

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

MONDAY, MAY 8, 2017

WEST HOLLYWOOD CITY HALL - COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM

8300 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD

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

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

Commissioners Absent: None

Others present: Lieutenant Dave Smith, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Sergeant Jon Klaus, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Battalion Chief Patrick Rohaley, Los Angeles County Fire Department; David Aguilar, Block by Block; Kristin Cook, Public Safety Director; Rob Winrader, Public Safety Administrative Analyst

4. **ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS**

Commissioner Sol requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of the 8 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the April meeting.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Williams to approve the May 8, 2017 agenda, seconded by Commissioner Sol, and approved.

POSTING OF THE AGENDA

The agenda for the May 8, 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 Sol to approve the April 26, 2017 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Waack, and approved.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kevin Burton, resident of West Hollywood, thanked the Commissioners for awarding him the Outstanding Contribution to Public Safety award in 2016.

Deborah Hong, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding an incident at Prova Pizzeria where she felt discriminated against and suggested having a code of conduct for small businesses.

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS

Commissioner Sol thanked the public speaker for her attendance and said that the City is here to assist with discrimination issues.

Commissioner Berger said that he received the certification for the online Alzheimer's training for first responders. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the painting of the crosswalk at Vista and Lexington. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding his recent ride-alongs with the Fire Department and the Sheriff's Department. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding his attendance at the Kids Fair, the Coffee with the Cops, and the Midnight Stroll. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding Senior Month and public safety elements of the City's Aging in Place Report.

Commissioner Coleman thanked staff for the staff reports and the agenda. Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding the Safe WeHo Council and its recommendation for an alcohol liaison officer.

Commissioner Norton thanked the public speakers for their attendance. Commissioner Norton spoke regarding her recent attendance at the Senior Advisory Board meeting whose members asked for stickers with the Sheriff's non-emergency number on them for the Senior Health Fair. Commissioner Norton spoke regarding a missing street sign at Poinsettia.

Commissioner Williams thanked the public speakers for their attendance and spoke regarding sensitivity. Commissioner Williams asked if meters would be placed in front of the new Trader Joe's.

Commissioner Montemayor thanked the public speaker for her attendance and spoke regarding sensitivity and the room for improvement.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9A. PHOTO ENFORCEMENT/RED LIGHT CAMERAS

Sharon Perlstein, City Engineer, and Deputy Trent Miles gave the Commissioners an overview of the City's Red Light Photo Enforcement Program and the recommendation to add enforcement of right turns on red when the vehicle speed exceeds 15 miles per hour or exceeds 10 miles per hour when the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department identifies public safety conditions.

Commissioner Sol asked for clarification on staff's recommendation for enforcing unsafe right turns on red.

Ms. Perlstein stated that right turns on red are allowed and will continue to be allowed, but that the cameras could be used to cite vehicles who turn right unsafely.

Commissioner Williams asked why Santa Monica Boulevard at Fairfax was taken off the list.

Ms. Perlstein stated that red light violations have decreased tremendously at Fairfax and Santa Monica Boulevard.

Commissioner Waack spoke in support of utilizing the videos viewed this evening to help tell the story for the need for the cameras. Commissioner Waack asked if the ability to clearly see the photographs of the motorists has been improved.

Ms. Perlstein said that the technology has improved greatly.

Commissioner Waack asked if the video could be used for other purposes.

Ms. Perlstein stated that the footage is for the sole purpose of red light enforcement, but that the District Attorney could possibly subpoena the footage under certain circumstances.

Lieutenant Smith asked if the footage could be used for a pedestrian accident traffic investigation.

Deputy Miles said that the primary purpose is for red light violations, but that it may be possible via a warrant or subpoena.

Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding Los Angeles and other cities that have gotten rid of their cameras and asked staff to explain the data and the revenue.

Ms. Perlstein said that red light violations have declined since the inception of the program. Ms. Perlstein spoke regarding the cost of the program which does not pay for itself and how to best allocate resources to locations with a high volume of violations. Ms. Perlstein spoke regarding the program at the City of Los Angeles.

Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding right turn violations and whether or not the cameras would actually deter someone. Commissioner Coleman asked if there are any additional projects in the pipeline.

Ms. Perlstein spoke regarding enhancing public safety at intersections.

Commissioner Berger asked if video clips are shared with the motorist.

Ms. Perlstein said that video clips are available via website to the motorist.

Commissioner Berger asked if the system is separate from the license plate reader cameras.

Ms. Perlstein confirmed that it is separate.

Commissioner Norton asked if the cameras record when there is no red light violation.

Ms. Perlstein said that the cameras continuously record, but that it is not available to the public.

Commissioner Norton asked how the citation is handled when the owner is not the driver of the car.

Ms. Perlstein said that the owner could indicate that he or she is not the driver, and that the owner does not have to disclose who the motorist is.

Commissioner Norton asked who sets the fines for the citations.

Ms. Perlstein said that the fine is set by the state.

Commissioner Montemayor asked if the report will be presented to the Transportation Commission and if the Sheriff's Department has a recommendation.

Ms. Perlstein said that the program will be presented to the Transportation Commission at its next meeting.

Deputy Miles said that he recommends enforcing the unsafe right turns on red.

Commissioner Montemayor asked what evidence is the most compelling to justify the cameras.

Deputy Miles said that the motorist caught driving 68 miles per hour through Fountain at La Brea is the most compelling.

Commissioner Montemayor asked if there is data available on the unsafe right turns on red from other municipalities.

Ms. Perlstein stated that Culver City and Beverly Hills both enforce unsafe right turns on red and that both cities have justified continuing their programs.

Commissioner Montemayor asked who has access to the footage.

Ms. Perlstein said that Sheriff's personnel have access to the video and that city engineering staff can access the video in live stream only.

Commissioner Norton asked if the Sheriff's Department has a recommendation on 10 vs. 15 miles per hour for unsafe right turns on red.

Deputy Miles said that Beverly Hills and Culver City set their cameras at 10 miles per hour, but that he recommends setting the cameras at 15 miles per hour.

Commissioner Williams asked for reconsideration of Fairfax and Santa Monica Boulevard.

Ms. Perlstein said that further study of Fairfax and Santa Monica Boulevard could be done.

Commissioner Waack asked if motorists are ever caught on their cell phones during the violations.

Deputy Miles said that about 5% are on their phones, but that the state dictates that the footage can only be used for red light violations.

Commissioner Coleman asked what happens if the motorist does not pay.

Deputy Miles said that a motorist's license would be suspended if the citation is not paid.

Commissioner Montemayor said that the amount of the citation is very high and that he would like to see more data.

Deputy Miles reiterated that the state, not the city, sets the citation amount.

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Williams to support staff's recommendation for the operation of the Red Light Enforcement Program, including the addition of enforcement of right turns on red when the vehicle speed exceeds 15 miles per hour or exceeds 10 miles per hour when the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department identifies public safety conditions, seconded by Commissioner Norton, and approved.

Commissioner Montemayor asked staff to update the Public Safety Commissioners with the results of the report being presented to the Transportation Commission.

9B. SANCTUARY CITIES

Hernan Molina, Government Affairs Liaison, gave the Commissioners an overview of the status of policy with regard to "Sanctuary Cities".

Commissioner Coleman asked for clarification on SB54 and civil detainers.

Mr. Molina said that the Sheriff's Department does not honor civil detainers. Mr. Molina spoke regarding the trust between the community and law enforcement and the separation between the federal and local agencies.

Commissioner Norton asked how the Sheriff's Department determines immigration status.

Mr. Molina said that the Sheriff's Department cooperates only if ICE asks the Sheriff's Department for immigration status.

Commissioner Norton spoke regarding the press coverage on Sheriff McDonnell's public statement on immigration.

9C. REPORT FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT

Battalion Chief Rohaley reviewed the Fire Department's statistics for April 2017, including fires, emergency medical calls, notable calls for service, and community involvement. Chief Rohaley spoke regarding Fire Service Day.

Commissioner Williams invited Chief Rohaley to next week's Public Safety Awards.

Commissioner Berger asked for additional information regarding the paramedics' new software program and its challenges.

Chief Rohaley said that fire personnel are working with the vendor to resolve the issues.

Kevin Burton, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding the CERT program, a proclamation presented by the City Council, Fire Service Day, and the WeHo ReCERT website.

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

Sergeant Klaus reviewed the Sheriff's Department's statistics for April 2017, including crimes, 1,838 calls for service, 35 felony arrests, and 86 misdemeanor arrests. Sergeant Klaus reviewed the pickpocket incidents.

Commissioner Montemayor asked if the pickpocket incidents occur mostly on the weekends.

Lieutenant Smith said that most occur on the weekends.

Sergeant Klaus stated that there was 1 DUI arrest and 1 DUI traffic collision in the month of April. Sergeant Klaus stated that there were 4 vehicle vs. pedestrian accidents and 2 vehicle vs. bicyclist accidents in the month of April.

Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding the Sunset and Queens accident and asked if the crosswalk was taken out.

Lieutenant Smith said that there has never been a crosswalk at Sunset and Queens.

Commissioner Berger asked what the consequences of pickpocketing are.

Sergeant Klaus and Lieutenant Smith said that the suspect is arrested, but that the charge depends on the dollar amount stolen and if the suspect is a repeat offender.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding Prop 47 and the limitations it poses. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the challenges with unsafe or intoxicated Uber drivers.

Lieutenant Smith said that he is not aware of any arrests for intoxicated Uber drivers in West Hollywood, but that the Deputies and Parking Enforcement Officers cite for traffic and parking violations.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the bandit cab program in the City of West Hollywood and asked if it is possible to discuss it in order to compare and contrast it with ridesharing issues. Commissioner Montemayor asked staff to put ride sharing on the next agenda.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding limousine driver requirements.

Commissioner Coleman said that arrests as compared to the same month last year are down substantially.

Lieutenant Smith said that Prop 47 could have contributed to a decrease in arrests.

Commissioner Coleman asked if Deputies are still trying to get arrests.

Lieutenant Smith said that Deputies are still giving it full effort.

Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding vehicle burglaries.

Commissioner Montemayor thanked the Sheriff's Department for its work on pickpocketing.

Commissioner Coleman spoke in support of the Safe WeHo Council's recommendation for an alcohol liaison officer and gave a description of possible duties.

Commissioner Montemayor asked how the alcohol liaison officer would differ from the existing Entertainment Policing Team.

Lieutenant Smith said that he and Captain Aloma are doing some research into the issue.

Staff discussed challenges with the Safe WeHo Council's recommendation for extended hours and said that current Sheriff's staffing would not be adequate for additional extended hours.

Commissioner Berger said that there is more depth to the issue of extended hours and challenges with current staffing.

Commissioner Montemayor asked staff to put extended hours on a future agenda.

Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding the Safe WeHo Council's recommendation for a public education campaign.

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

David Aguilar, Block by Block, gave an update on monthly activities in April 2017, including pedestrian assistance, crosswalk assistance, homeless issues, and disturbances.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the Domain's new patios and doors.

Staff spoke regarding a recent walk through with the Sheriff's Department at the Domain.

10. NEW BUSINESS

10A. ADJOURNMENT GUIDELINES

Staff gave a brief overview of various options for adjournment guidelines and recommended Option A, which limits adjournment requests to public safety personnel fallen in the line of duty.

Commissioner Norton spoke regarding additional possibilities not included in the staff report.

Commissioner Montemayor spoke in support of Option A.

Commissioner Berger spoke in support of A and utilizing Commissioner comments to call attention to other requests.

Commissioner Coleman spoke in support of Options A and C.

Commissioner Williams spoke in support of adjourning in memory of notable community members.

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Waack to approve Option A, seconded by Commissioner Williams, and approved.

11. ITEMS FROM STAFF

11A. NEWS FROM STAFF – MONTHLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Staff reminded all that the Public Safety Awards are on May 17th and that the National Night Out Planning meeting will be held on May 16th.

Commissioner Coleman asked staff for an update on advertising for the Public Safety Awards. Commissioner Coleman asked staff for an update on when Community Development staff will be sending the sub-committee item to Council for consideration.

Commissioner Norton asked for details regarding upcoming events.

Commissioner Sol asked if the footprint of the Pride festival has been determined.

Staff said that the footprint is drastically reduced due to park construction.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding Russian groups and the march.

Commissioner Montemayor spoke regarding work between Los Angeles and West Hollywood to determine the route of the march.

Staff said that they are flexible as long as the march does not lock in the Command Post.

Commissioner Norton spoke in support of some sort of organization for the march to include Commissioners marching together, etc.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS

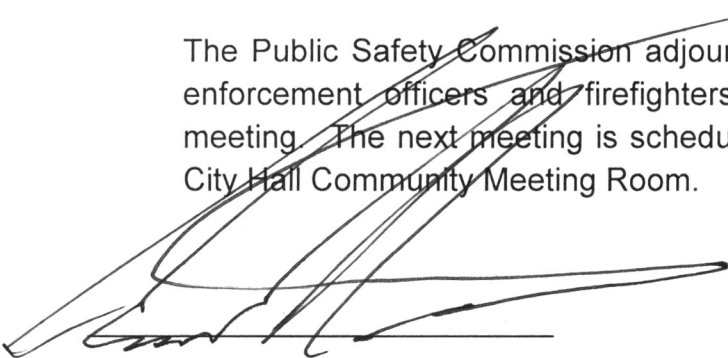
None.

13. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

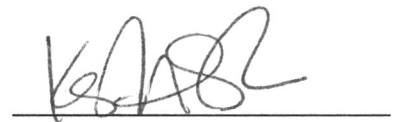
Commissioner Berger suggested adding an online component to sensitivity training. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the next Coffee with the Cops on May 31st at the McDonald's on La Brea. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding a lack of situational awareness in victims of crimes.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 9:02 PM in the memory of the 8 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the April meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for July 10, 2017 at 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.)