

The Social Services Commission is an advisory body to the City Council that generally meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. The Commission may make recommendations to the City Council on Veterans affairs, homeless issues, adults with development disabilities, and children with special needs. All meetings are open to the public except for those portions that under law may be considered in closed session.

Staff reports are available for review at the Civic Center Main Library and the City Clerk's Office. Direct any other questions or concerns to the Social Services Commission liaison at 310.618.5880. Agendas are posted on the City of Torrance Home Page www.TorranceCA.Gov.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Manager's office at (310) 618-5880. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. [28CFR35.102-35.104 ADA Title II]

TORRANCE SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION AGENDA
JANUARY 25, 2024
REGULAR MEETING
6:00 P.M. WEST ANNEX COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION MAY TAKE ACTION ON ANY ITEM
LISTED ON THE AGENDA

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

ROLL CALL: Commission Members Bickford, Funes, Reynolds, Sansalone, Scotto, Witt, Chair Leys

2. FLAG SALUTE: Commissioner Reynolds

3. REPORT OF STAFF ON THE POSTING OF THE AGENDA The agenda was posted on the Public Notice Board at 3031 Torrance Bl. and on the City's Website on January 18, 2024.

4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED, AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS (Limited to a 15-minute period)

*This portion of the meeting is reserved for comment on items on the Consent Calendar or items not on the agenda. Under the Ralph M. Brown Act, the Commission cannot act on items raised during public comment, but may respond briefly to statements made or questions posed; request clarification; or refer the item to staff. **No longer than 1 minute per speaker.** If presenting handout material to the Commission, please provide 10 copies to staff before speaking.*

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

Matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion and one vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed by a Commissioner from the Consent Calendar and considered separately.

6A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: OCTOBER 26, 2023

7. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

7A. ACCEPT AND FILE PRESENTATION FROM RYAN GRADY OF VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA LOS ANGELES ON HOUSING AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICE PROGRAMS FOR VETERANS

7B. DISCUSS UPCOMING JOINT MEETING WITH PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AND PROVIDE STAFF WITH DIRECTION ON PRESENTATION

8. COMMISSION ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

9. ADJOURNMENT

- 9A.** Adjournment of the Social Services Commission Meeting to Wednesday, February 7, 2024, at 6:30 pm for a joint meeting with the Parks and Recreation Commission in the Garden Room at the Cultural Arts Center, 3330 Civic Center Drive.



October 26, 2023

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
TORRANCE SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Social Services Commission convened in a regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 26, 2023 at the West Annex Commission Meeting Room, Torrance City Hall.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Bickford, *Funes, Sansalone, Scotto, and Witt

Absent: Chair Leys and Commissioner Reynolds

Also Present: Deputy City Manager Hoang, Julia Smith, Staff Liaison-in-Training and LeAnne Chen, Office Assistant.

MOTION: Commissioner Scotto moved to approve the excused absences of Chair Leys and Commissioner Reynolds; motion was seconded by Commissioner Sansalone. The motion passed by a 4-0 roll call vote. (Absent Chair Leys, Commissioner Reynolds and *Commissioner Funes)

*Commissioner Funes arrived at 6:01 p.m.

2. FLAG SALUTE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Sansalone.

3. REPORT OF THE STAFF ON THE POSTING OF THE AGENDA

Julia Smith, Staff Liaison-in Training stated that the agenda for the Social Services Commission was properly posted on Thursday, October 19, 2023 on the Public Notice Board by the City Clerk's office and on the City's website.

4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED, AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

Julia Smith, Staff Liaison-in-Training stated that there were no items.

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

6A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: September 28, 2023

MOTION: Commissioner Scotto moved to approve Item 6A, as submitted; motion was seconded by Commissioner Sansalone. The motion passed by a 5-0 roll call vote. (Absent Chair Leys and Commissioner Reynolds)

7. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

7A. ACCEPT AND FILE UPDATE FROM STAFF ON THE 2024 GREATER LOS ANGELES HOMELESS COUNT

Julia Smith, Staff Liaison-in-Training presented the report for the item and announced that the Los Angeles Homeless Authority's (LAHSA's) Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count would take place on Wednesday, January 24, 2024 from 8:00 p.m. to 12:00 A.M. and noted that the City would once again serve as the deployment site for the count. She explained that the next year's count would be conducted using the newly revised LAHSA app, which had now been designed to show only the assigned census tract and alert the team if they were outside of their tract. She added that LAHSA hoped to open the volunteer sign up site by the first week in November and provide virtual training in December. She explained that LAHSA would also make available a mock deployment site to provide an example of an efficient setup.

The following Commission members volunteered to make an announcement for the Homeless Count sign-up at a Council meeting:

- November 28: Witt
- December 12
- December 19: Bickford

Commissioner Bickford volunteered to help with registration on January 24, 2024.

Julia Smith stated that she would send the dates to the two absent Commissioner to ask if they were available for December 12 and added that an announcement could also be included in Mayor Chen's script for the meeting.

Nancy Wilcox estimated that 75% of the volunteers would sign up in January and recommended that the training on the app be made available in January, closer to the count date.

MOTION: Commissioner Bickford moved to accept and file update on the 2024 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count; motion was seconded by Commissioner Sansalone. The motion passed by a 5-0 roll call vote. (Absent Chair Leys and Commissioner Reynolds)

7B. ACCEPT AND FILE UPDATE FROM STAFF ON THE 2023 VETERANS APPRECIATION EVENT

LeAnne Chen, Office Assistant in the City Manager's Office, presented the report for the item and showed examples of the centerpieces, gift giveaways and signage that would be available at the event for attendees and resource vendors. She confirmed the following items:

- The scripts for the program were being finalized.
- There would be announcements to recognize Gold and Blue Star families.
- The different conflicts would be acknowledged, as well as the various branches of the military and all organizations and gift donors would be recognized and thanked.
- The food order from Gaetano's would be finalized.
- Music would be provided by DJ Ozzie and Leon Silverman

- The cookies had been ordered from Torrance Bakery and would be served along with the ice cream cups.
- Open MIC starts at 12:20 p.m.- veterans will be asked in advance if they wish to speak during open mic, either before the event or at check in and then be placed on a list
- There would be volunteers available for those who are unable to go to the food tables.

In response to a request from Commissioner Bickford, LeAnne Chen confirmed that she would look the possibility of having the Veterans Week Proclamation displayed at the event, in a frame which could be reusable for future proclamations.

MOTION: Commissioner Scotto moved to accept and file Item 7B, the presentation from staff on the 2023 Veterans Appreciation Event: motion was seconded by Commissioner Sansalone. The motion passed by a 5-0 roll call vote. (Absent Chair Leys and Commissioner Reynolds)

8. COMMISSION ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Julia Smith, Staff Liaison-in-Training reminded the Commission of the joint meeting with Parks and Recreation on February 7, 2023.

9. ADJOURNMENT

9A. At 6:29 p.m., Commissioner Bickford moved to adjourn the meeting to the regular meeting on Thursday, January 25, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sansalone and the motion passed by a 5-0 roll call vote. (Absent Chair Leys and Commissioner Reynolds)

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Honorable Members of the Social Services Commission
City Hall
Torrance, California

Members of the Commission:

SUBJECT: Accept and File Presentation from Ryan Grady of Volunteers of America Los Angeles on housing and supportive service programs for veterans

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of staff that the Social Services Commission accept and file a presentation from Ryan Grady, Associate Director of Operations at Volunteers of America Los Angeles on housing and supportive service programs for veterans.

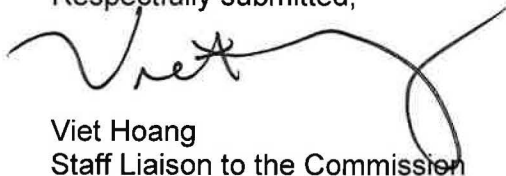
BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

Volunteers of America Los Angeles (VOALA) is a non-profit organization committed to serving people in need, strengthening families, and building communities. VOALA provides programming to serve a variety of populations including youth, families from under-served communities, veterans struggling with reintegration, individuals and families challenged by homelessness, men and women returning from prison, and people battling addictions and substance use.

The item before your Honorable Body tonight is to accept and file a presentation from Ryan Grady, Associate Director of Operations at VOALA. VOALA's veteran programs seek to assist veterans through mental health, housing, employment, and case management. VOALA contracts with the U.S Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) for the administration of the HUD-VASH program. The HUD-VASH program couples Housing Choice Voucher assistance for homeless veterans with case management and clinical services provided by the VA.

This evening, staff has asked Mr. Grady to provide an overview of VOALA's housing and supportive services program for veterans including who the programs seek to assist, how the programs are accessed, and expected outcomes of the programs. Mr. Grady will also provide ways in which the City can support the programs and address questions from your Honorable Body.

Respectfully submitted,



Viet Hoang
Staff Liaison to the Commission



Julia Smith
Staff Liaison-in-Training

Commission Meeting of
January 25, 2024

Honorable Members of the Social Services Commission
City Hall
Torrance, California

Members of the Commission:

SUBJECT: Discuss Upcoming Joint Meeting with Parks and Recreation Commission and Provide Staff with Direction on Presentation

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of staff that the Social Services Commission discuss the upcoming joint meeting with the Torrance Parks and Recreation Commission and provide staff with direction on contents for a presentation.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

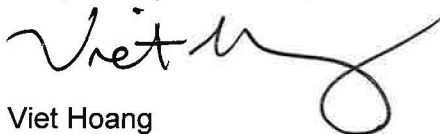
On Wednesday, February 7, 2024, 6:30 pm in the Garden Room at the Cultural Arts Center (3330 Civic Center Drive), the Social Services Commission and the Parks and Recreation Commission will hold a joint meeting. Each Commission, via staff liaisons, will provide a high-level overview of the jurisdiction of the Commission; key projects, programs and initiatives; and accomplishments. Following the presentations, Commission members will discuss opportunities to support the work of one another's Commission, and potential areas of collaboration.

At this evening's meeting, staff is respectfully requesting that your Honorable Body provide staff direction for the contents of a 15-minute presentation for the Joint Meeting. Some ideas for the Commission to consider include:

- Jurisdiction of the Commission;
- Overview of workplan, including recent updates to the work plan;
- Key learning from listening to community presentations;
- Annual events of the Commission;
- Accomplishments of the Commission.

Following tonight's meeting, staff will incorporate the Commission's ideas and create a 15-minute presentation for the February 7th joint meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Viet Hoang
Staff Liaison to the Commission



Julia Smith
Staff Liaison-in-Training