

**AGENDA
CITY OF WHITTIER
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION
WHITTIER POLICE DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY ROOM
13200 PENN STREET
MAY 7, 2019, 6:30 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

Marisol Enriquez-Santos, Chair
Jose Luevano, Vice Chair
Loletta Barrett, Commissioner
Carlos Illingworth, Commissioner
Kathleen McDonnell, Commissioner

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public is invited to address the Social Services Commission regarding any item of business, with the exception of public hearing items, or any matter within the body's subject matter jurisdiction. Speakers must limit their comments to three minutes. Pursuant to State law, the Commission cannot take action or express a consensus of approval or disapproval on any oral communications which do not appear on the printed agenda.

5. STAFF REPORTS

5.A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Recommendation: Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 2, 2019.

**5.B. 2019-2020 WHITTIER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
SPONSORED BY ATHENS SERVICES AND REPUBLIC SERVICES**

Recommendation: Discuss 2019-2020 Whittier Scholarship Program- Sponsored by Athens Services and Republic Services essay entries and select scholarship winners.

5.C. UPDATE ON CITY OF WHITTIER HOMELESS PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Recommendation: Receive and file update on City of Whittier Homeless Plan implementation.

6. SECRETARY COMMENTS

7. COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS/CONFERENCE REPORTS

8. 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 2nd day of May 2019.

/s/ Sheryl Dugas

Sheryl Dugas, Administrative Secretary



Agenda Report

Social Services Commission

Date: May 7, 2019

To: Social Services Commission

From: Greg Alaniz, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services

Subject: Approval of Minutes

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 2, 2019.

BACKGROUND

None

DISCUSSION

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

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

ATTACHMENTS

A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 2, 2019

**MINUTES
CITY OF WHITTIER
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 13230 PENN STREET
TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2019 – 6:30 P.M.**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Social Services Commission of the City of Whittier met in Regular Session in the Whittier City Hall Council Chambers, 13230 Penn Street, Whittier, California. Chair Enriquez-Santos called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

**SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION
MEMBERS PRESENT**

Marisol Enriquez-Santos, Chair
Jose Luevano, Vice Chair
Loletta Barrett, Commissioner
Carlos Illingworth, Commissioner

**SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION
MEMBERS ABSENT**

Kathleen McDonnell, Commissioner (unexcused)

OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT

Greg Alaniz, Director of Parks, Recreation and
Community Services
Ruri Pierre, Community Services Supervisor
Angela Garner, Community Services Coordinator
Rosemary Serrano-Aiken, Secretary

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Luevano led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

5. STAFF REPORTS

5. A APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Commissioner Barrett pointed out that on page four of the minutes, under Commissioner’s Comments, the phrase, “for each project”, needs to be added to the end of the last sentence.

It was moved by Chair Enriquez-Santos, seconded by Commissioner Illingworth, and carried 4 – 0 (Absent: Commissioner McDonnell) to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 5, 2019 with corrections.

5. B 2019-2020 WHITTIER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM-SPONSORED BY ATHENS SERVICES AND REPUBLIC SERVICES

Secretary Alaniz announced that City Council suggested the Social Services Commission (SSC) take over the selection process for the 2019-20 Whittier Scholarship Program-Sponsored by Athens Services and Republic Services. The scholarship criteria and essay writing details are in the agenda packet. Five (5) individual scholarships will be awarded to five recipients living in the Athens service area and five (5) individual scholarships will be awarded to five recipients living in the Republic service area. The essay contest is only open to college-bound graduating high school seniors who are residents of the City of Whittier (regardless of the high school of attendance). There are four essay topics, of which they select one; essays are due by April 27. Winners will be notified by May 9, 2019 and the awards reception will be held at City Hall on May 14, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. Community Services Manager, Martin Browne will be in charge of making certain the essays meet the scholarship criteria. He will then submit them to SSC for review and selection. So far, only one essay has been received. Commissioner Luevano suggested creating a matrix to make the essay review process easier. Secretary Alaniz will speak with Mr. Browne. Essays will be sent to SSC Commissioners as soon as Mr. Browne has reviewed them; in time to discuss and make selections at the next SSC meeting on May 7, 2019.

No action was taken.

5. C UPDATE ON CITY OF WHITTIER HOMELESS PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Secretary Alaniz announced at the last City Council meeting there were two hours of Public Comments regarding homeless concerns, mostly on the greenbelt at Whittier Boulevard, Parnell Park, and the Greenway Trail (GWT). The Council Chamber was filled to capacity and 80 chairs had to be placed in the City Hall lobby for people waiting to speak. He added that the past two Fridays; Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Managers, Supervisors, and himself have been on the greenbelt to help clean-up. Whittier First Day will be providing clean-up on Wednesdays. Parnell Park continues to have 10 – 12 homeless individuals living there. The L.A. County Sheriff met at Parnell Park along with staff from PATH, Whittier First Day and LASHA, to see if the homeless were willing to receive services and move on. Fortunately, three homeless individuals accepted help over the course of the last week. Sheriffs posted signs stating the homeless must be out of the Parnell Park area on April 13, due to sanitizing and safety preparations for the Eggxtravaganza. The City has contracted a company specializing in bio-hazardous waste to help clean-up Parnell Park.

Commissioner Barrett asked if it would help to place trashcans and sharps containers at the greenbelt area. Secretary Alaniz replied, he will discuss this with City Council. Athens Services delivered two huge trash receptacles behind Whittier First Day.

Chair Enriquez-Santos stated there is much misinformation on social media regarding the homeless situation. People posting have no idea what is going on. The homeless situation has been around for a long time; it is just more visible now. There needs to

be more money allocated to families to alleviate homelessness. There is a long waiting list for Medi-Cal drug treatment programs. We need to prioritize how to deal with the homeless population. Secretary Alaniz announced that City Council has made the homeless situation a priority. There was a powerhouse meeting to discuss the homeless issue attended by Assembly Leader Ian Calderon, Senator Bob Archuleta, Ivan Sulic of Supervisor Hahn's office, the Whittier City Manager, as well as the PRCS and Public Works Directors. They discussed what options they have regarding the greenbelt on Whittier Boulevard. He added there was a meeting this morning with half the players mentioned and Caltrans since they own the median; the City maintains it.

Commissioner Illingworth commented there have been up to 34 tents on the greenbelt. Secretary Alaniz stated although residents want to see a plan executed, the PRCS Department and Administration are working on a phased approach geared towards service providers taking charge, not City staff. Commissioner Illingworth asked if there could be a higher level plan created; Secretary Alaniz replied it is being worked on. He added when Sheriffs were posting signs at Parnell Park regarding the Eggxtravaganza, strides were made with the homeless by them accepting help.

It was moved by Commissioner Luevano, seconded by Commissioner Illingworth, and carried 4 – 0 (Absent: Commissioner McDonnell) to receive and file update on City of Whittier Homeless Plan implementation.

5. D COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION PRESENTATION

Secretary Alaniz introduced Community Services Supervisor, Ruri Pierre and Community Services Coordinator, Angela Garner. They gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the following topics:

- SASSFA lunch program
- Physical activities
- Birthday and holiday celebrations
- Intergenerational programs
- Information and Referral Services
- Veterans programs
- Therapeutic Recreation
- Art classes
- Friday Night Dances
- Frontier Players
- Special Olympics
- Whittier Dial-A-Ride
- Transit Access Pass (TAP cards sold at the Senior Center)

Ms. Pierre and Ms. Garner distributed the April 2019 Senior Moments newsletter to all present. All Commissioners thanked them for the informative presentation.

It was moved by Commissioner Luevano, seconded by Commissioner Illingworth, and carried 4 – 0 (Absent: Commissioner McDonnell) to receive and file the Community Services Division's presentation focusing on Senior Services.

6. SECRETARY COMMENTS

Secretary Alaniz announced the following:

City Council will review the SSC's Social Services Funding recommendations at the City Council Budget Session on May 7, 2019.

The annual Eggxtravaganza will take place on Saturday, April 13th at Parnell Park. Festivities will begin at 11:00 a.m.

Dancing with the Whittier Stars is May 8th with two shows at 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center Theatre.

Founders Day is scheduled for May 11th at Central Park.

7. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

There were no Commissioner comments.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Enriquez-Santos adjourned the meeting at 7:27 p.m.

Approved and adopted by the Social Services Commission on _____.

GREG ALANIZ, Secretary



Agenda Report

Social Services Commission

Date: May 7, 2019

To: Social Services Commission

From: Greg Alaniz, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services

Subject: 2019-2020 Whittier Scholarship Program-Sponsored by Athens Services and Republic Services

RECOMMENDATION

Discuss 2019-2020 Whittier Scholarship Program-Sponsored by Athens Services and Republic Services essay entries and select scholarship winners.

BACKGROUND

On September 26, 2017, City Council approved solid waste and recycling franchise agreements with Athens Services and Republic Services. Both agreements included funding for a scholarship program for City residents, named the Whittier Community Scholarship Program. Athens Services was to provide five (5) \$500 scholarships and Republic Services was to provide five (5) \$500 scholarships. The City and both waste services companies advertise the scholarship program on websites, social media, print media, and via direct mailings to local high schools.

Last year was the first year of the scholarship program. Although the criteria guidelines state that students living in the unincorporated Los Angeles County areas of Whittier are not eligible, complaints were received from both teachers and students for excluding non-Whittier residents. According to the franchise agreements, awardees must be residents of the City. For clarity, it was approved by City Council on February 26, 2019 for the title of the program to be changed from Whittier Community Scholarship Program to the Whittier Scholarship Program.

In the past, the two companies selected scholarship recipients. City Council recently determined that the Social Services Commission will now review essay entries and award scholarships. Checks will be presented to the winners at a reception prior to the May 14, 2019 City Council meeting.

At the April 2, 2019 Social Services Commission meeting, the scholarship criteria and essay writing details were reviewed. It was determined that the essay submissions which meet the scholarship criteria will be reviewed and selected at the May 7, 2019 Social Services Commission meeting.

DISCUSSION

Athens Services and Republic Services have entrusted the Social Services Commission with evaluation of essay entries for their scholarship program from college bound, graduating high school seniors who reside in the City of Whittier, regardless of the location of the high school attended. Students living in the unincorporated Los Angeles County areas of Whittier are not eligible.

Essay entries are required to follow the theme: "Environmental Sustainability", and must adhere to the writing and submission guidelines.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. 2019-2020 Whittier Scholarship Program-Sponsored by Athens Services and Republic Services Scholarship Criteria and Essay Writing Details



2019-2020 WHITTIER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SPONSORED BY **ATHENS SERVICES** AND **REPUBLIC SERVICES**

Scholarship Criteria and Essay Writing Details:

Theme:

- Environmental Sustainability

Deadline:

- Entries must be submitted by email to mbrowne@cityofwhittier.org with "Scholarship Essay" in the subject line. The due date is Saturday, April 27, 2019 and must be emailed and received by midnight.

Eligibility:

- The essay contest is only open to college-bound graduating high school seniors who are residents of the City of Whittier, regardless of the location of the high school attended. Unfortunately, students living in the **unincorporated Los Angeles County areas of Whittier are not eligible**. Questions can be addressed by Martin Browne, Community Services Manager, at mbrowne@cityofwhittier.org or (562) 567-9470.

Scholarship Awards:

- Five (5) \$500 individual scholarships will be awarded to five recipients living in **Athens'** service area.
- Five (5) \$500 individual scholarships will be awarded to five recipients living in **Republic's** service area.
- Winners will be notified by May 9, 2019.
- Winners will be invited to a reception at City Hall, 13230 Penn St., on May 14, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. to be recognized and presented with their scholarship check.

Writing Guidelines:

- Essays must be 400 to 500 words in length, typewritten and double-spaced in 12-point font. Facts and quotations should be appropriately cited either in the body of the essay or in footnotes. Entries must be original, unpublished essays written by the contestants.

Submission Guidelines:

- Please submit only one essay per student. Email entries to: mbrowne@cityofwhittier.org with the subject "Scholarship Essay". Include your essay in the body of the email and as an attached PDF document. Entries must include: essay topic, your full name, email address, home address, contact phone number, grade level, school name, the name of your parent or legal guardian, and the name of your trash hauler from your residential invoice (either **Athens Services** or **Republic Services**), in that specific order.

Selection of Scholarship Recipients:

- The City of Whittier's Social Services Commission will evaluate the essays. Essays will be judged anonymously with no identifying information available to the judges. Essays will be evaluated based upon creativity, demonstrated passion for the environment, and a vision for the future. Submissions will also be judged based upon writing standards set forth in *A Writer's Reference* required by most colleges and universities. Decisions by the judges are final.

Essay Topics:

(Students are challenged to answer any one of the following questions - Please submit only one essay per student):

1. How can current and future technology be used to conserve natural resources and help the environment?
2. Discuss the idea of "zero waste". Is it an idealistic dream or a realistic goal?
3. According to the USDA, food loss and waste in the United States accounts for approximately 31 percent – or 133 billion pounds – of the overall food supply available to retailers and consumers, and has far-reaching impacts on food security, resource conservation, and climate change. How can food security be achieved?
4. Environmental sustainability is a huge topic. Some of the global concerns are so large that they seem insurmountable. Describe small things individual people can do to live a more sustainable life. Identify environmentally unsustainable things people do on a daily basis and alternatives they could do instead.



Agenda Report

Social Services Commission

Date: May 7, 2019

To: Social Services Commission

From: Greg Alaniz, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services

Subject: Update on City of Whittier Homeless Plan Implementation

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file update on City of Whittier Homeless Plan implementation.

BACKGROUND

At the July 24, 2018 City Council Meeting, Council adopted the City of Whittier Homeless Plan.

The homeless plan provides a framework, and establishes four goals with supporting action items, for preventing and combatting homelessness over the next three years. The plan includes key supporting actions the City has undertaken to improve existing services and programs, increase service access, identify and strengthen local and regional partnerships, and provide outreach and information to the community regarding homelessness. The plan includes ideas from the two consultants who worked on the plan, Whittier Police Department, Whittier First Day, Social Services Commissioners, and comments from the community meetings, community surveys, and stakeholder interviews. The plan recognizes the need for additional resources to address the homeless issues in the City, and to provide information to the community on the work being done. Metrics for each goal have been set, as appropriate, in coordination with the County and homeless prevention experts over the course of the life of the plan.

DISCUSSION

Staff will update Commission on City of Whittier Homeless Plan implementation.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

ATTACHMENTS

None