

Social Services Commission Meeting Agenda Announcement

On March 12, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order No. N-25-20, which allows Brown Act Body members to attend meetings telephonically. Please be advised that some Whittier Social Services Commissioners may attend this meeting telephonically.

Speakers must limit their comments to three minutes. Please note, by order of the presiding officer, public comments minutes may be reduced if at their discretion a surplus of public speakers is present at the meeting.

To submit Public Comments/Questions:

- Email: gonzalezr@cityofwhittier.org
- Voicemail: (562) 567-9400
- Live Audio via Zoom: Only those members of the public who have 'raised their hand' on Zoom will be in the queue for speaking.
- In person at City Hall 13230 Penn St., Whittier, CA 90602, City Council Chamber

To view live meetings remotely:

- Video and audio: <https://zoom.us/j/96391049442>
Use 'Raise Hand' feature
- Audio only: Dial (669) 900-9128 (Meeting ID: 963 9104 9442)
Press *9 to 'Raise Hand' and then *6 to unmute yourself when prompted

Please submit email comments by 5:30 p.m. on the date of the meeting to ensure Social Service Commissioners receive and have time to review them. All emails received by 5:30 p.m. are forwarded to the Commission. Emails received after 5:30 p.m. but before the conclusion of public comments will be entered into the record.

Americans with Disabilities Act

Disability-related services are available to enable persons with a disability to participate in this meeting, consistent with the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Spanish interpreters are also available. For information or to request services, please contact the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting at (562) 567-9400.

**AGENDA
CITY OF WHITTIER
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 13230 PENN STREET
OCTOBER 3, 2023, 6:30 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

Commissioner Carlos Illingworth
Vice Chair Jose Luevano
Chair Irene Muro

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. OATH OF OFFICE

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public is invited to address the Social Services Commission regarding any item of business, or any matter within the body's subject matter jurisdiction. Consistent with Executive Order No. N-29-20 public comments can be made via:

- Email: gonzalezr@cityofwhittier.org
- Voicemail: (562) 567-9400

Please submit email and voicemail public comments by 5:30 p.m. on the date of the meeting to ensure Commissioners receive and have time to review them. All emails and voicemails received by 5:30 p.m. are forwarded to the Commission. Emails and voicemails received after 5:30 p.m. but before the conclusion of public comments will be entered into the record.

Pursuant to State law, the Commission cannot take action or express a consensus of approval or disapproval on any communications which do not appear on the printed agenda.

6. STAFF REPORTS

6.A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Recommendation: Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 1, 2023.

6.B. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Recommendation: Elect officers for the 2023-24 FY.

6.C. INFORMATION AND REFERRAL REPORTS

Recommendation: Receive and file the Information and Referral Report for August to September 2023.

7. SECRETARY COMMENTS

8. COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS/CONFERENCE REPORTS

9. ADJOURNMENT

Disability-related services are available to enable persons with a disability to participate in this meeting, consistent with the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Spanish interpreters are also available. For information or to request services, please contact the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting at (562) 567-9400.

The agenda packet is available three days before the meeting in the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department at City Hall (13230 Penn Street), Whittier Central Library (7344 Washington Avenue) and the East Whittier Branch Library (10537 Santa Gertrudes Avenue). Additionally, the agenda packet can be viewed on the City's website. Materials distributed to the Commission within 72 hours of the Social Services Commission meeting are available for public inspection in the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department Office.

Los servicios relacionados con la discapacidad están disponibles para permitir que las personas con discapacidad participen en esta reunión, de conformidad con la Ley Federal de Estadounidenses con Discapacidades de 1990. También hay intérpretes en español disponibles. Para obtener información o para solicitar servicios, comuníquese con el Departamento de recreación y Parques al Servicio a la Comunidad de la reunión al (562) 567-9400.

El paquete de la agenda está disponible tres días antes de la reunión el Departamento Parques Recreación y Servicio a la Comunidad en el Ayuntamiento (13230 Penn Street), Whittier Central Library (7344 Washington Avenue) y Biblioteca sucursal del este de Whittier (10537 Santa Gertrudes Avenue). Además, el paquete de la agenda se puede ver en el sitio web de la Ciudad. Los materiales distribuidos al Concejo Municipal dentro de las 72 horas de la reunión del Comisión de Servicios Sociales están disponibles para inspección pública en el Departamento de Recreación y Parques al Servicio a la Comunidad.

I hereby certify under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing agenda was posted in accordance with the applicable legal requirements. Regular and Adjourned Regular meeting agendas may be amended up to 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Dated this 29th day of September 2023.

/s/ Roxanne Gonzalez

Roxanne Gonzalez, Administrative Secretary



Agenda Report

Social Services Commission

Date: October 3, 2023

To: Social Services Commission

From: Virginia Santana, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services

Subject: Approval of Minutes

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 1, 2023.

BACKGROUND

None.

DISCUSSION

Staff prepared draft minutes and hereby submits the Minutes for Commission approval.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

STRATEGIC PLANNING GOAL

Goal 4: Transparent & Open Government

ATTACHMENTS

A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 1, 2023

**MINUTES
CITY OF WHITTIER
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
WHITTIER CITY HALL, 13230 PENN STREET
AUGUST 1, 2023 – 6:30 P.M.**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of the Social Services Commission was called to order at 6:35 p.m. on August 1, 2023.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Carlos Illingworth, Commissioner
Kathleen McDonnell, Commissioner
Jose Luevano, Vice Chair
Irene Muro, Chair (6:41 p.m.)

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT:

Virginia Santana, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Community Services
Erin Hamilton, Community Services Manager
Margo Diamond, Management Analyst I
Roxanne Gonzalez, Administrative Secretary
Janine McKenna, Secretary
Janet Rivera, Information and Referral Specialist

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Secretary Santana led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments received.

5. STAFF REPORTS

5. A. Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Commissioner McDonnell, seconded by Commissioner Illingworth and carried by 3-0 vote to approve the regular meeting minutes of May 2, 2023, with corrections. Additionally, it was moved by Commissioner McDonnell, seconded by Chair Luevano and carried by 3-0 vote to approve the regular meeting minutes of June 6, 2023, with corrections.

5. B. Information and Referral Reports

Information and Referral Specialist Rivera reported the following for July (May and June reports in the agenda packet).

- Received 166 calls: family events, activities and deposit assistance (successfully assisted two families with deposits).

It was moved by Vice Chair Luevano, seconded by Commissioner McDonnell, and carried by a 4-0 vote to receive and file the Information and Referral Report for May to July 2023.

5. C. Volunteer of the Year

Discussed volunteer hours, schedule, timeline alignment with National Volunteer Week, and any needed adjustments.

- Application to include annual toll hour service amount.
- Annual hours served to include those who only perform seasonal work.
- January: application submissions.
- February: application review deadline.
- March: application approval.
- April 23, 2024, 5:00 p.m.: ceremony.

It was moved by Commissioner McDonnell, seconded by Commissioner Illingworth and carried by a 4-0 vote to approve schedule and adjustments for fiscal year 23/24 Volunteer of the Year Award Program.

5. D. 2024 WHITTIER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SPONSORED BY ATHENS AND REPUBLIC SERVICES

Discussed timeline, essay prompts, and celebrations.

- March: application submissions.
- April: applications reviewed and announced upon approval.
- Avoid May testing and celebrations leading up to June graduation dates.
- Celebrate selections on social media.
- Research whether schools celebrate with separate receptions and our possible participation.

It was moved by Commissioner McDonnell, seconded by Commissioner Illingworth and carried by 4-0 vote to approve criteria and make modifications to prompt selected: contamination and recycling issues, for the 2024 Whittier Scholarship Program.

5. E. Social Services Grant Funding Program

Reviewed updated application to include the addition of Council requests.

- Criteria revamped.
- Focus versus no focus.
- Complete rubric with alterations.
- Adjustment to number of residents served vs. only percentage.
- Decision points for one application.

Preparatory meeting language: “must attend” versus “highly recommended”.

- Council approved “must attend” language.

Any nonprofit in need of funding is able to submit an application.

- Core groups submit year after year.
- Majority funded served Whittier focusing on homelessness, food insecurity, and childhood obesity.

Recommendations:

- Clear timeline.
- No focus: leaving focus open provides an opportunity to widen the process.
- Factor number and percentage of Whittier residents served into scoring.
- Application to include “no regrating of funds” language, project evaluation description, and population that the agency serves.
- Research to discover trends: senior and youth in need, homelessness, and technology.

It was moved by Commissioner McDonnell, seconded by Commissioner Illingworth, and carried 4-0 to take and include recommendations and adjustments for areas of focus for the Social Services Grant Funding Program.

6. SECRETARY’S COMMENTS

After-school programs: Murphy Ranch, Leffingwell, and Ocean View over 100.

- Great numbers on waitlist: Murphy Ranch:134; Ocean View: 30
- Numbers down: East Whittier District assisted with classroom space; some spaces shared with other agencies (i.e., Boys and Girls Club).
- Senior Center possible October re-opening.
- Parks are building things and providing services for families.
- Survey for master plan closed with over 800 surveys received.

7. COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS/CONFERENCE REPORTS

No commission member comments/conference reports.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Approved and adopted by the Social Services Commission on August 1, 2023.

Virginia Santana, Secretary



Agenda Report

Social Services Commission

Date: October 3, 2023

To: Social Services Commission

From: Virginia Santana, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services

Subject: Election of Officers

RECOMMENDATION

Elect officers for the 2023-24 FY.

BACKGROUND

At the beginning of each new fiscal year the Commission elects a new Chair and Vice Chair.

DISCUSSION

Commission will begin with the process of nominating and then selecting new officers for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

STRATEGIC PLANNING GOAL

Goal 4: Transparent & Open Government

ATTACHMENTS

None.



Agenda Report

Social Services Commission

Date: October 3, 2023

To: Social Services Commission

From: Virginia Santana, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services

Subject: Information and Referral Reports

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file the Information and Referral Report for August to September 2023.

BACKGROUND

None.

DISCUSSION

Staff prepared the Information and Referral report and hereby submits the report for Commission's review. The report will provide a summary of the calls for service, the information presented, and a summary of any local events or trainings offered to residents (Attachment A).

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

STRATEGIC PLANNING GOAL

Goal 4: Transparent & Open Government

ATTACHMENTS

A. I & R Report – August to September 2023

I & R Summary Report August 2023

In the month of August 2023, we received a total of 261 calls. High incoming calls Dial-A-Ride. Continued to get calls for senior housing and services provided by the city and county. Received calls seeking legal assistance.

Senior Transportation: (25.67%)

- City and County Dial-A-Ride
- New Freedom Transportation
- ACCESS
- Health Plan (Some offer transportation for medical appointments only)

City/County Services: (13.41%)

- Dept of Public Social Services (CalFresh, Medi-Cal, Rental Assistance)
- Social Security Administration
- Veterans Administration
- Senior Services (SASSFA, Adult Day Care, Health Insurance)
- Volunteer Work

Benefits: (13.86%)

- In-Home-Support-Services (IHSS)
- Senior Services (SASSFA-Caregiving and meals)
- Veterans Administration
- Social worker/Case Manager from Health Plans
- Social Security Administration

Housing: (22.29%)

- Los Angeles Community Development Authority (LACDA)
- LINC Housing (Seniors)
- TSA Properties (Seniors and Families)
- Veterans Administration
- Housing Rights Center (HRC) Rental Directory

Legal: (6.90%)

- Bet Tzedek (Trust & Wills)
- Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (Social Security, Student Loans)
- Housing Rights (Landlord Issue)

I & R Summary Report September 2023

In the month of September 2023, we received a total of 150 calls. High incoming calls Dial-A-Ride. Continued to get calls for senior housing and services provided by the city and county. Received calls seeking Covid services.

Senior Transportation: (33.33%)

- City and County Dial-A-Ride
- New Freedom Transportation
- ACCESS
- Health Plan (Some offer transportation for medical appointments only)

City/County Services: (31.33%)

- Dept of Public Social Services (CalFresh and Medi-Cal)
- Social Security Administration (SSA and SSI)
- Veterans Administration
- Senior Services (SASSFA, Adult Day Care, Health Insurance)
- Home Repair Grants

Benefits: (6.45%)

- Social Security
- Senior Services (SASSFA-Caregiving and meals)
- Veterans Administration

Housing: (9.09%)

- Los Angeles Community Development Authority (LACDA)
- LINC Housing (Seniors)
- TSA Properties (Seniors and Families)
- Veterans Administration

Veterans: (8%)

- Whittier Library
- Liberty Community Plaza

Covid: (4.67%)

- Covidtests.gov
- County of L.A. Public Health
- Health Plans

Utility Assistance: (8%)

- Community Resource Center
- SCE / GAS Programs