

**CITY OF LONG BEACH
HUMAN RELATIONS
COMMISSION MINUTES**

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2014
NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES BUREAU
100 W. BROADWAY, SUITE 550, 5:30 PM**

Kerry A. Gerot, Chair
James Morgan, Vice Chair
Sandy Horwitz, Commissioner
Byron Bolton, Commissioner



Jeannine Pearce, Commissioner
Rohida Kahn, Commissioner
Miles Mcneeley, Commissioner
Elisa Buchannan, Commissioner

FINISHED AGENDA & DRAFT MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chair Gerot called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Kerry Gerot, James Morgan, Sandy Horwitz, Byron Bolton, Jeannine Pearce, Miles McNeeley, Elisa Buchannan

Commissioners Absent: Rohida Kahn

STAFF PRESENT

Teresa Gomez, Human Dignity Program Coordinator; Rebekah Amick, Clerical Aid.

OTHERS PRESENT

Adela Estrada, Children's Services Administrator, Los Angeles County Department of Children & Family Services

Laura Sansenbach, City of Long Beach, Emergency Communications Center

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Vice Chair Morgan, seconded by Commissioner Bolton, to approve the Minutes of October 9, 2014. The motion carried on the following vote:

Yes: James Morgan, Sandy Horwitz, Byron Bolton, Jeannine Pearce, Elisa Buchannan

Absent: Rohida Kahn

Abstained: Kerry Gerot, Miles McNeeley

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

None.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. Presentation on Foster Youth - Adela Estrada, Los Angeles County Department of Child & Family Services

Commissioner Kahn joined the meeting.

Ms. Adela Estrada represents the Lakewood area office, which covers Long Beach, San Pedro, Wilmington, Carson and Lakewood. They are one of 19 DCFS offices in the Los Angeles County. Each year, the office receives 13,000 child protection referrals. For Los Angeles County as a whole they receive 156,000 referrals. Ms. Estrada presented statistics related to the Los Angeles County Department of Children & Family Services.

Discussion ensued regarding housing for foster children, requirements for those wanting to become foster parents, and independent living programs for foster children leaving the system.

Commissioner Horwitz suggested that Ms. Estrada provide specific data from the Department of Child & Family Services on foster children in Long Beach.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Pearce requested that Ms. Estrada return to the Human Relations Commission with information specific to Long Beach; what it looks like in each school. She also suggested that the Human Relations Commission explore ways to suggest some kind of infrastructure and support.

Vice Chair Morgan requested that Ms. Estrada provide more information about some of the unique challenges regarding recruiting foster placements in Long Beach.

Ms. Estrada stated that many of the potential foster parents would like to be a foster parent but they don't have the space, and housing is too expensive to move to a larger place.

Commissioner Buchannan requested more information about Children's Institute International.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Horowitz proposed a recommendation that the Human Relations Commission request more in depth information from Ms. Estrada on the impact of foster children and parents within Long Beach.

Discussion ensued.

b. Presentation on 9-1-1 System - City of Long Beach Emergency Communications Center

Laura Sansenbach, from the City of Long Beach Emergency Communications Center, gave information on how they handle incoming emergency and non-emergency calls at the call center located at 2990 Redondo Avenue. She also gave information regarding staffing and calls made to the 911 line and 7-digit line.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Pearce asked if the phone number for the 7-digit line could be changed to a number easier to remember, such as a number that spells out a word or the repetition of a particular number.

Discussion ensued.

Ms. Sansenbach stated that the problem with changing the 7-digit line is that, historically, people in the city that have been here longer or were here before 911 existed have that number (435-6711) programmed in their phone. She has suggested to callers that if their embarrassed to call 911, dial "0" and ask for Long Beach Police.

Commissioner Pearce asked if another number could be created that would connect to the current 7-digit line.

Chair Gerot stated that with all the current technology, why not keep the current phone number for the 7-digit line and also have another number that's easier to remember that goes to the same line so they can both co-exist.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Pearce asked if there is a media campaign the Human Relations Commission can help with to make sure the Commission is taking part in this effort.

Ms. Sansenbach stated she will speak with Karen Owens regarding these issues and will forward information to Teresa Gomez.

Discussion ensued.

c. Chair remarks - Kerry A. Gerot, Chair

Chair Gerot stated that more commissioners will be appointed to the Human Relations Commission. She also announced that elections for chair and vice chair will be on the agenda for the next meeting in December.

Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Morgan, seconded by Commissioner Horwitz, to cancel the December 11, 2014 meeting of the Human Relations Commission. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Kerry Gerot, James Morgan, Sandy Horwitz, Byron Bolton, Jeannine Pearce, Miles McNeeley, Elisa Buchannan, Rohida Kahn

Since the meeting in December is cancelled, elections for chair and vice chair will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting in January 2015.

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. Update on Domestic Violence Candlelight Vigil - James A. Morgan, Vice Chair

Vice Chair Morgan reported that several Commissioners participated in the vigil. Information on the exact turnout was not available but it was larger than previous years.

Discussion ensued.

Teresa Gomez informed the Commissioners that there is a Women's Advisory Group for the Long Beach Police Department. The group meets once a month and is primarily made up of agencies such as Women Shelter, Su Casa, Cal State Long Beach and YWCA. They meet the second Friday of every month at 8:30 a.m. at the Police Department.

b. Update on Cancer Awareness ZUMBA event - Kerry A. Gerot, Chair

Chair Gerot reported that she and Teresa Gomez participated in the event. The event organizers were happy to see representatives from the Human Relations Commission participating in the event.

Discussion ensued.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Commissioner District Updates and Announcements

Teresa Gomez announced that a Human Trafficking Symposium will be held on Saturday, January 31, 2015, at Cabrillo from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. A Human Dignity/Human Relations Commission table will be made available. Ms. Gomez asked the Commissioners to notify her if they are available to staff the table. Approximately 500 people are expected to participate in this event.

Discussion ensued.

Ms. Gomez also announced that the Human Dignity/Human Relations Commission, in partnership with CCEJ, also participates in the Martin Luther King Parade. Ms. Gomez asked the Commissioners to speak with her if they would like to participate, and invited them to bring their family. The event will be held on Saturday, January 17, 2015, at 9:00 a.m.

Commissioner Kahn asked if the Human Relations Commission could endorse the Human Trafficking Symposium. This item will be added to the meeting agenda for January 2015.

7. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Horwitz, seconded by Commissioner Pearce, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

