

**A. LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT:**

Read by Commissioner Roberts

*"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 Steve Peñañiel  
Commissioner Michael Roberts  
Commissioner Amber Whittington  
Commission Vice Chair Renee F. Sotile

**Absent:** Commission Chair Alec White

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

**D. APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 4, 2025 AGENDA**

The Commission was asked to approve the December 4, 2025 Meeting Agenda as posted.

**ACTION:** Approval of the December 4, 2025 Agenda as posted was **motioned by Commissioner Roberts, seconded by Commissioner Cortes, and approved unanimously.**

## **E. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 13, 2025 MINUTES**

The Commission was asked to approve the November 13, 2025, 2025 Meeting Minutes.

**ACTION:** Approval of the November 13, 2025, meeting minutes was **motioned by Commissioner Cortes, seconded by Commissioner Roberts, and approved unanimously.**

## **F. PUBLIC COMMENT**

JEFF MCMULLEN, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke about the Rainbow Village, a cultural and civic landmark proposed for West Hollywood, which is currently in the design stage. He spoke about future plans for the Rainbow Village, and asked to be on the next agenda.

JOE GREEN, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke about the next meeting of the DAB and the next meeting of the LA County Commission on HIV. He also shared information about the Tamale Wars LGBTQ Youth event this weekend.

## **2. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **A. WEHO PRIDE COMMUNITY GROUP GRANT PROGRAM**

The LGBTQ+ Commission considered recommending a specific community within the larger LGBTQ+ community to be highlighted through a free community event as a part of the Community Group Grant Program for WeHo Pride 2026.

Kerry McCormick, Events Coordinator, spoke about staff's request for the Commission to select an LGBTQ+ community theme to highlight during WeHo Pride. She also asked the Commission to select two members and one alternate to serve on the review board for the sober event RFP, and to consult on the different Community Groups selected for the LGBTQ+ Community theme.

ANDY SACHER, WEST HOLLYWOOD, advocated for the Commission to choose LGBTQ+ elders for the free community event.

The Commission shared ideas on what communities to support, including the trans community, the undocumented LGBTQ+ community, LGBTQ+ elders, and LGBTQ+ families.

The Commission suggested that the attendees for the Community Group Grant program should receive guaranteed tickets for the Friday portion of the OutLoud Music Festival.

Commissioner Whittington and Egbuniwe asked about the organization that did not receive their funding. Staff reported that they could not clarify the status???

The Commission clarified that they would like to see a panel event with a reception/socializing component that connected people to resources.

Commissioners Peñafiel and Cortes volunteered to be on the panel, with Roberts as an alternate.

**ACTIONS:**

- 1) A selection of theme of LGBTQ+ elders, was **selected by a ballot vote by the Commission.**
- 2) Selection of Commissioners Peñafiel and Cortes as panelists with Commissioner Roberts as an alternate **was motioned by Commissioner Egbuniwe, seconded by Commissioner Sotile and approved unanimously.**

**3. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. PRESENTATION FROM MAZER LESBIAN ARCHIVES ON 2026 LESBIAN AND QUEER WOMEN'S VISIBILITY WEEK**

The LGBTQ+ Commission received a presentation from Mazer Lesbian Archives on a proposed partnership for the City's celebration of Lesbian and Queer Women's Visibility Week.

The Executive Director of the June Mazer Lesbian Archives introduced the organization's history and mission.

She explained the Mazer Lesbian Archives idea to host a film festival of old and new films during Lesbian and Queer Women Visibility Week. She explained the Mazer Lesbian Archives may be considering pursuing City support.

The Commission gave feedback to the event.

**ACTION:** None.

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

The LGBTQ+ Commission received an update from staff or the subcommittee and discussed the 2025 Awardees Ceremony, including program components, venue selection, and the selection of a preferred date and alternate date.

Commissioner Peñafiel shared that the Subcommittee wanted a photo or video montage instead of a speech welcoming in.

Commissioner Peñafiel also reported that the subcommittee wanted to elevate the production value by hosting the event at the Silver Screen theatre.

Commissioner Cortes also reported that the subcommittee wanted to reach out to a host. Commissioner Peñafiel shared that he knew influencers who have agreed to perform in-kind.

Commissioner Peñafiel shared that he will also reach out to the businesses at the Rainbow District for an in-kind donation for food.

**ACTIONS:** None.

#### **4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

#### **5. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Ron Cortes shared that he attended the AIDS Monument grand opening. He also reported that the free indoor concert series Winter Sounds will be back in the City soon.

Commissioner Chiedu Egbuniwe shared information about the June Mazer Lesbian Archives.

Commissioner Steve Peñafiel shared his thoughts on the Commission and shared information on events he attended. He suggested that the City should consider incorporating a walk at the Trans Day of Remembrance event.

Commissioner Amber Whittington shared information on events she attended.

Commission Vice Chair Renee F. Sotile thanked the Commission for their work. She also shared her updates on local animal activism.

#### **6. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

Moya Márquez, Community Programs Coordinator, shared information on TAB's role in the Trans Day of Remembrance and shared that the Board is considering incorporating a walk next year.

Jennifer Del Toro, Staff Liaison, asked if there was consensus for a 5-minute item from Jeff McMullen from the Rainbow Village to be brought to the January Meeting Agenda - the Commission voted to agree with that item. She also shared information on the Tamale Wars event. She also shared information on the Paul Stark Warrior Awards on Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

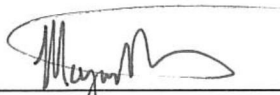
The LGBTQ+ Commission adjourned at 9:13pm to its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, January 8, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. to be held in West Hollywood City Hall - 1st Floor Community Meeting Room at 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA 90069.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE LGBTQ+ COMMISSION ON THIS 8th DAY OF JANUARY 2025.



---

Alec White | Commission Chair



---

Moya Márquez | Recording Secretary