

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD  
JOINT SPECIAL MEETING OF  
THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION AND THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION**

**MINUTES  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2014**

**WEST HOLLYWOOD PARK PUBLIC MEETING ROOM – COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

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

**Public Safety Commissioners Present:** Bazley, Burke, Clarkin, Hoffman, Norton\*, Sol, Williams

**Commissioners Absent:** None

\*Public Safety Commissioner Marcy Norton arrived at 6:38 PM.

**Transportation Commissioners Present:** Cooper, Greene, Horvath, Walia-Fazio, Warren, Wayland

**Commissioners Absent:** Eichman

**Others present:** Lieutenant Dave Smith, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Kristin Cook, Public Safety Director; Bonnie Smith, Public Safety Supervisor; David Escobedo, Public Safety Administrative Specialist; Melissa Antol, Long Range and Mobility Planning Manager; Bob Cheung, Senior Transportation Planner; Sharon Perlstein, City Engineer and Engineering Manager

4. **ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS**

Commissioner Sol requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of the 17 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the last meeting.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**ACTION:** Motion by Public Safety Commissioner Williams to approve the September 15, 2014 agenda, seconded by Public Safety Commissioner Sol and approved.

**ACTION:** Motion by Transportation Commissioner Greene to approve the September 15, 2014 agenda, seconded by Transportation Commissioner Horvath and approved.

## **POSTING OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda for the September 15, 2014 Joint Special Meeting of the Transportation Commission and the Public Safety Commission was posted at City Hall, Plummer Park, the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station, and the West Hollywood Library.

## **6. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mayor John D'Amico thanked the Commissioners and the community for their attention to pedestrian safety.

Marc Olson, Southern California Edison, spoke regarding upcoming power outages.

Tom Demille, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding power outages.

Larry Block, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding pedestrian safety and crosswalks.

Kevin Burton, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding bicycle safety.

Luis Marquez, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding issues with entertainment venues and reduced parking due to construction.

Yola Dore, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding pedestrian safety.

Steve Martin, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding pedestrian safety.

Jeanne Dobrin, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding pedestrian safety.

Ron Davis, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding pedestrian safety.

Jerome Cleary, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding problems with broken street lights.

Keith Cohn, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding pedestrian safety.

## **7. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Public Safety Commissioner Bazley reminded everyone that residents can utilize WeHo Direct for requests, acknowledged September 11, 2014, and spoke regarding domestic violence incidents in the NFL.

Public Safety Commissioner Norton thanked all for their participation and encouraged the reinstatement of a joint sub-committee between the two Commissions.

Public Safety Commissioner Clarkin requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of Clinton Bounds.

Public Safety Commissioner Sol thanked all for their participation and spoke regarding Hispanic Heritage Month, Breast Cancer Month, syphilis awareness, and the Transgender Day of Remembrance.

Public Safety Commissioner Burke spoke regarding a recent Eastside Task Force meeting. Public Safety Commissioner Burke spoke regarding the loss of Bob Crewe.

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

### **8A. PEDESTRIAN SAFETY UPDATE AND DISCUSSION REGARDING CITY COUNCIL DIRECTIVES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 8, 2014 MEETING:**

Melissa Antol, Long Range and Mobility Planning Manager, introduced the staff presentation which covers Engineering, Enforcement, and Education.

Sharon Perlstein, City Engineer, gave a brief history of and the guidance used for improvements made to Santa Monica Boulevard.

Steve Brown, Fehr and Peers, gave a presentation regarding pedestrian safety, crosswalks, and traffic calming options.

Bob Cheung, Senior Transportation Planner, spoke regarding potential immediate/short-term measures.

Lieutenant Dave Smith, West Hollywood Sheriff's Station, reviewed statistics regarding crosswalk accidents and the enforcement that the Sheriff's Deputies have conducted resulting in numerous citations for both vehicles and pedestrians.

Lisa Marie Belsanti, Public Information Manager, spoke regarding previous public education campaigns and a current campaign which includes an original Public Service Announcement to be shared via social media.

Keith Cohn, resident of West Hollywood, suggested changing the direction of pedestrian signs.

Kevin Burton, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding pedestrian safety, protected left turns, and the bicycle and mobility plan.

Lauren Meister, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding pedestrian safety and suggested implementing short term solutions while City staff studies longer term solutions.

Anny Semonco, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding pedestrian safety and controlled crosswalks.

Rick Watts, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding pedestrian safety, signalized crosswalks, and lighting.

Steve Martin, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding pedestrian safety and implementing both short term and long term solutions.

Cole Ettman, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding pedestrian safety, Sheriff's enforcement, and crosswalks.

Jeanne Dobrin, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding alcohol related incidents and over serving.

Public Safety Commissioner Burke opened the discussion by highlighting the Council Directives from the September 8, 2014 meeting and asked Commissioners to incorporate the "3 Es" – Engineering, Enforcement, and Education into the discussion.

Public Safety Commissioner Williams spoke regarding new developments along Santa Monica Boulevard potentially affecting crosswalks near Greenacre, Orange Grove, and Ogden.

Public Safety Commissioner Burke asked if there was a reason for the City Council directive limiting the boundary to the area between San Vicente Boulevard and La Cienega Boulevard.

Bob Cheung, Senior Transportation Planner, stated that the busiest stretch along Santa Monica Boulevard is between San Vicente Boulevard and La Cienega Boulevard, but the City will be examining all crosswalks city wide.

Public Safety Commissioner Williams spoke regarding lighting at Fairfax at Santa Monica Boulevard, drivers making U-turns, and ambient lighting. Public Safety Commissioner Williams thanked staff in particular for the education portion.

Public Safety Commissioner Norton spoke regarding a previous joint meeting between the Transportation Commission and the Public Safety

Commission. Public Safety Commissioner Norton spoke regarding testing different types of lighting, new developments, flashing signals.

Public Safety Commissioner Sol suggested that the Commissioners review each option one by one.

Public Safety Commissioner Hoffman spoke regarding sun setting in drivers' eyes as a potential unavoidable hazard that works against the current blinking strobes at that time of day, successful safety measures currently used at a crosswalk near Cedars Sinai, possible crosswalk safety enhancements including multiple mini-strobes to augment the typical striped white ground markings to be activated by pedestrians as a potential measure for the existing uncontrolled crosswalks, and more frequent enforcement presence by way of a uniformed officer stationed near crosswalks to issue citations. Public Safety Commissioner Hoffman spoke in support of Option 2, Enhancements.

Public Safety Commissioner Clarkin spoke regarding crossing guards.

Public Safety Commissioner Bazley spoke in support of Option 2, Enhancements. Public Safety Commissioner Bazley asked if the beacon lights will be installed. Public Safety Commissioner Bazley spoke regarding enforcement and awareness and against citing pedestrians. Public Safety Commissioner Bazley asked if there is a timeline for the creative signage and video. Public Safety Commissioner Bazley spoke regarding the use of the message boards.

Melissa Antol, Long Range and Mobility Planning Manager, spoke regarding the successful testing of rapid flash beacons at three locations and the study to install rapid flash beacons at other locations or other enhancements that may not slow traffic as much.

Public Safety Commissioner Williams spoke in opposition to curb extensions.

Public Safety Commissioner Burke spoke in support of finding the best from other cities including lighting and crossing guards.

Transportation Commissioner Greene suggested that the Commissioners review each option one by one.

Transportation Commissioner Wayland asked for clarification regarding "leading pedestrian interval".

Bob Cheung, Senior Transportation Planner, stated that the "leading

pedestrian interval” is a way to give the pedestrian a few more seconds to begin walking before the driver has a green light.

Transportation Commissioner Wayland spoke regarding “no right turn on red”. Transportation Commissioner Wayland spoke in support of exploring “in pavement” lights. Transportation Commissioner Wayland spoke regarding the crosswalk at Orange Grove and Santa Monica Boulevard and enhancements for crosswalks.

Transportation Commissioner Warren spoke regarding variable message board signs, pedestrian safety and DUI enforcement, rapid flash beacons at some locations, and synchronized traffic signals at some locations. Transportation Commissioner Warren spoke regarding the exploration of changing speed limits, signage, bumper type crossing panels, changing traffic signals at some locations, and requested data from 2010.

Transportation Commissioner Walia-Fazio spoke regarding education and in support of Option 1 – Consolidate Crosswalks and Signalize and said that Option 3 – plus fencing may be worth exploring. Transportation Commissioner Walia-Fazio spoke regarding motorists accelerating near crosswalks.

Transportation Commissioner Cooper thanked the public speakers and spoke regarding rapid flash beacons and the possibility of making them red. Transportation Commissioner Cooper spoke in support of enforcement and crossing guards.

Transportation Commissioner Horvath thanked the public speakers, staff, and the Public Safety Commission for hosting the joint meeting. Transportation Commissioner Horvath spoke regarding the shared responsibility among pedestrians and drivers. Transportation Commissioner Horvath asked that staff look beyond the tested areas for rapid flash beacons. Transportation Commissioner Horvath spoke regarding signage, a consistent approach to locations, synchronized traffic signals, and the bicycle and pedestrian plan. Transportation Commissioner Horvath asked for clarification regarding the definition of pedestrian at fault or vehicle at fault.

Lieutenant Dave Smith stated that a pedestrian at fault could include walking against a light or jaywalking and that a vehicle at fault could include running a light or a stop sign.

Transportation Commissioner Horvath spoke regarding creative education.

Transportation Commissioner Greene spoke regarding the trade-offs for various approaches including delay for vehicles for leading pedestrian

intervals. Transportation Commissioner Greene spoke regarding changing some intersections with signals and those without signals and the consideration for closing some crosswalks. Transportation Commissioner Greene spoke regarding photo enforcement, no right turn on red, education, and the sun in drivers' eyes.

Public Safety Commissioner Burke thanked all for their input and work on the issue.

Public Safety Commissioner Norton asked if no right turn on red is a state regulation.

Bob Cheung, Senior Transportation Planner, said that the City has the right to enact no right turn on red while following proper guidelines to do so.

Transportation Commissioner Greene said that no right turn on red would not work at all locations but is a possibility for some locations.

Melissa Antol, Long Range and Mobility Planning Manager, thanked all for their input and outlined the next steps, including reinstating a joint sub-committee between the Public Safety Commission and the Transportation Commission.

**ACTION:** Motion by Public Safety Commissioner Norton to forward comments to the City Council and to select the Chair and Vice-Chair as sub-committee members, seconded by Public Safety Commissioner Clarkin and approved.

**ACTION:** Motion by Transportation Commissioner Horvath to forward comments to the City Council and to select the Chair and Vice-Chair as sub-committee members, seconded by Transportation Commissioner Cooper and approved.

**8B. OVERVIEW OF CITY COUNCIL DIRECTIVES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 8, 2014 MEETING NOT REGARDING PEDESTRIAN SAFETY TO BE PLACED ON THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION'S AGENDA FOR OCTOBER 13, 2014**

Staff outlined the City Council directives from the September 8, 2014 meeting not regarding pedestrian safety which will be placed on the Public Safety Commission's Agenda for October 13, 2014, including additional pet waste signs, dogs off leash, attention to quality of life issues, additional information regarding sexual assault data, conducting a citizen survey of West Hollywood Sheriff's Station, gun buy back programs, and working with social services and code compliance on repeat nuisance locations.

## **9. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Candace (no last name given), resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding an upcoming scheduled power outage and expressed concern for safety.

## **10. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Public Safety Commissioner Hoffman thanked the public for their participation and spoke regarding cooling centers.

Public Safety Commissioner Williams thanked staff and the public and spoke regarding the importance of personal responsibility.

Public Safety Commissioner Norton thanked staff and spoke regarding her attendance at a recent Senior Advisory Board meeting and a Facilities Commission meeting. Public Safety Commissioner Norton spoke regarding an upcoming NCJW lunch on November 12, 2014.

Public Safety Commissioner Clarkin spoke regarding his attendance at a recent LGBT Advisory Board meeting and a Rent Stabilization Commission meeting.

Public Safety Commissioner Sol spoke regarding accidents occurring at multiple times during the day, the timing of lights, and the use of Uber. Public Safety Commissioner Sol spoke regarding the book, Invisible Gorrilla. Public Safety Commissioner Sol thanked staff and the Sheriff's for DUI education and announced a "Walk About with the Captain" on September 24, 2014.

Transportation Commissioner Horvath spoke regarding the new law regarding vehicles giving bicyclists a three feet margin. Transportation Commissioner Horvath spoke regarding issues with parking permits in the Norwich neighborhood.

Transportation Commissioner Cooper thanked everyone for their participation.

Transportation Commissioner Walia-Fazio spoke regarding personal responsibility and thanked Commissioner Williams and Commissioner Sol. Commissioner Malia-Fazio spoke regarding the vaccination crisis in the state of California.

Transportation Commissioner Warren spoke regarding enforcement of the three feet rule for bicyclists and vehicles and public safety issues during power outages.

Transportation Commissioner Wayland encouraged staff to include the three feet rule for bicyclists and vehicles to be included in the City's education strategy.

Transportation Commissioner Greene spoke regarding a bicycle lane on Fairfax in the City of Los Angeles and asked staff to place the item on the agenda for the next Transportation Commission meeting.



**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The Joint Special Meeting of the Transportation Commission and the Public Safety Commission adjourned at 9:55 PM in the memory of Clinton Bounds and the 17 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the last meeting. The next Public Safety Commission meeting is scheduled for October 13, 2014 at 6:30 PM at Plummer Park.

  
Public Safety Commission Chair

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Staff Liaison