

MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the Human Services Commission
Thursday, January 16, 2025

The Regular Meeting of the Human Services Commission of the City of Gardena, California, was called to order by Chair Loduem at 6:01 pm on Thursday, January 16, 2025, in the Nakaoka Community Center.

1. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Chair Valerie Loduem; Vice-Chair Tanoh Amoa (King Nat) Jr.; Member Shari Farmer; Member Sharon Pamplin; Member LaWanda Staten

In Attendance: Staff Liaison Nicola Howard

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Member Staten, seconded by Member Farmer, and carried by unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2024 meeting.

5. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Chair Loduem asked about the status of commissioner business cards and completion of ethics training. Liaison Howard shared that business cards were being printed and would be distributed during the February commission meeting. All commissioners confirmed that they completed the required ethics training and were able to access their City email.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

Commissioners discussed various properties in Gardena and asked if the Community Development Department issued any reports regarding development in Gardena. Liaison Howard shared that there is a Planning Commission and the agendas and minutes are available online on the City website. Member Farmer shared that she would ask one of the planning commissioners if there was a report that they could share. Discussion also took place regarding the schedule for City Council meetings. Liaison Howard shared that Council meetings are held every second and fourth Tuesday of the month and can also be viewed online.

7. **COMMISSION MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS**

Chair Loduem shared that she heard lots of praise about the senior Winter Gala. She stated that seniors enjoyed the décor, dancing, food, and dressing up. Chair Loduem and Member Pamplin assisted with the Helping Hands distribution. Chair Loduem stated that it was a really good program allowing parents to select and wrap gifts for their children. Member Staten shared that she donated 100 new sweaters to Human Services.

UPCOMING EVENTS / VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The following events were discussed and flyers distributed:

- Martin Luther King Jr. Parade & Celebration (postponed to 2/22/25)
- Ministerial Meeting
- Teen Night
- Girl Boss Workshop

8. **STAFF LIAISON REPORT**

- Human Services programs update:
 - Community Services Counselor, Jaclyn Arcos, is no longer working for the City. The position has been advertised and other HS staff are filling in. Additionally, we have two interns from CSUDH for the spring semester.
 - Rental Assistance update: program is now closed. Most families started with October rent and a few were approved during the last round and started with December and January rent. The program is for six months of rental assistance, paying 50% for the first three months, then 25% for the remaining three months.
- 2024 Holiday Program report:
 - Operation Gobble – 90 families received assistance
 - Helping Hands – 117 households representing 462 individuals received assistance. The distribution was different this year allowing parents to choose gifts for their children and wrap them if desired. It went very smoothly and parents seemed to enjoy it. Discussion ensued regarding getting the word out so more families are aware and sign up next year.
- Brochure for the City's Housing Rehabilitation Program was distributed for commissioners to share with community members

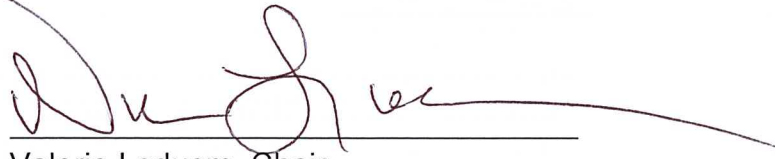
10. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:44 pm made by Member Farmer, seconded by Member Pamplin, and passed with unanimous vote. Next meeting will be Thursday, February 20, 2025 at 6:00 pm in the Nakaoka Community Center.

APPROVED:



Nicola Howard, Staff Liaison



Valerie Loduem, Chair