



**CITY OF BELL GARDENS**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**SENIOR CITIZEN COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

*Wednesday, January 12, 2022*

**Call to Order:**

Chairperson Jacob Poliquin-Hernandez called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

Chairperson Jacob Poliquin-Hernandez forewent the pledge of allegiance.

**Roll Call:**

Commission Secretary Miriam Vargas-Cervantes:

Chairperson Jacob Poliquin-Hernandez	Present
Vice-Chairperson Tiffany Quintero-Maldonado	Present
Commissioner Ana Maria Sanchez	Present

**Reporting on Posting of the Agenda:**

Commission Secretary, Miriam Vargas-Cervantes stated that the agenda was posted in accordance with state law.

**Public Comments on Agenda Items:**

Commission Secretary, Miriam Vargas-Cervantes confirms there are no public comments.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Chairperson Jacob Poliquin-Hernandez asked to motion the minutes from the special meeting of December 15, 2021. Vice-Chairperson Tiffany Quintero-Maldonado motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Ana Maria Sanchez seconded the motion to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

**New Business:**

**Department Updates-** Supervisor Diana Ortiz informs commissioners the City of Bell Gardens continues to offer free Covid-19 testing. The testing site is open Monday-Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. There has been an increase of folks taking the exam. Initially it was approximately 30-45 people a day and currently an increase of 400-450 people testing daily. A high demand for Covid-19 exams, which is also causing a delay with results. The testing is free, results are being sent in 4 days. The testing center will also be open on Monday January 17, 2022, M.L.K. Anyone interested in testing Monday can stop by at Veterans Park. The City of Bell Gardens is also continuing with the Covid-19 vaccines. Doses are being offered at Veterans Park. Pfizer is being offered on Tuesday's from 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. for those who are 12 years of age and older. Please note that there has been an adjustment for the Pfizer booster. Instead of having to wait 6 months for eligibility, it has transitioned to 5 months. The Pfizer Pediatric vaccine is also offered to 5-11 years old on Wednesday's from 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. The Moderna booster is being offered to those 18

years old and above every Thursday from 12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m. Supervisor Ortiz confirms in the last 2 weeks Pico Clinic Pharmacy has vaccinated 549 individuals. The department continues with the supper meal program at various park locations. John Anson Ford Park, Veterans Park and Youth Center provide grab and go meals Monday through Friday 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. The supper meal program will not distribute meals on Martin Luther King Jr Day. The Recreation Department is offering Youth Basketball and registration has been extended to January 20<sup>th</sup>. Practices and league play will take place at the end of January continuing to mid-April at the recently renovated gymnasium at Ford Park. If any residents are interested in registering, please contact the Recreation Department. Supervisor Diana Ortiz shared an update on the self-defense classes. Out of an abundance and precaution the Recreation Department cancelled the January 8<sup>th</sup> class. The Department is hoping the February class will not be affected by the number of Covid cases rising. The goal is to ensure everyone follows safety protocols and keep residents safe. Diana Ortiz confirms monthly food distribution is currently being offered every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month. Community Family Service Center in partnership with Food Bank continues to serve monthly distributions at Veterans Park. The next food distribution will be Saturday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. until supplies last. The Mobile Pet Clinic also has an extended service hour. The new schedule will be from 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. at Veterans Park. This change will better as it accommodates all interested residents. The next Pet Clinic will be Saturday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at Bell Gardens Veterans Park. The Community Family Service Center continues to offer multiple services. Some of these services include State Rent Relief Assistance. The CA COVID-19 Rent Relief program provides financial assistance for unpaid rent to eligible renters and landlords who have been impacted by COVID-19. Both renters and landlords can apply for assistance. The CFSC is also assisting with the California Mortgage Relief Program that is part of the State's Housing is Key initiative. The program is open to all eligible Californians who are currently experiencing pandemic-related hardships and have fallen behind on their housing payments. Supervisor confirms once again the Community Family Center is happy to assist any residents that need further information. Please contact (562) 928-2000 to schedule an appointment. The LGBTQ continues partnership with the Latino Equality Alliance. The group has transitioned over to virtual considering LA County Covid-19 cases are increasing. The group is open to youth ages 12-26 years old and provide workshops and activities to educate and empower the youth group. Anyone who is interested in joining can join via zoom on Thursday January 13<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m. The flyer has been posted on social media and can be found at the Community Family Service Center. The QR code can be accessed on social media or using the meeting ID 830 6538 1934. Diana Ortiz confirms the John Anson Ford Park Sports Office and Conference Room are receiving some TLC. The list of improvements includes a new ADA accessible counter with multiple workstations, new luxury vinyl tile flooring, new carpet, conference table and furniture. The floor demolition started on Monday January 10<sup>th</sup> and expected to be done on Friday January 14<sup>th</sup>. The contractor will follow up with furniture installation on January 18<sup>th</sup> and it should be completed by the end of the month.

**Senior Updates-** Supervisor Diana Ortiz confirms the Senior Center continues to collaborate with Human Services Association. The Senior Center continues to offer weekly frozen meals to all registered seniors. Approximately 500 meals are being offered on a weekly basis by HAS. Due to the high increase of Covid-19 cases the congregate meals have been cancelled. Once a drop of those cases take place, the Senior Center will resume with dining meals. In addition, the Community Family Service Center is in partnership with Los Angeles Food Bank to offer a monthly food distribution to the seniors. It's being offered the second Friday of each month at Bell Gardens Veterans Park. Over 200 seniors receive assistance through this program. Seniors who are looking for assistance or registration information are encouraged to bring an identification to register on site at the food distribution. The upcoming Food Distribution would be Friday January 14<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m. Seniors have to be 55 years or older. Family and friends are

encouraged to pick up food if the senior is not capable of doing so. The Senior Center continues to remain open Monday-Friday from 10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. with a limited capacity. Staff continues to offer several events. Some of these activities include birthday socials, health workshops and other fun events. The department will soon start karaoke, which will be a lot of fun for all seniors. Diana Ortiz invites all seniors to participate to the first karaoke taking place on January 24<sup>th</sup> at noon. The karaoke program will be led by a former senior. The Senior Center continues with a few events and ensures to follow all LA County guidelines and protocols. The gym and billiard room are currently open and continuously disinfected after being used. A monthly calendar of all these events is available at the Senior Center. You can always contact the Senior Center to obtain further information. Also, all information of events can be found on social media.

**Covid-19 Impact, Protocols-** Supervisor Diana Ortiz stated that staff is ensuring to follow all Covid-19 protocols and LA County guidelines. The Senior Center is currently limiting the capacity of seniors who participate in the different events. The gym has different time frames for use to ensure proper time is given to disinfect. The Senior Center has plenty of sanitation stations, currently taking temperatures when entering the facility. Contact the Senior Center if further assistance is needed.

### **Public Comments:**

Commission Secretary, Miriam Vargas-Cervantes confirms there are no public comments.

### **Staff Comments:**

Supervisor Diana- would like to invite community seniors to the first karaoke event at the Senior Center. It is a free event and anticipates it will be a lot of fun. The Senior Center will be offering movie day in Spanish on January 25<sup>th</sup>.

Director Rozanne Adanto- Appreciates the service Commissioners perform. Grateful off all Staff and all the events that are still going on. It has been extremely hard over the past 2 years. The Staff has accomplished through this and has assisted residents with Covid related items. Especially through our Community Family Service Center and the Senior Center. Director Adanto is hoping the numbers go down and allows the center to resume with all the amazing activities. She confirms going over minutes and the interest of Commissioners wanting to resume with fieldtrips. Confirms there is a budget for excursions and can't wait to host all the events. The department is doing its best to accommodate all seniors. Unfortunately, the numbers are not where they need to be. The fortunate part is that the vaccination rate for seniors is significantly high. At one point the City of Bell Gardens was the highest in the Los Angeles County. The vaccination rate was well over 98%. Director Adanto is happy for all the seniors fighting back Covid-19. Invites residents who are still in need of a vaccine to visit Veterans Park to obtain more information. Director Adanto thanked all commissioners for participating and joining the commission meeting.

### **Comments from Commission:**

Vice-Chairperson Tiffany Quintero-Maldonado- Confirms there is a comment in the chat. Commissioner Quintero-Maldonado is concerned if it's okay to respond after the public comments has been closed. Director Rozanne Adanto-Takes initiative and reads the comment: I have a comment and a concern. She invites Desiree to respond and will provide answers to her concern.

Vice-Chairperson Tiffany Quintero-Maldonado- She would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year. Confirms it's the first meeting of the year and happy to be back. To all those watching, hope you all had a great time with your family and loved ones.

Commissioner Ana Maria Sanchez- I hope everyone enjoyed their holidays. Invites all the Commissioners to work together towards the benefit of all seniors this new year. May God bless everyone.

Senior Citizen Commission Secretary- Announces the public comment from resident Desiree: Hello everyone, on my street there are racers racing on my street and almost hit an elderly woman. Resident is concerned what can the City of Bell Gardens do about the issue.

Director Rozanne Adanto- Responds to the resident by asking her to contact herself or Diana Ortiz via email regarding the issue. Message will be directed to the police department to address the concern and ensure it does not happen again.

Chairperson Jacob Poliquin-Hernandez is happy to be back. He is happy to see Staff and Commissioners. He thanks the Parks and Recreation Department, Director Rozanne Adanto and Supervisor Diana Ortiz for all the amazing work. Highlights all the hard work being done for residents and the commission. The community is thankful for all the unnoticed work the City of Bell Gardens offers.

**Adjournment:**

Chairperson Jacob Poliquin-Hernandez requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Vice-Chairperson Tiffany Quintero Maldonado motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Ana Maria seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Recorded By: Miriam Vargas-Cervantes  
Miriam Vargas-Cervantes, Senior Citizen Commission Secretary