

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION**

**MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2016**

WEST HOLLYWOOD LIBRARY – COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** at 6:30 PM
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** led by Captain Holly Perez
- 3. ROLL CALL**

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

Commissioners Absent: None

Others present: Captain Holly Perez, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; 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; Tatiana Rodzinek, Public Safety Staff

4. ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS

Commissioner Williams requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of Stuart Ivers, the brother of Barbara Krupa.

Commissioner Sol requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of the 12 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the last meeting.

5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Sol to approve the March 14, 2016 agenda, seconded by Commissioner Williams, and approved.

POSTING OF THE AGENDA

The agenda for the March 14, 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 Montemayor to approve the February 8, 2016 minutes as amended, seconded by Commissioner Coleman, and approved with Commissioner Waack abstaining.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Commissioner Norton introduced Captain Holly Perez.

Captain Holly Perez spoke regarding new changes and announced the next Walkabout with the Sheriff's Captain.

Tod Hallman, resident of West Hollywood, thanked the Commission for its assistance with the various issues on the east side and encouraged continued public safety attention during the summer months.

Roxanne McBryde, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding encouraging landlords to make safe environments for their tenants and thanked the Commission for its assistance with the various issues on the east side.

Nir Zilberman, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding homeless issues.

Michael Wojtkielewicz, resident of West Hollywood, thanked Mayor Horvath and Mayor Pro Tempore Lauren Meister for listening to accessibility concerns about Hart Park and expressed concerns at Sierra Bonita.

Stephanie Harker, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding traffic calming and motorists driving dangerously who utilize the Waze app.

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding a recent response to McDonald's that seemed longer than it was. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding a positive communication with the McDonald's corporate office. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding his work with east side neighbors on various issues. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding public safety issues at the library and Sheriff's presence. Commissioner Berger stated that Rent Stabilization canceled its recent meeting and spoke regarding his attendance at the recent Human Services Commission meeting. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding feeding programs for the homeless. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding recent tagging on the east side.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the Neighborhood Watch sub-committee and the CERT sub-committee.

Commissioner Coleman thanked the members of the public for their attendance. Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding his recent completion of the CERT course.

Commissioner Sol spoke regarding the WeHo City App.

Commissioner Waack spoke regarding his recent attendance at the CERT graduation.

Commissioner Williams welcomed Captain Perez and thanked the members of the public for their attendance. Commissioner Williams spoke regarding the code that requires landlords to care for their properties. Commissioner Williams spoke regarding the refrigerators left out in front of the Sierra Bonita building and asked staff to follow up. Commissioner Williams spoke regarding traffic calming measures on Vista.

Commissioner Montemayor welcomed Captain Perez and discussed the new wayfinding system that is being designed for the City.

Commissioner Norton welcomed Captain Perez and spoke regarding the need for more communication between the station and the community. Commissioner Norton spoke regarding her recent attendance at the Senior Advisory Board. Commissioner Norton spoke regarding her recent attendance at the Human Services Commission and the discussion of human services needs and funding with input from various Commissions and Boards. Commissioner Norton spoke regarding homelessness issues and the impact on public safety services. Commissioner Norton stated that PATH will not be seeking future funding from the City of West Hollywood and asked the Sheriff to describe the impact of this during the Sheriff's report. Commissioner Norton stated that Aid for AIDS will be moving out of West Hollywood. Commissioner Norton stated that SOVA will be moving out of West Hollywood. Commissioner Norton stated that the French Market will not be able to make space available for free or reduced rental rates to non-profit organizations, as had been hoped. Commissioner Norton congratulated Commissioner Coleman on his CERT graduation. Commissioner Norton wished Commissioners Montemayor and Williams a happy birthday.

Commissioner Williams stated that PATH's contract remains in place until September.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9A. SUB-COMMITTEE PROCEDURES – PRESENTATION FROM CITY CLERK

Commissioners received a presentation from Yvonne Quarker, City Clerk, regarding sub-committee procedures, including the difference between ad hoc and standing sub-committees. Ms. Quarker stated that sub-committees involving other Boards or Commissions have to be approved by the City Council. Ms. Quarker will be reviewing all sub-committees and will be giving staff additional guidelines.

Commissioner Norton asked if sub-committees need to be publicly noticed.

Ms. Quarker said that sub-committees involving other Boards and Commissions may need to be publicly noticed.

Commissioner Coleman asked for clarification regarding publicly noticing standing sub-committees.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding working with the Human Services Commission liaison on homeless issues and requested permission to meet now.

Staff asked that all meetings that involve other Boards and Commissions should hold off until there is more guidance from the City Clerk.

9B. REPORT FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT

Maria Grycan, Community Services Representative, reviewed the Fire Department statistics for February 2016, including suppression, rescue, and fire prevention activities. Ms. Grycan spoke regarding the fires during the month, including two at Pump Restaurant. Ms. Grycan spoke regarding CERT, the LA Marathon, an emergency preparedness seminar for businesses, and an emergency preparedness seminar for residents.

Commissioner Williams asked for more information on an incident in her neighborhood.

Ms. Grycan stated that the incident was not a fire, but it could have been training.

9C. 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 Sheriff's Department, the Fire Department, human rights, and respect for country.

Sergeant Klaus reviewed the Sheriff's Department statistics for February 2016, including crimes, calls for service, and arrests. In February, there were 1,738 calls for service and 171 arrests. Response times continue to be excellent.

Sergeant Klaus stated that there were 3 DUI arrests and 1 DUI traffic collision in the month of February. Sergeant Klaus stated that there were 3 vehicle vs. pedestrian accidents and 2 vehicle vs. bicyclist accidents in the month of February.

Lieutenant Smith spoke regarding an increase in crime when comparing February 2015 to February 2016 which is largely due to an increase in vehicle burglaries. Crimes of opportunity are a constant issue. Lt. Smith spoke regarding a recent patrol by the Risk Management Bureau of the Sheriff's Department which focused on pedestrian safety.

Commissioner Coleman asked for location and time of the pedestrian safety patrol.

Lt. Smith stated that the Deputies focused efforts on Santa Monica Boulevard between Westbourne and Doheny last Friday night.

Lt. Smith gave the following pickpocket statistics:

January: The Abbey – 11, Micky's – 6, The Rage – 3
February: The Abbey – 4, Micky's – 4, The Rage – 1

Commissioner Montemayor suggested including more businesses next time.

Staff reminded all to go through Captain Perez' office for any data request.

Commissioner Montemayor asked for location information on the vehicle burglaries.

Lieutenant Smith stated that there were 10 in the west side, 6 in the center, and 6 in the east.

Commissioner Montemayor asked if there are any identifiable trends or areas.

Lt. Smith stated that the increase is currently trending throughout the United States.

Commissioner Coleman stated that he is glad to see the pickpocket numbers are decreasing and asked if there have been any recent arrests.

Lt. Smith said two suspects were arrested out of the Abbey.

Commissioner Berger asked what may be causing the reduction in petty thefts.

Lt. Smith stated that the reduction in petty thefts is a combination of education, enforcement, and victims willing to prosecute.

Commissioner Montemayor asked about the relationship between The Abbey and the Sheriff's Station.

Lt. Smith stated that the relationship is positive and since last meeting with The Abbey, pickpocket numbers have decreased.

Commissioner Williams asked for more information regarding the sexual assaults.

Lt. Smith stated that one assault was at the London Hotel and the other was in a car near the Motherlode.

Lt. Smith stated that the vehicle burglaries involving window smashes were on West Knoll, Santa Monica Boulevard (2), Croft (3), Westbourne, Ogden (4), Crescent Heights, Palm, Kings, and Sweetzer.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding public education and personal responsibility.

Commissioner Coleman asked if the vehicle burglaries were mostly in garages, carports, or on the street.

Lt. Smith stated that they are predominately in carports or on the street.

Lt. Smith stated that Deputies will focus efforts on bike safety for the next traffic enforcement. Lt. Smith stated that there is a DUI checkpoint coming up on March 19th and a designated driver promotion for the 17th.

Commissioner Coleman asked for more information on the robberies.

Lt. Smith stated that the robbery weapons of choice were a knife, handgun (2), scissors, and a cigarette lighter.

Commissioner Sol reminded all that Spring Break is coming soon and asked for more patrols in the nightlife areas of the City.

Lt. Smith agreed to provide more patrols.

Lt. Smith said he is waiting for more information on PATH before determining the impact.

Commissioner Coleman asked for an update on the foot patrol staffing.

Lt. Smith said that the foot patrols are staffed at about 85%, an improvement.

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

Nir Zilberman, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding the closing of his store front and thanked Block by Block for their hard work.

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

Commissioner Norton asked for clarification on pedestrian assistance.

Mr. Salisbury stated that most pedestrian assistance occurs at closing time for clubs.

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

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding Block by Block's hours of patrol and early morning activity. Commissioner Berger thanked Mr. Aguilar for his accessibility to the community and Commissioners.

Commissioner Williams thanked Mr. Aguilar for the new patrol beginning at 6 AM. Commissioner Williams spoke regarding respect for the Sheriff's Department and Block by Block.

Lt. Smith thanked Block by Block for their hard work on the east side.

9E. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Staff asked for a brief update on all subcommittees.

Cameras:

Staff gave a brief overview of the fiber project currently underway and the research being conducted in other cities.

Commissioner Montemayor spoke regarding the sub-committee's consideration of various locations and getting the Sheriff's Station's opinion on what is most effective.

Lt. Smith stated that all locations along the Boulevard are helpful and spoke in support of cameras in the park.

Commissioner Montemayor asked if Sunset will be considered.

Lt. Smith said that Larrabee and Sunset would be a good location.

Commissioner Montemayor asked staff to add that location to the list.

Commissioner Norton asked for clarification on the fiber project for Santa Monica Boulevard to ensure connectivity with all kinds of cameras.

Commissioner Montemayor asked if there were any other benefits or potential projects.

Staff stated that the fiber will assist the Command Post set up for special events.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding prostitution on Santa Monica Boulevard which moves to side streets and recommended cameras on the side streets as well.

Commissioner Montemayor spoke regarding laying an ultimate road map for City Council to consider. Commissioner Montemayor spoke in support of cameras only in commercial areas at this point.

Lt. Smith stated that suspects generally start on main streets so commercial areas are fine.

Commissioner Montemayor spoke in support of only keeping data for 30 days.

Staff stated that another jurisdiction utilizes 90 days to give detectives a little more room.

Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding locations of cameras and suggested including alleys.

Staff reminded all that the research is preliminary and this is a starting point.

Commissioner Waack inquired as to the number of cameras.

Staff said the number can be decided as the project progresses and is flexible.

Stephanie Harker, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding the last time cameras were discussed by the City Council and spoke in support of calling them safety cameras.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding a camera discussion at the eastside PAC.

CERT:

Staff spoke regarding the Tip of the Month and thanked the Commissioners for this idea. Staff spoke regarding an upcoming CERT breakfast and tour of Fire Station 7 on Sunday, May 1st at 10 AM.

Ms. Grycan spoke regarding the recent CERT class and graduation. Ms. Grycan thanked Firefighter Sheila Kelliher for teaching.

Commissioner Berger thanked the CERT community for their input.

Contract and Service Review:

Staff will set a meeting with the Commissioners.

Homeless Issues:

Nothing to report at this time.

Neighborhood Watch:

Staff spoke regarding the next meeting to be held tomorrow.

Commissioner Coleman suggested getting Neighborhood Watch Captains involved. Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding Laura Manukian's retirement and asked that Commissioners be involved in the hiring process.

Staff stated that the Public Safety Department will be following City Human Resources procedures for hiring new staff.

Commissioner Williams requested that Ms. Manukian attend a future meeting so the Commission can thank her.

Staff said that she would invite Ms. Manukian, but that it is her choice on how she wants to celebrate her retirement.

Transportation:

Pending guidance from the City Clerk.

Women's Advisory Board:

Tabled until the April meeting.

9F. PUBLIC EDUCATION

Nir Zilberman, resident of West Hollywood, spoke about taking action and various public safety issues.

Michael Wojtkielewicz, resident of West Hollywood, spoke about various issues at the Sierra Bonita building.

Staff spoke regarding keeping this item on the next few agendas.

Commissioner Coleman spoke about refreshing the "Live, Work, Play, Be Safe" program. Commissioner Coleman spoke about the large number of current brochures on various topics. Commissioner Coleman suggested that some of the topics be grouped together under wider-encompassing umbrella groups. Commissioner Coleman suggested combining Pickpocketing, Don't Drink & Drive, Street Robbery and Sexual Assault into a category called "Nightlife Safety." Commissioner Coleman suggested another umbrella topic called "Neighborhood Safety" which could combine other pertinent topics. Commissioner Coleman spoke in support of utilizing billboards, brochures, napkins and short 15-30 second videos that could be posted on social media, on dating apps, and in some bars.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding past programs and partnerships with the community.

Staff stated that videos are expensive, and that printed materials can be budgeted.

Commissioner Williams spoke in support of utilizing existing city wide mailings.

Staff said that mailings are already utilized.

Commissioner Coleman spoke in support of low budget yet clear and concise videos in lieu of expensive PSAs, perhaps using creative animation and subtitles.

Commissioner Montemayor asked staff to provide a list of all PSAs currently utilized by the City.

Staff said that she would check with the Communications Division and give the Commissioners a list.

Commissioner Montemayor spoke regarding weaving certain messages together under a “nightlife safety campaign”, including sexual assault, pickpocketing, drug and alcohol use, and drinking and driving. Commissioner Montemayor spoke in support of providing policy direction to staff to include billboard, video, online ads, and maybe some printed materials. Commissioner Montemayor spoke in support of partnerships with bars, Visit West Hollywood, hotels, and The Pick Up Line.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding utilizing billboards.

Commissioner Montemayor asked staff to “think big” in its budget and program preparation and return to the Commission with details.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding keeping content simple and how to impact people with good message packaging.

Commissioner Sol spoke in support of partnerships with bars and using social media sites.

9G. SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS

This item was discussed during the sub-committee report above.

9H. PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE TO COUNCIL

Staff gave a brief overview of the report and encouraged Commissioners to attend.

10. NEW BUSINESS

10A. WOMEN’S SAFETY CAMPAIGN

This item was tabled until the April meeting.

11. ITEMS FROM STAFF

11A. NEWS FROM STAFF/MONTHLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Staff stated that Laura Manukian will be contacting Commissioners Williams, Sol, and Berger to meet in June to assist with the Public Safety Awards.

Commissioner Sol asked for the Denim Day date.

Ms. Grycan stated that it is April 27th.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT

Nir Zilberman, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding the public process and listening to each other.

13. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Waack congratulated Commissioner Williams for her nomination for the Rainbow Key Award.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding the Rainbow Key Award and what it means to her and her family. Commissioner Williams wished Commissioner Norton a happy birthday.

Commissioner Montemayor asked staff to consider a welcome event for Captain Perez.

Staff said they will follow up.


Commissioner Berger spoke regarding Kirk Doffing and speaking with his sister. Commissioner Berger thanked the community members for their hard work.

Staff reminded all to forward the link to the emergency preparedness survey.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 9:13 PM in the memory of Stuart Ivers, the brother of Barbara Krupa, and the 12 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the last meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for April 11, 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.)