

CITY OF POMONA
Community Life Commission
DRAFT



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
For MAY 27, 2025

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 Carrizosa led the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Commissioner Deanna Gonzalez, District 2
Commissioner Teresa Minero, District 3

STAFF PRESENT

George Montano, Neighborhood Services Assistant Director
Maria Siacunco, Housing Services Manager
Evanne Coleman, Housing Analyst
Tracy Byl, Commissioner Secretary

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CONSENT CALENDAR

Tri-City Mental Health Services Presentation

Sara Rodriguez, Mental Health Services Act Projects Manager at Tri-City Mental Health, presented updates on California's evolving behavioral health landscape, highlighting the implications of Proposition 1 and related legislative efforts. Proposition 1, originally passed in 2004, marks the first significant overhaul since the closure of many state mental hospitals. Its primary aim is to help transition the mental health sector into a broader behavioral health model, increasing access to services for a wider population. Funded by the "Millionaires Tax", a 1% tax on personal income exceeding \$1 million, with 10% of those funds allocated to states and then distributed to counties. The measure supports a range of community-based initiatives.

Key components include the Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act, which allocates \$6.38 billion for constructing behavioral health housing and treatment facilities, and Senate Bill 326, focused on expanding housing services for individuals with severe mental illness, emotional disturbances, and substance use disorders. Sara extended a general invitation to commissioners, residents, and community partners to join monthly work groups that will help develop strategies for implementing these changes. Participants will receive a \$50 stipend per meeting.

During the presentation, several commissioners raised questions. Commissioner Phillips inquired about the focus on early intervention for ages 0–25 and was informed this demographic is historically underserved. When asked how the Cultural and Linguistic Competency (CLC) Committee could support these efforts, Rodriguez encouraged community staff to attend governing board meetings held in Pomona, Claremont, and La Verne. Commissioner Carrizosa questioned whether facilities like the former Lanterman Developmental Center might ever return, to which the response was uncertain. Commissioner Mendez asked about housing eligibility requirements; the answer emphasized that clients must already have active electronic health records and be currently receiving services. With ongoing changes, the agency is now able to accommodate multiple families through its programming, highlighting its expanding capacity.

Cancellation Policy – Commission Meetings

Meeting cancellations are at the discretion of staff. One reason for canceling a meeting may be a lack of business items for an agenda.

At the last two meetings, staff informed the commission that any ideas, concerns, or items they wish to address can be submitted for inclusion on the agenda.

The commission requested that staff provide a notice 1–2 weeks in advance of the next meeting to help avoid cancellations.

Promotional Ad in Recreational Guide Update

Guidance was provided by the City Clerk to only share information related to the CLC; other commissions are responsible for providing their own information as it pertains to their respective commissions.

Chair Houston has requested that staff follow up with the City Clerk to determine who submitted the advertisement and why the content of the advertisement was changed.

Robert's Rules/Brown Act Training for Commissioners by City Clerk's Office

The City Clerk will update staff on how and when formal training can be presented to the commission.

The commission requested that a brainstorming item be added to next month's CLC agenda to discuss ways the CLC can promote commission. Commissioner Phillips requested that staff provide a guide for teleconferencing into meetings when unable to attend in person.

Commissioner Carrizosa requested that an item be added to the next agenda regarding steps to create an ordinance for maintaining alleyways.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION

Vice Chair Mendez

Housing event at Palomares Park from 2-6

"Tenant - Know Your Rights" at Notaria pride center June 3

Tabling Event @ Da Gallery - June 19

Received 2 days of 'trauma informed training' suggested that some of the Housing staff take the training

PEOC provided a Mother's Day event on May 9

Art Walk Tabling Event @ the DA - May 10

Pride Undocu-Queer Festival – vendors/resources for individuals who are unhoused – May 17

Tabling Event @ LA County Fair – May 18

Commissioner Umanzor

Joined CM Martin's event, Love Your Park Day

Painted 3 pavilions, 12 trash receptacles, stage and 2 shade structures and collected over 50 bags of trash

Chair Houston

National Flag Raising Day @ City Hall – June 2

Juneteenth 35th Anniversary Celebration @ Ganesha Park – June 21

What is the significance of Juneteenth?

Final enforcement of the Emancipation Proclamation in Texas at the end of the Civil War.

Opening ceremony at Ganesha Park – Buffalo Soldiers will post the colors

Event is from 10:00 to 6:30 - Speakers, food, vendor booths

National Night Out – August 2, 2025

Commission requested staff to obtain information in order to participate in the event

STAFF COMMUNICATION

Maria provided an update on the city receiving their entitlement allocations for 2025-26;

CDBG \$1,690,554

HOME \$743,000

ESG - \$153,894

Final presentation 2025-26 will be presented to Council on July 7, 2025.

Community Survey FY 2026-27 Annual Plan will be available on the city website on June 2, 2025. Staff requests that commissioners encourage residents to complete the survey.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned at 7:39 pm. The next CLC meeting will be held on June 24 at 6:15.