

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION**

**MINUTES  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2014**

**PLUMMER PARK/ROOMS 5 & 6**

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

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

**Commissioners Absent:** None

**Others present:** Sergeant Jon Klaus, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Kristin Cook, Public Safety Director; Maria Grycan, Los Angeles County Fire Department; David Aguilar, Block by Block Security Ambassadors

4. **ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS**

Commissioner Sol requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of the 14 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the last meeting.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**ACTION:** Motion by Commissioner Norton to approve the October 13, 2014 agenda, seconded by Commissioner Clarkin and approved.

**POSTING OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda for the October 13, 2014 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 Clarkin to approve the September 15, 2014 minutes as amended, seconded by Commissioner Sol and approved.

**ACTION:** Motion by Commissioner Norton to approve the August 11, 2014 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Clarkin and approved.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Lindsey Horvath, resident of West Hollywood, spoke as the liaison from the Transportation Commission to the Public Safety Commission.

Commissioner Burke asked Commissioner Horvath to investigate the discrepancy between his recollection of recommendations from the joint sub-committee meeting and the recent presentation to Council.

Michael Wojtkielewicz, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding safety concerns regarding striping and diagonal parking on Sierra Bonita.

Larry Block, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding pedestrian safety, the pedestrian safe zone message boards, the upcoming Transportation Commission meeting, crosswalks with "dancing" pedestrian lights and cameras, and street lighting.

Tom Demille, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding a need for brighter lighting throughout the City.

**8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS**

Commissioner Clarkin spoke regarding his recent attendance at the Rent Stabilization Commission, the Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board, and the Captain's walkabout. Commissioner Clarkin spoke regarding the procedures to fix a broken street light and the length of time that it takes.

Commissioner Sol spoke regarding a recent LGAB meeting, Transgender Awareness Month, the murder in Los Angeles of a transgender woman, the Captain's walkabout, a charity event for the National Association for Mental Illness that raised over \$80,000, AIDS Walk, West Hollywood sports, and Breast Cancer awareness month.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding her attendance at recent and upcoming meetings, including the Quarterly Hate Crime meeting, a Disability Advisory Board meeting, and a Women's Advisory Board meeting; the upcoming job fair and wellness program with the Transgender Advisory Board and NCJW, a new staff person hired at NCJW, and the need for better lighting at Fairfax and SMB. Commissioner Williams asked staff to invite a representative from Public Works to attend a future meeting and to discuss lighting.

Commissioner Burke spoke as liaison to the Transportation Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission. Commissioner Burke spoke regarding

pedestrian safety, the illumination of pedestrian crossings and intersections, and lighting in other areas. Commissioner Burke thanked the public for their attendance.

Commissioner Norton thanked the public for their attendance. Commissioner Norton requested that Public Works staff attend a future meeting to discuss lighting. Commissioner Norton stated that the Senior Advisory Board is working with NCJW to host an event on November 12<sup>th</sup> regarding elder abuse and senior scams. Commissioner Norton spoke regarding her recent attendance at Public Facilities Commission meetings and discussions regarding Plummer Park. Commissioner Norton thanked Commissioner Horvath for her attendance at the Public Safety Commission meeting and for her work on pedestrian safety. Commissioner Norton echoed Commissioner Burke's comments regarding the discrepancy between her recollection of recommendations from the joint sub-committee meeting and the recent presentation to Council and stated that she hopes to attend the upcoming Transportation Commission meeting. Commissioner Norton spoke regarding Mayor D'Amico's request during the recent public safety update to City Council to conduct a citizens' report card, a survey on the Sheriff's Department services. Commissioner Norton spoke regarding a recent, negative experience she had with a Sheriff's Deputy.

Commissioner Hoffman spoke regarding lighting and the City of Ann Arbor which uses amber toned lamps which do not add to light pollution of the sky but provides more light for pedestrians beneath. Commissioner Hoffman spoke regarding the recent Captain's walkabout. Commissioner Hoffman said that he plans to attend Wednesday's Transportation Commission meeting. Commissioner Hoffman reported positive customer service from the Sheriff's Department and WeHo Direct.

Commissioner Bazley spoke regarding his recent attendance at the Russian Advisory Board meeting and the Captain's walkabout. Commissioner Bazley spoke regarding Domestic Violence Month, Cyber Security Month, and Bullying Prevention Month. Commissioner Bazley thanked City staff for the ethics training and the annual Congress of Boards and Commissions.

## **9. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

### **9A. NEWS FROM STAFF/MONTHLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Staff reminded everyone of the street closures for Halloween. Staff spoke regarding the Mayor's request for a citizens' report card on public safety services and said that a "Request for Qualifications" will be released soon to solicit proposals from vendors to conduct a survey.

Commissioner Sol reminded all that the Great Shake Out is Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup>.

## **9B. ANNUAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE**

Staff and Commissioners reviewed the draft Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Commissioner Williams asked for clarification regarding critical facilities lists.

Commissioner Clarkin asked for clarification regarding emergency supplies.

Staff reiterated that residents need to have emergency supplies for at least ten days.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding the Huxley Building and its progress regarding preparedness.

Commissioner Clarkin spoke regarding individual preparedness and the old guideline of three days.

Ms. Grycan, Fire Department, spoke regarding the new preparedness guidelines of at least ten days instituted post Katrina.

Commissioner Williams spoke about garnering business support.

Staff spoke regarding Red Cross supplies stored in the City, emergency purchase orders, and work with neighboring cities; but staff encouraged the Commissioners to carry the message to the community to be able to take care of oneself for at least ten days.

Ms. Grycan spoke regarding the importance of personal responsibility and to also keep cash in small denominations.

Commissioner Norton asked if staff will be making emergency kits available for purchase at future events.

Staff said that kits are made available for purchase at various events and that staff raffles off an emergency backpack at Neighborhood Watch meetings to educate attendees about the importance of emergency preparedness.

Commissioner Bazley suggested incorporating social media in education campaigns.

Commissioner Burke spoke regarding the importance of preparedness and incorporating social media into education campaigns.

Commissioner Clarkin encouraged the use of social media in education.

Commissioner Hoffman spoke regarding his experience with the large east coast black out, storing protein bars as food, and recommended contacting HOAs to establish a plan for their particular buildings.

#### **10. REPORT FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Ms. Grycan reviewed the suppression, rescue, and fire prevention activities during the months of August and September 2014 including inspections, fires, and emergency medical calls.

Ms. Grycan spoke regarding the recent structure fire on Horn.

Commissioner Clarkin spoke regarding a Beverly Hills fire vehicle left unattended at the scene at the Horn fire.

Ms. Grycan discussed the various challenges with the response to the structure fire on Horn due to the narrowness of the street and the difficult access.

Ms. Grycan gave the Commissioners a presentation regarding "Pulse Point", a new app for smart phones that Los Angeles County Fire is using.

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

Sergeant Klaus reported that 98 citations were given at a recent pedestrian safety operation conducted by the station.

Sergeant Klaus spoke regarding the tremendous amount of work done by the West Hollywood Station's volunteers.

Sergeant Klaus reviewed the Sheriff's Department statistics for August and September 2014, including crimes, calls for service, and arrests. Sergeant Klaus said that crime was down in August and September.

Sergeant Klaus said that there were 11 DUI arrests and 3 DUI collisions in the month of September.

Commissioners Williams and Clarkin spoke regarding a mistake in the number of emergency calls.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding the increase in petty thefts on the east side. Commissioner Williams asked for more information regarding a sexual assault.

Sergeant Klaus stated that he will check to see what can be shared and inform staff to pass along to the Commission.

Commissioner Clarkin spoke regarding the importance of personal responsibility, vehicle burglary, and theft prevention.

Commissioner Sol said that the next Captain's walkabout is tentatively scheduled for the second week of November.

Commissioner Norton asked for information regarding recent public safety activity at the club Dominick's.

Sergeant Klaus offered to look into it if Commissioner Norton could provide a date.

Commissioner Hoffman asked if the DUI statistics include checkpoint statistics.

Staff stated that the statistics are collected separately.

Commissioner Sol suggested that a DUI checkpoint be held before Halloween.

Commissioner Burke asked if there was an increase in DUI incidents related to Sunset Strip Music Festival.

Sergeant Klaus said that there was one DUI the weekend of Sunset Strip Music Festival, but he was unsure if it was related.

Commissioner Clarkin spoke regarding an increase in alcohol related events during Pride Weekend.

Staff reported that all events involving alcohol and a spike in the population will increase the calls for service to public safety, but public safety prepares for this and staffs appropriately.

Commissioner Sol asked if there were incidents on the Pick Up Line.

David Aguilar, Block by Block, stated that his Security Ambassadors ride the Pick Up Line to prevent incidents.

## **12. REPORT FROM BLOCK BY BLOCK**

David Aguilar, Block by Block, gave a brief report on September's activities. Mr. Aguilar stated that his Security Ambassadors are also assisting at crosswalks with pedestrian safety.

Commissioner Williams thanked Mr. Aguilar and his team.

Commissioner Clarkin thanked Mr. Aguilar and his team.

Commissioner Hoffman thanked Mr. Aguilar and his team.

Commissioner Burke spoke regarding numerous, recent street closures for special events.

### **13. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **13A. PEDESTRIAN SAFETY UPDATE**

Staff encouraged all to attend the Transportation Commission meeting on Wednesday.

Kevin Burton, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding the importance of education.

Commissioner Clarkin suggested shifting the message boards to different locations.

Commissioner Burke spoke regarding shifting the message boards to new locations and enhancing the lights and/or graphics.

Commissioner Williams suggested changing the message boards to address bicyclists ignoring stop signs.

Tom Demille, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding Sheriff's statistics, DUIs, lighting, and pedestrian safety.

#### **13B. FOLLOW-UP FROM SEPTEMBER 8, 2014 – PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL**

Staff spoke regarding action items from the recent public safety report to City Council, including pet waste signs, dogs off leash, quality of life issues, a possible gun buy back event, a CERT reunion, and fire extinguisher training.

### **14. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No additional public comment.

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

Commissioner Bazley spoke regarding the message boards and said that the Gateway will be using its media boards to promote pedestrian safety.

Commissioner Norton spoke regarding the increase in the number of noisy vehicles and requested enforcement of modified exhaust.

Sergeant Klaus said that there is a vehicle code that Deputies use to cite such vehicles.

Commissioner Williams thanked Commissioner Bazley for the Gateway's donation of water to the NCJW clothing giveaway.

Commissioner Sol thanked the public for their attendance.


Commissioner Clarkin thanked the public for their attendance and spoke regarding WeHo Direct, Pulse Point, and Public Stuff.

Commissioner Burke thanked Commissioner Horvath and the public for their attendance.

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 8:42 PM in the memory of the 14 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the last meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for November 10, 2014 at 6:30 PM at the West Hollywood Library Community Room.

  
Public Safety Commission Chair

  
Staff Liaison