

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA

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AGENDA

**Monday
September 12, 2022**



**5:30 p.m.
Regular Meeting**

Mission Statement

Palm Springs is an inclusive world-class city dedicated to providing excellent and responsive public services to enhance the quality of life for current and future generations.

Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361, this meeting will be conducted by teleconference and there will be no in-person public access to the meeting location.

- **To view/listen/participate in the meeting live, please use the following link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89144291995?pwd=ZlVlS284c0UwcG5WZDBUOGhDQnJCdz09>

or call (669) 900-6833 Zoom Meeting ID 891 4429 1995, Passcode 648818

- **Written public comment may also be submitted to cityclerk@palmspringsca.gov. Transmittal prior to the meeting is required. Any correspondence received during or after the meeting will be distributed to the Board/Commission as soon as practicable and retained for the official record.**
- **The meeting will be recorded and the audio file will be available from the Office of the City Clerk and will be posted on the City's YouTube channel, as soon as practicable.**

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- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Hugo Loyola
 - 2. ROLL CALL:** Board Members: David Vignolo, Oliver Cleary, Ron deHarte, Terrie Andrade, Glenn Flood, Vice Chair Donna Shepherd, and Chair Hugo Loyola

Student Representative Lilly Hanner
 - 3. QUORUM:**
 - 4. MISSION STATEMENT & GOALS:**

"The Mission of the Palm Springs Human Rights Commission is to promote and protect the diversity of our community and to improve human relations through education and community awareness."

Human Rights Commission Goals:

- *To develop community education programs;*
- *To investigate and mediate instances of discrimination of groups or individuals;*
- *To bring persons and groups together in common support of human rights issues;*
- *To acquire the fiscal and human resources necessary to support and accomplish the work of the Commission;*
- *To provide management and coordination for the Commission;*
- *To promote diversity through the appointment of candidates to all city boards and commissions to proportionately reflect the diversity of the population of the City of Palm Springs;*
- *The Commission and each Committee shall develop goals and objectives annually, for adoption by the commission;*
- *The Commission shall work closely with the Mayor, City Council, and City Cabinet and with all other City Commissions and Boards in joint endeavors that support the Commission's mission statement and City's goals and objectives.*

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS: This time has been set aside for members of the public to address the Human Rights Commission on agenda items; and items of general interest within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. Three (3) minutes is allowed for each speaker. Although the Commission values your comments, pursuant to the Brown Act, it generally cannot take any action on items not listed on the posted agenda. Commissioners will not enter into discussion with speakers, but during Commission Comments, may refer the matter to staff for report and recommendation at a future Commission meeting.

6. CHAIR COMMENTS:

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 11, 2022

8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION:

A. Reports

1. Executive Report Standing Committee (Chair Loyola, Vice Chair Shepherd)
2. Community Relations /Budget/Personnel Report
 - a. PSPD LGBT Outreach Liaison
 - b. Master Calendar Liaison
 - c. Main Street Liaison
 - d. Organized Neighborhoods of Palm Springs Liaison (Vignolo)
3. Desert Highland Gateway Estates Community Association Liaison (Andrade, Flood, Shepherd)
4. Seniors/People with Disabilities Veterans Affairs Report
 - a. Veterans Issues Liaison (Flood, Vignolo)

- 5. Youth/Education Affairs Standing Committee
 - a. Student Representatives (Hanner, Robles, Shepherd, Vignolo)
 - 6. Commission Development/Mediation Report
 - a. Mediation Liaison (Andrade, Vignolo)
 - 7. Equity and Social Justice Committee Update (Shepherd, Andrade)
- B. October 1st Event “Bullying: A Community Symposium on Prevention and Intervention Strategies” (Vignolo)
- 1. Update
 - 2. Special Meeting September 22,2022
 - 3. National Bullying Prevention Month Proclamation
- C. Commissioner, Staff, and Student Comments

9. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT HRC MEETING:

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

11. ADJOURNMENT: The Commission will adjourn to an adjourned special meeting Thursday September 22, 2022.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Pursuant to G.C. Section 54957.5(b)(2) the designated office for inspection of records in connection with the meeting is the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way.

It is the intention of the City of Palm Springs to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in all respects. If, as an attendee or a participant at this meeting, or in meetings on a regular basis, you will need special assistance beyond what is normally provided, the City will attempt to accommodate you in every reasonable manner. Please contact the Office of the City Clerk, (760) 323-8204, at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to inform us of your particular needs and to determine if accommodation is feasible.

AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

I, Jay Virata, Director of Community & Economic Development, of the City of Palm Springs, California, hereby certify this Agenda was posted at City Hall before 4:00 p.m., September 8, 2022, and posted on the City’s website as required by established policies and procedures.

/S/ Jay Virata
Jay Virata
Community & Economic Development

Human Rights Commission
CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA



MINUTES
Regular Meeting

Monday, July 11, 2022
Virtual Zoom Meeting

FOR APPROVAL

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Loyola called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL:**

Present: Commissioners: Andrade, Flood, Loyola, Shepherd, Vignolo, and Student Representative Hanner

Absent: Commissioners: Cleary

Staff Present: Jay Virata, Director, Community & Economic Development

3. **QUORUM: YES**

4. **MISSION STATEMENT & GOALS:**

5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Edwin Ramoran commented on not serving another term with the Human Rights Commission and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to work with each commissioner and staff.

6. **CHAIR COMMENTS:**

Chair Loyola provided highlights from the presentation made at the Special Joint Meeting of the City Council with Boards and Commissions. He further asked the Commission for consensus to speak at the July 14, 2022, City Council meeting on behalf of the Commission, in support of increasing council pay that would remove financial barriers that would prevent residents from serving in the City Council based on a CVRA Working Group Recommendation.

Director Virata confirmed the Commission would not be able to vote on this matter because the item is not Agendized. Commissioners were informed that they could provide public comments to the City Council as an individual. It was noted that the Commission still has time to digest the information.

Brief comments were shared regarding the CVRA Working Group Recommendation July 14, 2022, Staff Report among the Commission.

Commissioner Andrade commented on the upcoming City Council Agenda item declaring Palm Springs a safe city for reproductive freedom and access to abortion.

7. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** May 9, 2022, and June 13, 2022

DISCUSSION:

Chair Loyola requested May minutes be corrected to read "boo to bullying" and not Voodoo bullying.

MOTION BY: Commissioner Vignolo, second by Vice Chair Shepherd to approve the minutes of May 9, 2022 and June 13, 2022. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION:**

A. Reports

1. Executive Report Standing Committee (Chair Loyola, Vice Chair Shepherd) - None
 - a. Special Recognition for Commissioners whose Terms Have Recently Ended
Chair Loyola presented the agenda item. He would like to recognize Edwin Ramoran, Kalina Robles and Ron Deharte.

Director Virata suggested the Commission take a vote to have the city provide special recognition for commissioners whose terms have ended. In response to inquiry, he confirmed Kalina Robles will not be serving another term as Commissioner. Director Virata further shared Commission structures overtime will be reduced to 5 members per the City Manager. Commissioners will be able eligible to reapply for a second term.

2. Community Relations /Budget/Personnel Report – None

- a. PSPD LGBT Outreach Liaison
Chair Loyola was introduced to Lt. Gustavo Araiza. Will be attending the next tentatively scheduled meeting August 18, 2022, at 4:00 pm at the Police Training Center.
- b. Master Calendar Liaison (Ramoran)
Chair Loyola announced the Master Calendar Liaison position as vacant.

Commissioner Vignolo volunteered to take on the Master Calendar Liaison role.

Comments and questions ensued among the Commission regarding the Master Calendar role. Commissioner Vignolo encouraged Commissioners to look at all sources of information when identifying an event the Human Rights Commission could participate in and to reach out to him so that the item can be agendized for review/discussion.

- c. Main Street Liaison
 - d. Organized Neighborhoods of Palm Springs Liaison (Vignolo) –
Commissioner Vignolo will be attending the upcoming ONE-PS meeting tomorrow, July 12, 2022.
3. Cultural Affairs Report –
Chair Loyola initiated Commission discussion regarding the Cultural Affairs Report not having a Commissioner Liaison. Comments and questions ensued among members.

Commissioner Andrade suggested the Commission have an in-person retreat to prioritize and discuss the commission's accomplishments and goals. The suggestion was supported by other Commissioners. Director Virata confirmed an in-person special meeting can be agendized.

Commissioner Vignolo respectfully requested to Director Virata to invite the City Manager to speak at a future commission meeting regarding what is happening in terms of the challenges that were outlined in the April 21, 2022 Staff Report.

4. Desert Highland Gateway Estates Community Association Liaison (Andrade, Flood, Shepherd) - None
Commissioner Flood shared the Community Association had their Juneteenth event on the 19th of June. The event was well represented and received a lot of media attention.
5. Seniors/People with Disabilities Veterans Affairs Report - None
 - a. Veterans Issues Liaison (Flood, Vignolo) – None

Commissioner Flood announced the Department of Veteran's Affairs continues to announce that suicide among veterans is high.

Commissioner Vignolo announced the Loma Linda Healthcare System opened a new state of the art Veteran's Primary Care facility in Palm Desert. The clinic is open Monday to Thursday 8:00am to 5:00pm; and Friday's from 8:00am to 2:30pm. Veterans can enroll at the Palm Desert VA clinic and schedule appointments by calling the Central Appointment Line 909.825.7084 Ext. 5085.

6. Youth/Education Affairs Standing Committee - None

- a. Student Representatives (Hanner, Robles, Shepherd, Vignolo) – None.

7. Commission Development/Mediation Report - None

- a. Mediation Liaison (Andrade, Vignolo) - None

8. Equity and Social Justice Committee Update (Shepherd, Ramoran)

Vice Chair Shepherd provided an update and shared that the Committee had its first meeting last week. Committee members were asked to rededicate to the cause and redefinition of the cause. Future meeting dates were confirmed, the next meeting date is in August.

B. Potential Educational Program Collaboration with Boys and Girls Club

Commissioner Vignolo reported that former Commissioner Robles was the lead on this item. He has reached out to the Boys and Girls Club regarding the collaboration but has not heard back. He will follow-up again and confirm if there is still interest in a collaboration.

C. National Bullying Month (October) Symposium

Commissioner Vignolo reported the symposium event program details that have been organized to date including panel experts, keynote speakers and commented on the budgetary and marketing challenges. The event will take place on Saturday, October 1, 2022 from 10:00am to 12:00pm at the Palm Springs Convention Center. He invited Commissioners to speak about the event to engage a diverse community.

Commissioner Vignolo further presented the draft Proclamation recognizing October as National Bullying Prevention Month. Comments and questions ensued among commissioners, student representative and Staff Liaison on the draft proclamation, document edits, and adoption process. The following motion was made:

MOTION BY: Vice Chair Shephard, Second by Commissioner Vignolo to authorize two commissioners to review a second draft proclamation and approve it on behalf of the full Commission to forward to the City Council for adoption. Motion approved unanimously.

D. Listening Session: Impact of Violence on our Community (Andrade)

Commissioner Andrade spoke about hosting a listening session on the impact of violence on the community that would gather feedback from youth and adult citizens. Commissioner Andrade requested support from the Commission to approve the concept of report gathering. Noted that the item is not about taking a position on gun control.

Student Representative Hanner commented on being in support of the agenda item presented.

Commissioner Vignolo commented on being in support of the listening session presented and suggested using a facilitator to host the session.

Chair Loyola concurred with the comments made and spoke about being in support of the item presented. Encouraged commissioners to read Police Chief Mills new blog regarding answering calls to potential violence.

Director Virata noted Councilmember Gardner hosted a similar listening session a couple of summers ago after recent shootings. He further shared how the city will be moving to standardize action items that are moving forward with commissions and the procedures for doing that, which would include presenting action items before the City Council for review. The commission was informed to continue gathering information and prepare for a possible presentation with the City Council in October or November.

Further comments and questions followed among the Commission about the concept. It was agreed that the item will continue to be Agendized to format dates, venues, expected outcome, participants, speakers, and marketing.

E. Commissioner, Staff, and Student Comments

Commissioner Vignolo noted at some point in the future Queer Works and Desert Aids Project (DAP) will be coming to speak at a Human Rights Commission meeting to endorse a form of support to the City Council on the Guaranteed Income Pilot Program. DAP and Queer Works were provided \$200,000 to begin the application and design phase which has been completed. The non-profit partners will be bringing items back to City Council to report on the next phase.

Director Virata confirmed discussion of the Guaranteed Income Pilot Program can be agendized for a future Commission meeting.

Chair Loyola recommended inviting Queerworks and DAP to speak before the Commission during public comment. He further thanked the Commission for their vote and confidence in having him as Chair of the Commission.

8. **AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT HRC MEETING:** No new Agenda items were added.

9. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

10. **ADJOURNMENT:** The Commission adjourned at 5:30 p.m. to an adjourned regular meeting on Monday, September 12, 2022, at 5:30 p.m., via teleconference.

BULLYING: A COMMUNITY SYMPOSIUM ON PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 10:00 AM – NOON, PALM SPRINGS CONVENTION CENTER



CONFIRMED PARTICIPANTS

- MAYOR LISA MIDDLETON
- JUDY FRENCH, COORDINATOR, NATIONAL BULLYING PREVENTION CENTER
- DIMITRI HALKIDIS, PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER, BOO2BULLYING.ORG
- JACOB ROSTOVSKY, FOUNDER & CEO, QUEER WORKS
- OFFICER JOSHUA CROCKER, PALM SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT
- LAURA MEUSEL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES. PALM SPRINGS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
- SILVIA PAZ, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ALIANZA COACHELLA VALLEY

TENTATIVE PARTICIPANTS

- CONGRESSMAN RAUL RUIZ (CA-36)
- SUPERVISOR V. MANUEL PEREZ, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, FOURTH DISTRICT
- PALM SPRINGS CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS
- PALM SPRINGS CHIEF OF POLICE ANDREW G. MILLS
- FUEGO, COACHELLA VALLEY FIREBIRDS' MASCOT

RESOURCE TABLE PARTICIPANTS

- ALIANZA COACHELLA VALLEY
- BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF PALM SPRINGS
- COACHELLA VALLEY FIREBIRDS/EXTINGUISH BULLYING CAMPAIGN
- DAP HEALTH
- THE DRU PROJECT
- PACER'S NATIONAL BULLYING PREVENTION CENTER
- PALM SPRING PUBLIC LIBRARY
- PALM SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT
- RIVERSIDE MEDICAL CLINIC CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
- STUDENTS AGAINST DESTRUCTIVE DECISIONS

EVENT SCHEDULE

Time Interval	Speaker
10:00 – 10:05	Welcome/Remarks by Mayor Lisa Middleton
10:05 – 10:15	Reading of Official Proclamation from City of Palm Springs
10:15 – 10:35	Keynote Address / Judy French, Coordinator, National Bullying Prevention Center
10:35 – 11:45	Panel Presentations / Q&A with Audience / Moderator – Commissioner Vignolo <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Dimitri Halkidis, Boo2Bullying (10 minutes)▪ Jacob Rostovsky, Queer Works (10 minutes)▪ Officer Joshua Crocker, Palm Springs Police Department (10 minutes)▪ Laura Meusel, Palm Springs Unified School District (10 minutes)▪ Silvia Paz, Alianza Coachella Valley (10 minutes)▪ Q&A (Remaining Time ~ 10 minutes)
11:45 – Noon	Closing Remarks – Chair Hugo Loyola, Human Rights Commission
Noon - ???	Audience invited to visit resource tables and meet with organizations' representatives, take free items, have private side-bar conversations, network, enjoy light refreshments if we have any, meet Human Rights Commissioners

ACTION ITEMS

- DECISION ON AVAILABILITY OF LIGHT REFRESHMENTS (DURING EVENT)
- DISTRIBUTION OF POSTERS & FLYERS PENDING FINAL APPROVAL OF PROOF
- AUDIO-VIDEO REQUIREMENTS DURING EVENT
- ADA ACCOMMODATIONS DURING EVENT
- TRANSLATION SERVICES DURING EVENT
- REQUEST ATTENDANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONERS (DURING EVENT)
 - COMMISSIONERS NEEDED AS GREETERS/ AT REGISTRATION TABLE)
- OFFICIAL PROGRAMS (ONE PER ATTENDEE)
- AFTER ACTION/LESSONS LEARNED (POST EVENT)
- SPECIAL MEETING OF HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (CONFIRM DATE/TIME)
 - OPTION #1: 5:30 PM ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 ***
 - OPTION #2: 5:30 PM ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23
- ALL HANDS MEETING FOR SYMPOSIUM PARTICIPANTS/VENUE STAFF/CITY STAFF
 - 7:00 PM ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2022
 - *** COULD BE RESCHEDULED TO MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 @ 7:00 PM – NO GUARANTEES

Proclamation

City of Palm Springs

CALIFORNIA

WHEREAS, bullying is the aggressive use of power targeting another person or group of people with repeated, unwanted words or action, hurting them emotionally or physically, in violation of individuals' basic human rights; and

WHEREAS, the City of Palm Springs acknowledges that bullying occurs in neighborhoods, playgrounds, schools, and online through technology; and

WHEREAS, various researchers have concluded that bullying is the most common form of violence, affecting millions of American children and adolescents annually. 280,000 students are physically attacked in secondary schools in the United States every month; nearly 42% of youth have been bullied online and for almost 25% of them, bullying has occurred multiple times; 77% of students report being bullied mentally, verbally or physically or all three; 3 million students are absent each month because they feel unsafe at school; suicide is the third leading cause of death due to bullying; and 10% of parents are aware their teens are targets of cyberbullying; and

WHEREAS, targets of bullying are at increased risk for depression, anxiety, sleep difficulties, lower academic achievement, and dropping out of school, and students who are repeatedly bullied often fear such activities as riding the bus, going to school, interacting online, and attending community activities; and

WHEREAS, children who bully are at greater risk of engaging in more serious violent behaviors; and

WHEREAS, children who witness bullying often feel less safe, helpless to stop it, and intimidated; and

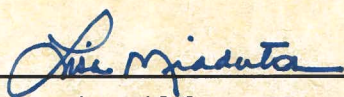
WHEREAS, the City of Palm Springs supports community events such as the Human Rights Commission's inaugural symposium, *Bullying: A Community Symposium on Prevention and Intervention Strategies*, to be held on Saturday, October 1, 2022, from 10:00 am to noon, at the Palm Springs Convention Center, as one way to explore mitigation strategies to enhance bullying prevention efforts within the city; and

WHEREAS, the City of Palm Springs recognizes that community events such as the aforementioned symposium provide a platform to share information and education about how everyone can prevent bullying, and promote dialogue between educators, parents, city officials, the faith community, businesses, and students on their roles in addressing and preventing bullying.

NOW, THEREFORE, We, the City Council of Palms Springs, California, by the power vested in us, do hereby proclaim October to be **National Bullying Prevention Month** in the City of Palm Springs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of Palm Springs, California, encourages all schools, students, parents, recreation programs, religious institutions, businesses, and community organizations to engage in a variety of awareness and prevention activities, designed to make our community safer for all children and adolescents, not only during National Bullying Prevention Month, but throughout the year.

"National Bullying Prevention Month"



Lisa Middleton, Mayor



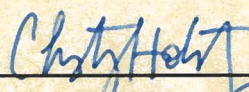
Grace Garner, Mayor Pro Tem



Dennis Woods, Council Member



Geoff Kors, Council Member



Christy Holstege, Council Member

Proclamation

City of Palm Springs

CALIFORNIA

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WHEREAS, targets of bullying are at increased risk for depression, anxiety, sleep difficulties, lower academic achievement², and dropping out of school, and students who are repeatedly bullied often fear such activities as riding the bus, going to school, interacting online, and attending community activities; and

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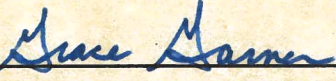
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“National Bullying Prevention Month”



Lisa Middleton, Mayor



Grace Garner, Mayor Pro Tem



Geoff Kors, Council Member





Dennis Woods, Council Member



Christy Holstege, Council Member

¹ <https://boo2bullying.org/>

² According to the Center for Disease Control, students who are bullied are more likely to experience low self-esteem and isolation, perform poorly in school, have few friends in school, have a negative view of school, experience physical symptoms (such as headaches, stomachaches, or problems sleeping), and to experience mental health issues (such as depression, suicidal thoughts, and anxiety) (Center for Disease Control, *Bullying Surveillance Among Youths*, 2014)

³ Involving community members such as law enforcement officials, faith organizations, community action groups, and others allows school officials and parents to address the bigger issues of disrespect, bias, and violence that can contribute to bullying issues in schools (StopBullying.gov, 2016; Swearer, Wang, Collins, Strawhun, & Fluke, 2014).