

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

**MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 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 Stephanie Harker
3. **ROLL CALL**

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

**Commissioners Absent:** None

**Others present:** Sergeant Jon Klaus, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Maria Grycan, Community Services Representative, Los Angeles County Fire Department; Caesar Barrios, 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 26 law enforcement officers who have passed away since the July meeting.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**ACTION:** Motion by Commissioner Sol to approve the August 14, 2017 agenda, seconded by Commissioner Norton, and approved.

**POSTING OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda for the August 14, 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 July 10, 2017 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Norton, and approved.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Dan Morin, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding speed bumps/humps on Rosewood which may need to be repainted.

Michael Wojtkielewicz, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding concerns with the West Hollywood Housing Corporation.

James Wen, Transgender Advisory Board, stated that Jay Johnson has been elected as the TAB's new Chair and spoke regarding various projects that the TAB is working on.

Stephanie Harker, resident of West Hollywood, thanked Block by Block for their hard work in the neighborhood and spoke regarding the success of the speed bumps on Vista. Ms. Harker spoke regarding concerns at Sierra Bonita.

Cathy Blaivas, resident of West Hollywood, welcomed new Commissioner Robert Oliver, thanked Block by Block for their service, spoke in support of the speed bumps on Vista, and spoke regarding concerns at Sierra Bonita.

**8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS**

Commissioner Berger spoke in support of using the WeHo app to submit service requests. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding his recent attendance at the Rent Stabilization Commission and the Human Services Commission. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding a 23% increase in the homeless population and the work that the Human Services Commission and Corri Planck do to address the various issues.

Commissioner Montemayor spoke regarding the issues at Sierra Bonita and asked staff to provide an update during the Fire Department's report.

Commissioner Norton thanked the members of the public for their attendance and asked for comments from the Fire and Sheriff's Departments regarding the opioid abuse crisis during their reports.

Commissioner Oliver asked that the Commission adjourn in the memory of Heather Heyer. Commissioner Oliver spoke regarding a successful National Night Out. Commissioner Oliver gave an update regarding a recent hostage incident in the City of Los Angeles near the City of West Hollywood.

Commissioner Sol spoke regarding a successful National Night Out and the difficulties with obtaining medical information regarding opioid patients.

Commissioner Waack spoke regarding a successful National Night Out and said that he met with a representative from Med Men and reminded all that staff will be bringing an update on the recreational marijuana issue at the next meeting. Commissioner Waack spoke regarding the crosswalk and signal installation taking place along Santa Monica Boulevard and asked what type of greenery will be planted to see if any could deter jaywalking.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding a successful National Night Out. Commissioner Williams thanked Commissioner Berger for bringing up the City's app. Commissioner Williams asked staff to place the work plan on the October meeting agenda. Commissioner Williams spoke in support of speaking kindly to each other and treating everyone with respect. She also stated that if anyone wanted to contact staff or Commission members regarding any issue they addressed to see staff at the end of the meeting for Commissioner's business card (s). She also addressed the issue that in these times or any time to angrily call anyone racist is not acceptable.

## **9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **9A. REPORT FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT**

Maria Grycan, Community Services Representative, reviewed the Fire Department's statistics for July 2017, including fires, emergency medical calls, notable calls for service, and community involvement. Ms. Grycan agreed to review a couple of months of statistics on overdoses to see which may have been opioid related.

Kristin Cook gave a brief overview on the inspection and the findings conducted at Sierra Bonita in July 2017.

Michael Wojtkielewicz, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding concerns with Sierra Bonita.

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

Sergeant Klaus reviewed the Sheriff's Department's statistics for July 2017, including crimes, 1,918 calls for service, 47 felony arrests, and 142 misdemeanor arrests. Sergeant Klaus said that he could check with his statistician for information on the opioid issue.

Sergeant Klaus stated that there were 5 DUI arrests and 2 DUI traffic collisions in the month of July. Sergeant Klaus stated that there were 2 vehicle vs. pedestrian accidents and 1 vehicle vs. bicyclist accident in the month of July (the driver was at fault in all three accidents). Sergeant Klaus reviewed the pickpocket incidents.

Sergeant Klaus said that vehicle burglaries continue to be an issue and said that suspects are in custody in Northern California who may be linked to crimes committed in West Hollywood.

Commissioner Williams asked for more information about the 5 rapes.

Sergeant Klaus stated that he will check into the status of the assaults.

Commissioner Oliver asked if there are repeat offenders in the pickpocket incidents.

Sergeant Klaus said that 2 suspects were detained for having their hands in purses, but that the victims did not want to press charges so the suspects were released.

Commissioner Montemayor spoke regarding the fluctuation in pickpocket incidents.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the robbery near Urth Caffe' and asked for an update.

Sergeant Klaus said that he would get an update on the incident.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the strong arm robbery on Gardner and Santa Monica Boulevard where Sheriff's personnel were able to quickly apprehend the suspects. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the stand-off on De Longpre Avenue and asked for more information.

Sergeant Klaus gave additional information regarding the incident on De Longpre Avenue.

Commissioner Berger asked for an update on the body camera program.

Sergeant Klaus said that the body camera program is still pending.

Commissioner Montemayor spoke regarding the death of Gemmel Moore and asked for an update on the Sheriff's Station's work with meth, online apps, and related issues.

Michael Wojtkielewicz, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding exhaust from Sheriff's vehicles and issues at vacant properties.

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

Caesar Barrios, Block by Block, gave an update on monthly activities in July 2017, including pedestrian assistance, crosswalk assistance, homeless issues, and disturbances.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding people loitering at a carport at 7171 Lexington.

Mr. Romero said that he's aware of the issues at 7171 Lexington.

Commissioner Berger asked if there is a decrease in the homeless seen in the area with the move of the recycling center.

Commissioner Williams said that she sees an increase in the homeless population in her area during the hours of 6am to 9am until after Athens empties the dumpsters.

Commissioner Waack spoke regarding Block by Block ambassadors riding side by side instead of single file and the difficulty that poses for cars.

Michael Wojtkielewicz, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding persons jumping fences and expressed concern with Block by Block security ambassadors.

Commissioner Oliver thanked Block by Block for their hard work.

Commissioner Williams thanked Block by Block for their hard work.

**9D. SUB-COMMITTEES**

Staff outlined the sub-committees and liaisons that were appointed in the past.

Commissioner Berger suggested covering sub-committees during the work plan discussion.

Commissioners appointed the following liaisons to Boards and Commissions:

Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission – Sol

Business License Commission – Berger  
Historic Preservation Commission – pending  
Human Services Commission-Berger  
Planning Commission – Oliver  
Public Facilities Commission – Waack  
Rent Stabilization Commission – Berger  
Transportation Commission – Waack  
Disabilities Advisory Board – pending  
Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board – Oliver  
Russian Advisory Board – pending  
Senior Advisory Board – Norton  
Transgender Advisory Board – Sol  
Women’s Advisory Board – Williams

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

**10A. EXTENDED HOURS – PROPOSED STATE LAW CHANGES**

Staff gave a very brief update on a proposed state law that would allow establishments to sell alcohol until 4 AM.

Commissioner Montemayor asked staff to provide any available information from the City’s legislative analyst.

Commissioner Oliver spoke regarding the timing of the bill and the local control that the City would maintain.

Enoch Miller, Institute of Public Strategies, spoke in support of businesses being open later and encouraged all to come to the upcoming cannabis forum.

Commissioner Sol spoke in support of after hours.

Michael Wojtkielewicz, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding housing people in commercial areas and expressed concerns with later alcohol sales.

## **10B. RIDE SHARING – SAFETY CONCERNS**

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding concerns with pedestrians, intoxicated drivers, and drivers not obeying traffic laws.

Commissioner Williams suggested continuing the discussion to the October meeting when interested parties have the opportunity to attend and express their comments. She also requested that when items are placed on the agenda, more information should be available for the Commission or the public. If commissioners request that an item be placed on the agenda, it should also be more specific to avoid confusion.

Commissioner Sol said that the websites for Uber and Lyft have some information on their hiring practices.

Commissioner Montemayor spoke regarding continuing the item and asked staff to provide more information on what the City's purview is.

Michael Wojtkielewicz, resident of West Hollywood, expressed concern with the lack of information on the agenda.

## **11. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

### **11A. NEWS FROM STAFF – MONTHLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Staff thanked all for a very successful National Night Out. Staff reminded all that the September meeting will be televised and held at the Council Chambers. Staff stated that the Public Safety Update will be given at the September 18<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting.

Commissioner Montemayor asked for update on the public safety PSAs.

## **12. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Robert Gamboa, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding the Safe WeHo Leadership Council and the Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board.

## **13. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

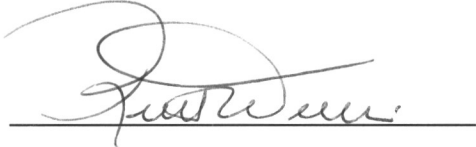
Commissioner Waack requested that staff have additional information on agenda items.

Staff encouraged the Commissioners to work with staff to outline specific topics when a Commissioner requests an item for discussion.

Commissioner Williams thanked all for coming and thanked those who have reached out to her during her son's surgery.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 8:22 PM in the memory of Heather Heyer and the 26 law enforcement officers who have passed away since the July meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for September 11, 2017 at 6:30 PM at the West Hollywood Council Chambers at 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard.



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.)***