

MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the Human Services Commission
Thursday, April 16, 2026

The Regular Meeting of the Human Services Commission of the City of Gardena, California, was called to order by Chair Loduem at 6:05 pm on Thursday, April 16, 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

Absent: 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 Farmer and was seconded by Member Pamplin to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2026 meeting. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0 (Farmer, Pamplin, Loduem, Amoa).

5. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

The Human Services Commission presentation to City Council will take place on Tuesday, April 28, 2026. The Council meeting is scheduled to start at 7:30 pm and Chair Loduem requested that commissioners arrive at 7:15 pm to review the presentation. Liaison Howard will prepare the presentation and commissioners will present it to City Council.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

None

7. **COMMISSION MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS**

- Chair Loduem and Member Farmer attended the Girl Boss Workshop.

8. **UPCOMING EVENTS / VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

The following events were discussed and flyers distributed:

- April Candlelight Dinner
- Ministerial Meeting
- Community Yard Sale
- Cinco de Mayo Parade and Celebration
- Boys to Men Workshop
- Sounds & Bites Summer Series

9. **STAFF LIAISON REPORT**

- Girl Boss Workshop recap – We partnered with Connected to Lead to host a Barbie-themed event, focusing on self-worth and inner beauty. There were about 45 participants and 24 vendors. Attendees participated in focused activities and discussions with the vendors.

- Rental Assistance Program: The final round of applications for the 2025/26 program was accepted on March 24.
- Staffing update – Our new Homeless Coordinator is completing the hiring process and should start in the next couple weeks.

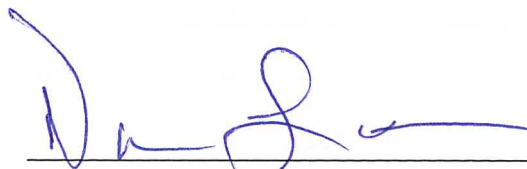
10. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:27 pm was made by Member Farmer and seconded by Member Pamplin. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0 (Farmer, Pamplin, Loduem, Amoa). Next meeting will be May 21, 2026 at 6:00 pm in the Nakaoka Community Center.

APPROVED:



Nicola Howard, Staff Liaison



Valerie Loduem, Chair