

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION**

**MINUTES  
MONDAY, MAY 9, 2016**

**WEST HOLLYWOOD LIBRARY – COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** at 6:31 PM
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** led by Cathy Blaivas
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; 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 11 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 May 9, 2016 agenda, seconded by Commissioner Waack, and approved.

**POSTING OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda for the May 9, 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 April 11, 2016 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Montemayor, and approved.

## **7. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Michael Wojtkielewicz, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding a fire on April 30<sup>th</sup> at Sierra Bonita and expressed concern for the response from the building management.

Dan Harrington Tyrell, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding a fire on April 30<sup>th</sup> at Sierra Bonita and expressed concern for the response from the building management.

Manny Rodriguez, resident of West Hollywood, thanked the Commission for listening to the residents' concerns regarding disorderly conduct on Robertson Boulevard and said that the residents and businesses see an improvement.

Virginia Gillick, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding an alleged assault on a postal worker.

Stephanie Harker, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding a fire on April 30<sup>th</sup> at Sierra Bonita and expressed concern for the response from the building management and spoke regarding issues with the gates at the location.

Cathy Blaivas, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding a fire on April 30<sup>th</sup> at Sierra Bonita and expressed concern for the response from the building management and spoke regarding accessibility concerns at the building.

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

Commissioner Williams thanked the public speakers for their attendance and asked staff to follow-up on the various issues. Commissioner Williams spoke regarding her recent attendance at the Homeless Collaborative.

Commissioner Waack thanked the public speakers for their attendance. Commissioner Waack spoke regarding his recent attendance at the Walkabout with the Sheriff's Captain. Commissioner Waack spoke regarding the recent CERT breakfast at Fire Station 7. Commissioner Waack spoke regarding a web based repository for ideas and data for CERT. Commissioner Waack asked Lt. Smith to give an update on the alleged assault on the postal worker.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding her attendance at the Sheriff's Customer Service Survey Town Hall.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding difficulties at the Sierra Bonita building and

asked staff to put a discussion of the Public Safety Commission's purview on a future agenda.

Commissioners agreed and directed staff to place the discussion on the July agenda.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding safety concerns and working with the building's staff to solve.

Commissioner Coleman thanked the public speakers for their attendance. Commissioner Coleman asked the Fire Department's Community Service Representative to explain more about fire inspections.

Ms. Grycan said that she would get more information on fire inspections.

Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding his attendance at the Sheriff's Customer Service Survey Town Hall, Kids Fair, the CERT breakfast, and the Walkabout with the Sheriff's Captain. Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding his recent ride along with the Sheriff's Department. Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding an upcoming event, "Kirk Strong, WeHo Safety Saturday", on Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM. Commissioner Coleman asked if staff could put public safety events on a future agenda.

Commissioners agreed and directed staff to place the discussion on the July agenda.

Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding his recent op ed in WeHoville regarding the importance of reporting crimes to the Sheriff's Station. Commissioner Coleman encouraged the Sheriff's Department to quickly respond to incidents by saying personnel are looking into incidents that occur.

Commissioner Montemayor spoke regarding his attendance at the Kids Fair. Commissioner Montemayor spoke regarding a petition in support of cameras being circulated by Kirk Doffing's sister.

Commissioner Norton spoke regarding the Sheriff's Customer Service Survey Town Hall. Commissioner Norton spoke regarding a low attendance and hoped that it was indicative of an improvement in the issues. Commissioner Norton spoke regarding the confusion over which department handles which issues with regard to safety. Commissioner Norton spoke regarding her recent attendance at the Senior Advisory Board.

## **9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **9A. REPORT FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT**

Maria Grycan, Community Services Representative, reviewed the Fire Department statistics for April 2016, including suppression, rescue, and fire prevention activities. Ms. Grycan discussed the various community events attended by the Fire Department, including senior safety presentations and Kids Fair.

Commissioner Williams asked for more information regarding the Athens trash truck fire.

Lieutenant Smith shared more information about the trash truck fire.

## **9B. REPORT FROM SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT**

Sergeant Klaus reviewed the Sheriff's Department statistics for April 2016, including crimes, calls for service, and arrests. In April, there were 1,945 calls for service and 213 arrests.

Sergeant Klaus stated that there were 7 DUI arrests and 3 DUI traffic collisions in the month of April. Sergeant Klaus stated that there were 3 vehicle vs. pedestrian accidents and 0 vehicle vs. bicyclist accidents in the month of April to which the Sheriff's Station responded.

Lieutenant Smith thanked the Commissioners and the members of the public for their comments about the improvement on Robertson. Lieutenant Smith spoke regarding an increase in commercial burglaries and the arrest of a suspect who had burglarized 7 locations. Lieutenant Smith spoke regarding a drop in robberies and thefts on the eastside of the City.

Lieutenant Smith gave the following pickpocket thefts:

Abbey – 7  
Micky's – 5  
Rage – 0  
Fiesta Cantina – 0  
1 Oak – 2  
Flaming Saddles – 0  
Motherload – 1

Lieutenant Smith spoke regarding a recent meeting with club managers and owners regarding alcohol related issues and overserving patrons. Lieutenant Smith spoke regarding the incident with the postal worker who may have had a medical issue and fell, instead of being assaulted. Lieutenant Smith stated that the case is under investigation.

Commissioner Williams asked for more information about the sexual assaults.

Lieutenant Smith gave additional information about the sexual assaults, including the involvement of alcohol and one incident that occurred at an Airbnb.

Commissioner Williams stated that the City did not support Airbnb.

Lieutenant Smith stated that he is working with Code Compliance staff to address the increase in calls for service at Airbnb locations.

Commissioner Norton asked for more information regarding thefts on the west side.

Lieutenant Smith stated that many victims left items unattended.

Commissioner Coleman inquired as to whether the robberies were on the street.

Lieutenant Smith stated that the robbery that occurred at Cynthia at Larrabee was on the street.

Commissioner Berger thanked Lieutenant Smith for his hard work.

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

Steve Salisbury, Block by Block Sunset Boulevard, said that David Aguilar is out this evening with a new baby in the family. Mr. Salisbury gave a brief update on monthly activities in April for both Sunset Boulevard and Santa Monica Boulevard, including pedestrian assistance, crosswalk assistance, homeless issues, and disturbances.

Commissioner Berger asked if patrols have increased in the City Center area.

Mr. Salisbury said that daytime hours have been increased.

Commissioner Berger thanked Block by Block for their hard work.

**9D. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Cameras:

Staff gave a brief overview of the fiber project currently underway and the Sheriff's Department's efforts to switch camera vendors.

Commissioner Williams asked if the red light cameras are working.

Staff offered to follow up with public works.

Commissioner Norton requested another report back to the Public Safety Commission regarding proposed cameras, including information gathered from other jurisdictions.

Commissioner Coleman requested that the Commission review proposed recommendations.

Staff said that a report could be made at the July meeting.

Commissioner Norton suggested calling the cameras, "safety cameras", instead of "surveillance cameras".

Commissioner Montemayor spoke in support of another report back to the Commission.

#### CERT:

Staff spoke regarding the recent CERT breakfast and tour of Fire Station 7 on Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at 10 AM. Staff spoke regarding an upcoming meeting with Human Resources on a proposed CERT volunteer program.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding CERT ideas and networking.

Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding the reengagement of CERT graduates, including the CERT Tip of the Month, and spoke in support of more events at the Fire Station.

Staff stated that staff needs to be included on discussions that involve resources from the City.

Commissioner Coleman requested that staff schedule another sub-committee meeting.

#### Contract and Service Review:

Staff reminded all that Captain Perez is reviewing her deployment.

#### Homeless Issues:

Staff spoke regarding the recent Homeless Collaborative Meeting.

#### Neighborhood Watch:

Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding a meeting to be held on May 21<sup>st</sup> to meet with Block Captains to discuss their ideas for the program.

Commissioner Coleman said that Mayor Meister has made Neighborhood Watch a priority.

Commissioner Norton inquired as to how many Commissioners could be present without violating the Brown Act.

Staff offered to clarify with the City Clerk.

Commissioner Williams said that she is attending as a Block Captain.

Commissioner Berger thanked Laura Manukian for her hard work.

#### Transportation:

Commissioner Coleman asked staff to follow-up with the City Clerk on joint sub-committees involving other Commissions.

#### Women's Advisory Board:

Staff spoke regarding the "Coasters and Posters" public education campaign that has been designed with the Women's Advisory Board which includes "clings" that can be used on mirrors and doors.

Commissioner Sol recommended that the distribution of items be coordinated with school graduations and increased populations at entertainment destinations.

#### **9E. PUBLIC EDUCATION**

Commissioner Berger asked if the City educates apartment managers.

Staff described the various programs that educate managers, including newsletters, mailings, and safety seminars by Rent Stabilization and Housing.

Commissioner Norton encouraged involving condominium buildings as well.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding issues that residents post on "Next Door."

Commissioner Williams spoke about posts from non-residents.

Commissioner Coleman asked regarding the budget request for advertising.

Staff said that the budget request is in, and it will be considered by the City Manager and then the City Council in June.

Commissioner Coleman asked if the City is still experiencing mail thefts. Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding a poster he saw to deter criminals created by the US Postal Service and asked staff to get copies.

Staff offered to try to get the poster from the US Postal Service.

## **10. NEW BUSINESS**

### **10A. NEWS FROM STAFF – MONTHLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Staff spoke regarding the upcoming Russian Cultural Festival. Staff stated that it is not possible to start a rent stipend program for Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputies.

Commissioner Sol asked when elections for chair and vice chair will be held.

Staff stated that elections are held in July.

### **10B. CONTRACT RENEWALS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES**

Staff spoke regarding the counseling services that are provided by the Maple Counseling Center.

Commissioner Coleman asked for additional information on client eligibility and the referral process.

Staff stated that West Hollywood residents are eligible for services and that Sheriff's Deputies refer victims of crime to the Maple Counseling Center.

Staff spoke regarding the security guard services that are provided by PACWEST.

Commissioner Coleman asked if it was the same company that provides security to the West Hollywood Library.

Staff said that it is not the same company.

Staff spoke regarding the security ambassador services that are provided by Block by Block.



Commissioner Berger spoke in support of an increase in security ambassadors on Sunset Boulevard.

Commissioner Montemayor spoke in support of Block by Block and closely monitoring the needs and adapting deployment when necessary.

Mr. Salisbury, Block by Block, spoke regarding an upcoming BID meeting on Sunset.

Commissioner Coleman asked for clarification on Block by Block's schedule and deployment.

Mr. Salisbury stated that the teams are fully staffed during peak times.

Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding parking meters and club employees needing escorts to their vehicles in the early morning.

**11. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

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

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the Sheriff's Customer Service Survey Town Hall, Kids Fair, and Kirk Strong Safety Saturday. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding homeless issues at the library and asked if there were cameras in the elevators. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding issues on the eastside and collaboration with the neighbors and the Los Angeles LGBT youth center.


Commissioner Norton reminded all that May is senior month and the Senior Health Fair will be held on Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Williams stated that low attendance could be due to competing events.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 8:42 PM in the memory of the 11 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the last meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for June 13, 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.)***