

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION**

**MINUTES  
MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 2016**

**CITY HALL – COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM**

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

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

\*Commissioner Norton arrived at 6:47 PM.

**Commissioners Absent:** None

**Others present:** Lieutenant Dave Smith, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Bonnie Smith, Public Safety Supervisor; Lily Campbell, Public Safety Intern; David Aguilar, Block by Block

4. **ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS**

Commissioner Sol requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of the 12 law enforcement officers and 10 firefighters who have passed away since the June meeting.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Vice Chair Williams recommended that item 9G, Commission Purview, be tabled.

**ACTION:** Motion by Chair Montemayor to approve the August 8, 2016 agenda as amended, seconded by Vice Chair Williams, and approved with Commissioner Berger abstaining.

**POSTING OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda for the August 8, 2016 Public Safety Commission meeting was posted at City Hall, Plummer Park, and the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station, and the West Hollywood Library.

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Waack requested that “illegal hot dog” be changed to “illegal hot dog vendors” under his comments on page 3.

**ACTION:** Motion by Commissioner Montemayor to approve the July 11, 2016 minutes as amended, seconded by Commissioner Waack, and approved.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Jerome Cleary, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding Sheriff’s Department customer service.

**8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS**

Vice Chair Williams spoke regarding missing her first National Night Out. She spoke about receiving calls about the Center City residents who were disappointed that they did not have a National Night Out party. Commissioner Coleman spoke about having a substitute event for Center City residents due to his co-chair having personal matters which precluded him from organizing the event.

Commissioner Coleman spoke about the walk about with the Captain on the east side of West Hollywood. He spoke highly of Captain Perez and her rapport with residents and businesses. He concurred with Mr. Cleary’s statements about improving Sheriff’s reaction to resident complaints.

Commissioner Waack spoke about attending the walk about with the Captain. He spoke about attending National Night Out. He thanked anyone who planned and attended the event.

Chair Montemayor spoke regarding National Night Out. He thanked the Sheriff’s Deputies for driving him around to the parties. He was pleased with the attendance of the parties.

**9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**9A. PRESENTATION FROM SOCIAL SERVICES/FRIENDS**

Jaime Alvaez, Counselor at Friends Community Center, spoke about the nonprofit located outside of West Hollywood city limits, which provides HIV and substance abuse services to gay and bisexual men, MSM, and transgender women populations.

Vice Chair Williams asked if they worked with The LGBT Center. Mr. Alvaez stated they sometimes collaborate with the LGBT Center.

Commissioner Coleman asked if they were funded by the City of West Hollywood. David Giugni, Social Services Manager, spoke about two contracts, one for WEHO streets (\$118,000/year) and one for outpatient services.

Commissioner Berger said he has heard both very good and very bad things about the nonprofit. He asked about people hanging out at the location of the nonprofit office, which trickles into City of West Hollywood. Alvarez said the nonprofit allows anyone to come into the center and focuses on the harm reduction model, which means that anyone is given services, even if they are substance users, have mental health problems, or are homeless. Mr. Alvarez acknowledged that neighbors are upset that people congregate in the area surrounding the center because the center does not have an indoor lobby. Commissioner Berger asked if there was a security guard. Mr. Alvarez said there is no security guard because the security guard previously caused problems with the target population. Commissioner Berger asked about who comes to the center after being recruited in the parks. Mr. Alvarez said 25% are homeless and 75% come to the center after being recruited. Commissioner Berger asked about the outpatient substance abuse programs.

Chair Montemayor asked Social Services Manager David Giugni if there were any previous reports that could be passed along to the commission. He said they would be happy to give the annual report in September to the commission. Chair Montemayor asked staff to follow up with Mr. Giugni to have the report forwarded.

Commissioner Berger requested a site visit. Commissioner Sol suggested the center offer a tour to neighbors and Commissioner Berger, who are concerned with the center. Mr. Alvarez said they would be glad to offer a tour.

Lieutenant Smith asked if food giveaways were done at the location. Mr. Alvarez said participants, prior to getting food, are screened for eligibility, which is gay and bisexual men who have a risk for HIV or substance abuse. Mr. Alvarez said they offer a group for transgender women in the evening (5-7 PM). There are other transgender services which are offered throughout the day. Lieutenant Smith spoke about concerns residents have when people are loitering to wait for services.

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

Maria Grycan, Community Services Representative, sent in Fire Department's report via email. Lily Campbell, Public Safety Intern, read the report. There were roughly 526 total calls. There were 5 fires, all cooking or trash fires, except for one vehicle fire (\$4,500 damages), and one pole fire

(\$2,000 damages). There were 3 hazardous conditions with no fire, all were electrical equipment problems. There were 2 HazMat calls, both were gas or flammable liquid spills with no injuries or damages.

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

Lieutenant Smith reviewed the Sheriff's Department statistics for July 2016, including crimes, calls for service, and arrests. Lieutenant Smith stated that there was a decrease in assaults, robbery, and vehicle burglaries. Lieutenant Smith spoke regarding ongoing issues on the eastside and work with McDonalds and the Gateway.

Chair Montemayor asked about vehicle smash ins. Lieutenant Smith said the calls come in late, so it seems that they are most popular at night.

Commissioner Coleman asked about patrols at night. Lieutenant Smith said between 6-8 deputies are working from 8 PM to 6 AM. He spoke about Entertainment Policing Team deputies, who work around nightlife establishments. Commissioner Coleman suggested some changes for the format of statistics given each month. Lieutenant Smith said he would work on the requested changes.

Vice Chair Williams asked about two rapes and the woman found in the dumpster. Lieutenant Smith said they have a suspect in custody in regards to the murder of the woman. One rape was a juvenile with an adult over the course of several months. One rape was behind Greenwich Pizza in a parking lot.

Lieutenant Smith stated that there were 9 DUI arrests and 4 DUI traffic collisions in the month of June. Lieutenant Smith stated that there were 2 vehicles vs. pedestrian accidents and no vehicle vs. bicyclist accident in the month of July.

Lieutenant Smith spoke about a witness of a potential mail theft incident that happened on Kings Road. Someone witnessed two suspicious individuals and called the Sheriff's Department. The call led to two suspects being arrested.

Commissioner Berger asked about an update on the three officers involved in a stabbing and deputy involved shooting. Lieutenant Smith said it is still going through civil action. Commissioner Berger asked what training has been done. Lieutenant Smith said there was basic mandated training after the shooting. He said Captain Perez would have more information.

Commissioner Coleman asked about station wide training. Lieutenant Smith said there was a station wide training at the Hollywood Bowl. Lieutenant Smith spoke about the various training opportunities for the department.

Commissioner Berger asked why deputies that were involved in the incident did not go on hiatus. Lieutenant Smith said the deputies were forced to sit for psychological training/interviews and employee support services for the mandated 3-5 days. The investigation proved that they were allowed to remain at West Hollywood Station on the job.

Commissioner Sol asked about Labor Day weekend and DUI checkpoint. Lieutenant Smith did not have a September calendar.

Commissioner Coleman asked about shots fired on Larrabee on August 7, 2016. Lieutenant Smith said last night after 2 AM, someone believed their car was fired on. The deputies responded to that. There was another call of a shooting on Larrabee Street. There is a vague description, cars similar in both incidents.

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

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

Chair Montemayor asked about if one location needed more crowd control than others. Mr. Aguilar stated all establishments are treated the same. Chair Montemayor asked about the request for police on the Sunset Blvd. Mr. Aguilar said it was a request for police for an unresponsive person.

Commissioner Norton asked about people stepping off crosswalks in areas not well lit. She witnessed such an incident on Sunset Boulevard and was pleased to see that there were Block by Block security ambassadors. She said they were using flashlights, aiming them at the street to show the people who were walking where to go, instead of in a direction that would alert the drivers. Aguilar responded that they are dealing with the light issues. They don't want to blind the drivers (the flashlights are very bright).

Vice Chair Williams asked about homeless contacts. Mr. Aguilar said the number of homeless contacts has increased, but the increase is due to finding clusters of homeless individuals. Vice Chair Williams asked about more patrols on her street. Mr. Aguilar responded that they have focus areas but they will consider moving around to other areas.

Commissioner Sol asked about whether Mr. Aguilar is in charge of both Santa Monica Blvd. and Sunset Boulevard. Mr. Aguilar responded that he is and he has a supervisor for Sunset Boulevard.

Chair Montemayor asked about the number of Block by Block on Sunset Boulevard at its peak. Lieutenant Smith and Mr. Aguilar said there were 12 at its peak. Chair Montemayor asked if 3 Block by Block Security Ambassadors is enough now. Mr. Aguilar said it is not enough.

Commissioner Coleman asked if they could include month over month statistics to show comparison. Mr. Aguilar said he can look into doing that.

Commissioner Sol asked if in September, when school starts again, will there be more staffing. Mr. Aguilar responded that staff numbers will remain the same.

Chair Montemayor asked if there was patrolling at West Hollywood elementary during the school for crosswalk safety. Mr. Aguilar said they have not. Lieutenant Smith said the Sheriff's Department has done so.

#### **9E. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS – SAFETY CAMERA REPORT**

Commissioner Coleman spoke about sub-committee on neighborhood watch groups. He said that Laura Manukian retired and City Hall made changes so the position is no longer in Public Safety Department; it is now under the City Manager. He had questions about the new position. Staff said the position description is not posted yet, so staff does not know about the position's duties. Chair Montemayor said they can add this to the agenda of next meeting to talk about.

Staff stated that the camera report will be going to City Council next Monday. It is already on their agenda. Chair Montemayor stated that the commission approved this already for the next meeting.

Commissioner Coleman was disappointed that details of his questions were not included. He recommended that the camera report include information on how other cities are doing their surveillance camera programs. He said there were superficial answers in the report.

Commissioner Berger agreed with Commissioner Coleman. He said he felt unsettled about not including specific requests for the RFP in the staff report.

Staff said that Kristin Cook, Public Safety Director, did mention that she addressed Commissioner Coleman's questions.

Commissioner Coleman wanted the Commission's specific directions to be included in the staff report.

Commissioner Norton asked about the specific recommendation in the staff report. Chair Montemayor clarified the recommendation, that the commission wants City Council to ask the Public Safety Department to put out an RFP for surveillance cameras.

Commissioner Sol stated that staff will be interfacing with individuals, not Councilmembers, which is why the staff report did not include specifics on the types of cameras.

#### **9F. PUBLIC EDUCATION**

Each commissioner was requested to go on the website and let staff know what should be added or taken off of the website. Staff recommended that this be put on the next agenda.

Commissioner Coleman said the item has been recurring. He thought it was about issues earlier in the year, like pick pocketing. He asked about the budget. Staff said Kristin Cook, Public Safety Director, has a meeting in two weeks, which includes speaking about a PSA for public safety. Staff mailed the Live, Work, Play documents to the commission, which commissioners can look through.

Commissioner Coleman wanted the commission to come up with a program or programs on public safety.

Chair Montemayor recalled Kristin Cook, Public Safety Director, saying that Communication Department Director Lisa Belsanti would come and discuss some options for public safety. Chair Montemayor asked for Department Director Lisa Belsanti to come next meeting and discuss options with the commissioners.

Commissioner Sol suggested that everyone email to staff what they like or don't like about the website. It was decided that commissioners should provide their comments to staff by August 22, 2016.

Staff reminded the commission that Weho Elementary will have a crossing guard this year.

#### **9G. COMMISSION PURVIEW**

Tabled.

#### **10. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

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

Thank you from Kristin Cook, Public Safety Director, and rest of Public Safety Staff for National Night Out. Parties were well attended and there was high enjoyment. Staff spoke of an event tomorrow at 6:30 pm at Formosa Park, which is the unveiling of the new Mobile Command Post. Captain Perez and Mayor Meister will be there.

Commissioner Coleman asked about there being a deputy to be at the Mobile Command Post when it's not staffed otherwise. Staff said the van is outfitted with Sheriff's Department and Fire Department equipment. Lieutenant Smith said there is no Sheriff's logo on it yet, because it has to be ordered.

Commissioner Coleman asked staff about updates on Public Safety Awards. Staff responded that nomination forms are ready and going out this week. Staff is working on food aspect. The date of event is September 25<sup>th</sup> and it will be located at the Sheriff's station. Commissioner Coleman asked about components of the event. Commissioner Sol spoke about food, tours of Sheriff's station, etc. Commissioner Coleman asked about creating a fun graphic. Vice Chair Williams said this is part of the planning process.

## **11. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jimmy Palmieri, resident and Human Services Commissioner, spoke about the Friends Community Center. He is proud of what the nonprofit provides. He asks neighbors what they would do if the nonprofit was not there. He said it is best if commissioners do a site visit to understand the services provided. He suggested that Friends do an open house for neighbors to see what is going on.

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

Commissioner Berger thanked Mr. Palmieri for his public comment. He said there may be a negativity bias against Friends Community Center. He suggested that Sheriff's Department tell the commissioners when the civil suit is finished. Lieutenant Smith said Commissioner Berger may speak with Captain Perez about the civil suit.

Commissioner Norton apologized for being late. She spoke of an accident at Croft Ave. below Santa Monica Boulevard. She said Sheriff's cars were blocking Santa Monica Boulevard at 6:20 PM today, even though it didn't appear that there was anything going on on Santa Monica Boulevard. She asked how the Sheriffs decide where to position themselves while they're working. Lieutenant Smith said he was



not there, but positioning is based on tactical advantage. He said he will send an email about the incident when he finds out.

Commissioner Norton wanted to adjourn in memory of 3 American citizens who were killed in the terrorist attack on Bastille Day in Nice, France: Sean Copeland and his 11 year old son Brodie Copeland; and Nicolas Leslie, a 20 year old student from UC Berkeley. She wanted to adjourn in memory of French Border Police Deputy Commissioner Emmanuel Grout, who was also killed in the terrorist attack on Bastille Day in Nice, France.

Commissioner Coleman wanted the CERT sub-committee to have a meeting. He asked staff to schedule a meeting.

## 15. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 8:04 PM in the memory of the law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the July meeting, and also in memory of Sean Copeland, Brodie Copeland, Nicolas Leslie, and French Border Police Deputy Commissioner Emmanuel Grout. The next meeting is scheduled for September 12, 2016 at the West Hollywood City Hall – Community Meeting Room.



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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.)***