

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION**

**MINUTES
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2016**

CITY HALL – COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM

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

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

*Commissioner Coleman arrived at 6:37 PM

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; David Aguilar, Block by Block; Kristin Cook, Public Safety Director; Bonnie Smith, Public Safety Supervisor

4. **ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS**

Commissioner Williams requested that the meeting be adjourned in honor of the birthdays of Rita Norton and Luis Marquez and in the memory of Stanley Shinebaum.

Commissioner Sol requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of the 19 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the August meeting. Commissioner Sol requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of all those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.

Commissioner Norton requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of Alexis Arquette and those first responders who have lost their lives since September 11, 2001 due to hazardous materials exposure at Ground Zero.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Sol to approve the September 12, 2016 agenda, seconded by Commissioner Williams, and approved.

POSTING OF THE AGENDA

The agenda for the September 12, 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 August 8, 2016 minutes as amended, seconded by Commissioner Norton, and approved.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Luis Marquez, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding code and safety issues at 522 Norwich Drive.

Stephanie Harker, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding crosswalk and traffic issues near Plummer Park and a meeting with City transportation staff about the issues.

Cathy Blaivas, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding crosswalk and traffic issues at the Lexington at Vista crosswalk and thanked Mayor Meister and Captain Perez for the recent community meeting at McDonalds.

Robert Gamboa, Safe WeHo Leadership Council, spoke regarding recent meetings and the collaborative work of Safe WeHo Leadership Council to improve public safety.

Michael Wojtkielewicz, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding the importance of building codes facilitating safe evacuations and spoke regarding follow-up from staff and Commissioners.

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS

Commissioner Berger requested that staff respond to Mr. Marquez and Ms. Blaivas. Commissioner Berger thanked Mr. Gamboa for his hard work on public safety.

Commissioner Norton thanked the members of the public for their attendance. Commissioner Norton requested that staff place an item on the agenda to discuss expanding the purview of the Public Safety Commission to include code compliance or to consider the establishment of a Commission that handles code compliance issues.

Staff spoke regarding the difference between personnel issues and proper channels to resolve versus Commission purview.

Commissioner Coleman thanked the public speakers for their attendance. Commissioner Coleman requested that future Public Safety Commission meetings be held at the Council Chambers.

Commissioner Montemayor requested that a discussion of the meeting location be placed on the next agenda.

Staff reminded all that the October meeting will be televised.

Commissioner Waack spoke regarding stop signs and traffic safety and utilizing the mobile command post.

Commissioner Sol encouraged neighbors to get involved to improve crosswalk safety in their neighborhoods.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding traffic safety and a pedestrian accident on Lexington from earlier in the day. Commissioner Williams clarified that the Commission always refers issues to proper channels when necessary.

Commissioner Montemayor thanked Mayor Meister for her collaboration with Council Member Ryu on shared public safety issues. Commissioner Montemayor reminded all of proper decorum during meetings.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9A. PUBLIC SAFETY RELATED SERVICES SURVEY PRESENTATION

The Commission received a presentation from Richard Benard, FM3, regarding the community survey on public safety related services.

Karen O'Keefe, resident of West Hollywood, spoke in support of the relationship between the Sheriff's Department and the community.

Commissioner Williams asked if the camera issue was addressed in the survey.

Mr. Benard stated that the camera question was not in the interview questions.

Commissioner Coleman asked for clarification on the subsets of those interviewed. Commissioner Coleman asked if younger people and visitors were included.

Mr. Benard stated that 27% were over 50 years of age and the rest were under age 50. Mr. Benard stated that pedestrian safety was ranked higher

as a greater concern by those on the west side and those identifying as LGBT. Mr. Benard stated that residents on the east side were concerned about sheriff's presence.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding next steps and follow-up.

Commissioner Montemayor asked Mr. Benard how often surveys should be conducted.

Mr. Benard stated that every other year is adequate and spoke regarding the benefit of broader surveys beyond public safety.

Commissioner Berger asked if information collected was consistent across all methods of interview.

Mr. Benard said that there were themes, such as homelessness, that were consistent.

Commissioner Coleman suggested including businesses and visitors.

Mr. Benard stated that the surveys were intended for residents, but that businesses were included in some of the initial interviews to help shape the phone survey.

Karen O'Keefe, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding the work of the West Hollywood Bike Coalition.

9B. REPORT FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT

This item was tabled.

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

Lieutenant Smith reviewed the Sheriff's Department statistics for August 2016, including crimes, calls for service, and arrests. Lieutenant Smith spoke regarding foot patrols and supplemental patrols. Lieutenant Smith spoke regarding increased crime on the west side and 2 sexual assaults. Lieutenant Smith spoke regarding various assaults and 8 robberies which had 3 arrests. Lieutenant Smith reviewed the pickpocket incidents. Lieutenant Smith stated that there were 6 DUI arrests and 3 DUI traffic collisions in the month of August. Sergeant Klaus stated that there were 0 vehicles vs. pedestrian accidents and 3 vehicle vs. bicyclist accidents in the month of August.

Commissioner Berger asked for additional information regarding the 3 robbery arrests and asked if cameras were helpful.

Lieutenant Smith and Captain Perez stated that surveillance footage was used in the 3 arrests.

Commissioner Sol spoke regarding a recent incident where eggs were thrown at patrons on Robertson.

Commissioner Montemayor spoke regarding the Penthouse, and he asked how they were doing.

Lieutenant Smith stated that the Penthouse is doing much better and pays for Deputies to be present when they have large crowds. Lieutenant Smith stated that the Penthouse has changed its exiting to the La Peer side.

Commissioner Coleman asked if the statistician had a chance to draft a sample chart with the requested update from last month.

Lieutenant Smith stated that the statistician is working on a format that is readable.

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

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

Commissioner Williams stated that the last homeless count was approximately 85 people, and asked if there has been an increase in the homeless population since there were over 200 contacts.

Mr. Aguilar stated that there are a lot of repeated contacts and noted that there was a dip in the amount of homeless contacts for August along Santa Monica Boulevard.

Commissioner Coleman asked why there was a decrease in bike miles ridden.

Mr. Aguilar spoke regarding an increase in foot patrols which decreases the miles ridden.

Commissioner Berger asked for additional information on the increase in homeless contacts along Sunset Boulevard.

Mr. Aguilar said he would look into why there was an increase, but stated that the numbers frequently change from month to month.

9E. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS – NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH POSITION UPDATE

Staff stated that a study is underway to determine where the Neighborhood Services Coordinator position will be located.

Commissioner Coleman asked if the sub-committee should still meet.

Staff stated that continuing to meet is important as the issues remain the same and that the Public Safety Department will be involved no matter where the position is located.

Staff spoke regarding merging a future Women's Advisory Board/Public Safety Commission event with a Walk About with the Captain on Sunset Boulevard.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding t-shirts, incorporating existing materials, and televised safety messages on the pick up line for the WAB/PSC joint safety program.

Commissioner Montemayor requested that Council be invited when the date is selected.

9F. PUBLIC EDUCATION/UPDATE ON PSA

Staff spoke regarding a productive meeting with the Communications Department who will be leading the work on the PSA and include messaging on crimes of opportunity, emergency preparedness, and nightlife safety.

Commissioner Coleman asked for the incorporation of shorter video advertisements as well.

Commissioner Montemayor suggested utilizing multiple methods of communication.

Commissioner Sol spoke regarding a campaign from the Santa Monica Police Department that might be helpful to use.

Commissioner Berger asked if texting is becoming more dangerous than drunk driving.

Lt. Smith stated that it is definitely more prevalent.

Commissioner Berger suggested messaging that includes discouraging texting and driving.

Commissioner Montemayor requested that texting while driving citations be included in monthly statistics.

Lieutenant Smith said that the citations could be included.

Commissioner Norton asked if pedestrians can be cited for texting while walking.

Lt. Smith said that while dangerous, it is not illegal to text and walk.

9G. WEBSITE – WEHO.ORG (PUBLIC SAFETY PAGES)

Commissioner Montemayor suggested waiting until the Communications Department gives advice and direction and then incorporate website changes.

Commissioner Berger stated that he will email his suggestions to staff.

10. ITEMS FROM STAFF

10A. NEWS FROM STAFF – MONTHLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Staff spoke regarding the Annual Congress and Halloween.

10B. SHERIFF'S OPEN HOUSE/PUBLIC SAFETY AWARDS

Staff spoke regarding plans for the Open House.

Commissioner Berger requested that a CERT booth be included.

Commissioner Williams mentioned that the sub-committee suggested that a DJ be included.

Commissioner Coleman requested that a banner be placed on the corner outside of the station.

10C. AGENDA FOR OCTOBER TELEVISED MEETING

Commissioner Sol suggested including a demonstration such as 5 minute CPR.

Commissioner Montemayor suggested including a discussion of sensitivity training and to invite the LGAB and the TAB to the meeting to give input.

Commissioner Coleman reminded staff to include a discussion of the Public Safety Awards post event on the October agenda.

10D. REGULAR PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE TO CITY COUNCIL

Staff reminded all that the regular update to City Council will happen at the September 19, 2016 meeting and will include a discussion on safety cameras.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

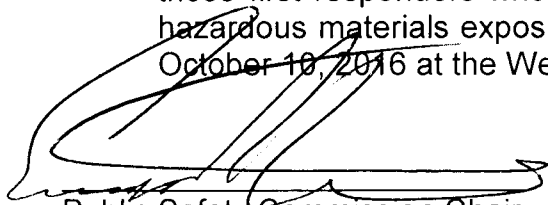
None.

12. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

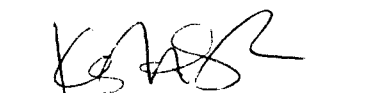
Commissioner Berger offered to meet after the meeting with the public in attendance.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 8:30 PM in honor of the birthdays of Rita Norton and Luis Marquez and in the memory of Stanley Shinebaum, the 19 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the August meeting, all those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, Alexis Arquette, and those first responders who have lost their lives since September 11, 2001 due to hazardous materials exposure at Ground Zero. The next meeting is scheduled for ~~October 10, 2016~~ at the West Hollywood Council Chambers.



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.)