

Social Services Commission Meeting Agenda Announcement

On March 12, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order No. N-25-20, which allows Brown Act Body members to attend meetings telephonically. Please be advised that some Whittier Social Services Commissioners may attend this meeting telephonically.

Speakers must limit their comments to three minutes. Please note, by order of the presiding officer, public comments minutes may be reduced if at their discretion a surplus of public speakers is present at the meeting.

To submit Public Comments/Questions:

- Email: gonzalezr@cityofwhittier.org
- Voicemail: (562) 567-9400
- Live Audio via Zoom: Only those members of the public who have 'raised their hand' on Zoom will be in the queue for speaking.
- In person at City Hall 13230 Penn St., Whittier, CA 90602, City Council Chamber

To view live meetings remotely:

- Video and audio: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81856830791>
Use 'Raise Hand' feature
- Audio only: Dial (669) 900-9128 (Meeting ID: 818 5683 0791)
Press *9 to 'Raise Hand' and then *6 to unmute yourself when prompted

Please submit email comments by 5:30 p.m. on the date of the meeting to ensure Social Service Commissioners receive and have time to review them. All emails received by 5:30 p.m. are forwarded to the Commission. Emails received after 5:30 p.m. but before the conclusion of public comments will be entered into the record.

Americans with Disabilities Act

Disability-related services are available to enable persons with a disability to participate in this meeting, consistent with the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Spanish interpreters are also available. For information or to request services, please contact the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting at (562) 567-9400.

**AGENDA
CITY OF WHITTIER
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 13230 PENN STREET
OCTOBER 1, 2024, 6:30 PM**

1. OATH OF OFFICE

Jessica Alva
Marisol Enriquez-Santos
Alejandro Mendoza

2. CALL TO ORDER

3. ROLL CALL

Commissioner Jose Luevano
Vice Chair Jeff Brauckmann
Chair Carlos Illingworth

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public is invited to address the Social Services Commission regarding any item of business, or any matter within the body's subject matter jurisdiction. Consistent with Executive Order No. N-29-20 public comments can be made via:

- Email: gonzalezr@cityofwhittier.org
- Voicemail: (562) 567-9400

Please submit email and voicemail public comments by 5:30 p.m. on the date of the meeting to ensure Commissioners receive and have time to review them. All emails and voicemails received by 5:30 p.m. are forwarded to the Commission. Emails and voicemails received after 5:30 p.m. but before the conclusion of public comments will be entered into the record.

Pursuant to State law, the Commission cannot take action or express a consensus of approval or disapproval on any communications which do not appear on the printed agenda.

6. STAFF REPORTS

6.A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Recommendation: Approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of September 17, 2024.

6.B. VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Recommendation: Recommend schedule and any needed adjustments for fiscal year 24/25 Volunteer of the Year Award Program.

6.C. 2024-2025 WHITTIER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM-SPONSORED BY ATHENS AND REPUBLIC SERVICES

Recommendation: Review and recommend criteria for the 2024-2025 Whittier Scholarship Program.

7. SECRETARY COMMENTS

8. COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS/CONFERENCE REPORTS

9. ADJOURNMENT

Disability-related services are available to enable persons with a disability to participate in this meeting, consistent with the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Spanish interpreters are also available. For information or to request services, please contact the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting at (562) 567-9400.

The agenda packet is available three days before the meeting in the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department at City Hall (13230 Penn Street), Whittier Central Library (7344 Washington Avenue) and the East Whittier Branch Library (10537 Santa Gertrudes Avenue). Additionally, the agenda packet can be viewed on the City's website. Materials distributed to the Commission within 72 hours of the Social Services Commission meeting are available for public inspection in the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department Office.

Los servicios relacionados con la discapacidad están disponibles para permitir que las personas con discapacidad participen en esta reunión, de conformidad con la Ley Federal de Estadounidenses con Discapacidades de 1990. También hay intérpretes en español disponibles. Para obtener información o para solicitar servicios, comuníquese con el Departamento de recreación y Parques al Servicio a la Comunidad de la reunión al (562) 567-9400.

El paquete de la agenda está disponible tres días antes de la reunión el Departamento Parques Recreación y Servicio a la Comunidad en el Ayuntamiento (13230 Penn Street), Whittier Central Library (7344 Washington Avenue) y Biblioteca sucursal del este de Whittier (10537 Santa Gertrudes Avenue). Además, el paquete de la agenda se puede ver en el sitio web de la Ciudad. Los materiales distribuidos al Concejo Municipal dentro de las 72 horas de la reunión del Comisión de Servicios Sociales están disponibles para inspección pública en el Departamento de Recreación y Parques al Servicio a la Comunidad.

I hereby certify under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing agenda was posted in accordance with the applicable legal requirements. Regular and Adjourned Regular meeting agendas may be amended up to 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Dated this 27th day of September 2024.

/s/ Roxanne Gonzalez

Roxanne Gonzalez, Administrative Secretary



Agenda Report

Social Services Commission

Date: October 1, 2024

To: Social Services Commission

From: Virginia Santana, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services

Subject: Approval of Minutes

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of September 17, 2024.

BACKGROUND

None.

DISCUSSION

Staff prepared draft minutes and hereby submits the September 17, 2024, Minutes for Commission approval.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

STRATEGIC PLANNING GOAL

Goal 4: Transparent & Open Government

ATTACHMENTS

A. Minutes of the Special Meeting of September 17, 2024

**MINUTES
CITY OF WHITTIER
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
WHITTIER CITY HALL, 13230 PENN STREET
SEPTEMBER 17, 2024 – 6:30 P.M.**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Social Services Commission's special meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m. on September 17, 2024.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Jeff Brauckmann, Commissioner
Carlos Illingworth, Commissioner
Jose Luevano, Vice Chair

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT:

Virginia Santana, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Community Services
Erin Hamilton, Community Services Manager
Stacey Arismendez, Management Analyst
Roxanne Gonzalez, Administrative Secretary
Teresa Maruffo, Office Specialist III

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Illingworth led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments received.

5. STAFF REPORTS

5. A. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Brauckmann stated that on page 5, paragraph 2 needed to be corrected from 4-0 to 3-0.

It was moved by Commissioner Illingworth, and seconded by Commissioner Brauckmann, and carried by 3-0 to approve the regular meeting minutes of April 2, 2024, with edits.

5. B. Election of Officers

Commissioner Brauckmann nominated Commissioner Illingworth for Commission Chair. Commissioner Illingworth accepted the nomination.

It was moved by Commissioner Brauckmann, and seconded by Chair Luevano, and carried by 3-0 to approve the nomination of Carlos Illingworth as Social Services Commission Chair.

Vice Chair Luevano nominated Commissioner Brauckmann as Vice Chair. Commissioner Brauckmann accepted the nomination.

It was moved by Commissioner Luevano, and seconded by Chair Illingworth, and carried by 3-0 to approve the nomination of Jeff Brauckmann as Social Services Commission Vice Chair.

5. C. Information and Referral Reports

Secretary Santana presented the Information and Referral report for April – August 2024. She highlighted that staff continues to receive calls pertaining to taxes, City and County services, other social services benefits, SASSFA, health plans, and Senior transportation.

It was moved by Vice Chair Brauckmann, seconded by Commissioner Luevano, and carried by a 3-0 vote to receive and file the Information and Referral Reports for April – August 2024.

5. D. Social Services Grant Funding Application Review FY 2024-25

Secretary Santana thanked the Commission for taking the time to review the applications received. She continued that we took Commissioner scores which created an average that was entered into a spreadsheet. She highlighted the requested amount, and the amount agencies will receive.

In band one we have the PIH Health Foundation who requested \$15,000 and will receive \$15,000. The Whole Child requested \$20,000 and will receive \$20,000. SPIRITT Family Services requested \$20,000 and will receive \$20,000.

In band two we have the Boys and Girls Club of Whittier who requested \$15,000 and will receive \$15,000. The YMCA of Greater Whittier requested \$20,000 and will receive \$15,000. Whittier Meals on Wheels requested \$14,956 and will receive \$14,956. LA CADA requested \$20,000 and will receive \$15,000.

In band three we have the Whittier Area Interfaith Council who requested \$10,000 and will receive \$10,000. Community Legal Aid SoCal requested \$5,000 and will receive \$5,000. Nehemiah Project LA requested \$20,000 and will receive \$10,000. Third Step Ministry requested \$20,000 and will receive \$10,000. Jovenes requested \$15,000 and will receive \$10,000.

In band four we have REACH who requested \$14,530 and will receive \$5,000. Interfaith Food Center requested \$20,000 and will receive \$5,000.

The total grant funds that will be awarded is \$169,956.00. Secretary Santana asked the Commission if they would like to discuss their scores where they see significant gaps. Commissioner Luevano asked if they could discuss only their scores and not the leftover funds. Secretary Santana responded that the

Commission may discuss only their own scores since there may have been significant gaps. She provided the example of Jovenes who were given scores of 50s by two Commissioners and 80 by one Commissioner. In the past, the Commission discussed the gaps and reasoning for such differences. She added the Commission could also just accept the scores as they are presented.

Commissioner Luevano stated that he is inclined to submit the scores as presented but commented that it appears we are not distributing all the funding dollars. Secretary Santana stated that was correct. Chair Illingworth stated that he thought the rubric and criteria was very helpful this year. He added that he is happy with the scores as they are presented. Chair Illingworth stated we should stick to the rubric and funding as presented because it is the fairest way to allocate funds but added that he is open to other opinions. Vice Chair Brauckmann stated he is content with the report as presented.

It was moved by Vice Chair Brauckmann, seconded by Commissioner Luevano, and carried by a 3-0 vote to recommend the submitted FY 2024-25 Social Services Grant application scores to City Council for consideration.

6. SECRETARY'S COMMENTS

Secretary Santana thanked the Commission and informed them that new Commissioners would be sworn in at the next regular meeting. She added that we will have to work for the Commission to stay ahead on the Scholarship Program and Volunteer of the Year.

7. COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS/CONFERENCE REPORTS

Commissioner Luevano stated that with the new process, it was easier to grade and push applications forward. He thanked the staff for making the process easy.

Chair Illingworth thanked staff for making the process, easy, efficient, and fair.

Vice Chair Brauckmann concurred with his fellow Commissioners.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Approved and adopted by the Social Services Commission on September 17, 2024.

Virginia Santana, Secretary



Agenda Report

Social Services Commission

Date: October 1, 2024

To: Social Services Commission

From: Virginia Santana, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services

Subject: Volunteer of the Year

RECOMMENDATION

Recommend schedule and any needed adjustments for fiscal year 24/25 Volunteer of the Year Award Program.

BACKGROUND

Annually, the Social Services Commission hosts the City's Volunteer of the Year program. The Commission prepares a "Call for Nominations," reviews the nominations received, selects award recipients and hosts the Award Ceremony.

Volunteer of the Year Timeline:

- Monday, November 4, 2024 – Call for nominations
- Wednesday, December 4, 2024, 3:00 p.m. – Application submission deadline
- Tuesday, February 4, 2025 – Commission selects recipients
- Tuesday, April 22, 2025 – Award ceremony

DISCUSSION

In the last three years, the award ceremony has been held on a Tuesday, during National Volunteer Week. Next year, National Volunteer Week begins April 20, 2025, and ends April 26, 2025. The Commission will discuss the previous year's program to determine a need for adjustments and set a schedule for the 24/25 program.

- Call for nominations
- How information is received
- Deadline for applications
- Review of nominations
- Award ceremony date
- Ceremony details

STRATEGIC PLANNING GOAL

Goal 4: Transparent & Open Government

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. 2023 Volunteer of the Year Application



WHITTIER VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

PRESENTED BY THE WHITTIER
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION

CALLS FOR NOMINATIONS

FOR THE SERVICE YEAR OF 2023

Do you know someone extraordinary whose dedication deserves recognition? We're calling on you to nominate your standout volunteers for the Whittier Volunteer of the Year Awards!

Whether they've brightened lives through community service or sparked positive change, we want to honor those who've gone the extra mile.

Visit www.cityofwhittier.org to submit your nomination and let's shine a spotlight on these community members!

APPLICATIONS DUE:



MONDAY

FEBRUARY 5, 2024

BY 3:00 PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL



(562) 567-9400

2023 Volunteer of the Year Nomination Form

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION:

The Volunteer Recognition awards are presented annually to outstanding individuals who have gone above and beyond in giving to the Whittier community. Nominees devote their time, talent, and expertise on a volunteer non-paid basis to local non-profit organizations. Whittier is known for its strong volunteer ethic, and to date, more than 200 volunteers have been honored. They include representatives from non-profit social service agencies, youth groups, schools, service clubs, and business volunteer groups.

ELIGIBILITY FOR VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION NOMINEES:

Please note: Volunteer service hours must have been performed in the City of Whittier during 2023. Volunteers do not need to be city residents. Religious, fraternal, city employees, city commissioners, and other professional groups providing services only to their members are not eligible for nomination. Past recipients are eligible this year.

HOW TO NOMINATE:

To nominate that special person(s) in your organization, you just need to complete the Award Nomination form below. Please include a description of the volunteer's service and its impact on the organization, and the community at large. Submissions may include photographs, video files (no longer than two minutes), scrapbooks, or brochures of the organization. The submission of photographs and video files are highly encouraged. Submissions will not be returned. A PDF or video file can be sent if the survey link cannot be accessed.

Applications are due:

Monday, February 5, 2023 by 3:00 PM to gonzalezr@cityofwhittier.org

* Indicates required question

Nominating Agency Details

1. Submitting Agency Name *

2. Agency Address *

3. Contact Name *

4. Contact Phone Number *

5. Contact Email Address *

Nominee Information

6. Nominee Name *

7. Contact Phone Number *

8. Contact Email Address *

9. Name of agency Nominee supported in 2022 *

10. Nominee Job Title (if applicable)

11. Total number of hours served as a volunteer for this agency in 2022 *

12. Frequency of service in 2022 *

Mark only one oval.

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Ad hoc
- Other: _____

13. Overall length of time they have served their agency *

Mark only one oval.

- 0-1 year
- 2-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11-15 years
- 15-20 years
- 20+ years

14. Describe the reasons for nominating this individual *

15. If you would like to submit more information about the nominee or the agency please attach a PDF

Files submitted:

16. If you would like to submit a video file to support this application please attach a file

Files submitted:

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Agenda Report

Social Services Commission

Date: October 1, 2024

To: Social Services Commission

From: Virginia Santana, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services

Subject: 2024-2025 Whittier Scholarship Program-Sponsored by Athens and Republic Services

RECOMMENDATION

Review and recommend criteria for the 2024-2025 Whittier Scholarship Program.

BACKGROUND

On September 26, 2017, the City Council approved solid waste collection and recycling franchise agreements with Athens Services and Republic Services, including the Scholarship Program provision. Under this program, five (5) scholarships of \$500 each are offered to college-bound students living in the Athens Services area, and four (4) scholarships of \$500 each are available to college-bound students residing in the Republic Services area. The City Council assigned this program to the Social Services Commission to evaluate and select the annual recipients.

DISCUSSION

The Commission will review the program criteria and recommend changes for the FY 2024-2025 Whittier Scholarship Program.

FISCAL IMPACT

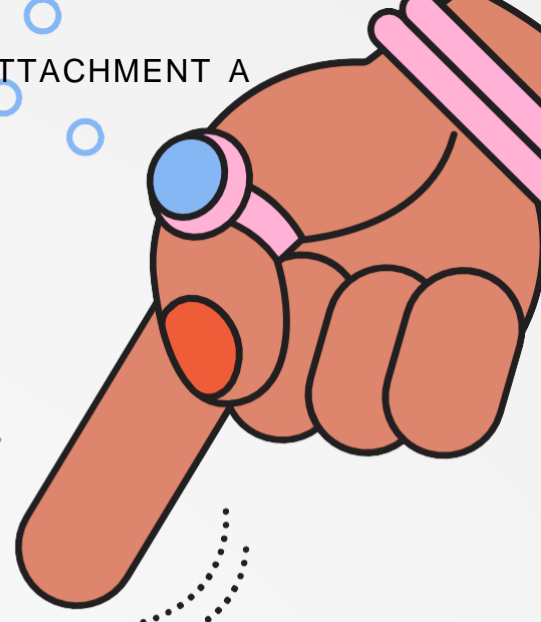
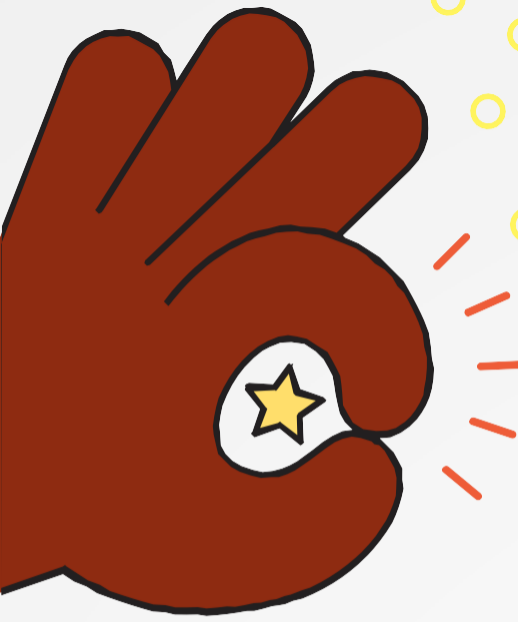
There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

STRATEGIC PLANNING GOAL

Goal 3: Maintain & Enhance Quality of Life

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Previous Call for Submissions
- B. Essay Questions



SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

For High School Seniors In Whittier!



2023 Scholarship Recipients

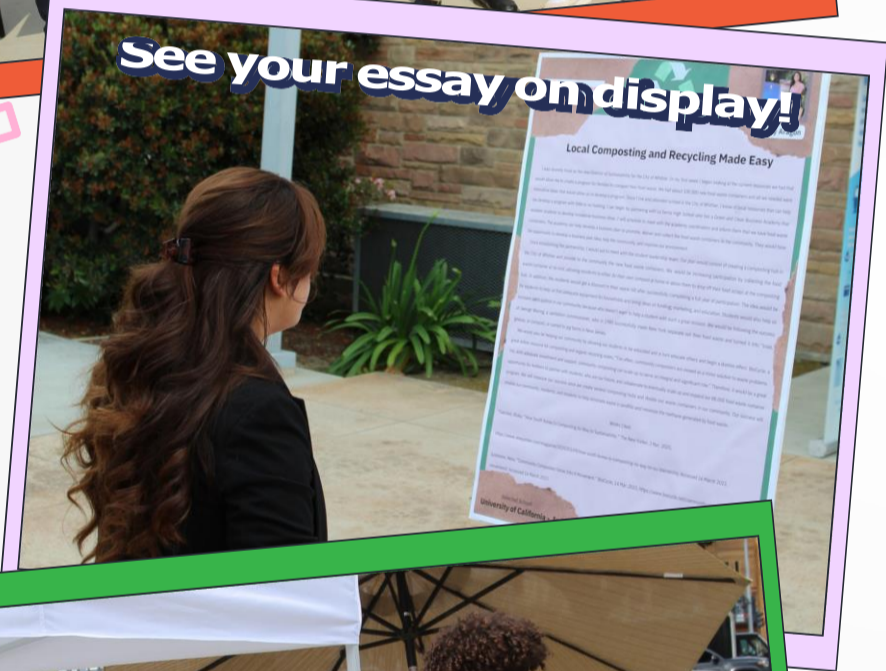
Sponsored by:





SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

For High School Seniors In Whittier



HOW TO ENTER:

- Submit one short essay responding to the topic below
- Follow MLA Formatting
- Share a photo of yourself! (your Senior portrait would be perfect)
- That's it!

ELIGIBILITY

- Must be a high school senior headed to college or trade school
- Must live within Incorporated Whittier City limits

ESSAY TOPIC

Contamination in recycling is a big problem! Review the recycling policy of **Athens or Republic Services** on our website to learn more about recycling contamination.

Explain in your essay why contamination in recycling is problematic & discuss how residents & businesses could improve their local recycling to reduce contamination.

APPLICATIONS DUE!



MONDAY
MARCH 4, 2024
BY 3:00 PM

(562) 567-9400

Whittier City Hall, 13230 Penn Street

WhittierPRCS.org/about-us/social-services



Trash Haulers Scholarship Program Essay Prompts

- Contamination in recycling is a big problem. Review the recycling policy of Athens or Republic Services to learn more about contamination. Explain why contamination in recycling is problematic and discuss how residents and businesses could improve their local recycling to reduce contamination.
- Waste, and how we choose to handle it, affects our local City, including the air, water, land, plants, and man-made things. Waste management is so important because...?
- Discarding waste in unsafe ways and in non-approved places can endanger our local environment. Discuss how residents can become more responsible for what we throw away and the impact this waste may have on our local environment.
- Recycling saves natural resources, contributes to improved air and water quality, and reduces the need for landfill expansion. Describe a strong and successful residential recycling program to “save” landfill space, which discusses ways to recycle, reduce, and reuse our residential waste.
- What could you do to voice your opinion about solid waste issues in your community?
- Everyone produces some waste, but you don’t have to be a “super consumer.” One way to help the issue is to think about the goods, services, and activities you buy or support. In what ways do they contribute to the solid waste problem? How could you purchase and dispose of items in other ways that would generate less trash?
- What is the most important issue facing the environment today?
- Who do you think is more responsible for pollution, individuals or the government? Explain.
- Is recycling truly beneficial for the environment?
- Is recycling the best management option? What other options are there?
- Write an influential letter to the City Council asking them to take an action to reduce the CO2 emissions and residential waste in the city. Discuss what actions you want the Council to take and reasons why those actions are important.
- How would you balance the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, through SB1383, with the desire to help residents and businesses that are already suffering financially?

- Research recycling programs in Japan, Germany, and the United States and compare and contrast what differences are used in their respective recycling programs. Which country do you think is most successful at recycling and why? Apply your findings to Whittier.