

MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the Human Services Commission
Thursday, May 21, 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, May 21, 2026, in the Nakaoka Community Center.

1. **ROLL CALL**

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

Absent: Member Shari Farmer

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 April 16, 2026 meeting. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0 (Staten, Pamplin, Loduem, Amoa).

5. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

The Human Services Commission presentation to City Council took place on Tuesday, April 28, 2026. Chair Loduem gave the presentation and Vice Chair Amoa was also present.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

None

7. **COMMISSION MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS**

Chair Loduem attended Sounds & Bites, Vice Chair Amoa and Member Staten participated in the Cinco de Mayo parade, and Member Pamplin attended the Yard Sale.

8. **UPCOMING EVENTS / VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Community Care Day, on Saturday, June 13, was presented as a volunteer opportunity. Commissioners were encouraged to attend and volunteer.

The following events were discussed and flyers distributed:

- May Candlelight Dinner
- Passport Destinations
- Willows Scavenger Hunt
- Memorial Day
- Healthy Pet Clinic
- Junk in the Trunk
- Sounds & Bites Viewing Party
- Gardena Dodger Day
- Juneteenth
- GTrans Line G to the Sea

9. **STAFF LIAISON REPORT**

- Boys to Men recap: We partnered with Connected to Lead who led the teens and young men in discussions about emotional intelligence and social media and its impact on conversations. They participated in team building exercises and activities. Eleven vendors attended providing resources and career opportunities and also participated in the discussion and activities.
- HS Updates: The food pantry receives about ten community donations of food monthly and serves an average of forty households each month. We also receive regular monetary donations and purchase food to restock so that we always have ample stock to serve our clients.
- Rental Assistance Program: The PLHA program has closed to new applicants for the 2025/26 program and is currently serving 61 households. We have started our RPHP program, which is funded by the SBCCOG, and are working on intakes for about twenty applicants.

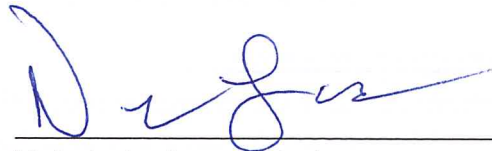
10. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:45 pm was made by Member Staten and seconded by Member Pamplin. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0 (Staten, Pamplin, Loduem, Amoa). Next meeting will be June 18, 2026 at 6:00 pm in the Nakaoka Community Center.

APPROVED:



Nicola Howard, Staff Liaison



Valerie Loduem, Chair