

**CITY OF POMONA**  
**Community Life Commission**  
**DRAFT**



**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
For October 22, 2024

**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.**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Community Life Commission was called to order by Chair Ellis-Royston at 6:15 P.M.

**ROLL CALL:**

PRESENT via Zoom:

Chair Ellis-Royston, District 6  
Commissioner Deanna Gonzalez, District 2  
Commissioner Theresa Minero, District 3  
Commissioner Debra Mendez, District 4  
Commissioner Donna Houston, Mayor Appointed

**NOT PRESENT:**

Vice-Chair Ava Phillips, District 5  
District 1 – Vacant Seat

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Maria Siacunco, Housing Services Manager  
Jobanna Castro, Housing Programs Supervisor  
Jacqueline Contreras, Housing Analyst  
Vivian Bravo, Housing Analyst  
Isabel Abundis,  
Tracy Byl, Commission Secretary

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Minero led Pledge of Allegiance.

**Next CLC Meeting  
Agenda Date:  
1-28-25**

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Commissioner Houston and second by Commissioner Mendez to approve the Minutes of September 24, 2024 CLC Regular Meeting as amended.

**Motion carried to approve Regular CLC Minutes of September 24, 2024.**

**Motion carried 4-0**  
**Absent 1**  
**District 1 Seat-Vacant**

Motion by Chair Ellis-Royston and second by Commissioner Mendez to table the Community Life Commission Regular Minutes of August 27, 2024, to next CLC meeting.

**Motion carried to table Regular CLC Minutes of August 27, 2024 to next meeting.**

**Motion carried 4-0**  
**Absent 1**  
**District 1 Seat-Vacant**

**PRESENTATION(S)**

**Office of Violence Prevention Department**

Pedro R. Payne, Ph.D.  
Division Manager, Office of Violence Prevention

Vanessa Moreno,  
Violence Prevention Senior Analyst

Office of Violence Prevention established in 2022, due to data received stating that during a ten year span, there was one shooting per week.

90% of the gun shootings is driven by 2-3% population, by males in their 30s

**GOALS OF PROGRAM**

**I.**

Reduce participation in homicides, non-fatal shootings and aggravated assaults through the Peacemaker Fellowship Program (model from Advance Peace Program) More intervention focused. Change advocates (former gang members helping to identify those who the program to target); 18 mos of case management; Program rolled out in February and currently have 40 participants enrolled; experiencing 18% reduction in shootings, 55% reduction in gun homicides;

7 Touch Points (See brochure)

**II.**

Increase social cohesion in areas affected; increase sense of safety; resource fairs, pop-up events and awareness campaigns

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**III.**

Strengthen police/community relations; Pomona PD Procedural Justice Training, giving a voice, respect to potential participants

Grant funds awarded to OVP was \$5.1 mil for over a 3 1/2 year period; OVP will be receiving an additional \$8 mil for a Diversion Program, also over a 3 1/2 year period.

Movement and the push is to make this program institutionalized in the city charter.

**Stephanie Zepeda, Founder of Project Resilience**, helps women who are being exploited in sex trafficking

Project Resilience receives grant funds but not enough to cover all expenses.

Hours of Operation

Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 5:30 pm (Accepts clothing donations)

Services provided are case management, street outreach, substance abuse classes, client advocacy, and community awareness.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

NONE.

**DISCUSSION**

Staff Report(s) - Recommendation to City Council to Remove Commissioner Ava Phillips and Commissioner Deanna Gonzalez from the Community Life Commission due to excessive absences.

**Motion carried to recommend the removal of Vice Chair Phillips from the CLC.**

**Motion carried 1**  
**No 1**  
**Abstain 3**

**Motion carried to recommend the removal of Commissioner Deanna Gonzalez.**

**Motion carried 1**  
**Abstain 2**  
**Recused 1**

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**Commission Dark in November 2024**

Motion to cancel November Community Life Commission meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 26, 2024.

**Motion carried to approve the recommendation of the removal of Commissioner Deanna Gonzalez.**

**Motion carried 3**

**Abstain 1**

**No 1**

**COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION**

**Commissioner Houston**

October Breast Cancer Awareness Month

**Chair Ellis-Royston**

Appreciated the OVP presentation

**Commissioner Mendez**

PEOC partnering with the Da to speak to the community of safeguards taking place on October 30<sup>th</sup> due to the upcoming election.

**STAFF COMMUNICATION**

**Maria Siacunco**

Update on the Community Needs Survey - Received 453 responses

2025 advertisement of all commission vacancies in Parks & Recreation Brochure

City received \$4.9 mil from HUD Lead and Education and Awareness program

And \$730,000 of this grant will also be used to remove other hazards

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**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Ellis-Royston adjourned the meeting at 7:55 pm.

The City of Pomona Community Life Commission is hereby adjourned to the next regularly scheduled meeting of January 28, 2025 starting at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

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Tracy Byl  
Community Life Commission Secretary

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Chair Ellis-Royston