

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION OF  
THE CITY OF LA MIRADA**

**November 1, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Community Services Commission was called to order by Chairman Johnson at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 13700 La Mirada Boulevard, La Mirada, California.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**ROLL CALL**

Present:

Chairman Desiree Johnson  
Commissioner Cathy Alvarez  
Commissioner Rebecca Cline  
Commissioner Susan Savage

Absent:

Vice Chairman Raymond Fernandez  
Commissioner Matthew Wight

Staff:

Oliver Osuna, Community Services Director  
Liza Soto, Assistant Community Services Director  
Veronica Luna, Community Services Coordinator  
Tammie Ann Acosta, Department Secretary

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Community Member Rick Cline encouraged Commissioners to attend the upcoming Veterans events taking place in the City.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**1. MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 6, 2023**

Chairman Cline moved and Commissioner Savage seconded to table the approval of the minutes of the September 6, 2023 meeting due to lack of quorum.

**MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**AYES:** Commissioners Cline, Savage, Chairman Johnson  
**NOES:** None  
**ABSENT:** Commissioners Fernandez and Wight  
**ABSTAIN:** Commissioner Alvarez

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **2. HALLOWEENFEST 2023**

Community Services Director Oliver Osuna introduced Community Services Coordinator Veronica Luna who reported on Halloweenfest 2023. Ms. Luna reported the City's annual Halloweenfest was held on Tuesday, October 31 from 4:30 to 8 p.m. at the historic Neff Estate. She reported on the overall event and said that this year's event was very well attended.

Commissioner Savage asked if attendance was higher or lower than the previous year. Ms. Luna responded and said staff witnessed a continuous steady flow of attendees and estimates the event was attended by approximately 3,000 people.

Chairman Johnson reported on her attendance to the Halloweenfest event and said she noticed the overall event was much more spread out compared to prior years which she said aided in better traffic flow for patrons. Ms. Luna confirmed, and said, that staff did change the layout this year, attempting to make easier access for patrons.

Chairman Johnson asked staff how much the cCity spent on candy for this year's event. Mr. Osuna replied and said, staff purchased approximately \$10,000 worth of candy.

Commissioner Alvarez reported she has not yet attended the Halloweenfest, however she plans on attending next year.

Chairman Johnson asked about the City's participation in the Trunk or Treat program at La Mirada High School. Mr. Osuna said the City participated by having Community Services staff attend the event with a City vehicle showcasing La Mirada's programs and handing out candy.

### **3. MILITARY BANNER PROGRAM UPDATE**

Community Services Director Oliver Osuna introduced Community Services Coordinator Veronica Luna who reported on the Military Banner Program Update. Ms. Luna reported on the Military Banner Program and the Blue Star Service Flag program.

### **4. SALUTE TO VETERANS EVENT AND VETERANS DAY CEREMONY**

Community Services Director Osuna introduced Community Services Coordinator Veronica Luna who reported on the Veterans Day Ceremony to be held on November 11, 2023, in the Civic Center and the Salute to Veterans event to be held Monday, November 13 at the La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts. She reported on both events and invited Commissioners to attend.

Commissioner Savage thanked staff and the City for their efforts to continue to recognize Veterans. She said she knows it takes a lot of effort to host wonderful events. Commissioner Alvarez said she has attended the Salute to Veterans event over the years and appreciates the effort by the City and staff.

Chairman Cline thanked the City and staff for all the efforts to host the Veterans events.

**5. CHILI HOLIDAY CELEBRATION**

Community Services Director Oliver Osuna introduced Assistant Community Services Director Liza Soto who reported on the Chili Holiday Celebration. Ms. Soto reported the 2023 Chili Holiday Celebration is scheduled for Saturday, December 2 from 5 to 8 p.m. at Splash! La Mirada Regional Aquatics Center. She reported on the various components of the event and invited Commissioners to attend.

Commissioner Alvarez reported on her annual attendance at the event and said she traditionally assists with the Community Foundation at the event. She said it's a wonderful event for families.

Chairman Johnson said the event is always very well attended and that she looks forward to this year's event.

**SENIOR, HISTORICAL, AND YOUTH COUNCIL REPORTS**

Senior Council Chairperson Martha Viera reported members of the Senior Council volunteered for the Fall Festival and are scheduled to participate as judges for Halloweenfest.

Historical Preservation Advisory Council (HPAC) Vice Chairperson Marlene Olsen reported over 800 patrons toured the Neff Mansion during Halloweenfest. She said Halloweenfest was well attended, and she saw many long-time friends at the event. She said next year, she would like to showcase the City's history timeline at the Neff Mansion porch to allow more people to view it. She reported she recently received recognition for her 15-year employment at the La Mirada Vistas.

**COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS**

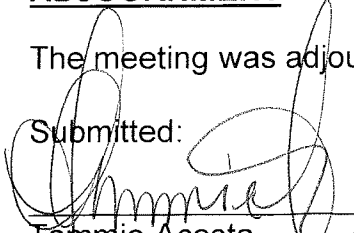
Commissioner Alvarez reported the La Mirada Community Foundation will sponsor financial wellness classes and cake for senior birthdays at the Activity Center.

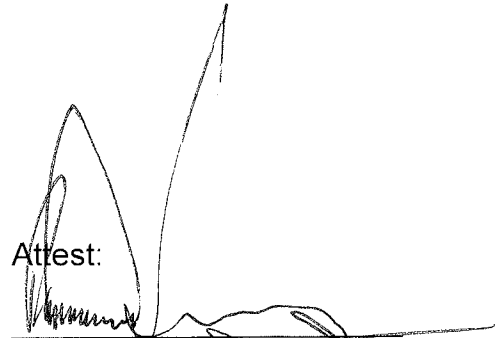
**STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01p.m.

Submitted:   
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Tammie Acosta  
Community Services Department Secretary

Attest:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Raymond Fernandez  
Vice Chairperson