

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION / HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING/STUDY SESSION**

**MINUTES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2016**

**PLUMMER PARK, ROOM 5 AND 6
7377 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** at 6:30 PM
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** led by Mayor Lauren Meister
3. **ROLL CALL**

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

Public Safety Commissioners Absent: None

Human Services Commissioners Present: Anderson, Borelli, Cislowski, Davis, Meltzer, Palmieri, Shandrick

Human Service Commissioners Absent: None

Others present: 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; Elizabeth Savage, Human Services Director; David Giugni, Social Services Manager; Corri Planck, Social Services Supervisor; Jeff Book, Human Services Administrative Specialist IV

4. **ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS**

Public Safety Commissioner Norton requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of Gwen Ifill.

Public Safety Commissioner Sol requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of the 26 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the October meeting.

Public Safety Commissioner Norton requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of Sheriff Dennis Wallace.

5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

ACTION: Motion by Public Safety Commissioner Williams to approve the November 14, 2016 agenda, seconded by Public Safety Commissioner Norton, and approved.

POSTING OF THE AGENDA

The agenda for the November 14, 2016 Public Safety Commission/Human Services Commission Special Joint Meeting/Study Session was posted at City Hall, Plummer Park, the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station, and the West Hollywood Library.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Michael King, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding traffic issues posing public safety issues.

Kevin Burton, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding the West Hollywood Bicycle Coalition, bicycle safety, and the need for more education.

Michael Wojtkielewicz, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding public safety and a possible code issue at Sierra Bonita.

Cathy Blaivas, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding traffic issues on Vista and asked for an update on the upgrades needed at the crosswalk. Ms. Blaivas spoke regarding homeless issues at Romaine and Willoughby.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7A. THE RESPONSE TO HOMELESSNESS, LOCAL AND REGIONAL RESOURCES, AND ENFORCEMENT

David Giugni, Social Services Manager, introduced Corri Planck, Social Services Supervisor, who gave an overview of the City's response to homelessness, local and regional resources, and enforcement. Ms. Planck covered the Human Services Department's involvement, including rapid re-housing, new contracts with Ascencia and Step Up on Second, and affordable housing development. Ms. Planck briefly reviewed the work being done by the Economic Development Department which includes efforts with the local business improvement districts to address issues within their geographic areas as well as a new partnership with the West Hollywood library which hosts service providers on site.

Kristin Cook, Public Safety Director, introduced Lieutenant Dave Smith, Sergeant Klaus, and David Aguilar, Block by Block, who gave an overview of

the outreach and patrols conducted by law enforcement and security personnel.

Public Safety Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding homeless connect day.

Public Safety Commissioner Williams asked for update on services that PATH previously provided.

Ms. Planck stated that PATH's services remain a referral option for the City.

Public Safety Commissioner Berger asked for clarification on the additional funding for the COPPS team.

Lt. Smith stated that the team was increased by a Deputy.

Kristin Cook gave a brief overview of the increases to the Sheriff's Department budget for 2016-2017.

Public Safety Commissioner Berger asked for clarification regarding the difference between trespassing and loitering.

Sgt. Klaus explained the difference between the two and described the intricacies of determining when someone is actually in violation of the law.

Public Safety Commissioner Berger asked what Block by Block is able to do if a person is not willing to leave a location.

Mr. Aguilar said that while the security ambassadors can ask someone to leave, they cannot force someone.

Public Safety Commissioner Berger asked if there were a lot of crimes committed against homeless persons.

Lt. Smith stated that crimes against homeless persons are minimal.

Lt. Smith explained the difference between loitering and trespassing and stated that demonstrating warnings is important to enforcing the law.

Sgt. Klaus spoke regarding the blue check devices that the Station utilizes to instantly identify someone.

Public Safety Commission asked how many devices the station has.

Lt. Smith stated that they have a few devices and may need more.

Human Services Commissioner Meltzer asked how many of the typical homeless contacts are regular members of the West Hollywood community.

Lt. Smith said that the majority of the homeless individuals are regulars.

Human Services Commissioner Cislowski asked how law enforcement targets outreach for the regular homeless members.

Lt. Smith stated that some individuals are receptive to services and others are not and that Deputies attempt to establish connections.

Ms. Planck described the way the various social services providers offer mental health expertise.

Human Services Commissioner Cislowski spoke regarding the challenges of fulfilling needs after business hours.

Lt. Smith spoke regarding letters of agency.

Human Services Commissioner Cislowski asked for clarification on how those who may pose a danger to themselves or others are addressed.

Sgt. Klaus spoke regarding a "5150" hold with area hospitals for professional evaluation and the Sheriff's Department Mental Health Evaluation Team.

Public Safety Commissioner Waack spoke regarding an increase of individuals sleeping along Santa Monica Boulevard.

Human Services Commissioner Anderson asked for clarification on outreach vs citations.

Lt. Smith spoke regarding enforcement for crimes and that a common offense involves a "crime of opportunity" such as a vehicle burglary. Lt. Smith spoke regarding offering more services than enforcement.

Public Safety Commissioner Sol suggested advertising the letter of agency through the Chamber and to landlords.

Human Services Commissioner Anderson asked how the Sheriff's Department coordinates with the Fire Department.

Lt. Smith described how Sheriff and Fire personnel work together on rescue calls.

Human Services Commissioner Palmieri asked for the percentage of crimes of opportunity vs crimes vs person.

Lt. Smith estimated that 70% are crimes of opportunity.

Public Safety Commissioner Berger asked how law enforcement determines whether an individual is homeless.

Lt. Smith stated that it depends on evidence, witness statements, and if arrested, finding stolen property in their possession.

Public Safety Commissioner Berger spoke regarding his experience in the line at the food truck at Sycamore and Romaine.

Lt. Smith asked Public Safety Commissioner Berger to clarify his definition of "street person".

Public Safety Commissioner Berger spoke regarding prostitution.

Lt. Smith spoke regarding the difficulty with finding people in laundry rooms, parking garages, and other private property locations.

Public Safety Commissioner Norton asked for clarification on locations available for temporary shelter.

Ms. Planck stated that there are up to 10 shelter beds available with Ascencia in Glendale.

Public Safety Commissioner Norton asked how individuals are being transported to shelter.

Ms. Planck spoke regarding the various transportation methods.

Lt. Smith spoke regarding Deputies transporting individuals.

Public Safety Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding the weekly, detailed crime log available to the public.

Mr. Aguilar spoke regarding schedules, working closely with Sheriff's department, and the security ambassadors' presence along Santa Monica Boulevard.

Public Safety Commissioner Williams spoke in support of Block by Block and thanked them and the Sheriff's Department for their hard work.

Human Services Commissioner Cislowski asked for clarification regarding the area served by Block by Block.

Mr. Aguilar spoke regarding the Santa Monica Boulevard deployment area.

Human Services Commissioner Shandrick spoke regarding the positive impact of the new service provider's presence at the library. Human Services Commissioner Shandrick asked if the rapid re-housing funds are tied to Section 8.

Ms. Planck said that it is not tied to Section 8.

Human Services Commissioner Shandrick spoke in support of a discussion at the next homeless collaborative on the pluses and minuses of the voucher program, and possibly including incentives for landlords. Human Services Commissioner Shandrick asked if the Holloway Motel is utilized.

Mr. Giugni spoke regarding the Council's approval of \$25,000 for supplies in the wake of El Nino including work with the Holloway Motel to take in community members temporarily.

Human Services Commissioner Shandrick asked how many were utilized.

Mr. Giugni gave clarification that it is "bed nights" as opposed to a "voucher".

Human Services Commissioner Davis asked for clarification on the funds keeping people in their homes.

Mr. Giugni stated that the City's partner is Brilliant Corners.

Public Safety Commissioner Williams spoke regarding Travelers Aid and utilizing Greyhound when she worked at PATH and asked if those options are still available.

Ms. Planck stated that the City strives to ensure that transportation is never a barrier.

Public Safety Commissioner Sol asked if the vouchers and housing are available to victims of domestic violence.

Ms. Cook stated that there is a different set of resources available to victims of domestic violence.

Public Safety Commissioner Berger asked if the City has to pay for unused vouchers.

Mr. Giugni stated that the City does not pay for unused vouchers.

Public Safety Commissioner Berger asked Block by Block how many individuals have accepted help in the last three years.

Mr. Aguilar stated that just a handful of people have accepted help.

Human Services Commissioner Cislowski asked if an alleged aggressive enforcement in Beverly Hills has affected West Hollywood.

Sgt. Klaus stated that they are in regular communication with Beverly Hills Police Department and that West Hollywood is not experiencing a surge from the west.

Public Safety Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding the Chamber's work to address homeless issues.

Mr. Giugni reminded all that taking pictures of individuals is a likely violation of their privacy and can be dangerous.

Ms. Cook agreed and suggested leaving identification of individuals to the Sheriff's Department.

7B. UPDATE ON NEW AND ENHANCED SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAMMING INCLUDING SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT RESOURCES AND ENFORCEMENT

Mr. Giugni gave an update on the new and enhanced social services programming including substance abuse and treatment resources and enforcement.

Mr. Giugni reviewed the numerous service enhancements made by various agencies that provide services to the City. Mr. Giugni stated that homeless and transgender community members are a priority for the City and that 55 individuals received substance abuse treatment services. Mr. Giugni stated that funds for treatment, and treatment that leads to permanent housing is extremely effective.

Ms. Cook stated that Social Services and Public Safety work very closely together on the issues.

Human Services Commissioner Davis asked staff to explain how the \$97,000 that was reprogrammed in April was spent.

Ms. Planck stated that funds not spent by the end of the fiscal year were rolled over into the current fiscal year and that the majority of the people served were homeless.

Human Services Commissioner Anderson highlighted the County's responsibilities to address homeless issues and asked how residency is determined.

Mr. Giugni stated that there is no length of residency requirement.

Ms. Planck spoke regarding site visits and audits of service agencies to determine residency.

Public Safety Commissioner Sol spoke regarding mental health services provided by the various agencies.

Public Safety Commissioner Williams asked if the possible repeal of Obama Care will affect services.

Mr. Giugni stated that it is too early to tell and it is important to elevate and keep benefits visible.

Human Services Commissioner Shandrick thanked the Public Safety Commissioners for their discussion about meth and Grindr and encouraged the Commissions to work together. Human Services Commissioner Shandrick stated that they are proud of the plan the Commission has put together and that there may be a need to work more on prevention and possibly limiting or banning pipes.

Public Safety Commissioner Montemayor asked staff to check with the City Attorney on options to limit devices/pipes.

Public Safety Commissioner Berger spoke regarding more engagement with the County.

Mayor Meister spoke regarding the Council's subcommittee.

Commissioner Berger spoke in support of a subcommittee on substance abuse.

Public Safety Commissioner Montemayor stated that the City Clerk is still looking at if subcommittee is appropriate.

Ms. Savage spoke in support of utilizing the liaisons from the Human Services Commission to cross-inform the Public Safety Commission.

Public Safety Commissioner Montemayor spoke regarding staff's work to keep projects moving forward.

8. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Public Safety Commissioner Waack thanked everyone for coming, thanked staff, and stated that he looks forward to working together.

Public Safety Commissioner Sol thanked everyone for their reports. Public Safety Commissioner Sol reminded all that Transgender Day of Remembrance is November 20th and spoke regarding the Veteran's Day ceremony and the upcoming Captain's Walk About on November 30th.

Public Safety Commissioner Norton thanked all and spoke in support of bringing the Commissions together more often.

Public Safety Commissioner Coleman thanked everyone and asked Sheriff's personnel to follow up on people partying in the parking lot at Pavilions.

Public Safety Commissioner Berger thanked the public speakers for their attendance and asked staff to design a tracking method.

Public Safety Commissioner Williams thanked everyone and suggested putting the bicycle safety brochures near the WeHo Pedals bikes.

Human Services Commissioner Anderson thanked staff and Commissioners.

Human Services Commissioner Borelli thanked staff and the Commissioners, and thanked Mr. Burton of the Bicycle Coalition and suggested adding the safety brochures to the WeHo Pedals program. Human Services Commissioner Borelli suggested that all read the Community Survey on the City's website if not done already and spoke regarding Movember and the upcoming Transgender Day of Remembrance.

Human Services Commissioner Shandrick stated that it was a great meeting and that he is the liaison to the Public Safety Commission. Human Services Commissioner Shandrick spoke regarding his attendance at the recent Neighborhood Watch meeting.

Human Services Commissioner Cislowski thanked the Public Safety Commission for hosting and said that it is nice to look at a comprehensive approach, and recommended taking a look at our veterans' homeless.

Human Services Commissioner Davis thanked everyone and stated that he is not in support of banning items.

Human Services Commissioner Meltzer spoke regarding an aging population in West Hollywood who live alone, may have dementia, and spoke in support of training first responders.

Human Services Commissioner Palmieri thanked everyone and spoke in support of the presentation of the various social service providers highlighted in attachment 7B.

Public Safety Commissioner Montemayor thanked staff, Sheriff's personnel, and Block by Block for their attendance. Public Safety Commissioner Montemayor asked staff to follow up with transportation staff on the Vista crosswalk issues and asked Sheriff's personnel to follow up with LAPD on the homeless issues in Los Angeles City. Public Safety Commissioner Montemayor asked staff to place a discussion of Halloween on the next agenda and spoke in support of looking after each other and moving forward as the holidays approach.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The Special Joint Meeting/Study Session of the Public Safety Commission and Human Services Commission adjourned at 8:31 PM in the memory of Gwen Ifill, Sheriff Dennis Wallace, and the 26 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the October meeting. The next Public Safety Commission meeting is scheduled for December 12, 2016 at the West Hollywood Library Community Meeting Room. The next Human Services Commission meeting is scheduled for December 13, 2016 in the First-Floor Community Conference Room at City Hall.

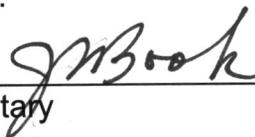
SIGNATURE OF PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION CHAIR IS ON FILE WITH PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION MINUTES

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION ON THE 13TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2016



Human Services Commission
Chair

Attest:



Secretary