

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION**

**MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2016**

WEST HOLLYWOOD LIBRARY – COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM

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

Commissioners Present: Berger, Coleman, Montemayor, Norton, Sol, Waack, Williams

Commissioners Absent: None

Others present: Lieutenant Dave Smith, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Sergeant Jon Klaus, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Maria Grycan, Community Services Representative, Los Angeles County Fire Department; David Aguilar, Block by Block Santa Monica Boulevard; Steve Salisbury, Block by Block Sunset Boulevard; Kristin Cook, Public Safety Director; Bonnie Smith, Public Safety Supervisor

4. **ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS**

Commissioner Sol requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of the 21 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the last meeting.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Williams to approve the January 11, 2016 agenda, seconded by Commissioner Sol, and approved.

POSTING OF THE AGENDA

The agenda for the January 11, 2016 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 Williams to approve the November 9, 2015 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Sol, and approved with Commissioner Coleman abstaining.

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Williams to approve the December 14, 2015 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Sol, and approved with Commissioner Coleman abstaining.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Patrick Shandrick, Human Services Commissioner, spoke regarding the upcoming homeless count.

David Warren, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding his website, WeHo by the Numbers.

Kevin Burton, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding bicycle lanes and requested enforcement for vehicles that illegally double park in the bicycle lanes.

Larry Block, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding homeless issues and expressed concern for an incident involving the Sheriff's Department on New Year's Eve that he witnessed.

Nir Zilberman, resident of West Hollywood, thanked Commissioner Williams for her assistance, thanked the City Manager for listening, and spoke regarding the need to help the homeless community.

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding an upcoming meeting on mail thefts and public safety issues at 906 Doheny and his work with Block by Block.

Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding taxi/uber zones. Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding his recent attendance at the Russian Advisory Board, the Transportation Commission, the Street Media committee, and the CERT subcommittee. Commissioner Coleman spoke about an upcoming meeting on housing.

Commissioner Sol thanked the public speakers for their attendance. Commissioner Sol spoke regarding the successful event Gobble, Gobble, Give and encouraged all to participate next year. Commissioner Sol spoke regarding the West Hollywood Toy Drive.

Commissioner Montemayor spoke regarding his attendance at the Street Media committee. Commissioner Montemayor spoke regarding an upcoming public

awareness campaign by the Women's Advisory Board and the Public Safety Commission.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding the Domestic Violence Task Force.

Commissioner Waack spoke regarding the CERT subcommittee and an upcoming Public Facilities Commission meeting.

Commissioner Williams spoke in support of using City facilities as shelters for the homeless during the rain.

Staff stated that shelter options would be covered under Mr. Giugni's report.

Commissioner Norton spoke regarding the El Nino Town Hall, the low attendance, and how the speakers were unable to answer questions about sheltering and caring for homeless and other residents displaced and needing emergency help during the rainy weather.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9A. PRESENTATION FROM DAVID GIUGNI – HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION YEAR END REPORT

Commissioners received a presentation from David Giugni, Social Services Manager, regarding the Human Services Commission's Year End Report and shelter and service options for the homeless community.

Commissioner Sol asked if veterans are tracked during the homeless count.

Mr. Giugni stated that PATH does ask about veterans, and currently 12-14% of homeless individuals are veterans.

Commissioner Coleman asked if HIV/AIDS services include those for testing or treatment.

Mr. Giugni said that statistic includes both.

Commissioner Berger asked Mr. Giugni to break down the funding into categories.

Mr. Giugni said that historically a third is given to HIV/AIDS services.

Mr. Giugni gave an overview of the various services provided to the homeless community including preventative services to keep clients in housing to avoid homelessness. Mr. Giugni spoke about the effort to

connect individuals with PATH, the County's wet weather shelters, and the recent work of PATH at Love No Hate.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding the need to get homeless individuals off of the streets during the wet weather.

Staff explained the difference between a Red Cross Shelter and a wet weather shelter.

Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding putting something in place similar to the cooling center.

Mr. Giugni explained the hotel voucher program that is available during off hours. Mr. Giugni spoke regarding cooling centers and the fact that they close in the evening.

Commissioner Williams asked if PATH will serve someone who is under the influence.

Mr. Giugni stated that PATH will serve actively using individuals.

9B. REPORT FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT

Maria Grycan, Community Services Representative, reviewed the Fire Department statistics for December 2015, including suppression, rescue, and fire prevention activities. Ms. Grycan spoke regarding an extremely busy New Year's Eve including two suspicious carport fires on Hayworth and on Curson.

Commissioner Williams asked if there was a second fire on Curson.

Ms. Grycan and staff said that they did not think there was a second incident.

Commissioner Coleman asked if a "copycat" arsonist is suspected.

Ms. Grycan said that the Sheriff's Arson Unit is investigating the two incidents.

Ms. Grycan spoke regarding Spark of Love Toy Drive, the El Nino Town Hall, the Don't Drink and Drive event, and upcoming CERT training.

9C. REPORT FROM SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT, CRIME SUMMARY UPDATE, ORGANIZATIONAL STUDY, CUSTOMER SERVICE SURVEY, COMMUNICATION

Sergeant Klaus reviewed the Sheriff's Department statistics for December 2015, including crimes, calls for service, and arrests. In December, there were 1711 calls for service and 149 arrests. Response times continue to be excellent. Sergeant Klaus stated that crime is down as compared to last December. Sergeant Klaus highlighted a couple of key arrests.

Sergeant Klaus stated that there were 13 DUI arrests and 6 DUI traffic collisions in the month of December. Sergeant Klaus stated that there was 0 vehicle vs. pedestrian accidents and 0 vehicle vs. bicyclist accidents in the month of December.

Commissioner Williams asked for more information on the two sexual assaults.

Lieutenant Smith spoke briefly regarding the sexual assaults. Lieutenant Smith spoke about the Kings Road shooting suspect who was arrested by LAPD. Lieutenant Smith spoke regarding ongoing homeless issues on the eastside.

Commissioner Berger asked for an update on the mobile command post and a possible substation.

Staff stated that the interior of the mobile command post needs to be built and that the County is not looking at a storefront style substation at this time.

Commissioner Norton asked if response time statistics can be shared with the Commission.

Staff and Lieutenant Smith said that the information can be shared.

Commissioner Coleman asked for information on pickpocketing statistics.

Lieutenant Smith stated that there were 10 thefts at the Abbey. In addition, there was an arrest of an individual who had 7 phones in his possession and an arrest of an individual who had 3 phones in his possession. Lieutenant Smith stated that there were 4 thefts at Micky's.

Commissioner Berger asked if education or advertisements could be helpful.

Staff stated that they are working with the Communications Division on education ideas.

Commissioner Coleman asked if any video footage has been obtained.

Lieutenant Smith stated that some footage has been obtained but is grainy.

Commissioner Coleman asked if theft prevention could be on the next meeting.

Commissioner Norton asked if the recent arrests had anything to do with recent crimes reported by Anne Marie Williams in December. Commissioner Norton asked if there was an update on the mail theft cases.

Lieutenant Smith stated that the detective working on the mail thefts should have an update at tomorrow's meeting.

Commissioner Coleman asked about the weekly crime summary and expressed concern about the change in the format.

Lieutenant Smith and staff said that the comments will be shared with Acting Captain Aloma.

9D. REPORT FROM BLOCK BY BLOCK SECURITY AMBASSADORS – MONTHLY REPORT

Steve Salisbury, Block by Block Sunset Boulevard, gave a brief update on monthly activities in December, including pedestrian assistance, crosswalk assistance, homeless issues, and disturbances.

Commissioner Berger asked if the Sunset Team is short staffed.

Mr. Salisbury said that the Sunset Team is short staffed.

David Aguilar, Block by Block Santa Monica Boulevard, gave a brief update on monthly activities in December, including pedestrian assistance, crosswalk assistance, homeless issues, and disturbances.

Commissioner Williams asked if Block by Block Ambassadors contact "dumpster divers".

Mr. Aguilar stated that his team does not see a lot of "dumpster divers" during their hours of patrol. Mr. Aguilar said that the team's primary focus is currently the eastside.

Lieutenant Smith spoke regarding prosecuting "dumpster divers".

9E. WORK PLAN – FORMAT, GOALS, LIAISON SELECTION

Staff encouraged Commissioners to email staff with suggestions.

10. NEW BUSINESS

10A. COMMISSION SUB-COMMITTEES

Staff spoke regarding the benefits of subcommittees.

Commissioner Montemayor spoke regarding the benefits of subcommittees to accomplish projects. Commissioner Montemayor spoke in support of establishing a contract and services review subcommittee with three members. Commissioner Montemayor spoke in support of a joint subcommittee with Transportation Commission.

Commissioner Coleman spoke in support of a joint subcommittee with the Human Services Commission and a Neighborhood Watch subcommittee.

Commissioner Williams spoke in support of the joint subcommittee with the Human Services Commission.

Commissioner Sol spoke in support of forming subcommittees and asked for Commissioners to email ideas to staff.

Commissioner Montemayor spoke regarding the importance of a contract and service review subcommittee.

Commissioner Norton spoke about the difference between standing subcommittees and temporary subcommittees.

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Montemayor to create a standing subcommittee named Contract and Service Review with three members, seconded by Commissioner Williams, and approved.

Commissioners Coleman, Montemayor, and Williams were approved by consensus to be members of the Contract and Service Review subcommittee.

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Coleman to create subcommittees on Homeless Issues, Neighborhood Watch, and Transportation with up to three members, seconded by Commissioner Williams, and approved.

Commissioners Berger and Williams were approved by consensus to be members of the Homeless Issues subcommittee.

Commissioners Berger and Coleman were approved by consensus to be members of the Neighborhood Watch subcommittee.

Commissioners Coleman and Waack were approved by consensus to be members of the Transportation subcommittee.

10B. SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS

Staff spoke regarding the recent item approved by Council to direct staff and the Commission to investigate the various possibilities regarding surveillance cameras.

Commissioner Coleman asked for clarification on what is considered to be a public area.

Commissioner Norton asked for clarification on existing cameras in City facilities.

Staff explained where current cameras are placed in City Hall and the parking structure.

Commissioner Williams spoke in support of cameras in high profile public areas such as San Vicente Boulevard and Santa Monica Boulevard, Fairfax and Santa Monica Boulevard, and the parks.

Commissioner Montemayor spoke in support of a pilot program in the entertainment district or on the eastside. Commissioner Montemayor spoke in support of a three person subcommittee to investigate the issue. Commissioner Montemayor spoke in support of involving the Sheriff's Department in the process.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding having a "safety valve" to provide proper oversight.

Commissioner Montemayor stated that the intent is to probably use footage only when necessary.

Commissioner Norton spoke regarding being mindful and respectful of privacy concerns.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding cameras she was able to obtain for NCJW via a grant and a partnership with LAPD.

Commissioner Norton spoke regarding the deterrence factor of cameras.

Commissioner Waack spoke in support of cameras in high impact areas. Commissioner Waack spoke in support of a pilot program.

Commissioner Sol encouraged the Commission to choose volunteers to assist staff.

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Montemayor to create an ad hoc subcommittee to study surveillance cameras with three members, seconded by Commissioner Norton, and approved.

Commissioners Montemayor, Norton, and Waack were approved by consensus to be members of a surveillance camera ad hoc subcommittee.

Commissioner Montemayor requested that staff keep surveillance cameras on subsequent agendas so the entire Commission can receive regular updates.

Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding privacy concerns and encouraged all to err on the side of caution. Commissioner Coleman asked for statistics.

Staff said that the committee can research Part 1 Crime statistics pre and post camera installation.

Commissioner Norton spoke regarding the number and impacts of cameras in London.

11. ITEMS FROM STAFF

11A. NEWS FROM STAFF/MONTHLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Staff reminded all that the LA Marathon is February 14th.

11B. COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE

Staff stated that the newly formed subcommittee meetings will be booked by staff.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

13. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding receiving positive feedback regarding staff, Council, and WeHo ReCERT.

Commissioner Williams asked if there is a lot of walking on the homeless count.

Staff said there is walking during the count.

Commissioner Coleman said that there may be other non-walking opportunities during the count.

Commissioner Williams asked when the Commission will return to City Hall for its regular meetings.

Staff said that once the parking garage is open the Commission can consider moving back.

Commissioner Sol encouraged all to handle issues in a timely manner and contact staff or Sheriff's personnel with any issues instead of holding them until the next meeting.

Commissioner Coleman spoke against moving the Commission meetings around the City.


Commissioner Williams said that the constituents she has spoken to prefer City Hall.

Commissioner Norton asked staff to place the Public Safety Awards on the next agenda.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 8:54 PM in the memory of the 21 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the last meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for February 8, 2016 at the West Hollywood Library Community Meeting Room.


Public Safety Commission Chair


~~2/8/16~~
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.)