

CITY OF POMONA
Community Life Commission
DRAFT



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
For JANUARY 27, 2026

VISION STATEMENT

Pomona will be recognized as a vibrant, safe, beautiful community that is a fun and exciting destination and the home of arts and artists, students and scholars, business and industry.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Houston called the Community Life Commission meeting to order at 6:15 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Acuna led the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Donna Houston, Mayor Appointed
Commissioner Kimberly M. Umanzor, District 1
Commissioner Cesar Acuna, District 2
Commissioner Donald Martens, District 3
Vice-Chair Debra Mendez, District 4
Commissioner Ava Phillips, District 5
Commissioner Ramon Carrizosa, District 6

STAFF PRESENT

Andrea Rico, Governmental & Community Affairs Manager
Jacqueline Contreras, Housing Analyst
Tracy Byl, Commission Secretary

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

1. **PRESENTATION**

H.E.A.R.T. presented by Sgt. Ernesto Rios

Quality of Life Unit – Heart, mental health and community programs.

Developed in 2016 to guide staff in addressing the unhoused living in Encampments.

Prior to 2016, encampments were overseen solely by Code Enforcement and Public Works focused on clearing up encampments and disposing of items that made up encampments.

Due to lawsuit in 2016, staff follows best practices rules and process.

5 storage containers were purchased to house and store. Property Oath Initiative grant provided \$4 million to the city police department to develop programs aimed at dealing with unhoused, with an emphasis on mental health. Program ended on June 30, 2021

Mental health unit contacting individuals; female living on street for over 25 years; she was housed and got a job

October 2021 additional \$4 million awarded to city to continue the program, which ended in June 2024.

City provides funding to HEART to purchase equipment, safety gear and disposable fees.

Property such as perishable, soiled, broken, obvious trash or unwanted property is disposed of. 60-90 tons of trash is disposed of a month. Other property is stored for a minimum of 90 days.

High fire areas blocking property right away or when owner is not readily available, a 72-hour notice is posted.

Public Works Maintains all records of storage records

Contact information

The Go Application is mainly used. Five hundred requests are received a month.

QUESTIONS

Comm. Phillips

Q: Are there plans to hire staff for the program?

A: Additional hiring comes down to resources.

Q: Do you use volunteers?

A: No, due to the liability involved.

Q: If property is taken, where do the items go to be picked up?

A: If there is a problem with location, team provides outreach services. If outreach services have been provided, for x amount of time, opportunities are given to possess property. Goal to get all housed if possible. Partner up with different organizations to find shelter for individuals.

Q: Do you come across families with children?

A: No not really.

Comm. Carrizosa

Q: Is the trash from homeless encampment or illegal dumping?

A: Separate team deals with the illegal

Comm. Carrizosa, complimented Sgt. Rios and team for their excellent efforts.

Comm. Martens

Q: Do you stick with city property and/or also go onto Cal Trans properties?

A: We try to assist neighboring agencies when we can. However, we found that the more the city assists, the less the agencies want to do. Agencies would clean up once every two weeks now it's 5-6 months due to the lack of resources.

Q: Is the number of homeless people getting worse?

A: Not sure but I am constantly getting new faces. Comes in waves.

Pomona was known for their Winter shelter for many years. It was thought that people from outside cities could bring those individuals to Pomona. It has a high impact on businesses due to the increase in homeless individuals from other cities coming into Pomona.

Q: How much does it cost the city to deal with the homeless?

A: PD deals with the homeless every day. 80% of the day is focused on by the Mental Health Unit. As for the cost, we do not deal with the financial aspect.

Q: What are the gaps that you see and what is the goal?

A: Goal is to get everyone off the street, housed and clean. Gaps include law enforcement, continuity of care and lack of having the resources and substance housing.

Q: What other partners do you currently have and how can the commission go about educating the public?

A: Work with LAHSA, Tri City, Union Station and substance abuse partners in Riverside. Full transparency to the public.

Comm. Acuna

Thanked Sgt. Rios for educating the commission.

Q: Does Athens help with the waste?

A: Athens does assist, but it's geared toward illegal dumping.

Q: Any instances you had to use Narcan?

A: We are currently looking into different avenues in obtaining Narcan.

COMM. MENDEZ

Q: With future federal cuts, means people will lose their housing and be on the streets due to this loss of funding. How are you preparing for that?

A: Andrea Rico answered the commissioner's question.

We will invite Donyielle Holley to speak on the wrap around and supportive services and she can discuss how the funds are allotted as it relates to budget. For instance, the homeless count that took place last week. The numbers are collected and provided to the county. The numbers are then provided to the city provided within a few months and once those numbers are received, they will be provided to the commission.

Q: If property is stolen, what should the individual do?

A: The individual should file a claim.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

Recommend the Community Life Commission approve the regular minutes for January 27, 2026 meeting.

Motion made by Commissioner Mendez, second by Commissioner Phillips to approve minutes.

Motion approved
Yes 7-0

3. City Manager's Report (1-13-26)

On a weekly basis, multiple departments submit reports on upcoming events, project updates and/or information pertinent to city government.

Mayor's Immigration Task Force takes place weekly (every Wednesday) – Andrea will email Commissioner Acuna inviting him to participate in the Mayor's Immigration Task Force.

DISCUSSION CALENDAR

4. Create an ADHOC Committee

to discuss goals that the commission would like to accomplish. Three members or less can participate so not to violate the Brown Act. Andrea can work with those members in person or via zoom. All meetings focus on setting goals for the CLC.

Motion made by Commissioner Martens, second by Vice Chair Mendez to create the Goal Setting Adhoc Committee.

Motion approved
Yes 7-0

Note:

The Goal Setting Adhoc will consist of Commissioner Acuna, Commissioner Martens and Commissioner Carrizosa.

5. Community of Life Pamphlet (Draft)

Pamphlet can be used as a tool to encourage participation in commissions/committees, civic engagement and city events. Feedback from the community to channel them to the right place for civic engagement.

6. Selection of new Chair and Vice Chair

Nominations for Chair:

Commissioner Carrizosa nominated Vice Chair Mendez for Chair.

Commissioner Umanzor nominated Commissioner Carrizosa for Chair.

Vice Chair Mendez nominated Commissioner Umanzor.

Commissioner Martens nominated Commissioner Carrizosa.

Motion made by Commissioner Umanzor, second by Commissioner Phillips to nominate Commissioner Debra Mendez for Chair.

Motion approved
Yes 7-0

Nominations for Vice Chair:

Commissioner Carrizosa nominated Commissioner Umanzor for Vice Chair.

Commissioner Umanzor nominated herself for Vice Chair.

Motion made by Commissioner Carrizosa, second by Commissioner Martens to nominate Commissioner Umanzor for Vice Chair.

Motion approved
Yes 7-0

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

Commission Acuna

Pomona resident for 21 years

Occupation: Engineer

Volunteered for the Latino/Latina Roundtable

Homelessness, addiction, poverty and illness have affected the community and he wants to be of service and give back to his community.

He's involved in community projects with local farms.

Attended Latino/Latina Roundtable open house at the MM Electric building. It is a community resource focusing on I.C.E. and the deportation of Pomona residents.

Commissioner Umanzor

In December, participated in the Downtown Holiday Christmas Parade

I'm excited to be working with the commission and am looking forward to bringing more change to the community.

Chair Houston

I participated in the Downtown Holiday Christmas Parade.

Mentioned the Commission banner donated by Commissioner Carrizosa

Chair Houston and Commissioner Phillips rode in the car during the parade

Chair Martens

Participated in the Downtown Christmas Parade. He dressed as a Lion, being a member of the Host's Lion Club.

Chair Houston

Grandfather was a Buffalo Soldier and will be celebrating the 5th Anniversary Tribute. Event coincides with the 160th United States Formation of the Buffalo Soldiers.

Soldiers were processed out and sent to various locations from Fort Huachuca. Camp Naaco is the only fort and as the original buildings. The camp received \$8,000,000 for restoration.

Events kicking off Black History month happen throughout February and would like to invite fellow commissioners to attend and participate.

I am currently working with the Council General and Foreign Affairs Department and am doing a Bi-National Celebration. The soldiers were formed and

instrumental in the westward expansion after civil war. Hispanic Soldiers also made up the Buffalo soldiers from other nations. This was a way to get citizenship. Pedro Mendoza served with Chair's grandfather in the 25th infantry.

A national resolution was sought and obtained via the NAACP.

Vice Chair Mendez

Attended Community Pull Up – not many people attended due to what is going on in the community regarding I.C.E.

I participated in the Christmas Parade and rode on the PEOC float.

An emergency plan meeting for parents was coordinated in case an I.C.E. raid(s) took place and that morning ICE was on the street. Another meeting planned for March.

I was invited to participate in an Awareness and Bias training. It was hosted by the Neighborhood Services Department. The training was exceptionally well timed and well done.

Commission Phillipps

I participated in the Downtown Holiday Christmas parade. Enjoyed the parade. Welcomed Commissioner Acuna.

Commissioner Carrizosa

A new History and Cultural museum are preparing to open. It's called Nuestra Casa. It will be in Pomona next to UPS store on Mission Blvd and Garey Avenue.

STAFF COMMUNICATION

Andrea Rico

The Compassionate fund is still open and collecting money.

150 households who have been impacted directly by immigration enforcement received \$500.

Family members who had been detained received funds helping to pay for utility bills, providing food and clothing.

There will be more rounds of providing funds to more families. Dates will be provided as the information is received.

As it relates to the business community, small grants of up to \$1500 will go to small businesses but will be limited and will be distributed via lottery process. Applications will be open in March. April 1st will be distributed of that have been impacted by Covid.

Businesses will have to have been in business for one or two years in Pomona and show how business has been impacted. Someone from your business has detained lots of business customers who are not frequenting your business because of immigration raids.

Community meeting will be held on January 28th to discuss Measure Z from 5:30 to 7:30 inside Council Chambers. Kid's First funding amendment ensures successful implementation of Measure Y without impacting community safety and critical city services. Measure will be on the ballot for the June primary.

Measure Y language was unclear or didn't consider the fiscal impact of the measure. It was forecasted to city employees and city leadership that the measure has the potential for us as a city to be in a severe financial crisis within the next five years. Measure is an amendment not to replace Measure Y.

February 9th, a Special Council Meeting Goals and Priorities Workshop will be held at the Union on Garey beginning at 5:30 and is open to the Public.

On February 9th, a nomination period for Council seats for Districts 2, 3, and 5 opens and ends Friday March 6th by 5pm, no exception. Candidate binders can be obtained from the City Clerk's Office. Nomination extension means, if an incumbent does not file to run again for that district the period is extended to Wednesday March 11th.

The City is accepting applications for the Measure Y Accountability Board. The Accountability Board consists of a 15-member body and serves in an advisory capacity. Open for Pomona residents and mandatory youth members ages 16-25.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Houston adjourned the meeting at 7:49 pm. The next CLC meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 24, 2026.