

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

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 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 7:01 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 Sotile led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**C. ROLL CALL**

**Present** Commissioner Ron Cortes – Arrived at 7:07PM  
Commissioner Steve Peñafiel  
Commissioner Michael Roberts  
Commissioner Amber Whittington – Arrived at 7:11PM  
Commission Vice Chair Renee F. Sotile  
Commission Chair Alec White

**Absent:** Commissioner Egbuniwe

**Also** Commission Liaison Jennifer Del Toro  
**Present:** Assistant to the City Manager, Andi Lovano  
Recording Secretary Moya Márquez

**D. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 13, 2025 AGENDA**

The Commission was asked to approve the November 13, 2025 Meeting Agenda as posted.

**ACTION:** Approval of the November 13, 2025 Agenda as posted was motioned by Commissioner Roberts, seconded by Commissioner Penafiel, and approved unanimously.

**E. APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2025 MINUTES**

The Commission was asked to approve the September 11, 2025 Meeting Minutes.

**ACTION:** Approval of the September 11, 2025, meeting minutes was motioned by Commissioner Roberts, seconded by Commissioner Sotile, and approved unanimously.

**F. PUBLIC COMMENT**

JOE GREEN, WEST HOLLYWOOD, provided updates on the work of the Disability Advisory Board and the LA County Commission on HIV/AIDS.

DANNY HANG, City Councilmember, thanked the Commission for their work and encouraged them to attend the AIDS Memorial unveiling on Saturday, November 15.

**2. CONSENT CALENDAR**

None.

**3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. 2026 WORKPLAN**

The Commission received and filed the revised workplan for 2026.

**ACTION:** Receive and file the workplan for 2026.

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. UPDATE TO THE WEHO PRIDE COMMUNITY GROUP GRANT PROGRAM**

The LGBTQ+ Commission received a presentation from staff related to an update to the WeHo Pride Community Group Grant Program.

Staff reported that Council has voted to approve a new community grant program highlighting two communities, the Sober Community, and a second group to be chosen in collaboration with the LGBTQ+ Commission. Events Services staff informed the Commission that they are to consider and recommend a community or theme at the next meeting in December.

**ACTION:** None.

**B. 2026 SACRAMENTO LEGISLATIVE ACTION DAY FOR APPOINTED OFFICIALS**

The LGBTQ+ Commission appointed one delegate and one alternate to represent the Commission during the Legislative Action Day in Sacramento to take place on February 5, 2026 (Year 2 of the 2025-2026 Legislative Session).

**ACTIONS:** Appointment of Commissioner Whittington as a delegate and Commissioner Peñafiel as an alternate was **approved by a vote.**

**C. RAINBOW KEY AWARDS – LIST OF NOMINATIONS FOR REVIEW**

The Commission reviewed all eligible nomination submissions for the 2025 Rainbow Key Awards and recommended recipients for the Rainbow Key Award and recipients for the Melissa Etheridge Award and the Audre Lorde Community Activist Award to the City Council. The Commission will also discuss next steps, including the selection of a preferred date for the 2025 awardees ceremony at the December meeting.

The Commission received all applications for the Rainbow Key Awards and the Melissa Etheridge Award. No nomination forms were received for the Audre Lorde Award.

The Commission voted to recommend Fan Girl Cafe, Abdullah Hall, Cake and Art, Tristain Schukraft, and Trudging Buddies as recipients for this year's Rainbow Key Awards, contingent upon City Council approval.

The Commission voted to recommend Angela Brinskele for the Melissa Etheridge Award, contingent upon City Council approval.

The Commission voted to recommend Jaymes Black, who was nominated for a Rainbow Key Award, be selected to receive the Audre Lorde Award, contingent upon City Council approval.

Commissioners Peñafiel, Cortes, and White volunteered to participate in the Rainbow Key Awards Subcommittee.

**ACTIONS:** Approval of the aforementioned selections was **motioned by Commissioner Roberts, seconded by Commissioner Whittington and approved unanimously.**

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

CARLOS SOSA, Los Angeles, congratulated the Commission for their Rainbow Key Award selections. He reported on upcoming City x1's holiday events.

**6. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Cortes expressed concern with the pilot program for attendance at Advisory Board meetings as he considers the Advisory Boards and Commissions to be important to the City. He also shared concerns that the Women's Freedom Festival would receive less funding this year and suggested that the Commission could consider selecting a lesbian theme or program for WeHo Pride in order to make up for the lack of funding.

Commissioner Steve Peñafiel shared his opinion that the Commission needs to advocate more to City Council to push forward the Commission's ideas. He also expressed concern that he is hearing lots of reports of cell phone theft in the Rainbow District.

**By consensus, the Commission asked staff to update them on Public Safety at a future meeting.**

Commissioner Michael Roberts shared he was happy to hear that Halloween was overall a safe event.

Commissioner Amber Whittington shared that there is a Pride Community Grantee, Noir At Night, that has still not received payment. She asked staff to provide whatever update they could at the next meeting. She also shared frustration that the trans and pride flags were lowered in September. She also expressed concern that the Women's Freedom Festival will be receiving less funding this year. Finally, she suggested to the Commission that they should advocate to try to add Commissioners from the LGBTQ+ Commission to the City Council's Pride Subcommittee.

Commission Vice Chair Renee F. Sotile shared ideas for themes for the Community Groip Grant Program. She asked to adjourn in memory of Sally Kirkland.

Commission Chair Alec White shared updates on recent City events and asked to adjourn in memory of trans people who've committed suicide within the last year.

**ACTIONS:** Motion to extend the meeting to 9:10PM was **motioned by Commissioner Cortes, seconded by Commissioner Whittington and approved unanimously.**

## **7. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

Jennifer Del Toro, Staff Liaison, shared that the December meeting will be rescheduled to Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup>.

Jennifer shared that Events staff can address feedback regarding the Pride Community Grants program. She also explained that the recent pilot program on attendance is only focused on City advisory boards, and added that beginning in January 2026 stipends for all City appointed officials will increase to \$125 per meeting.

Moya Márquez, Recording Secretary, shared information on the Trans Day of Remembrance taking place on Friday, November 20.

Andi Lovano, Assistant to the City Manager, shared that this Sunday, November 16 is the opening of the AIDS Monument at the PDC's Silver Screen theatre. Andi also shared that the State of the Community event is on Monday, November 24. She

also spoke about the flags being lowered in September and explained the new policy that was recently approved in the November meeting that gives the City more autonomy to decide when to lower flags.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

The LGBTQ+ Commission adjourned in memory of Sally Kirkland and trans community members who have committed suicide in the past year at 9:16pm to its special meeting on Thursday, December 4, 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 4th DAY OF December 2025.

  
Alec White | Commission Chair

  
Moya Marquez | Recording Secretary