

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

November 5, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Community Services Commission was called to order by Chairman Adriana Spirescu 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 Adriana Spirescu
Vice Chairman Erin Berry
Commissioner Cathy Alvarez
Commissioner Daniel Cabrera
Commissioner Rebecca Cline
Commissioner Susan Savage

Absent:

Commissioner Matthew Wight

Staff:

Veronica Luna, Community Services Coordinator
Tammie Ann Acosta, Department Secretary

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Rick Cline invited Commissioners to attend the Veterans Day Celebration on November 11 at 10:30 a.m. at the Civic Center Plaza. He thanked the City for its continued efforts to honor veterans.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 1, 2025

Commissioner Alvarez moved and Vice Chairman Berry seconded to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 1, 2025.

MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Chairman Spirescu, Vice Chairman Berry, Commissioners Alvarez, Cabrera, Cline, Savage
NOES: None
ABSENT: Commissioner Wight
ABSTAIN: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2. 2025 HALLOWEENFEST

Community Services Coordinator Veronica Luna reported that Halloweenfest was held on October 31 at Neff Park and was well attended. She reported on the various components of the event and provided a slide show with pictures from the event. She reported 870 attendees toured the George House while 926 attendees toured the Neff Mansion. She thanked Commissioners for attending the event and for their support.

Commissioner Savage reported she volunteered at the Neff Mansion and spoke with a student from Biola University who interviewed her for a class paper. She said the student, along with many families she spoke with, were amazed by the event and several teens expressed that they loved the haunted maze. Commissioner Savage said she was concerned about the safety of trick-or-treaters who were walking on the streets surrounding the event. Commissioner Savage asked how many people attended the event and if it would be possible to shut down the surrounding streets next year.

Community Services Coordinator Luna responded and said it's difficult to estimate attendance due to people coming and going throughout the event. She said she would share the suggestion to close the streets with Public Safety. She said it would be difficult because residents would need to access their homes, and attendees would need to exit the event.

Commissioner Alvarez reported she volunteered as a judge for the costume contests. She said she enjoyed volunteering and said staff did a wonderful job with the event.

Vice Chairman Berry reported that many middle-school aged youth told her they really enjoyed the haunted maze. Commissioner Berry said she attended the Santa Fe Springs Halloween event the previous week and that La Mirada's event was far superior.

Chairman Spirescu reported she volunteered at Halloweenfest and was impressed with the large number of community members who attended the event. She said she especially liked the painted backdrops at the trick-or-treat area. She said the artwork was outstanding and commended the artists.

3. COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS FOR THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Community Services Coordinator Luna reported on the 250th anniversary of the Continental Congress's approval of the Declaration of Independence. She said the semiquincentennial will be a once in a generation event and communities across the country are planning celebrations to honor the historic event. She said at the Commission's last meeting, Commissioners provided suggestions for ways the City could commemorate the anniversary and that at tonight's meeting staff would like to collect the final suggestions from the Commission that would be presented to the City Council.

Chairman Spirescu suggested the City coordinate with non-profit organizations such as Love La Mirada.

Commissioner Alvarez suggested incorporating the celebrations with the City's July 3rd event.

Commissioner Cline suggested having a red wagon decorating contest that could be incorporated with the July 3rd event.

Commissioner Savage asked if staff received the artwork she provided in support of the celebration. Ms. Luna responded and said that the artwork was received.

Commissioners collectively discussed celebration ideas and unanimously voted the following suggestions be provided to the City Council: purchasing a limited number of merchandise items, such as hats and pins, that would commemorate the 250th anniversary; hosting a patriotic concert, and possibly incorporating the La Mirada Symphony; and coordinating a patriotic pride photo contest where families would upload photos showing their patriotic pride and staff would make a collage of the photos to display.

NEW BUSINESS

4. HOLIDAY TOY AND FOOD DRIVE

Community Services Coordinator Luna reported the City's Holiday Toy and Food Drive will begin November 3 and continue through December 8. She said all new unwrapped toys and non-perishable food items will be collected and distributed to local organizations who work directly with La Mirada residents and families.

Commissioner Alvarez asked what types of food items are accepted. Ms. Luna responded and said typically non-perishable and shelf-stable items such as canned goods are mostly donated.

Vice Chairman Berry asked if there is a list of needed items. Ms. Luna responded and said, staff has not received any lists from the recipient non-profits and that all approved donations are welcome.

5. CHILI HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Community Services Coordinator Luna reported the Chili Holiday Celebration will be held Saturday, December 6 from 5 to 8 p.m. at Splash! La Mirada Regional Aquatics Center. She said festivities would include live entertainment, holiday crafts, coffee, hot chocolate, cookies, chili, and other opportunities for families to enjoy the holiday season.

Chairman Spirescu said she saw staff arranging holiday lighting at Splash! in preparation for the event. She asked if the train would be available at this year's event. Ms. Luna responded and said the train would be available this year.

Vice Chairman Berry commented that she has attended the event several times with her son's Boy Scout organization.

SENIOR, HISTORICAL, AND YOUTH COUNCIL REPORTS

Senior Council Chairman Mary Hall reported the senior excursion to the Nixon Presidential Library has been postponed due to the government shutdown. She also reported the next All that Dance would be held on December 12. She said she enjoyed volunteering at Halloweenfest.

Historical Preservation Advisory Councilmember (HPAC) Marlene Olsen reported HPAC Members enjoyed providing tours of the Neff Mansion and George House during Halloweenfest. She also reported on her attendance at a recent City Council meeting and the City Hall Fountain Dedication.

COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Alvarez reported on her attendance at La Mirada High School's PTA silent auction, a Chamber of Commerce meeting, a show at the La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts, a Love La Mirada event, and the Kiwanis pancake breakfast.

Commissioner Cabrera reported on his attendance at the City Hall Fountain Dedication, the Friends of the La Mirada Library's Book Sale, and his participation as a judge for the La Mirada Library Bookmark Contest.

Vice Chairman Berry reported she recently opened a Little Library in front of her house for youth to enjoy.

Commissioner Cline reported on her attendance at the City Hall Fountain Dedication, and at Halloweenfest. She reported her husband, Rick Cline, received the Veteran of the Year Award from Assemblywoman Blanca Pacheco's Office.

Commissioner Savage reported on her attendance at the City Hall Fountain Dedication.

Chairman Spirescu reported she will sing Christmas carols with her church group at Lake Park La Mirada on December 13.

STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Services Coordinator Luna reported on the Veterans Stand Together organization and the Older Americans Award Program.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Submitted:



Tammie Ann Acosta
Community Services Department Secretary

Attest:



Adriana Spirescu
Chairman