

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING**

**MINUTES
MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2016**

**WEST HOLLYWOOD LIBRARY – COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM
625 N. SAN VICENTE BOULEVARD**

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

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

Public Safety Commissioners Absent: None

Others present: Sergeant Jon Klaus, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; David Aguilar, Block by Block; Kristin Cook, Public Safety Director, Bruce Robertson, Administrative Staff Assistant.

4. **ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS**

Public Safety Commissioner Norton requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of Astronaut and former U.S. Senator John Glenn, Georgia Officers Nicholas Smarr and Jody Smith who were killed in the line of duty and the 36 fire victims who lost their lives in the recent Oakland warehouse fire.

Public Safety Commissioner Sol requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of the 21 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the October meeting.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

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

At the request of staff, Chair Montemayor moved item 10B to be heard after Item eight (8). The minutes will, however, be recorded in the order of the Agenda.

POSTING OF THE AGENDA

The agenda for the December 12, 2016 Public Safety Commission Special meeting was posted at City Hall, Plummer Park, the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station, and the West Hollywood Library.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Norton asked that the following wording be added to her comments under Item 10B: "she stated that if Council Chambers are not available, meetings should be held in the West Hollywood CMR in the Library as a regular location with occasional meetings at Plummer Park possibly every 3 - 4 months."

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Sol to approve the October 10, 2016 minutes, as amended, seconded by Commissioner Waack, and approved.

Commissioner Berger asked he be identified as the speaker under Item 7A, "Public Safety Commissioner *Berger* asked if homeless persons reported crimes against themselves.

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Coleman to approve the November 8, 2016 minutes as amended, seconded by Commissioner Sol, and approved.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS

COMMISSIONER BERGER stated that he is pleased with the progress being made with regards to the homeless in West Hollywood especially on the City's eastside. He also summarized recent City Council discussions regarding the City's eastside including consideration of an LACSD eastside substation, grants for lighting & security gates, graffiti, power washing sidewalks, abandoned buildings and other code violations. Commissioner Berger also commented that the Greater West Hollywood Food Coalition truck will move to the Salvation Army's Campus on Hollywood Blvd effective January 1, 2017. Commissioner Berger reported that he participated in a recent homeless advocacy group sponsored by the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce and lastly announced the availability of two new apps iWatchLA & Transit WatchLA which allow users to anonymously report suspicious persons and possible terrorism activity.

COMMISSIONER NORTON wished everyone Happy Holidays, reported that she attended the Active Shooter training sponsored by the Sheriff's department, praised the training and attendance and commented that this training should also be made available to members of the public via social media or other available means. Lastly she commended the West Hollywood Sheriff's Department (WHSD) for their work in this area.

COMMISSIONER COLEMAN thanked Commissioners Berger and Norton on their comments/updates on the active shooter training and the homeless in West Hollywood.

COMMISSIONER WAACK also expressed pleasure with the City Council's recent Eastside discussion and inquired about further discussion on the matter. He also announced that he would be participating in the city's bike light give away on December 21st.

Kristin Cook acknowledged that further discussion could be included as a part of the Sheriff's report.

COMMISSIONER SOL noted that she was pleased to attend the kick-off event and Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) during November's Transgender Awareness Month. She also reported that she was able to attend the Veterans' Day ceremony and has been working on the City's annual Toy Drive and was able to participate in the recent fundraiser in Las Vegas.

VICE-CHAIR WILLIAMS reported that she attended the recent Eastside Taskforce meeting and is hopeful that these discussions will bring much needed attention to the city's Eastside. She also assisted with the Transgender Job Fair, which was comprised of 53 employers, and the recent joint meeting of the Women's Advisory Board and Public Safety Commission sub-committees.

CHAIR MONTEMAYOR acknowledged that he too attended the joint sub-committee meetings with Vice-chair Williams commenting on discussion items including a sexual assault campaign during February and an outreach opportunity geared toward sexual assault. Chair Montemayor also reported discussion of other collaboration opportunities between the two sub-committees. Finally, he commented on discussions with the city's Communications department regarding future public safety PSA's.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9A. REPORT FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT

Kristin Cook reviewed the Fire Department statistics for October 2016. Ms. Cook reviewed the monthly Activity Report noting two (2) HazMat incidents on October 27th and 30th.

Kristin Cook also reviewed the Fire Department statistics for November 2016, noting the 7530 Hampton fire on November 25th which was turned over to the Los Angeles Sheriff's department for possible arson.

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

Sergeant Klaus reviewed the Sheriff Department statistics for October 2016 noting three (3) rapes. Sergeant Klaus stated that one incident was reported by a high school teacher who overheard the victim report that he had had sex with a 37 year old man. The teacher made a SCARS (suspected child

abuse) report. When contacted the victim admitted having voluntary sexual encounter with two (2) different men he met in the area of Fountain & La Brea on June 25, 2016. Sergeant Klaus also reported six (6) DUI arrests, three (3) of which involved traffic collisions.

Sergeant Klaus reviewed the Sheriff's Department statistics for November 2016 noting two (2) rapes, one of which the victim and assailant met at the Chapel in West Hollywood. The second met at a Los Angeles bar and drove to the suspect's apartment in West Hollywood where she encountered two (2) additional assailants, was reportedly sodomized three (3) times, and kept against her will.

Commissioner Coleman asked that the report on the mobile command van staffing be tabled to the January meeting. He requested that Captain Perez be in attendance to present that report.

Kristin Cook reminded commissioners that the mobile command post van is not intended to be a patrol van but a mini command post used as a temporary EOC should the city's intended EOC not be available or usable. Ms. Cook highlighted that while COPPS Team is responsible for placing the mobile command van throughout the community, its placement does not increase or decrease regular patrols throughout the city.

Sergeant Klaus emphasized that the West Hollywood Sheriff's Deputies work diligently to ensure that the van is placed within the community as often as possible (noting it is deployed at least five (5) days each week) noting that most of the time it is placed on the city's eastside.

Commissioner Sol asked about a new gate in West Hollywood Parking Structure II. Staff acknowledged Commissioner Sol's request and will report back.

Commissioner Berger congratulated Lt. Smith and Sgt. Klaus on positive feedback regarding and the work they do in West Hollywood.

Commissioner Berger asked for an update on recent discussions and allegations that the app Grindr actively promotes the use and sale of methamphetamines.

Sgt. Klaus informed the Commission that West Hollywood has only one narcotics detective assigned to the station and that her assignment is shared with other Los Angeles stations. Sgt. Klaus emphasized that due to the limited availability of a narcotics detective West Hollywood is not actively pursuing sales/solicitation on the social media app Grindr.

Commissioner Berger also related a recent incident where he was approached to buy illegal drugs. He asked Sgt. Klaus what undercover operations the Sheriff's Department uses to deter the buying/selling of illegal drugs in West Hollywood.

Sgt. Klaus responded that currently there are no ongoing undercover drug operations in West Hollywood. He also explained that because of Prop 47, drug stops, which in the past were felonies, are now misdemeanors, allowing only for the issuance of a citation rather than arresting the suspect.

Commissioner Montemayor requested that an annual report be provided to the Commission comparing crime categories by month (current year vs. previous year) and that this report be included each December with other statistical information.

Commissioner Berger requested an annual crime comparison by city analyzing West Hollywood crime stats with that of comparable cities.

Sgt. Klaus will check with the station's crime analysis unit to determine if the requested information is available.

Commissioner Coleman asked that the Chapel be included in the monthly crime stats specifically noting pickpocket and sexual assault crimes.

Kristin Cook provided the commission with a homeless update. She also confirmed that Captain Perez is reviewing the Commission/community request for an Eastside sub-station. Additionally the Captain is finalizing efforts to staff a specialized mental health deputy and licensed clinical social worker or nurse in West Hollywood. Ms. Cook estimated that staff would be able to bring an item to Council in early 2017.

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

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

David Aguilar, Block by Block gave an update on monthly activities in October & November for Sunset Boulevard, including pedestrian assistance, crosswalk assistance, homeless issues, and disturbances.

9D. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS – CAMERA RFP

Kristin Cook apprised the commission on the camera RFP informing members that the RFP is now open through January 5, 2017. Once closed commissioners will be tasked with reviewing applications and interviewing selected applicants. While the first RFP targets a consultant able to build the system, the second will address system implementation, locations, etc.

Commissioner Berger suggested that commissioners participate in drafting questions for RFP interviews.

Kristin Cook requested that staff be included in any correspondence between commissioners or others regarding RFP panel questions.

10. NEW BUSINESS

10A. PROPOSAL OF A JOINT SUB-COMMITTEE WITH THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Kristin Cook reported that the Transportation Commission declined a request for a joint subcommittee meeting instead recommending that staff liaisons be utilized for communication between commissions.

Commissioner Coleman emphasized that this remains an important issue that overlaps both commissions and asked that the matter be presented to the City Council for consideration to mandate a joint subcommittee meeting.

Vice-chair Williams reminded members that the idea of joint subcommittee meetings has been ongoing with the Transportation Commission, and it has historically been reluctant to meet jointly.

Commissioner Waack also advocated the importance of joint subcommittee meetings.

Commissioner Coleman acknowledged speaking with members of the Transportation Commission who support the idea of a joint meeting, emphasizing that members cannot meet without a City Council mandate.

Chair Montemayor expressed the opinion that previous requests for a joint sub-committee meeting may have been blocked at the staff level and not been formally presented to the Transportation Commission as requested. The Chair recommended that the commission prepare and present the City Council with a formal request to meet jointly. He added that the request should comprise an outline to include the purpose and key issues members believe should be discussed with joint recommendations brought back to the City Council for their consideration. Chair Montemayor concluded that he too has spoken with Transportation commission members who also feel a joint meeting would be productive.

10B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION PURVIEW/CODE COMPLIANCE

Commissioner Berger introduced the item explaining that members of the public have expressed that some Code Compliance related matters overlap into the jurisdiction of Public Safety and therefore believe that the Public Safety Commission's purview should also include Code Compliance, thereby providing the public a public forum in which to express their concerns.

Code Compliance manager Jeffery Aubel assured the Commission that Code regularly reviews City Council meeting public comments and follows up with members of the public to assure that their concerns have been satisfactorily addressed/resolved.

Commissioner Sol reiterated that the city provides various means by which residents can contact the city with concerns, i.e., via phone or the smart phone app PublicStuff.

Mr. Aubel also noted that Code Compliance has an after hour response line, (323) 848-6516 where all messages left on this line are immediately routed via e-mail to the Code officer on duty.

Chair Montemayor explained that with the many modes of communication available to residents, they are not obligated to attend meetings in person but can voice their concerns via other ways.

Vice-chair Williams concurred with Chair Montemayor and voiced concern that although some community concerns overlap into the Public Safety spectrum, many concerns fall under the stewardship of other boards or commissions and must be referred accordingly.

Mr. Aubel assured the Commission that his e-mail and phone number are listed on the city's website and that any calls received are returned or forwarded to the proper city department for follow-up.

Commissioner Coleman stated that the Public Safety Commission is considered by some as a venue in which they can be reassured and their concerns can be addressed. He also concurred with Chair Montemayor suggesting that members speak with their councilmembers about this discussion.

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Coleman to formally request that the City Council expand the purview of the Public Safety Commission to include Code Compliance, seconded by Berger.

Commissioner Sol cautioned members that Code Compliance covers a very broad spectrum and, again, asked that Commissioner Berger speak directly with his councilmember about this matter.

Commissioner Waack agreed with Commissioner Sol that Code Compliance too broad and therefore could not support the motion.

Commissioner Williams concurred with Commissioners Sol and Waack.

Commissioner Coleman withdrew his motion due to lack of support and asked that the minutes reflect discussion on the matter.

Commissioner Sol asked that a "Community Pop Up" be scheduled on the eastside, where residents could speak with and address their concerns directly to Code Compliance staff.

Code Compliance manager Jeffery Aubel agreed to follow-up on Commissioner Sol's request. He also shared that a representative from Code Compliance attends all city sponsored neighborhood watch meetings.

Public Comment

Kevin Burton, West Hollywood resident, supports the creation of a joint subcommittee as discussed.

10C. TRACKING MECHANISM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT FOLLOW-UP

Commissioner Berger asked that this item be tabled to the January 9th meeting and requested that a representative from Public Works be present to discuss and answer questions about the PublicStuff app.

11. ITEMS FROM STAFF

11A. NEWS FROM STAFF – MONTHLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Kristin Cook reminded commissioners that the Don't Drink & Drive campaign will be held December 18th at 2PM.

Chair Montemayor asked about the "crash car" display which is generally placed at the corner of Santa Monica Blvd and San Vicente.

Kristin Cook informed the commission that the display area is now occupied with bikes in conjunction with the City's "Bike Share" program and stated that staff would consider other locations for 2017.

Commissioner Sol suggested that the median near IHOP is currently vacant and could be a possible alternate temporary location for the crash car.

11B. EMERGENCY PLAN

Kristin Cook announced that the City is currently working on the 3-year emergency update as required by the State and asked for commissioner review and comments prior to it being presented to City Council for approval.

11C. HALLOWEEN

Kristin Cook briefed commissioners on security precautions taken prior to and during this year's Halloween Carnival. Ms. Cook reported that she and Sgt. Klaus attended a debrief with Emergency Operations Bureau and Homeland Security following the event stating that both agencies were pleased with the event's public safety operations. Kristin thanked Sheriff and Fire personnel for their support. Ms. Cook estimated attendance at approximately 200,000 – 300,000 attendees.

Commissioner Waack commented on the hot dog vendors especially east of La Cienega.

Kristin Cook responded that health and law enforcement personnel worked together to minimize illegal vendors confiscating enough food and equipment to fill a 40 yard dumpster.

Commissioner Coleman suggested that food truck placement be considered outside the Carnaval footprint in an effort to discourage illegal vendors.

Commissioner Sol commented on a City sponsored Step & Repeat placed near Rage which caused a bottleneck for event attendees.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

13. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION/COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commissioner Sol asked that the city deploy Block by Block and PACWEST as additional security measures during the annual New Year's Eve sober party in West Hollywood Park.

Commissioner Coleman asked that the City and Commission begin preparing for next year's Public Safety Awards in January.

Commissioner Norton asked whether the Commission's approved motion requesting that the Public Safety Commission meetings be televised and moved to the City Council Chambers had been submitted to the sub-committee of the Council to decide whether the item would be placed on the Council's agenda, per the new procedure which had been announced by Councilmember D'Amico and Mayor Meister. She praised last month's Special Meeting with the Human Services Commission, and recommended that future joint meetings be held.

Chair Montemayor concurred with Commissioner Norton. He asked that this matter be placed on a future Public Safety Commission agenda for further discussion and direction asking that the matter also be added to a future City Council agenda for their consideration. Chair Montemayor read a thank you card sent by Laura Manukian expressing gratitude for the generous gift given for her retirement. Finally, Chair Montemayor advocated that the City consider an art installation instead of the traditional PSA to bring awareness to sexual assault/domestic violence.

Commissioner Berger commented on the active shooter video presented at the recent training and offered to forward the video to other commissioners. He also commented on a recent Charlotte NC press conference and also offered to send that link to interested commissioners.

Vice-Chair Williams wished everyone Happy Holidays.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting of the Public Safety Commission adjourned at 9:00 PM in the memory of U.S. Senator John Glenn, Georgia Officers Nicholas Smarr and Jody Smith, and

the 21 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the November meeting. The next Public Safety Commission meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2017 in the West Hollywood City Hall – 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.)