

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 Commissioners 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: arodriguez@cityofwhittier.org
- Voicemail: (562) 567-9400

To view live meetings remotely:

- Video and audio: <https://zoom.us/j/96391049442>
- Audio only: Dial (669) 900-9128 (Meeting ID: 963 9104 9442)

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 CHAMBER, 13230 PENN STREET
NOVEMBER 3, 2020, 6:30 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

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

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 body's subject matter jurisdiction. Consistent with Executive Order No. N-29-20 public comments can be made via:

- Email: arodriguez@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 September 1, 2020.

5.B. INFORMATION AND REFERRAL REPORT

Recommendation: Approve the Information and Referral report for the period March to September 2020.

5.C. VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Recommendation: Review and recommend details for the 20/21 Volunteer of the Year Award Brochure.

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 29th day of October 2020.

/s/ Alex Rodriguez

Alex Rodriguez, Office Specialist III



Agenda Report

Social Services Commission

Date: November 3, 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 September 1, 2020.

BACKGROUND

None

DISCUSSION

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

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

ATTACHMENTS

A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 1, 2020

**MINUTES
CITY OF WHITTIER
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 13230 PENN STREET
SEPTEMBER 1, 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 6:46 p.m. via telephone conference on September 1, 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
Jeff Lopez, Management Assistant
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.

Administrative Secretary Trinh reported no public comments were received.

5. STAFF REPORTS:

5.A. Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner McDonnell, and carried 4 – 0 (absent: Commissioner Enriquez-Santos) to approve the Minutes of the May 5, 2020 Regular Meeting as amended.

5.B. Election of Officers

Commissioner McDonnell nominated Vice Chair Illingworth for the position of Chair.

It was moved by Chair Luevano, seconded by Commissioner Barrett, and carried 4 – 0, by roll call vote (absent: Commissioner Enriquez-Santos) to elect Vice Chair Illingworth for the position of Chair for the FY 2020-21.

Commissioner Luevano nominated Commissioner Barrett for the position of Vice Chair.

It was moved by Commissioner McDonnell, seconded by Commissioner Luevano, and carried 4 – 0, by roll call vote (absent: Commissioner Enriquez-Santos) to elect Commissioner Barrett for the position of Vice Chair for the FY 2020-21.

5.C. 2020 Volunteer Recognition Program

Chair Illingworth suggested this year's 2020 Volunteer Recognition Program application process should commend those who have gone above and beyond in the community, in relation to COVID-19 relief work; and suggested making this year's program a virtual one.

Director Santana replied that it is possible to have the event pre-recorded or livestream it on social media and Channel 3.

Commissioner McDonnell asked how nominations would be received.

Director Santana suggested that it could be announced on social media, since it had been mailed to the agencies in the past.

Chair Illingworth asked if it is possible have an appropriate person to announce the nominations on social media to generate more excitement.

Director Santana replied that it is a great idea and will look into it.

Commissioner McDonnell recommended extending the deadline for submissions and move the award ceremony to January 2021.

Due to the changes from COVID-19, Chair Illingworth suggested allowing past recipients to be nominated.

Vice Chair Barrett stated that if many nominations are received then allowing past recipients may pose an issue.

Commissioner McDonnell suggested the possibility of changing the criteria to make those who have not received an award eligible for nomination.

Chair Illingworth suggested allowing the option to submit nominations via video format.

5.D. Update on City of Whittier Homeless Plan Implementation

Director Santana updated the Commission on the temporary emergency shelter which had a ribbon cutting ceremony on Saturday, August 29th; stated 50 people are currently using the shelter, which is better than expected; explained that comfortable beds and along with bins for storage of personal items and three meals are provided; and confirmed Salvation Army staff will provide homeless resources.

Management Assistant Jeff Lopez reported the 15,000 square-foot Navigation Center on Pickering Avenue will cater for 150 individuals, which covers 60% of the city's current homeless population; stated it is expected to open in January 2021; announced the Whittier Consortium State of Homeless Annual Meeting will take place on October 3 as a virtual Zoom meeting with at least 100 attendees that can provide input on the meeting; stated Project Roomkey is expanding to the east side of Los Angeles County; reported there were 570 reports received through the Whittier 24/7 app comprising mostly of overnight camping and trespassing; and highlighted there were 24 requests submitted this month when the average is typically 75 to 80 per month.

Vice Chair Barrett asked if the Senior Center is to remain closed after the Navigation Center opens.

Director Santana answered that those in the temporary shelter will be transferred to the Navigation Center once it opens; and stated that the Senior Center will remain closed until it is safe to reopen again.

Vice Chair Barrett inquired about air conditioning and other accommodations at the temporary shelter site.

Director Santana said that air conditioning is provided inside the newly erected tent; and explained the City is providing three meals per day; and stated the Salvation Army will provide snacks throughout the day.

Vice Chair Barrett asked for an update on the services provided to the seniors.

Director Santana reported that the seniors continue to receive wellness calls and frozen meals through the Southeast Area Social Services Funding Authority; stated that seniors were delivered special packages for Senior Citizens Day; and confirmed photos of that event will be provided to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Luevano requested a list on types of services that the homeless at the temporary shelter are receiving from the other agencies.

Director Santana replied she will request information from Salvation Army staff and report to Commissioners at a future meeting.

Vice Chair Barrett requested the status of the Information and Referral report.

Director Santana replied that Manager Browne will prepare and deliver the report at the next meeting; and explained she is working on a new format for the report.

6. SECRETARY COMMENTS:

Director Santana announced upcoming events and provided information of programming including two fall concerts; Elvis on September 5 and reggae music on September 19, that can be viewed on the City of Whittier's social media and Channel 3; Halloween Movie Night on October 31 with a potential costume or car decorating contest; the success of the WYN Club summer programming and distance learning; Palm Park's pool reopening for adult lap swim and potentially for the Whittier Aquatic Club; and Adaptive Recreation hosting scavenger hunts to keep the community engaged.

7. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:

Vice Chair Barrett requested for an update on the Social Services funding.

Director Santana explained the present funds are still available but City Council's decision on the use of the general funding portion is still pending.

Commissioner McDonnell thanked Commissioner Luevano for his leadership as Chair over the past year.

Commissioner Luevano thanked staff on getting business done despite the challenges.

Chair Illingworth commended staff on the programming offered to meet the needs of the community.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Illingworth adjourned the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

Approved and adopted by the Social Services Commission on _____.

Virginia Santana, Secretary



Agenda Report

Social Services Commission

Date: November 3, 2020

To: Social Services Commission

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

Subject: Information and Referral Report

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the Information and Referral report for the period March to September 2020.

BACKGROUND

None.

DISCUSSION

Staff prepared a new version of the Information and Referral report and hereby submits the report for Commission's approval. Each 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.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

ATTACHMENTS

A. I & R Report, March to September 2020

I & R Summary Report March – September 2020**March 2020**

The start of COVID-19 created the closure of the senior centers and the ending to all senior services and programs. Received calls for home-delivered meals, transportation services, help with nursing home regulations, and tax preparations.

Food programs:

- SASSFA (Home Delivered Meals)
- Meals on Wheels (Home Delivered Meals)
- Community Action Partnership Program (Food Bank)
- Salvation Army (Food Items Giveaway & Gift Card to Smart & Final)

Free Tax Preparations:

- Tax Preparations, through AARP for our seniors, stopped but SASSFA and Mexican American Opportunity Foundation (MAOF) provided options for seniors

Legal (Nursing Home):

- Ombudsman Program (WISE)
- Housing Rights Center

Transportation:

- City Dial-A-Ride
- County Dial-A-Ride
- ACCESS
- ButterFLi
- Refer the individual to his/her health insurance company

April 2020

As a result of COVID-19 the Federal and State tax deadline was extended, and individuals continue to seek help for tax preparation. Individuals were still in need of home-delivered meals, transportation, and the need for someone to help pick up/deliver their groceries/medications. With the need to communicate virtually seniors started seeking training with cell phones and laptops. The increase of rent was another concern as well questions regarding stimulus checks.

Free Tax Preparations:

- SASSFA Tax Preparations
- Mexican American Opportunity Foundation (MAOF)

Food programs:

- SASSFA (Home Delivered Meals)
- Meals on Wheels (Home Delivered Meals)
- Community Action Partnership Program (Food Bank). Food distribution in the Uptown Senior Center parking lot.
- Salvation Army (Food Items Giveaway & Gift Card to Smart & Final)
- City of Whittier Meals Program (Home delivery service by city staff for 150 meals Monday through Friday)

Transportation:

- City Dial-A-Ride
- County Dial-A-Ride
- ACCESS
- ButterFLi
- Refer individual to his/her health insurance company

Delivery Services:

- Los Angeles County Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS)
- Referred clients to In Home care services:
- In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Program - California
- Home Instead
- DialMed
- Personal Assistance Services Council (Help with additional hours for caregiver)

Cell Phone/Laptop Training:

- Students from Community Education Program Initiative (CEPI) Whittier College assisted with training for seniors.
- AARP

Housing Issues:

- Housing Rights Center (Help with rent increase)
- Los Angeles County Community Development Commission (New place to live.)
- Regional Center (New place to live for families with disabilities)
- SCRS-il (New place to live for families with disabilities)

Stimulus Check:

- IRS Website

May 2020

Increase of calls seeking assistance with rent payments, landlord/tenant issues, and housing. Also received calls from homeowners seeking information for Reverse Mortgages. Another area of concern was callers seeking emotional support. Financial support for rent, food, and utilities were additional areas of need. Tax referral calls continued throughout the month of May.

Reverse Mortgage:

- Refer individuals to their banking institution
- Home Living Tree
- L.A. County Consumer & Business Affairs
- AARP

Assistance with paying rent:

- DPSS
- Housing Rights
- 2-1-1 L.A. County

Landlord and Tenant Issues (Legal):

- Eviction rights
- Housing Rights
- CLA-LA
- Legal Aid Foundation of L.A.
- Community Legal Aid SoCal

Housing Referrals:

- Older adults seeking a new place to live without family members
- Community Development Commission County of L.A.
- Housing Rights Rental Directory
- TSA Properties
- LINC Properties

Homeless:

- LAHSA
- PATH
- First Day
- Jovens (College students)
- Project Room Key

Emotional Support:

- SCRS-il (Women's Support Group-Provided by Whittier Senior Center)
- DMH (Mental Health Hotline)
- Referred to individual's health insurance for counseling

Financial Support:

- DPSS: CalWORKs, General Relief, and CalFresh
- SCRS-il: CalFresh and Housing
- CalFresh for SSDI & SSI provided by Whittier Senior Center
- EDD: Unemployment Office
- Community Resource Center
- Refer to Southern California Edison and Gas Company for referrals

COVID-19 Information:

- Testing, financial help, PPE supplies
- L.A. County website
- L.A County Consumer & Business Affairs
- Covid website

Free Tax Preparations:

- SASSFA Tax Preparations
- Mexican American Opportunity Foundation (MAOF)
- IRS website

Food programs:

- SASSFA (Home Delivered Meals)
- Meals on Wheels (Home Delivered Meals)
- Great Meals (Home Delivered Meals)
- Community Action Partnership Program (Food Bank)
- Salvation Army (Food Items Giveaway & Gift Card to Smart & Final)
- City of Whittier Meals Program (Served 150 meals)
- P-EBT for students

June 2020

Food, housing, transportation, and in-home care were still in demand. New areas of need were specialized phones, emergency housing, caregiver support, Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), Trust & Wills, Veterans, Donations, and Medical Equipment rental.

Food programs:

- SASSFA (Home Delivered Meals)
- Meals on Wheels (Home Delivered Meals)
- Great Meals (Home Delivered Meals)
- Community Action Partnership Program (Food Bank)
- Salvation Army (Food Items Giveaway & Gift Card to Smart & Final)

Transportation:

- City Dial-A-Ride
- County Dial-A-Ride
- ACCESS
- ButterFLi
- Refer individual to his/her health insurance company

In Home Care:

- SASSFA
- In Homestead
- DialMed
- Health Insurance Plan
- IHSS

Specialized Phones:

- California Telephone Assistance Program
- Dayle McIntosh Services
- Medical Equipment Rental

Emergency Housing (family):

- Red Cross
- Salvation Army
- Whole Child
- Los Angeles County Development Authority

Caregiver Support Group:

- USC Family Caregiver
- SCRS-il
- Alz Assoc
- Cancer Society

Department of Motor Vehicles (Seniors):

- AARP
- AAA
- DMV Senior Driver Ombudsman Program

Trust & Wills – Legal:

- Bet Tzedek
- HERA
- CLA-LA

Veterans:

- Whittier Library
- Whittier Liberty Plaza
- Veterans Crisis Hotline

Donations (Accepting):

- SASSFA
- Home Instead
- Salvation Army
- First Day Coalition

Medical Rental Equipment:

- Whittier Drugs
- Home Medical Supplies
- Helping Hands Senior Foundation

July 2020

This summer we had a high interest from seniors seeking digital equipment, primarily help using Zoom. They also needed help with computers, laptops, and cell phones. Other areas of need were back to school supplies and continued assistance with Coronavirus Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) food cards for students. We received inquiries pertaining to Medicare enrollment and the difference between Medi-Cal and Medicare. Additional inquires included question regarding SSA, SSDI, and SSI. We continued referrals to transportation, housing, delivery services and In-home care services.

Digital Training:

- Whittier College (CEPI) - Phone call assistance
- AARP

Back to school:

- HYC
- Rose Hills
- 2-1-1 Info Line
- CalFresh Program
- Contact his/her DPSS Social Worker

- Director of Food Services for school
- P-EBT customer service phone number and/or website

Understanding of Medicare and Medi-Cal:

- HICAP (Whittier Senior Center provided monthly HICAP counselors when opened)
- Social Security Administration
- SCRS-il

Understanding of SSA, SSDI, and SSI:

- SCRS-il
- Social Security Administration

Housing Referrals:

- Community Development Commission County of L.A.
- Housing Rights Rental Directory
- TSA Properties
- LINC Properties

In Home Care:

- SASSFA
- In Homestead
- DialMed
- Health Insurance Plan
- IHSS

Transportation:

- City Dial-A-Ride
- County Dial-A-Ride
- ACCESS
- ButterFLi
- Refer individual to his/her health insurance company

Delivery Services:

- WADCS
- Referred to In Home Care services

August 2020

In August we celebrated National Senior Day which gave us a good opportunity to connect with seniors again. With the need for several items (How to Zoom, transportation resources, emergency preparedness, and more) we were able to give seniors a gift bag of informative and fun items. We continued assisting with utility bills, childcare, services for low vision, legal, caregiving, transportation, legal, Trust & Wills, housing, and senior fraud. Calls pertaining to homeless adults and college students continued.

Transportation:

- City Dial-A-Ride
- County Dial-A-Ride
- ACCESS
- ButterFLi
- Refer the individual to his/her health insurance company

Utility Assistance (Electric and Gas):

- Community Resource Center
- Pico Rivera Community Center w/Catholic Charities
- Contact SCE and Gas Company
- Long Beach Community Action Partnership

Childcare (Essential Workers-Low cost):

- City of Whittier day program - Scholarship
- YMCA
- Head Start
- Covid-19 Ca Gov website

Services for older adults with low vision:

- SCRS-il
- Braille Institute
- Dayle McIntosh Services

Legal (Landlord and Tenant Issues):

- Eviction rights & rent Increase
- Housing Rights
- CLA-LA
- Legal Aid Foundation of L.A.
- Community Legal Aid SoCal

Legal (Trust & Wills and Fraud):

- Bet Tzedek
- CLA-LA
- Department of Consumer Affairs (Fraud)
- AARP (Fraud)

Homeless:

- LAHSA
- PATH
- First Day
- Jovenes Inc. Center (College students)
- Project Room Key

Housing Referrals:

- Older adults seeking a new place to live without family members
- Community Development Commission County of L.A.
- Housing Rights Rental Directory
- TSA Properties
- LINC Properties
- Whittier Place Care Center
- Whittier College CEPI
- Red Cross

September 2020

Tax preparation calls rose this month due to the October 15 deadline for tax extensions we also received inquiries about low cost hearing aids, health plans, Medicare, and Medical (new enrollment October), Flu shots, assistance to purchase a car and mobile homes. Calls for assistance with senior fraud and housing rights, food, housing, veterans, homeless, transportation, utility assistance, donations, rental assistance, and low-cost childcare continued.

Free Tax Preparations:

- Mexican American Opportunity Foundation (MAOF)
- IRS website

Low Cost Hearing Aid:

- Whittier Hearing Center
- Connect Hearing
- HICAP

Understanding of Medicare and Medi-Cal:

- HICAP
- Social Security Administration
- SCRS-il

Flu Shots (Starts October):

- County Libraries
- Department of Public Health
- Check with personal doctor

Assistance to purchase car:

- Replace your Ride (So. Coast AQMD)

Assistance to Purchase Mobile Home:

- Habitat for Humanity
- Housing and Community Development
- Housing and Urban Development
- Mobile home Assistance Center - Ombudsman

Legal (Fraud):

- CLA-LA
- Department of Consumer Affairs (Fraud)
- AARP (Fraud)

Legal (Landlord and Tenant Issues):

- Eviction rights & Rent Increase
- Housing Rights
- CLA-LA
- Legal Aid Foundation of L.A.
- Community Legal Aid SoCal

Food programs:

- SASSFA (Home Delivered Meals)
- Meals on Wheels (Home Delivered Meals)
- Great Meals (Home Delivered Meals)

Veterans:

- Whittier Library
- Whittier Liberty Plaza
- Veterans Crisis Hotline

Homeless:

- LAHSA
- PATH
- First Day
- Salvation Army

Utility Assistance (Electric and Gas):

- Community Resource Center
- Pico Rivera Community Center w/Catholic Charities
- Contact SCE and Gas Company
- Long Beach Community Action Partnership

Rental Assistance:

- Housing Rights Center
- CHIRP-LA
- 2-1-1 Info Line

Donations (Accepting):

- St. Matthias
- Salvation Army
- First Day Coalition
- Women and Children Crisis Center

Childcare (Essential Workers-Low cost):

- City of Whittier day program - Scholarship
- YMCA
- Head Start
- COVID-19 CA Gov. website

Housing Referrals:

- Older adults seeking a new place to live without family members:
- Community Development Commission County of L.A.
- Housing Rights Rental Directory
- TSA Properties
- LINC Properties

Transportation:

- City Dial-A-Ride
- County Dial-A-Ride
- ACCESS
- ButterFLi
- Refer the individual to his/her health insurance company



Agenda Report

Social Services Commission

Date: November 3, 2020

To: Social Services Commission

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

Subject: Volunteer of the Year

RECOMMENDATION

Review and recommend details for the 20/21 Volunteer of the Year Award Brochure.

BACKGROUND

Annually, the Social Services Commission hosts the City's Volunteer of the Year program. The Commission prepares a "Call for Nominations," reviews the nominations received, selects the recipients of Awards and hosts the Award Ceremony.

DISCUSSION

The Commission recognized that the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in the community stepping-up and volunteering in new and innovative ways. At the August 2020 meeting, Commissioners agreed to change the nomination criteria and requested staff revise the material for distribution. Staff prepared the following revisions:

Volunteer Recognition

Volunteer Recognition awards are presented annually to outstanding individuals who have gone above and beyond in giving to the Whittier community. Nominees devote their time, talent, and expertise on a volunteer (non-paid) basis to local nonprofit groups. Whittier is known for its strong volunteer ethic, and to date, more than 200 volunteers have been honored. They include representatives from nonprofit social service agencies, youth groups, schools, service clubs, and business volunteer groups.

How to Nominate This Year

Volunteers will be selected based upon their specific services to the community related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our City has been affected in many ways, and we would like to recognize individuals who have stepped-up to provide voluntary service to help our community in this time of need. Complete the Award Nomination form and, in two pages or less, please explain why you believe this volunteer deserves to be recognized for their services related to COVID-19 activities. Please include a description of the volunteer's service and its impact on the organization and the community at large.

Submissions may include photographs, videos, and/or brochures of the organization. Submitted items will not be returned. Emailed documents or video files are preferred.

Please note: Volunteer service hours must have been performed in the City of Whittier, for an organization serving the community at large. Volunteers do not need to be city

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residents. Religious, fraternal, City employees, City Commissioners, and professional groups providing services only to their members are not eligible for nomination. Past recipients are eligible this year.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

ATTACHMENTS

None.