

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION**

**MINUTES  
MONDAY, JULY 13, 2015**

**WEST HOLLYWOOD LIBRARY - COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** at 6:32 PM
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** led by Mayor Horvath
- 3. ROLL CALL**

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

**Commissioners Absent:** None

**Others present:** Lieutenant Dave Smith, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Sergeant Jon Klaus, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Detective Mike Berbiar, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Kristin Cook, Public Safety Director; Bonnie Smith, Public Safety Supervisor; Maria Grycan, Community Services Representative, Los Angeles County Fire Department; Battalion Chief Patrick Errett, 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 11 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the last meeting.

Commissioners Bazley and Norton requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of the shooting victims in Charleston, South Carolina.

**5. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR**

**ACTION:** Motion by Commissioner Williams to table item 5, seconded by Commissioner Norton, and approved.

**6. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**ACTION:** Motion by Commissioner Hoffman to amend the July 13, 2015 agenda by moving forward the Unfinished Business Item "Cameras in Public Areas" to item 8, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and approved.

**ACTION:** Motion by Commissioner Norton to approve the July 13, 2015 agenda as amended, seconded by Commissioner Williams, and approved.

## **POSTING OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda for the July 13, 2015 Public Safety Commission meeting was posted at City Hall, Plummer Park, the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station, and the West Hollywood Library.

## **7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**ACTION:** Motion by Commissioner Sol to approve the June 8, 2015 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Hoffman, and approved.

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

### **8A. CAMERAS IN PUBLIC AREAS**

Staff introduced the topic and stated that the Mayor will be bringing an item forward at the next Council meeting for Council's consideration regarding ALPR (Automated License Plate Reader) cameras.

Commissioner Williams spoke in support of cameras in public areas in high profile areas.

Commissioner Norton spoke in support of cameras in public areas and spoke regarding concerns with privacy and the history of the camera discussion in West Hollywood.

Commissioner Berger spoke in support of cameras, but also expressed concern regarding the dangers of possible abuse and the importance of clear objectives to help dictate camera locations.

Commissioner Hoffman spoke in support of moving cautiously with cameras and considering all concerns.

Commissioner Bazley spoke in support of CCTV and gave examples of productive uses in partnership with law enforcement and success stories of crime reduction.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding the lack of footage in the recent assault and how cameras could have been helpful.

Commissioner Norton spoke regarding the number of public speakers at the last meeting who were not residents of the City of West Hollywood and who may experience higher crime neighborhoods.

Commissioner Sol spoke regarding her experience being an employee in a business that has numerous cameras and encouraged the Sheriff's Department to assist with the red tape and procedures to effectively use cameras.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding the changing demographics in the City of West Hollywood.

Commissioner Bazley suggested that the Community Development Department work with local businesses on improving CCTV.

Commissioner Hoffman spoke regarding the positive impact of extra Sheriff patrols.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the Doffing assault and that cameras in the area may have prevented the incident.

Commissioner Burke spoke regarding incidents in City parks and the previous discussion on cameras by the City Council. Commissioner Burke spoke regarding a balancing act between utilizing cameras and privacy. Commissioner Burke spoke regarding issues on the eastside and the benefits that cameras may provide.

Larry Block, resident of West Hollywood, spoke in support of cameras and the importance of public safety and pedestrian safety.

Michael Wojtkielewicz, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding the large number of public speakers at the last meeting, the Kirk Doffing assault, and spoke in support of cameras in public places.

Victor Omelczenko, resident of West Hollywood, requested that staff provide more information on agenda items in the future, thanked the Public Safety Commission for choosing liaisons to other Boards and Commissions, and spoke in support of cameras in public places.

Commissioner Norton spoke regarding procedural issues to make a motion to forward comments to City Council.

Commissioner Williams asked for clarification on the procedure moving forward.

Staff stated that the Commission's minutes and comments will be forwarded to the City Council.

Commissioner Sol suggested that the item be on the August agenda and that comments be forwarded to the City Council.

Commissioner Norton suggested that the meeting minutes are not complete enough to have Council get the complete picture on the issue and suggested making a motion.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding waiting for public comment before making a motion.

Dan Morin, resident of West Hollywood, spoke against the agenda being amended at the beginning of the meeting, and spoke regarding being a victim of a crime, the importance of reporting a crime immediately, recent incidents in West Hollywood, and spoke in support of cameras used judiciously.

Commissioner Williams asked for more substance to the issue before making a motion.

Commissioner Bazley requested a study be done on the issue.

Commissioner Berger spoke against a study on the issue.

**ACTION:** Motion by Commissioner Norton to recommend to the City Council that it consider the installation of cameras to support law enforcement investigative tools and as a preventive measure in highly trafficked areas due to the number of recent incidents, while being mindful of privacy issues that may be involved seconded by Commissioner Williams, and approved.

## 9. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Detective Mike Berbiar spoke regarding the Kirk Doffing assault case.

Kevin Burton, resident of West Hollywood, thanked the Mayor for hosting the Coffee with the Mayor and the Captain and spoke regarding the importance of communication and asked for more information regarding crimes and suggested doing a crime blotter.

Nadia Sutton, resident of West Hollywood, introduced herself as the liaison from the Women's Advisory Board and spoke regarding the status of women, public safety, lighting, and tree trimming and spoke in support of better communication and information dissemination.

Michael Wojtkielewicz, resident of West Hollywood, thanked the Public Safety Commission for allowing lengthy public comment at the June meeting and spoke in support of longer meeting minutes and various follow-up items from public comment by the Public Safety Commission.

Tai Sunnanon, resident of West Hollywood, thanked the Public Safety Commission and the Mayor for their participation in and support of the Kirk Doffing case and spoke regarding the City of Washington DC and how they moved forward with cameras following Mr. Sunnanon's assault.

Amy Bojanowski, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding homeless issues on the eastside and an incident that happened to her at the Gateway and issues with Gateway security.

Victor Omelczenko, resident of West Hollywood, stated that amending the evening's agenda was confusing, spoke regarding making minutes more complete, and spoke about the Coffee with the Mayor and the Captain.

#### **10. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS**

Commissioner Hoffman thanked the public speakers for their attendance and spoke regarding the various portions of the agenda available for public comment.

Commissioner Hoffman had to leave the meeting at 8:09 PM

Commissioner Bazley spoke regarding the recent Walk About with the Captain which focused on getting out information on the Kirk Doffing case.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding the last Commission on Hate Crimes meeting, thanked Mayor Horvath for the Coffee with the Mayor and the Captain, and spoke regarding vehicle burglaries and educating the community.

Commissioner Williams proposed that the monthly agenda and reports be emailed in the future instead of mailing paper copies. Commissioner Williams thanked the community for caring about public safety.

Commissioner Norton thanked the public for coming to the meeting. Commissioner Norton requested more detailed minutes. Commissioner Norton spoke regarding her recent attendance at the Public Facilities Commission and the Senior Advisory Board. Commissioner Norton spoke regarding red light cameras and mentioned that many cities are removing them. Commissioner Norton spoke regarding the high fines that come with red light camera violations and expired meters. Commissioner Norton spoke regarding an upcoming meeting on Wednesday, July 29, 2015 on sexual assault and the statute of limitations.

Commissioner Berger spoke in support of improving the minutes and asked if the previous report on cameras can be shared with the Commission. Commissioner Berger asked for staff to place on the agenda in August an item to discuss a tracking system that shows the status of each item. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding improving public perception, visibly feeling safe with tree trimming and lighting, and educational programs for the public that include metrics. Commissioner Berger thanked Kevin Burton for providing the Commission with a sample of a crime blotter.

Commissioner Sol spoke regarding public education and the work that public safety has done over the years to educate the public on important public safety issues. Commissioner Sol reminded all of the Sheriff's Station phone number, 310-855-8850, and thanked Tai Sunnanon for his participation.

## **11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **11A. REPORT FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Ms. Grycan reviewed the suppression, rescue, and fire prevention activities during the month of June 2015 including inspections, fires, and emergency medical calls. There were seven fires in the month of June, including three cooking fires, two trash fires, a dryer fire, and a fire involving a roof top fire pit.

Ms. Grycan stated that the Fire Department responded to 8 traffic collisions involving pedestrians in the month of June.

Ms. Grycan spoke regarding the community activities in the month of June including offering Sidewalk CPR, participating in CSW, and giving senior safety presentations and a fire safety and earthquake preparedness training for OWN.

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

Sergeant Klaus reviewed the Sheriff's Department statistics for June 2015, including crimes, calls for service, and arrests. In June, there were 1888 calls for service, 2295 observations, 31 felony arrests, and 149 misdemeanor arrests.

Sergeant Klaus stated that there were 11 DUI arrests and 5 DUI traffic collisions in the month of June. Sergeant Klaus stated that there was 1 vehicle vs. pedestrian accident that the Sheriff's responded to and 3 vehicle vs. bicyclist accidents in the month of June.

Commissioner Williams thanked the Sheriff's Department on behalf of Donny Cacy from 7-11 for the arrest of a robbery suspect.

Commissioner Norton asked for clarification as to the difference in statistics for vehicle vs pedestrian incidents between the Sheriff and Fire Departments.

Ms. Grycan explained that Sheriff does not always respond to the incidents Fire responds to and vice versa so the numbers will always be different.

Commissioner Williams asked for more information regarding the two rapes in June.

Lieutenant Smith spoke regarding the aggravated assaults in the City which have decreased in comparison to June 2014. Lieutenant Smith said that this could be due to the positive impact of foot beats and the discussions with the clubs on over serving.

Lieutenant Smith stated that vehicle burglaries are down, but people are still leaving valuables and even cash in plain view. Grand theft auto has decreased significantly comparing June 2015 to June 2014.

Lieutenant Smith stated one of the two sexual assaults from June involved a forcible incident inside a restroom at Micky's and the second occurred during Pride weekend.

Lieutenant Smith stated that the foot beats are focusing on establishments that serve alcohol and the station is focusing on filling the shifts with West Hollywood Deputies and/or West Hollywood "alums".

Lieutenant Smith stated that Deputies are meeting with McDonalds on La Brea this Thursday and eastside residents next Tuesday.

Commissioner Bazley asked for more information regarding the homicide inside the Melrose Triangle building that burned.

Lieutenant Smith said that a suspect is in custody.

#### **11C. REPORT FROM BLOCK BY BLOCK SECURITY AMBASSADORS**

Mr. Aguilar reviewed the Block by Block Security Ambassadors statistics for June 2015.

Commissioner Williams thanked Block by Block for their presence.

Commissioner Burke asked for clarification about property owner/building manager contacts.

Mr. Aguilar spoke regarding the various business contacts they make.

Commissioner Burke thanked Block By Block and said he looks forward to the increase in staffing on the eastside.

## **12. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

### **12A. NEWS FROM STAFF/MONTHLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Staff spoke regarding new “Live, Work, Play, Be Safe” outreach regarding preventing vehicle burglaries which will include both paper and social media.

Staff stated that the Special Olympics are running with the torch through West Hollywood on July 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7 PM.

Commissioner Norton asked for an update on National Night Out.

Staff stated that Laura Manukian will be contacting all Commissioners with this year’s information.

Commissioner Sol encouraged more public safety education at National Night Out.

Staff said that they will work with the Neighborhood Watch groups.

Commissioner Norton asked when the vendor contract to conduct the Sheriff’s customer service survey will go to Council.

Staff stated that the contract will go to Council on July 20<sup>th</sup>.

## **13. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor Lindsey Horvath thanked the public and the Commission for communicating with each other. Mayor Horvath thanked those who attended the Coffee with the Mayor and the Captain and spoke regarding her recent ride-alongs. Mayor Horvath said that Saturday was a first step and she plans to continue to work on education and communication. Mayor Horvath spoke regarding a Council item on mental health resources and a Council item on ALPR cameras from her office to be heard on July 20<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Horvath expressed interest in finding the best ways to communicate with the community, to meet people “where they are at”, welcomed any feedback, and thanked all for their participation.

Michael Wojtkielewicz, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding being without his dog for a few hours last week, the fact that AT&T has pulled its application for a cell tower, the new gate at Detroit Bungalows, and hopes for continued



improvement from an affordable housing provider. Mr. Wojtkielewicz thanked the Commissioners for keeping his non public safety related concerns in mind.

Dan Morin, resident of West Hollywood, clarified his earlier comments about procedural issues with the agenda and thanked the Commission and the Sheriff's Department and the Fire Department for a response to an incident where he was injured. Mr. Morin thanked the Mayor for her attendance at various Board and Commission meetings and for her dedication to the City.

Tai Sunnanon, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding the hard work it takes to solve public safety issues, expressed appreciation, and spoke regarding finding a vision and establishing goals to address homeless issues. He spoke in support of copying other cities' success, spoke regarding changing perception, measuring the impact of crime, and educating the community on crimes of opportunity.

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

Commissioner Sol thanked the public speakers for their attendance and comments.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the Commission's vision and goals and how to measure them. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding more eyes on the street. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding a better way to coordinate and communicate with Gateway security. Commissioner Berger thanked all for the Coffee with the Mayor and the Captain and for finding solutions. Commissioner Berger thanked the Sheriff's Department for their dedication to the Doffing case.

Commissioner Burke thanked the audience for staying until the end of the meeting. Commissioner Burke stated that the Commission is a conduit for suggestions and comments to the City Manager and the City Council and that the Commission takes that responsibility seriously.

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 9:03 PM in the memory of the nine people killed at Mother Emanuel Church in Charleston, South Carolina and the 11 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the last meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for August 10, 2015 at 6:30 PM at Plummer Park in Fiesta Hall.

  
Public Safety Commission Chair

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Staff Liaison

**A copy of the audio recording of this meeting can be obtained from the City Clerk's office upon request.**

***(Disclaimer: Staff records the meetings for the sole purpose of composing the official meeting minutes; therefore the recordings are not of commercial quality.)***