

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION**

**MINUTES  
MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2013**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** at 6:30 PM
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** led by Robert Rodriguez
3. **ROLL CALL**

**Commissioners Present:** Borelli, Burke\*, Clarkin, Kemper, Norton, Sol, Williams\*

\*Commissioner Burke arrived late at 6:40 PM.

\*Commissioner Williams left early at 7:51 PM.

**Commissioners Absent:** None

**Others present:** Captain Kelley Fraser, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Lieutenant Dave Smith, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Kristin Cook, Public Safety Manager

4. **ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS**

Commissioner Norton requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of Hadiya Pendelton. Commissioner Norton requested that the meeting be adjourned in honor of Captain Kelley Fraser.

Commissioner Sol requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of the 15 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the last meeting.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**ACTION:** Motion by Commissioner Borelli to approve the March 11, 2013 agenda, seconded by Commissioner Clarkin, and approved.

**POSTING OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda for the March 11, 2013 Public Safety Commission meeting was posted at City Hall, Plummer Park, the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station, and the West Hollywood Library.

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**ACTION:** Motion by Commissioner Borelli to approve the February 11, 2013 minutes as amended, seconded by Commissioner Williams, and approved with Commissioner Clarkin abstaining.

Captain Kelley Fraser spoke regarding her time here in West Hollywood and thanked the Commissioners for their support.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Robert Rodriguez, store manager at Ralph's at Fountain and La Brea, apologized for the grease spill last month and spoke regarding training provided to his employees. Mr. Rodriguez spoke regarding upgrades being done to the store's landscaping, additional security, and daily security reports.

**8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Borelli thanked Mr. Rodriguez for his attendance and update. Commissioner Borelli spoke regarding vehicle burglaries, the pilot program for pedestrian buttons, and work with the Transportation Commission.

Commissioner Norton thanked Mr. Rodriguez for his attendance and update. Commissioner Norton spoke regarding homelessness issues.

Commissioner Williams thanked Mr. Rodriguez for his attendance and update and stated she has noticed some improvements. Commissioner Williams offered to link Ralph's with PATH and its services. Commissioner Williams spoke regarding Captain Kelley Fraser's dedication to the City of West Hollywood.

Commissioner Kemper thanked Mr. Rodriguez for his attendance and update. Commissioner Kemper suggested that employees be included in the mission of fostering pride and ownership of the store. Commissioner Kemper spoke regarding Captain Kelley Fraser's dedication to the City of West Hollywood. Commissioner Kemper spoke regarding crime statistics between February 22, 2013 and March 7, 2013 and requested more information. Commissioner Kemper spoke regarding the difficulty of seeing the pedestrians in crosswalks under the hanging, blinking lights and suggested that in pavement lights may be better.

Commissioner Burke apologized for being late. Commissioner Burke thanked Mr. Rodriguez for his attendance and update and spoke regarding a recent, positive visit to Ralph's. Commissioner Burke spoke regarding his attendance at candidate forums in Beverly Hills where residents were asking for crosswalks similar to the ones in West Hollywood.

Commissioner Sol spoke regarding her attendance at a recent Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board meeting and the upcoming One City, One Pride and suggested cosponsoring the event. Commissioner Sol spoke regarding a project by Southern California Edison to ask members of the community to design art for utility boxes and the desire to get Neighborhood Watch involved. Commissioner Sol spoke regarding her attendance at a recent Transportation Commission meeting and that Transportation Commissioner Eichman is the liaison to the Public Safety Commission. Commissioner Sol spoke regarding events and projects sponsored by the Women's Advisory Board. Commissioner Sol spoke regarding the Public Safety Awards.

**9. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

**9A. PRESENTATION FROM RUSSIAN COMMUNITY OUTREACH COORDINATOR**

Commissioners received a presentation from Tatiana Rodzinek, Russian Community Outreach Coordinator.

Commissioner Borelli spoke regarding the younger generation of the Russian Community moving to areas other than West Hollywood.

Ms. Rodzinek said that while some younger members leave West Hollywood for school they come back to open businesses or buy property.

Commissioner Borelli asked if there is a better way for the Commission to reach the Russian Community for public safety topics.

Ms. Rodzinek spoke regarding senior safety meetings and having conversations with residents of senior buildings about public safety issues. Ms. Rodzinek spoke regarding her distribution list.

Commissioner Norton spoke regarding immigration in the 1980s and the lack of cultural awareness for the gay community and asked if it has changed over time.

Ms. Rodzinek said that there has been a positive shift, but that some may still be uneducated about the cultural differences.

Commissioner Norton spoke regarding Russian schools and asked if the schools have goals to "Americanize" the children.

Ms. Rodzinek said that the schools want to preserve Russian heritage, but that the schools teach in English and are American schools.

Commissioner Norton asked if the Russian Mafia and human trafficking issues are present in West Hollywood.

Lieutenant Smith stated that there is not a Russian Mafia presence in West Hollywood. Lieutenant Smith said that the Sheriff's Department is involved in human trafficking cases, but said that they are not located in West Hollywood.

Ms. Rodzinek spoke regarding her work with Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST).

Commissioner Clarkin thanked Ms. Rodzinek for her work. Commissioner Clarkin spoke regarding building good community relations.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding the history of working with the Russian Community and connections to Brighton Beach. Commissioner Williams spoke regarding the rich heritage and how important the Russian Community is to the City of West Hollywood.

Commissioner Kemper thanked Ms. Rodzinek for her work. Commissioner Kemper spoke regarding the work of law enforcement with the Russian Community.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding the gambling at Plummer Park and how that issue years ago spurred the idea of hosting the first Public Safety Awards.

Commissioner Burke thanked Ms. Rodzinek for her work and spoke regarding immigration in the 1970s and 1980s and miscommunication between the communities.

Ms. Rodzinek spoke regarding the importance of programs for Russian youth.

Commissioner Sol thanked Ms. Rodzinek for her work. Commissioner Sol spoke regarding the dissolution of HUD funding and a recent discussion with Congressman Adam Schiff. Commissioner Sol inquired about the Russian Advisory Board's upcoming agenda.

Ms. Rodzinek spoke regarding the upcoming Russian Cultural Festival and City projects that the Russian Advisory Board can positively influence.

Commissioner Sol asked if residents come to the Russian Advisory Board to speak about the safety in Plummer Park.

Ms. Rodzinek said that there is one resident who regularly calls her to speak about suspicious behavior in Plummer Park and said that she involves the Sheriff's Department.

**9B. NEWS FROM STAFF/MONTHLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Staff spoke regarding the joint Transportation/Public Safety Commission meeting to be held on Wednesday April 10, 2013.

Staff spoke regarding the public safety update to City Council on March 18, 2013.

Staff reminded the Commissioners that the Los Angeles Marathon will be held Sunday, March 17, 2013.

**9C. PUBLIC SAFETY AWARDS**

Staff spoke regarding the upcoming awards on Monday, April 8, 2013. Staff stated that Captain Kelley Fraser will be recognized for her service at the Public Safety Awards.

Commissioner Kemper volunteered to present Captain Kelley Fraser's plaque.

Commissioners Sol and Williams volunteered to present the Deputy of the Year award.

Commissioners Burke and Norton volunteered to present the Firefighter of the Year award.

Commissioners Borelli and Clarkin volunteered to present the Outstanding Contribution to Public Safety award.

**10. REPORT FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Staff reviewed the suppression, rescue, and fire prevention activities during the month of February 2013 including inspections, fires, and emergency medical calls.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding the Eastside Task Force and public safety issues.

Staff suggested that Commissioner Williams give a verbal report to the Eastside Task Force regarding public safety statistics.

Commissioner Sol encouraged people to sign up for Nixle.

Commissioner Norton wished Commissioner Williams a happy birthday.

## **11. REPORT FROM THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

Lieutenant Smith reviewed the Sheriff's Department statistics for February 2013, including calls for service, arrests, and crimes. All crime statistics have improved substantially across the board. Lieutenant Smith spoke about the positive impact that patrols and public education have had on the crime in the City. Lieutenant Smith spoke regarding a vehicle burglary prevention program in another area which included Deputies testing vehicles for unlocked doors and putting warning notices on the vehicles.

Commissioner Borelli spoke regarding the potential issues with flagging a car that is unlocked. Lieutenant Smith suggested that Deputies could possibly find the owner's home and speak to them.

Commissioner Kemper requested more information about the rape.

Lieutenant Smith stated that it is an ongoing investigation, but that the victim was originally drinking in a club in Hollywood.

Commissioner Norton requested more information about the strong arm robberies in Center City.

Lieutenant Smith described the strong arm robberies and also stated that there were twelve DUI arrests and five DUI collisions last month. Lieutenant Smith spoke regarding upcoming special events.

Commissioner Burke asked about the John Varvatos event on Melrose.

Commissioner Kemper spoke regarding her recent ride along with the Sheriff's Station and spoke highly of Deputy Reyes.

Commissioner Clarkin spoke regarding his work with the Sunset Strip Business Association (SSBA) and thanked the Sheriff's Department for keeping the SSBA informed. Commissioner Clarkin spoke regarding the new traffic vehicles assigned to the station.

Lieutenant Smith stated that the Sheriff's Department is currently testing the vehicles in the City of West Hollywood.

Commissioner Borelli spoke regarding an attempted robbery involving a friend from last evening and thanked the Sheriff's Department for an excellent response.

Commissioner Norton spoke regarding a recent public speaker at City Council who had issues with a Sheriff's Department response.

Lieutenant Smith stated that he called the public speaker to follow up and has not heard back from the individual who actually made the call to the station.

Commissioner Clarkin said he programmed the Sheriff's Department's phone number into the outdoor phones of the buildings he manages. Commissioner Clarkin spoke regarding Captain Kelley Fraser's dedication to the City of West Hollywood.

Commissioner Sol spoke regarding being a victim of a crime in the past where someone had put something in her drink.

## **12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **12A. 2012 PUBLIC SAFETY EDUCATION OUTREACH**

Commissioner Borelli suggested that the next outreach be conducted on a Thursday evening from 5 – 7 PM and highlight vehicle burglary prevention.

Commissioner Sol suggested including pedestrian safety.

Commissioner Clarkin spoke regarding "See Something, Say Something" outreach by Sheriff's Volunteers and Transportation Bureau and the "Lock It, Keep It" campaign.

Commissioner Sol encouraged Commissioners to publicize the upcoming Community Emergency Response Training (CERT).

### **12B. 2013 WORK PLAN**

Commissioner Clarkin volunteered to be the liaison to the Russian Advisory Board.

Commissioners approved the 2013 Work Plan.

**ACTION:** Motion by Commissioner Clarkin to approve the 2013 Work Plan as amended, seconded by Commissioner Norton, and approved.

## **13. NEW BUSINESS**

### **13A. UTILIZING SOCIAL MEDIA**

Commissioners briefly discussed the issue and agreed to put the item on the May 2013 agenda.

Commissioner Sol asked if Commissioners would like to put "reports from liaisons" on the agenda.

Commissioner Burke suggested combining liaison reports with Commissioner Comments.

Staff said that Commissioner Comments would now be Commissioner Comments and Liaisons Reports.

**14. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Suzanne Dietrich, liaison to the Public Safety Commission from the Disabilities Advisory Board, spoke regarding working with public safety, educating the public regarding people living with disabilities, a recent incident involving noise from Athens, and skate boarders on the sidewalks.

**15. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Norton spoke regarding positively working with Captain Kelley Fraser and the importance of welcoming the new Captain. Commissioner Norton congratulated Commissioner Borelli on his positive campaign for City Council.

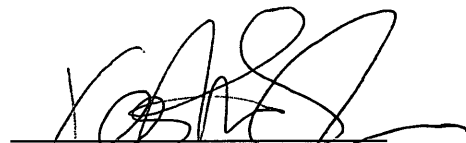
Commissioner Borelli thanked Ms. Dietrich for her attendance. Commissioner Borelli said that the City has a staff liaison to Athens who fields complaints. Commissioner Borelli spoke regarding Captain Fraser's dedication to the City of West Hollywood.

Commissioner Sol thanked the Commissioners for their participation and concise comments and stated that the next meeting will be televised.

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 8:40 PM in the memory of Hadiya Pendelton and the 15 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the last meeting and in honor of Captain Kelley Fraser. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 8, 2013 at 6:30 PM at the West Hollywood Council Chambers at 625 San Vicente Boulevard.

  
Public Safety Commission Chair

  
Staff Liaison