

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION**

**MINUTES  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2016**

**WEST HOLLYWOOD LIBRARY – COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** at 6:32 PM
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** led by Kevin Burton
3. **ROLL CALL**

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

**Commissioners Absent:** Waack

**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 Coleman requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of Matt Tutela.

Commissioner Williams requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of Jean Cordova.

Commissioner Sol requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of the 10 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 February 8, 2016 agenda, seconded by Commissioner Coleman, and approved.

**POSTING OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda for the February 8, 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 Sol to approve the January 11, 2016 minutes as amended, seconded by Commissioner Williams, and approved.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Nir Zilberman, resident of West Hollywood, thanked Commissioner Berger for spending time with homeless individuals on the street and spoke regarding providing housing for a friend and ongoing homeless issues.

Michael Wojtkielewicz, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding ongoing security needs in his neighborhood.

**8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS**

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding concerns from neighbors regarding suspicious persons loitering, crimes, and quality of life issues. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding his recent attendance at the Homeless Collaborative, his participation on a Sheriff's Ride Along, and requested more information regarding the Sheriff's Department's information technology services. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding a good response from the Sheriff's Station to his building. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the recent Walkabout with the Sheriff's Captain and his time spent with the homeless community. Commissioner Berger spoke about asking Drian Juarez to film her sensitivity training to be used for future classes. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding his visits to SOVA, the feeding program at Sycamore and Romaine, and other eastside locations.

Commissioner Norton suggested that Commissioner Berger share his comments with the Human Services Commission.

Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding his attendance at the street media subcommittee and his attendance at the Transportation Commission meeting which included a discussion of the Fairfax bike lane. Commissioner Coleman thanked Block by Block for accepting a donation of blankets and jackets to distribute if necessary.

Commissioner Sol requested that Commissioner Norton as Chair continue to keep the meeting moving.

Commissioner Norton confirmed with staff that the Commission had discussed but not voted to limit Commissioner comments to three minutes, as Commissioner Sol had stated.

Commissioner Montemayor spoke regarding a positive meeting with the new Sheriff's Captain, Holly Perez. Commissioner Montemayor spoke regarding working with Council Member Ryu to solve joint issues along the eastern border of West Hollywood and Los Angeles.

Commissioner Norton spoke regarding a positive meeting with the new Sheriff's Captain, Holly Perez. Commissioner Norton spoke regarding her attendance at the Senior Advisory Board meeting.

## **9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **9A. PRESENTATION FROM DAVID GIUGNI – SOCIAL SERVICES RFP PROCESS**

Nir Zilberman, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding working together to make the City better and expressed concerns for the safety of homeless individuals.

Commissioners received a presentation from David Giugni, Social Services Manager, regarding the Social Services RFP process.

Commissioner Norton spoke regarding the process to share comments with the Human Services Commission.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding inclement weather and how it impacts fragile populations.

Commissioner Norton spoke regarding storms causing electrical failures and displaced populations.

Commissioner Coleman suggested that there should be a stronger linkage between access to services and accountability of providers for the actions of their clients.

Commissioner Berger spoke in support of more follow-up with clients.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding agencies that receive funding from the City of Los Angeles.

Commissioner Montemayor spoke regarding the feeding program at Sycamore and Romaine.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding finding a way to track success.

Mr. Guigni spoke regarding tracking mechanisms that may be possible and additional reporting on successes.

Commissioner Norton asked if the other Commissioners had any additional thoughts regarding public safety issues.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding SOVA's difficulty in affording its rent.

Mr. Guigni spoke regarding the difficulty of finding affordable rents.

Commissioner Norton recommended reviewing the eligibility of services and considering if the service is based on an "all or nothing" approach.

Commissioner Norton spoke regarding the difficulty of the locations of the wet weather shelters.

Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding substance abuse issues as a possible barrier to utilizing service.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding her previous work at PATH and suggested reviewing policies for shelter residents with health conditions.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding linking criminal activity to whether or not services are provided to clients.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding strict rules for PATH program participants and noted that she is not sure if the rules still exist since it has been many years since she worked at PATH as Director of the Access Center.

Mr. Guigni spoke regarding the complexities of providing services.

Commissioner Sol spoke regarding gender fluidity and the need for service providers to be sensitive to the community.

Mr. Guigni stated that the Commissioners' comments will be summarized and given back to the Chair.

## **9B. EL NINO PREPARATIONS**

Staff spoke regarding public safety and facilities preparations that are ongoing.

Commissioner Norton asked about emergency supplies.

Staff clarified that the community does need to have their own supplies and suggested starting with a three day supply.

**9C. REPORT FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT**

Maria Grycan, Community Services Representative, reviewed the Fire Department statistics for January 2016, including suppression, rescue, and fire prevention activities. Ms. Grycan spoke regarding the fires during the month, including a suspicious carport/storage area fire that spread to other storage areas. Ms. Grycan stated that there were three pedestrian accidents in January to which fire responded. Ms. Grycan stated that over 40 people have registered for the upcoming CERT class.

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

Nir Zilberman, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding the need for more training on the hotel voucher program and asked for the definition of "crisis" and spoke regarding the need to provide safety for the Transgender Community.

Sergeant Klaus reviewed the Sheriff's Department statistics for January 2016, including crimes, calls for service, and arrests. In January, there were 1808 calls for service and 182 arrests. Response times continue to be excellent.

Sergeant Klaus stated that there were 8 DUI arrests and 1 DUI traffic collision in the month of January. Sergeant Klaus stated that there were 4 vehicle vs. pedestrian accidents and 2 vehicle vs. bicyclist accidents in the month of January.

Lieutenant Smith spoke regarding a 6% increase in part 1 crimes when comparing January 2015 to January 2016 which included a large number of thefts from vehicles and grand theft autos. Lieutenant Smith stated that of the 7 robberies, there were 3 arrests. Lieutenant Smith spoke regarding upcoming special events and recent Neighborhood Watch meetings. Lieutenant Smith spoke regarding mail thefts. Lieutenant Smith spoke regarding his work with the LAPD lead officer who handles the neighborhood on the eastern border of West Hollywood. Lieutenant Smith spoke regarding additional foot patrols on the eastside funded by the City Council.

Commissioner Montemayor asked for an update on the ALPR vehicles.

Lieutenant Smith stated that one vehicle is currently outfitted with cameras and will get an update on the status of the 3 others.

Commissioner Norton asked for an update on the Sheriff's Customer Service Survey.

Staff gave an update on the organizational study and the customer service survey.

Commissioner Berger asked if the Station needs more fingerprint readers.

Lieutenant Smith stated that the Station could use more fingerprint readers.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the cumbersome issues with paper report writing.

Lieutenant Smith outlined the report writing process. Lieutenant Smith spoke regarding welcoming the new Sheriff's Captain Holly Perez.

Commissioner Coleman asked if the numbers for pickpockets could be provided.

Lieutenant Smith stated that the statistician did not provide that data.

Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding the number of vehicle burglaries and encouraging public education.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding previous education campaigns.

Staff suggested that all the Live, Work, Play, Be Safe campaign materials be brought to the Commission for review.

Commissioner Sol inquired as to whether there will be a DUI checkpoint on President's weekend.

Lieutenant Smith stated that there will not be a DUI checkpoint this weekend, but he reminded all of the road closures for the LA Marathon.

Commissioner Norton spoke regarding incidents involving victims conducting a "field show up" with Deputies and the fear that the victims experienced during these incidents. Commissioner Norton suggested that special consideration be given to the process when victims and suspects can see each other.

Lieutenant Smith spoke regarding "field show up" processes and asked for more information so he could follow up.

**9E. REPORT FROM BLOCK BY BLOCK SECURITY AMBASSADORS – MONTHLY REPORT**

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

David Aguilar, Block by Block Santa Monica Boulevard, gave a brief update on monthly activities in January, including pedestrian assistance, crosswalk assistance, homeless issues, and disturbances. Mr. Aguilar spoke regarding providing bicycle lights to cyclists.

Commissioner Williams asked if the schedules for new Ambassadors will include an early shift beginning at 6 AM.

Mr. Aguilar and staff stated that an early shift beginning at 6 AM is being considered.

Lieutenant Smith stated that the new Sheriff foot patrols include a morning shift.

Commissioner Williams thanked Block by Block for their hard work.

**9F. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

Staff asked for a brief update on all subcommittees.

Cameras: Commissioner Montemayor spoke regarding the subcommittee's suggested locations for cameras and proposing a full plan for City Council for consideration.

CERT: Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the tip of the month, volunteer opportunities, upcoming classes, upcoming continuing education, and having an event for the new graduates.

Contract and Service Review: Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding the Sheriff and Block by Block contracts and balancing the various types of deployment.

Homeless Issues: Commissioner Williams spoke regarding attending the homeless collaborative. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding setting objectives including communication, collaboration, and input to Human Services Commission.

Neighborhood Watch: Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding enhancing Neighborhood Watch. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding training, standardizing follow-up reports, and the possibility of a database.

Transportation: Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding meeting with Commissioner Waack to discuss pedestrian safety, alcohol related incidents, and expressed a desire to delve into both short and long term measures at all crosswalks across the City.

Women's Advisory Board: Commissioner Montemayor spoke regarding an upcoming public education campaign regarding sexual assault and rape.

## **10. NEW BUSINESS**

### **10A. THEFTS/PUBLIC EDUCATION**

Nir Zilberman, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding the danger of associating crime with the homeless population.

Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding the number of pickpocket thefts in the Abbey which has recently decreased. Commissioner Coleman asked for more information about pickpocket thefts in the monthly report to guide public awareness and to measure success.

Commissioner Montemayor spoke in support of PSAs, personal responsibility, and the importance of a broad campaign.

Commissioner Williams spoke in support of PSAs, yet spoke regarding the limitations of reaching non-residents. Commissioner Williams spoke in support of utilizing billboards. Commissioner Williams spoke in support of asking staff to bring previous campaign materials to the next meeting for review.

Commissioner Montemayor spoke regarding the importance of staggering the timing of PSAs.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding an increase of incidents during the summer months.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding cell phones being a popular item for robberies.

Commissioner Montemayor spoke regarding the difference between thefts and robberies.



Commissioner Norton asked staff to bring the Live, Work, Play, Be Safe campaign materials to the next meeting.

Commissioner Montemayor asked sheriff to include their thoughts on the education issues.

## **11. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

### **11A. NEWS FROM STAFF/MONTHLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Staff reminded all that the LA Marathon is February 14<sup>th</sup>. Staff stated that the Public Safety Awards will be held on a separate night instead of combining it with the Commission's regular meeting. Staff asked for volunteers to assist with the Public Safety Awards. Commissioners Williams, Sol, and Berger volunteered to assist staff.

## **12. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Steve Martin, resident of West Hollywood, thanked the Commissioners for their hard work, spoke regarding domestic violence issues, and spoke regarding prioritizing safety issues for public education.

Nir Zilberman, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding homeless issues, an upcoming newsletter, and feeding the homeless through a van.

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

Commissioner Williams thanked the public for their attendance and spoke in support of a meeting in Plummer Park.

Commissioner Montemayor asked staff to arrange a community meeting with the new Sheriff's Captain, Holly Perez.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding his attendance at the Human Services Commission and the Rent Stabilization Commission.

Commissioner Norton thanked the public for their attendance and asked staff to invite Captain Perez to the next Commission meeting and to hold a community event to welcome her.

## **14. ADJOURNMENT**

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 9:05 PM in the memory of Matt Tutela, Jean Cordova, and the 10 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the last meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2016 at the West Hollywood Library Community Meeting Room.

  
Public Safety Commission Chair

  
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.)***