

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

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2026 – 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 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 Sotile led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**C. ROLL CALL**

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

**Absent:** Commissioner Amber Whittington

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

**D. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 8, 2026 AGENDA**

The Commission was asked to approve the January 8, 2026 Meeting Agenda as posted.

**ACTION:** Approval of the January 8, 2026 Meeting Agenda as posted was motioned by Commissioner Sotile, seconded by Commissioner Roberts,

**and approved unanimously.**

**E. APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 4, 2025 MINUTES**

The Commission was asked to approve the December 4, 2025 Meeting Minutes.

**ACTION:** Approval of the December 4, 2025, Meeting Minutes was **motioned by Commissioner Roberts, seconded by Commissioner Peñafiel, and approved unanimously.**

**F. PUBLIC COMMENT**

KATHERYN THOMAS, WEST HOLLYWOOD, liaison from the City of West Hollywood's Women's Advisory Board, gave updates on the activities of the Women's Advisory Board including their participation in California's Commission on the Status of Women and Girls.

**2. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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

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

Staff provided potential April dates for hosting the Rainbow Key Awards ceremony at the Silver Screen. Commissioners discussed possible alternative venues, including Beaches Tropicana; however, some Commissioners as well as staff expressed concerns regarding the suitability of that location. Following further discussion, the Commission reached consensus to move forward with the Silver Screen as the venue for the event. The Commission approved April 18 as the primary date and April 11 as the alternate date for the awards ceremony.

Commissioners also shared concerns about filling seats at the Silver Screen and discussed outreach and promotion strategies, including ways in which the event could be shared beyond the City's Communications team. The idea of developing a communications toolkit to support broader outreach was suggested.

**ACTION:** Selection of April 18 as the primary date and April 11 as the back-up date was **motioned by Commissioner Cortes, seconded by Commissioner Peñafiel, and approved unanimously.**

**3. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. PRESENTATION FROM MEN'S HEALTH FOUNDATION**

The LGBTQ+ Commission received a presentation from the Men's Health Foundation on the social services they provide to the West Hollywood community.

Johnny Cross, the Director of Prevention Services from the Men's Health Foundation shared some information on the organization, reporting on some of the social services that the organization provides to the LGBTQ+ community and recent successes.

**ACTION:** None. Received and filed.

#### **B. PRESENTATION REGARDING RAINBOW VILLAGE**

The LGBTQ+ Commission received a presentation regarding Rainbow Village, a mixed-use, transit-oriented development proposed for West Hollywood.

Jeff McMullen, creator of the Rainbow Village, shared information on the Rainbow Village development proposal.

The Commission inquired about how the project will be funded, and budget of the project. Mr. McMullen shared that the estimated cost is too early to determine, and the funding would come from private investors. Mr. McMullen shared that at this stage, they only want input from the community on the broader concept of the Rainbow Village. Mr. McMullen shared that the project would include 25% of low-income housing and shared that the project is anticipated to be completed in 7-10 years once funding was secured.

**ACTION:** None. Received and filed.

#### **C. 2026 MEETING DATES**

The LGBTQ+ Commission discussed the 2026 meeting schedule, and considered rescheduling the May 2026 meeting from Thursday, May 14, 2026 to Thursday, May 7, 2026 and the December 2026 meeting from Thursday, December 10, 2026 to Thursday, December 3, 2026.

**ACTION:** Approval of rescheduling the May 2026 meeting from Thursday, May 14, 2026 to Thursday, May 7, 2026 and the December 2026 meeting from Thursday, December 10, 2026 to Thursday, December 3, 2026 was **motioned by Commissioner Egbuniwe, seconded by Commissioner Roberts, and approved unanimously.**

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

HELEN KRIEGER, WEST HOLLYWOOD, announced her candidacy for City

Council, and shared her priorities such as safe streets and housing, and local businesses.

## **5. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Cortes thanked both presenters today for their presentations. He also shared information on the Winter Sounds Concert Series that the City hosts yearly.

Commissioner Egbuniwe thanked both presenters today for their presentations. He also shared his involvement in an upcoming production of the Broadway show CATS.

Commissioner Peñafiel wished all the Commissioners a Happy New Year. He thanked both presenters for their presentations.

Commissioner Roberts thanked both presenters for their presentations. He shared that he was thankful for the City for their statement addressing the presence of ICE in the community.

Commission Vice Chair Renee F. Sotile asked to adjourn the meeting in memory of Renee Nicole Good, Rob and Michelle Reiner, and Christa McAuliffe. She also shared an upcoming event that the WeHo Community Cats will be attending.

Commission Chair Alec White thanked both presenters for their presentations. He also shared that he attended the recent LGBTQ+ Victory Fund conference in Washington D.C.

## **6. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

Jennifer Del Toro, Staff Liaison, shared that the Council reorganization meeting and Mayor Installation is taking place this upcoming Monday, January 12 at 6PM in the Council Chambers.

She also shared that in November 2025, StoryCorps came to West Hollywood to record approximately 35 oral history sessions. These recordings are available on the StoryCorps website and referenced on the City's website.

She also shared that the launch of "WeHo Stories" by Barbara Grover will take place January 21 at the City Council Chambers.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

The LGBTQ+ Commission adjourned in memory of Renee Nicole Good, Rob Reiner, Michelle Reiner, and Christa McAuliffe at 8:30pm to its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, February 12, 2026, 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 12th DAY OF February 2026.



---

Alec White | Commission Chair



---

Moya Márquez | Recording Secretary