

**MINUTES
CITY OF WHITTIER
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
WHITTIER POLICE DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY ROOM, 13200 PENN STREET
SEPTEMBER 3, 2019 – 6:30 P.M.**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Luevano called the regular meeting of the Social Services Commission to order at 6:33 p.m. in the Whittier Police Department Community Room, 13200 Penn Street, Whittier, California.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Jose Luevano, Chair
Carlos Illingworth, Vice Chair
Marisol Enriquez-Santos, Commissioner

ABSENT: Loletta Barrett, Commissioner
Kathleen McDonnell, Commissioner

STAFF PRESENT:

Greg Alaniz, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services
Martin Browne, Community Services Manager
Darren Schmidt, Community Services Supervisor
Nanette Duron, Community Services Coordinator
Sheryl Dugas, Administrative Secretary

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Enriquez-Santos led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

5. STAFF REPORTS

5. A Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Vice Chair Illingworth, seconded by Commissioner Enriquez-Santos, and carried 3 – 0 (absent: Commissioners Barrett and McDonnell), to approve the Minutes of the August 6, 2019 Regular meeting.

5. B Update on City of Whittier Homeless Plan Implementation

Community Services Manager Browne reported on the ongoing implementation of the City of Whittier Homeless Plan. He noted that the annual State of Homelessness joint meeting, between the City and Consortium on Homelessness, would take place at Parnell Park, on October 19, 2019, from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. He stated that City Council has approved use of the City Seal at the meeting. Community Services Manager reported that Whittier First Day has received approval, from the County, to be an "Access Center", through a \$325,000 grant. He stated that he recently attended a Gateway Cities Council of Governance (Gateway COG) Technical Advisory

Committee (TAC) meeting, which includes 27 cities, and the group was introduced to the new COG Homeless Program Manager, Gilbert Saldate.

Secretary Alaniz reported that he and Community Services Manager Browne would be meeting with representatives from PATH to discuss the possibility of hiring two of their vetted and trained staff members to assist the City with the implementation of the homeless plan. The City has \$120,000 in Measure H funding available to pay for this staffing. Bringing in trained staff will speed up implementation of the goals of the Homeless Plan, which include services. Community Services Manager Browne reported that there is also funding available to assist with homeless veterans' services, possibly including paying for two dedicated shelter beds at the City of Bell's shelter. Other services offered by PATH are storage units. He noted that two homeless persons from Leffingwell Ranch Park are being provided with storage facilities and PATH are arranging housing for them shortly. Secretary Alaniz noted that there has been an increase in the presence of homeless individuals at Leffingwell Ranch Park and at Parnell Park. Community Services Manager Browne stated that he has been given the opportunity to update a group of students on homelessness issues at Whittier College. He will also be working with the school districts on creating informational flyers for distribution to local students and their parents. Chair Luevano questioned the availability of shelter beds earmarked for Whittier people and the impact of people coming from other areas. Community Services Manager Browne noted that effective August 1, the rules for assignment of shelter beds, across the County, has changed. Whittier First Day has only 11 out of their total of 45 beds designated for Whittier people. The other 34 beds are now allocated by one LAHSA staff member, known as a 'bed matcher'. These 34 beds are being filled by homeless from across the County. Whittier First Day can no longer assign people from their own waiting list to these 34 beds. Vice Chair Illingworth questioned if this is due to funding from Los Angeles County. Community Services Manager Browne replied that this is correct and that any shelter bed, which receives County funding, is now being filled by one LAHSA employee. First Day receives county funding so the County gets to claim the majority of their beds. He noted the lack of shelter beds in our area is a huge problem.

It was moved by Vice Chair Illingworth, seconded by Commissioner Enriquez-Santos, and carried 3 – 0 (absent: Commissioners Barrett and McDonnell) to receive and file the update on the City of Whittier Homeless Plan implementation.

5. C Community Services Division Presentation

Secretary Alaniz introduced Community Services Supervisor, Darren Schmidt, and Community Services Coordinator Nanette Duron. Mr. Schmidt gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the following aspects of the Youth Services Division:

- Whittier Youth Network (WYN Club) program – a drop-in recreation program for elementary school students. WYN Club is available during the after-school hours at several school sites and during the summer months at various park sites. There are 40 part-time staff, interns and Volunteers working at the 7 school sites. Staff also works with the SKILLS programs at Orchard Dale and Scott Avenue Elementary Schools.

- Summer WYN Club – a drop-in recreation program available at Michigan, Anaconda, Palm and Parnell Parks. The cost is \$50 for the entire summer, with various field trips available at various costs.
- Summer Day Camp program – full day programming, not drop-in, available at Palm and various elementary schools for children 5 to 12 years of age. These spots sell out quickly. There are weekly field trips available, swimming, and an annual picnic.
- VolunTEEN program – a mentoring program for youths ages 14-17. Receive training in life skills, participation in the Summer Concert Series Emerging Arts program, assist with special events, and gain experience in the field of recreation.
- Students Run Whittier – a free program to train students to encourage life-long physical fitness and create an atmosphere of belonging while training with their peers to participate in local 5k runs in the City of Whittier. Practices are on Saturday mornings at Palm Park.
- Students in Government. – an annual program with participation rotating between Whittier High School, California High School, and La Serna High School. Students selected by their teachers, work together to create an agenda for a mock City Council meeting, write an agenda report, shadow Department Heads, and participate in a mock City Council meeting.
- Among other programs the Youth Services Division are involved with are The Southern California Teen Coalition, and the City’s Movies in the Park program.

Commissioner Enriquez-Santos questioned whether there has been any thought about expanding the WYN Club program to allow more students to participate. Secretary Alaniz noted that due to budget constraints and safety for the students it cannot be expanded at this time. Commissioner Enriquez-Santos questioned the ability to serve the potential additional participants that will come with the new community being built. She praised the programs. Vice Chair Illingworth commented that these programs are very good to help participants from possibly going “down the wrong path”, and questioned how the City attracts participants. Community Services Supervisor Schmidt reported that advertising of the various programs is done through announcements, flyers sent to the schools, social media, and the quarterly brochure.

It was moved by Commissioner Enriquez-Santos, seconded by Vice Chair Illingworth, and carried 3 – 0 (absent: Commissioners Barrett and McDonnell) to receive and file the Community Services Division’s presentation focusing on Youth Services.

6. SECRETARY COMMENTS

Secretary Alaniz reported that the Volunteer Recognition Program nominations are due in by Friday, September 20 and will be reviewed by Commission at the October 1st Commission meeting. The award program will take place on Tuesday, November 12 at 5:30 p.m. He also noted that he and Community Services Manager Browne had met with one of the ad hoc

committee members to discuss Social Services funding. City Council will receive a report on this funding at the September 10, 2019 City Council meeting. City Council is proposing to focus funding on housing. Chair Luevano questioned if the Social Services funding will be eliminated for next year. Secretary Alaniz stated that this is unknown at this time.

Secretary Alaniz announced the following upcoming events:

- Whittier Nights at the Hollywood Bowl will wrap up this season with the trip on Saturday, September 14 to see Earth, Wind and Fire. Busses leave City Hall at 5:30 p.m. This event is sold out.
- The Whittier Community Foundation is hosting its second Annual Boots, Beer and BBQ Fundraiser on Saturday, September 21 at 6:00 p.m. at the Quad. Tickets are \$35.00 each with funds raised going towards the Firefighter Tribute art piece.
- State of Homelessness annual Meeting will take place on Saturday, October 19, from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon, at the Parnell Park Community and Senior Center, Walnut Room #2.
- The Spooktacular 5k will take place on Saturday, October 26 with registration beginning at 6:30 a.m. and races beginning at 7:30 a.m. The Whittier Community Foundation and the Whittier Host Lion's Club sponsor this event.
- The annual Boards and Commissions Reception will take place on Wednesday, October 20, at 5:30 p.m. at the Parnell Park Community Center.

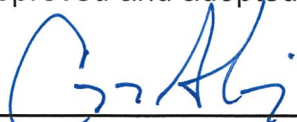
7. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Enriquez-Santos announced that the "Public Charge" rule would be put into effect as of October 15, 2019. This means that people on "public assistance" will not be permitted to apply for citizenship. As a result, County caseloads are dropping and some programs may be eliminated.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Luevano adjourned the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

Approved and adopted by the Social Services Commission on October 1, 2019.



GREG ALANIZ, Secretary