

# **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, or all, Whittier Social Services Commission Members may attend this meeting telephonically.

Consistent with mandates of Executive Order No. N-29-20, a physical location from which members of the public may observe the meeting or offer public comment will not be made available. City Hall will not be open to the public for this meeting; however public comments can be submitted below as instructed.

To submit Public Comments/Questions:

- Email: [ltrinh@cityofwhittier.org](mailto:ltrinh@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 Social Services commissioners receive and have time to review them. All emails and voicemails received by 5:30 p.m. are forwarded to the Members. Emails and voicemails 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  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, 13230 PENN STREET  
JULY 7, 2020, 6:30 PM**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**2. ROLL CALL**

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

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

- Email: [ltrinh@cityofwhittier.org](mailto:ltrinh@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.

**5. STAFF REPORTS**

**5.A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Recommendation: Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 5, 2020.

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> day of July 2020.

/s/ Lanie Trinh

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Lanie Trinh, Administrative Secretary



# Agenda Report

Social Services Commission

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**Date:** July 7, 2020

**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 May 5, 2020.

## **BACKGROUND**

None

## **DISCUSSION**

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

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

None.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 5, 2020.

**MINUTES  
CITY OF WHITTIER  
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 13230 PENN STREET  
MAY 5, 2020 – 6:30 P.M.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Jose Luevano, consistent with Executive Order No. N-25-20, called the regular meeting of the Social Services Commission to order at 6:30 p.m via telephone conference on May 5, 2020.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Jose Luevano, Chair  
Carlos Illingworth, Vice Chair  
Loletta Barrett, Commissioner  
Kathleen McDonnell, Commissioner

**ABSENT:** Marisol Enriquez-Santos, Commissioner

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Virginia Santana, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services  
Martin Browne, Community Services Manager  
Lanie Trinh, Administrative Secretary

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Chair Luevano led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Chair Luevano stated that consistent with Governor Newsom’s Executive Order N-29-20, public comment options were made available to the public for participation by email and voicemail. Administrative Secretary Lanie Trinh was to forward correspondence to Commission for review.

Ms. Trinh reported no public comments were received.

**5. STAFF REPORTS:**

**5.A. Approval of Minutes**

It was moved by Vice Chair Carlos Illingworth, seconded by Commissioner Kathleen McDonnell, and carried 4 – 0 (absent: Commissioner Enriquez-Santos) to approve the Minutes of the January 7, 2020 Regular Meeting.

**5.B. 2020 - 2021 Whittier Scholarship Program**

Virginia Santana, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services, explained the selection process to facilitate the nature of the teleconference and reported that while five (5) scholarships from Athens Services were available to be awarded, only four (4) applications were submitted.

Commissioner Loletta Barrett began by stating that all the submissions for Athens were good, however, essay A#1 did not have a citations page. Commissioner Barrett voted to move forward with essays A#2, A#3, and A#4.

Commissioner McDonnell agreed with Commission Barrett on essay A#2 that the personality came through with an engaging writing style and was her favorite essay overall. She understood Commissioner Barrett's point about citations. She acknowledged the City of Whittier's diverse student population, with some children having more advantages than others. She acknowledged that nobody would be able to know that from the essays, but would be in favor of whatever the Commission decided on.

Vice Chair Illingworth saw both points and agreed that while citations ought to be included, flexibility was necessary knowing that our students came from many different backgrounds. He would be in favor of granting all four submissions the scholarships, with the request for the first applicant to provide a citation page.

Chair Luevano agreed with Commissioner McDonnell and Commissioner Barrett that essay A#2 had spunk. He also acknowledged that citations were required, but factored in the money that the students needed and that it should be granted for them. Commissioner McDonnell asked if Vice Chair Illingworth's suggestion of requesting a citation was allowed. Director Santana answered that Community Services Manager, Martin Browne, will reach out for the missing citation. Commissioner Barrett weighed in that students should not be denied of a learning opportunity and would support this decision. Director Santana concluded that the Commission would move forward with all four (4) essays submitted to Athens Services.

Vice Chair Illingworth asked if the additional funds that would have gone to the fifth Athens Services winner could be used for the runner up for the Republic Services scholarship entries instead. Director Santana answered that it would be the decision of the two trash hauler companies. Manager Browne had not received any instruction regarding this, so it was more likely for them to want to keep the funds separate.

The Commission moved on to the Republic Services scholarships. Commissioner Barrett commented that all essays followed the rules and

used their own words, which made it difficult to narrow it down to just four winners. She selected ones that stuck out as novel or unique; essay R#2 on conserving energy, R#3 on packing and packaging design, R#6 for the philosophy on refusing to create new products and instead reuse existing ones, and R#7 for its politically active tone about voting and manufacturing.

Commissioner McDonnell selected essay R#3 for addressing sustainability, R#6 for the same reasons that Commissioner Barrett had given, R#7 due to the student's understanding of politics and the power of voting, and R#8 for being well-written.

Vice Chair Illingworth was impressed with the knowledge that essay R#3 had on contamination. He was certain about his votes for R#3 and R#6 but was otherwise open with the other essays.

Chair Luevano concurred with Vice Chair Illingworth on essays R#3, that it contained knowledge of law and business compliance. Alongside R#3, R#8 was on the top of his list for citing the Department of Public Works, as well as R#2 and R#5.

After the votes tallied, Vice Chair Illingworth casted his remaining votes to essays R#2 and R#7.

Director Santana read the completed votes, with essays R#2, R#3, R#6 and R#7 as the selected winners.

It was moved by Commissioner McDonnell, seconded by Vice Chair Illingworth, and carried 4 – 0 (absent: Commissioner Enriquez-Santos) to award the scholarships to all four (4) essays submitted to Athens Services with the understanding that the author of essay A#1 would provide citations, and to essays R#2, R#3, R#6 and R#7 submitted to Republic Services.

## **6. SECRETARY COMMENTS:**

Secretary Santana updated the Commission on the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services partnership with Los Angeles County Supervisor, Janice Hahn, and a social service program, where we received a grant to deliver emergency meals to seniors on a waitlist. The Home Delivered Meals program allowed us to deliver meals to 133 seniors, Monday through Friday, each receive a hot meal and a cold meal prepared by PIH Health.

In addition, the part-time employees at the Whittier Senior Center continued to do wellness calls to check-in on senior residents. She commended Manager Browne and his team at the Senior Center for their continued assistance to the senior residents and their needs.

Secretary Santana reported that calls regarding the homeless affecting the Greenway Trail and the railroad have been heavy and that the Department is doing its best to provide information and assistance.

**7. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:**

Commissioner McDonnell requested if the Commission could receive updates for the grant recipients in regards to how COVID-19 have impacted their numbers or services. It would be a great way to see how these organizations have adapted to these unexpected changes. Director Santana replied that a survey could be used to receive the requested information.

Vice Chair Illingworth concurred with Commissioner McDonnell's suggestion. He added that giving them an opportunity to provide a brief addendum on how they have adjusted to COVID-19 and highlighting those efforts would provide hope and inspiration for the people.

Commissioner Barrett added that one of the organizations that the Commission previously granted funds for, The Soup Hour, was in dire need. Although they were no longer able to provide hot meals, they overcame this shortcoming by accepting donations of canned goods and vegetables from different organizations. Staff also purchased bread out of their own pockets to make basic sandwiches for the brown bags that were distributed through the gates. She reported that they still do mail services also, and that they should be commended for their continued efforts and swiftness to take action despite the odds. Director Santana assured that we would help to get the word out.

**8. ADJOURNMENT:**

Chair Luevano adjourned the meeting at 7:21 p.m. while wishing for everyone to stay safe and healthy.

Approved and adopted by the Social Services Commission on \_\_\_\_\_.

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Virginia Santana, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Service