

MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the Human Services Commission
Thursday, January 15, 2026

The Regular Meeting of the Human Services Commission of the City of Gardena, California, was called to order by Chair Loduem at 6:03 pm on Thursday, January 15, 2026, in the Nakaoka Community Center.

1. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Chair Valerie Loduem; Vice-Chair Tanoh Amoa (King Nat) Jr; Member Sharon Pamplin; Member Shari Farmer; Member LaWanda Staten

In Attendance: Nicola Howard, Staff Liaison

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A motion was made by Member Staten and was seconded by Member Pamplin to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2025 meeting. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0 (Staten, Pamplin, Loduem, Farmer).

5. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

None

7. **COMMISSION MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS**

- Chair Loduem attended Winter Wonderland. She reported that the seniors loved the Winter Gala. Complimented the department on how we treat our seniors.
- Member Pamplin attended Operation Gobble, assisting with assembling boxes for the families.

8. **UPCOMING EVENTS / VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

The following events were discussed and flyers distributed:

- MLK Parade and Celebration
- Ministerial Association Meeting
- BRIDGE
- Girl Boss Workshop

9. **STAFF LIAISON REPORT**

- Helping Hands distribution took place on December 19, 2025. This year we assisted 100 families with 467 individuals and 50 adult households with 66 individuals. Parents attended to select and wrap gifts for their children; two gifts per child and one board game per family. \$15,650 in grocery gifts cards were distributed. Amount distributed per family/household varied according to family size.
- Rental Assistance Program: 45 households are receiving assistance. Round 6 took place on January 13, 2026 – staff met with 40 walk-ins and 13 applications were accepted.

- Homeless Program – Homeless Coordinator position closed and interviews will take place soon. The position will allow us to offer homeless navigation and case management.

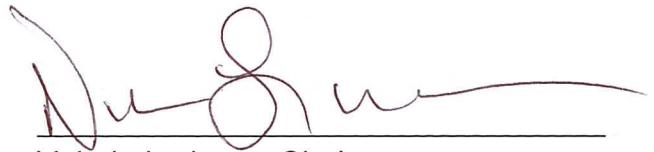
10. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:36 pm was made by Member Farmer and seconded by Member Staten. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0 (Farmer, Staten, Loduem, Amoa, Pamplin). Next meeting will be February 19, 2026 at 6:36 pm in the Nakaoka Community Center.

APPROVED:



Nicola Howard, Staff Liaison



Valerie Loduem, Chair