

CITY OF POMONA
Community Life Commission
DRAFT



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
For FEBRUARY 25, 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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Gonzalez led the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Vice Chair Debra Mendez, District 4
Commissioner Kimberly M. Umanzor, District 1
Commissioner Deanna Gonzalez, District 2
Commissioner Theresa Minero, District 3
Commissioner Ramon Carrizosa, District 6
Commissioner Donna Houston, Mayor Appointed

Absent: Commissioner Ava Phillips, District 5

STAFF PRESENT

Beverly Johnson, Neighborhood Services Director
George Montano, Neighborhood Services Assistant Director
Maria Siacunco, Housing Services Manager
Jobanna Castro, Housing Programs Supervisor
Isabel Abundis, Housing Grants Supervisor
Evanne Coleman, Housing Analyst
Joanna Gavilanes, Housing Analyst

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PRESENTATION

Stephanie Wells, Immigration Researcher Coordinator

First Goal

Create and develop immigration advisory board and committee task force

Immigration Advisory Board - Selected individuals bring a broad overview of what services are currently being provided and identify any possible gaps

Committee Task Force - Daily interaction with immigrant residents such as PEOC

Second Goal

Action Plan Development - Base data collection on the CBOs directly due to the sensitivity of current circumstances.

First Meeting in March

To discuss experiences, ask for feedback, and distribute surveys.

Grant term was issued a Hard Stop at the end of September 2025 due to the federal situation

Other Partners

Tri City – Mental Health Authority

PEOC

Common Good – Pomona Families and Education

God's Pantry – Provide food to families

PUSD Representatives

Head Start Committee – Child Development

Know Your Rights – Legal Services

Report to State on a quarterly basis.

Sample Size was at 20,000 – 30,000, but due to the concerns regarding I.C.E. and deportation, the idea was reconsidered

Pivot relying on CBOs and the data they collect

Language Access Plan – translation services; plan is to be updated

Maria Siacunco, Housing Services Manager

Consolidated Plan – 5 Year strategic plan helps access city’s goals priorities and needs
Annual Action Plan – Carries out 5-year Consolidated plan; outlines action, activities, and funding resources

Community Outreach – Began in September

Outreach Efforts Include:

Social Media

Events

Tabling Events

Postcards

Runners

Survey Results – Priorities (in order)

1 - Youth Service 85.6%

2 - Public Infrastructure 84.4%

3 - Homeless Prevention 84.3%

CDBG PROPOSALS SUBMITTED FOR FY 2025-26

Nine (9) Proposals received in total - requesting funds to service projects

Six (6) of the nine (9) proposals received are of existing subrecipients

One (1) of the nine (9) proposals received is from a new subrecipient

Commission shall make their recommendations to Council as to which agencies should be eligible to receive funding.

April/May Present to Council – (Public Hearings 2 Required)

Council will determine the amounts of funding to each subrecipient w/ the CLC’s recommendations in mind

Addresses outside Pomona – Subrecipient eligible only if servicing residents of Pomona.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Gonzalez made the motion and second by Vice Chair Mendez approving the minutes for January 28, 2025, meeting.

Motion passed to approve January 28, 2025, CLC minutes.

**Approve - 5
Abstain - 1**

Commissioner Houston made the motion and second by Commissioner Minero approving the minutes for October 22, 2024, meeting.

Motion passed to approve October 22, 2024, CLC minutes.

**Approve – 5
Abstain - 1**

Commissioner Houston made the motion and second by Commission Minero approving the minutes for August 27, 2024, meeting.

Motion passed to approve August 27, 2024, CLC minutes.

**Approve – 5
Abstain - 1**

DISCUSSION

Vice Chair Mendez made the motion and second by Commissioner Carrizosa to appoint Commissioner Houston as the new Chair of the Community Life Commission.

Motion carried to appoint Commissioner Houston as the Chair of the Community Life Commission.

Approve 6-0

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION

Commissioner Carrizosa

Meeting w/ Councilmember Canales and hopefully have something to report at next CLC meeting.

Commissioner Minero

Career Readiness event was held – Commissioner Minero invited her fellow commissioners to suggest names of any organizations that offer career assistance or job opportunities for students.

Vice-Chair Mendez

Pro-Immigrant March held in front of City Hall

Translation Training on speaking and addressing an audience

Know Your Rights Workshop Resource Fair – Taking place on March 1st at the Friendship Pasadena Church.

Commissioner Umanzor

Two programs that serve individuals with disabilities and Regional Center of Consumers

First Program

Edge Program (Educating Disability Groups thru Education) – education assistants working alongside those individuals who have a disability such as ADHD, Autism, or individuals with traumatic brain injuries. Tutorial services are offered inside/outside the classroom.

Second Program

Employment Services located in Arcadia but serve Pomona Regional Center of Consumers.

4th Year - Youth Leadership Summit held at Cal Poly Pomona 6 days and 5 nights where 30 students are invited to come out; each day is a different theme.

Women’s Empowerment Summit – March 28, 2025

Located in Monterey Park – Free event

Commissioner Houston

Acknowledge that February is Black History Month; “Black History is American History”

STAFF COMMUNICATION

Maria Siacunco invited the commissioners to bring forth any items they would like to see on the agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Mendez adjourned the meeting at 7:57 p.m.