

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION**

**MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2017**

**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 Captain Holly Perez
3. **ROLL CALL**

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

Commissioner Norton 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; Maria Grycan, Community Services Representative, Los Angeles County Fire Department; Cesar Barrios, Block by Block; Kristin Cook, Public Safety Director; Bonnie Smith, Public Safety Supervisor

4. **ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS**

Captain Perez requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of Sergeant Tony Hackett, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

Commissioner Sol requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of the 17 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the December meeting.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Williams to approve the January 9, 2017 agenda, seconded by Commissioner Sol, and approved.

POSTING OF THE AGENDA

The agenda for the January 9, 2017 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 December 12, 2016 minutes as amended, seconded by Commissioner Sol, and approved.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding his follow-up on various issues, including the Lexington and Vista crosswalk, the Los Angeles County Oversight Commission, a safety concern handled at the Detroit Bungalows, and the upcoming homeless count on January 26th.

Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding the Don't Drink and Drive campaign and suggested that the event begin a little later in the day next year and suggested surveying businesses via the Chamber to see if they prefer coasters or napkins.

Commissioner Norton apologized for being a couple of minutes late and requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of Master Sergeant Debra Clayton and Deputy Norman Lewis involved in the incident in Orlando as well as the victims at the recent shooting at the Fort Lauderdale Airport.

Commissioner Waack thanked the members of the public for their attendance.

Commissioner Williams thanked the members of the public for their attendance.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9A. WEST HOLLYWOOD OFFICIAL APP

Dan Mick gave an overview of the West Hollywood Official App and the multiple types of requests received.

Commissioner Norton asked if the "status" on the app could be altered to say "assigned" instead of "completed".

Mr. Mick stated that classifications cannot be altered within the App, but said that code compliance officers need to be very clear with constituents on the status of requests via email.

Commissioner Sol spoke in support of creating a “how to” video for older residents.

Commissioner Coleman asked what is the most common complaint or request.

Commissioner Berger spoke in support of a different label other than “completed” and suggested “in progress”. Commissioner Berger asked how long the app has been in use and asked to view the data.

Mr. Mick stated that the app has been used for about two years, and that any requests for records need to go through the public records request process.

Commissioner Berger spoke in support of seeing charts or graphs of old items that are not completed.

Commissioner Williams suggested that maybe Commissioner Berger work with Mr. Mick directly on his specific questions.

Commissioner Waack suggested more advertising for the app.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding successfully using the app.

Commissioner Patrick Shandrick, Human Services Commissioner, spoke in support of the West Hollywood Official App, and reminded all that the greater Los Angeles Homeless Count is Thursday, January 26th.

9B. REPORT FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT

Maria Grycan reviewed the Fire Department statistics for December 2016, including suppression, rescue, and fire prevention activities. Ms. Grycan highlighted a fire at 8490 Sunset involving a neon sign and a malfunctioning heater at 9031 Rosewood. Ms. Grycan spoke regarding the Oakland tragedy and stated that firefighters county wide are conducting inspections.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the project proposed in the City of Los Angeles at Sunset and Crescent Heights.

Commissioner Montemayor stated that the project is under the Los Angeles Fire Department’s jurisdiction.

Commissioner Sol asked for clarification on the Friday Night Lights program vs regular inspections.

Ms. Grycan stated that Friday Night Lights is a program to address overcrowding, to strengthen relationships with the clubs, and to pre-plan for responses and events.

**9C. REPORT FROM SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT –
MOBILE COMMAND VAN AND STAFFING, SENSITIVITY TRAINING,
NARCOTICS RELATED CRIMES**

Lieutenant Smith reviewed the Sheriff's Department statistics for December 2016, including crimes, 1,770 calls for service, 42 felony arrests, and 130 misdemeanor arrests. Lieutenant Smith stated that December 2016 showed decreases in crimes as compared to December 2015. Lieutenant Smith spoke briefly regarding the two sexual assaults.

Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding the statistics and requested that all comparisons be made on the same sheet.

Sergeant Klaus reviewed the pickpocket incidents. Sergeant Klaus stated that there were 0 DUI arrests and 0 DUI traffic collisions in the month of December. Sergeant Klaus stated that there were 5 vehicle vs. pedestrian accidents and 1 vehicle vs. bicyclist accident in the month of December.

Commissioner Sol requested that Bar 10 and Revolver be added to the pickpocket statistics and requested that the details on the sexual assaults be very brief.

Commissioner Berger asked if the Abbey's occupancy affects the number of incidents.

Lieutenant Smith stated that the occupancy of the Abbey is over 1100 and is extremely busy.

Commissioner Coleman stated that the decrease in the number of pickpockets is encouraging and complimented the Commissioners on their efforts to call attention to the issue.

Commissioner Montemayor inquired as to the overall feeling and cooperation from the bars.

Lieutenant Smith stated that the Abbey cooperates and encourages its visitors to report all thefts.

Staff gave an overview of the mobile command post van including its primary purpose being a command post for an emergency and its additional uses of community outreach and presence in the neighborhood.

Sergeant Klaus spoke about the Deputies using the van as a presence to deter criminal activity.

Commissioner Berger stated that the presence of the van helped an issue at the Detroit Bungalows.

Lieutenant Smith stated that the Entertainment Policing Team and the COPPS team both deploy the van.

Commissioner Coleman asked if there is a set schedule for the deployment of the van.

Lieutenant Smith stated that the van is deployed about five days a week.

Commissioner Coleman asked for specifics about the staffing and if the van needs to be watched by the Deputies.

Lieutenant Smith said that the same Deputies deploying the van are responsible for returning it to the station. The location is chosen based on need and information from the neighbors.

Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding having dedicated staff for the van and spoke regarding the conversation about having a substation.

Staff reminded all that the van is just one more tool, not an answer for every issue. Talks continue with the Captain regarding a substation.

Commissioner Williams cautioned about taking an officer off of patrol to sit in a substation.

Captain Perez spoke regarding an upcoming homeless sensitivity training on February 1st and upcoming department wide LGBT training.

Commissioner Montemayor asked if the Sheriff's Department plans to restart the LGBT advisory board.

Captain Perez stated that it is a priority.

Commissioner Montemayor asked if there is a timeline for the upcoming training sessions.

Captain Perez stated that she plans to have the trainings complete by the end of the fiscal year.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding filming a trainer, such as Drian Juarez, which then can be viewed multiple times.

Captain Perez spoke regarding utilizing the Department's film group.

Commissioner Berger spoke in support of the training and the need for it to be easily accessible.

Commissioner Montemayor asked if Russian cultural training is offered.

Captain Perez said that there are two new Russian speaking deputies who assist their peers at the station.

Captain Perez spoke regarding the negative impacts of Prop 47 and Prop 57 and the decriminalization of narcotics crimes and spoke in support of public education and intervention programs. Captain Perez spoke regarding the Station's work with Craig's List and Grindr to address illegal sales.

Commissioner Berger asked if undercover officers are used.

Captain Perez has said that narcotics and station deputies try to impact the problem as much as they can, but the Department has decentralized efforts to address narcotics related crimes.

Commissioner Coleman asked if it were possible to have a narcotics team.

Captain Perez stated that a narcotics detective comes to the station 1-2 days a week and that station detectives do a lot of the search warrants.

Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding the difficulties of finding suspects at early morning times.

Commissioner Montemayor cautioned encouraging activity which could be perceived as entrapment of members of the gay community.

Lieutenant Smith stated that the COPPS team and Entertainment Policing Team Deputies assist with cases.

Commissioner Montemayor spoke in support of public education.

Captain Perez spoke about the effectiveness of the "We tip" app.

Francesca Jacobs (did not give City of residence) spoke regarding crisis intervention, working together as advocates, and the need for support from police agencies.

Commissioner Coleman asked if Sheriff patrols have checked the roof of Pavilions.

Lieutenant Smith said that patrols check the roof.

Commissioner Coleman asked if the patrols are regular.

Lieutenant Smith said that the patrols are regular.

Commissioner Coleman asked if beat patrols can be discussed at the next meeting.

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

Cesar Barrios, Block by Block Santa Monica Boulevard, gave an update on monthly activities in December 2016, including pedestrian assistance, crosswalk assistance, homeless issues, and disturbances.

Commissioner Coleman asked for clarification regarding vehicle behavior near the new crosswalk near Ogden and asked if it is dangerous if cars stop at the green light and asked if the light is synchronized.

Lieutenant Smith stated that the light is synchronized.

Commissioner Berger asked if ambassadors patrol near the Starbucks across from 24 Hour Fitness.

Mr. Barrios said that Monday and Tuesday mornings, the ambassadors are focused on the east side but respond to calls for service.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding an increase in homeless on Mondays and Tuesdays when the dumpsters are out at 6:30 AM and asked for an increase in staffing during that time frame.

Staff stated that an increase to the staffing is being considered.

Commissioner Montemayor asked if the Sunset team needs a supplement.

Staff stated that it can be considered during the regular budget process.

Commissioner Williams thanked Block by Block for their service.

9E. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS – CAMERA RFP, TRANSPORTATION SUB-COMMITTEE

Commissioners Berger, Montemayor, and Williams will be reviewing 13 camera RFPs received. Staff requested comments by January 31st.

Commissioner Coleman spoke in support of an ad hoc sub-committee with the Transportation Commission on pedestrian safety and shared a proposal drafted by Commissioner Waack and himself. A few highlights are below.

- Change the name to pedestrian safety sub-committee instead of transportation sub-committee
- Represent the human aspect and law enforcement policy
- Note the long range plans already in place to improve crosswalks
- Note a remarkable improvement along Santa Monica Boulevard
- Include the December statistics in the annual statistics (total of 36 pedestrian vs vehicle and 17 bicyclist vs vehicle)
- Emphasize the importance of education and outreach

Commissioner Williams spoke in support of changing the name to pedestrian safety sub-committee. Commissioner Williams spoke regarding pedestrians crossing at the location of the old crosswalk near Santa Monica Boulevard and Orange Grove.

Commissioner Waack spoke in support of changing the name to pedestrian safety sub-committee. Commissioner Waack spoke in support of getting additional information on the causal factors for accidents.

Larry Block, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding the history of crosswalk safety and the need for a permanent sub-committee to address the issues.

Commissioner Coleman spoke in support of moving forward with an ad hoc committee.

Commissioner Berger spoke in support of forming a sub-committee.

Commissioner Sol suggested that the liaisons go to the Transportation Commission and speak during public comment.

Commissioner Coleman said that 2 minutes are not enough and that the process has stalled.

Commissioner Montemayor asked if there are interested Commissioners on the Transportation Commission.

Commissioner Coleman said that there are interested Transportation Commissioners.

Staff reported that Community Development staff will be bringing forward the bicycle and pedestrian plan in March or April and will include a visit to the Public Safety Commission.

Commissioner Sol reminded all that the causal factor is listed on the monthly Sheriff report and asked for emphasis on education.

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Williams to approve the proposal by Commissioners Coleman and Waack and to direct staff to forward to Community Development staff and the Transportation Commission, seconded by Commissioner Waack, and approved.

10. ITEMS FROM STAFF

10A. NEWS FROM STAFF – MONTHLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Staff reminded all to fill out their binder acknowledgement forms for the City Clerk. Staff read a note from the City Clerk who was out sick regarding holding meetings in the Council Chambers which stated that the Council had deliberated on the issue in August of 2016 and decided to move forward with podcasting at this time. Staff discussed the upcoming park construction and the impact to holding meetings in the Library Community Meeting Room.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

12. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Berger thanked staff for a summary email following the meeting.

Commissioner Coleman suggested improving the data on the public safety webpage to add 12 months of data.

Commissioner Coleman asked if staff could forward the parking pass application.

Commissioner Sol spoke regarding her attendance at the World AIDS Day events and spoke regarding the importance of being aware of your status and caring for those around you.

Commissioner Waack asked when the Transportation Commission will set its agenda.

Staff stated that its posted 72 hours in advance.

Commissioner Sol thanked Bonnie for her work on the WeHo Toy and Food Drive.

Commissioner Montemayor asked for an update on the PSAs coordinated by the Communications Department.

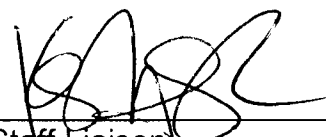
Commissioner Montemayor asked for an update on the Sheriff's civilian oversight committee.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 8:39 PM in the memory of Sergeant Tony Hackett, Master Sergeant Debra Clayton, Deputy Norman Lewis, the victims of the Fort Lauderdale Airport shooting, and the 17 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the December meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2017 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.)