

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION**

**MINUTES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2017**

**WEST HOLLYWOOD CITY HALL - COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM
8300 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD, WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA**

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

Commissioners Present: Berger, Laflen, Norton, Oliver, Sol, Williams

Commissioners Absent: Waack

Others present: Lieutenant Ed Ramirez, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Sergeant Jon Klaus, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Battalion Chief Mike Brown, 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 Norton requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of the victims of the tragic shooting at the First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs, Texas.

Commissioner Sol requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of the 33 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the August meeting.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Sol to approve the November 13, 2017 agenda, seconded by Commissioner Norton, and approved.

POSTING OF THE AGENDA

The agenda for the November 13, 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 October 9, 2017 minutes as amended, seconded by Commissioner Oliver, and approved.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Renee Sotile and Mary Jo Godges, City of West Hollywood, spoke regarding their domestic violence project.

Rick Watt, City of West Hollywood, spoke regarding ongoing public safety issues in his building and the proposed marijuana ordinance.

Michael Carter, City of West Hollywood, expressed concerns regarding the recent fire at Executive Car Leasing.

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS

Staff stated that Assistant Fire Chief Anthony Williams is looking into the neighbors' questions regarding the fire at Executive Car Leasing.

Commissioner Williams requested that all Commissioners submit their comments on the draft work plan to staff to discuss at the January meeting.

Commissioner Sol spoke regarding her attendance at the City's Veteran's Day ceremony and Palm Springs Pride.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the fire at Executive Car Leasing.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding her attendance at the sub-committee with the Women's Advisory Board.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9A. DISCUSSION OF COMMISSION ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Commissioners, staff, and the City Clerk, Yvonne Quarker, discussed Commissioner roles and responsibilities.

Commissioner Sol asked for advice on encouraging fellow Commissioners to complete their tasks on time.

Ms. Quarker said that reminding all of deadlines is best.

Commissioner Oliver asked for advice on when it is appropriate to identify himself as a Commissioner.

Ms. Quarker said that correspondence cannot come from an individual Commissioner and that it is best to come from Council when representing the City.

Commissioner Norton spoke regarding a Commissioner interfering with an on-scene sheriffs' investigation and spoke regarding the improper use of the title of Commissioner.

Ms. Quarker spoke regarding the code of conduct which gives guidelines to Commissioners. Ms. Quarker said that Commissioners are liaisons between the community and the Council. Ms. Quarker said that liaisons are also able to carry messages to other Boards and Commissions on behalf of the Commission.

9B. HOMELESS INITIATIVE UPDATE

Commissioners received a brief report on the status of the City's Homeless Initiative from Corri Planck. Ms. Planck spoke regarding the collaborative work with the Sheriff's Department, multiple social services providers, and the Health Department. Ms. Planck spoke regarding work on homeless issues at the broader County level. Ms. Planck said that a study session on the issues will be held with City Council in the near future.

Commissioner Williams asked Ms. Planck to discuss the issues covered at the recent City Council meeting.

Ms. Planck gave a brief overview of the recent Council item on homeless issues.

Commissioner Berger thanked Ms. Planck for her work. Commissioner Berger asked where statistics are available to the public.

Ms. Planck briefly covered statistics and said that she can also forward information to the Commission via staff.

Commissioner Oliver asked about the best way to assist homeless individuals with regard to giving out food and/or money.

Ms. Planck described better ways to encourage people to accept services than to give to someone panhandling.

Commissioner Oliver asked if the City of West Hollywood is considering a parking meter donation program similar to other cities.

Ms. Planck said that the City does have a meter donation program which is about to launch.

Commissioner Williams asked about locations for the donation meters.

Ms. Planck said that it was a collaborative effort to select the initial locations.

Commissioner Sol spoke regarding public urination and defecation and spoke in support of public toilets and supporting the dignity of homeless persons. Commissioner Sol distributed pictures of a public toilet common in San Francisco. Commissioner Sol spoke regarding public showers available on flat beds.

Commissioner Oliver expressed concern for bigger problems that may occur around a public toilet. Commissioner Oliver said that in the City of Los Angeles, the public toilets became a gathering point and a magnet for criminal activity.

Ms. Planck stated that public toilets and showers will be part of an upcoming homeless connect day and reminded all that there are showers available already through the City's social services providers.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding her time at PATH and said that the homeless lines would start very early in the morning since the individuals were only waiting for shelter beds since most providers were already spoken for by noon, and not necessarily wanting clean clothes or showers.

Commissioner Berger asked for an update on the cleaning schedules around the City.

Ms. Planck said cleaning cycles have been increased in key locations and that the City will continue to monitor.

Commissioner Berger spoke in support of using the WeHo App to report homeless issues.

Ms. Planck spoke regarding the City's concern line and the City's App.

Commissioner Berger spoke in support of educating the constituent calling law enforcement for assistance.

Ms. Planck spoke about proper follow up with constituents, educating callers, and also managing expectations.

Commissioner Berger asked if a survey could be done with individuals who accept services to ascertain what worked.

Ms. Planck said that social services agencies conduct these interviews.

Commissioner Berger asked where best to meet for the Home Walk 2017.

Ms. Planck said that the West Hollywood contingent will have a sign.

Manny Rodriguez, City of West Hollywood, spoke in opposition to doing what San Francisco does, and spoke regarding stronger enforcement and customer service.

9C. REPORT FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT

Staff relayed a message from Chief Williams regarding the Executive Car Leasing fire which is under investigation by the LASD Arson Unit.

Battalion Chief Mike Brown reviewed the Fire Department statistics for October 2017, including suppression, rescue, and fire prevention activities.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding bathroom heater and space heater fires increasing during cold weather and asked if the Fire Department or the City remind the public about turning them off.

Chief Brown spoke regarding the various winter and holiday messages that the County Fire Department releases.

Commissioner Williams asked that the City publicize the Fire Department's safety messages either including them on city mailings or the cable channel.

Staff said that they will follow up with the Fire Department's Public Information Office.

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

Sergeant Jon Klaus reviewed the Sheriff's Department's statistics for October 2017, including crimes, 2,136 calls for service, 24 felony arrests, and 125 misdemeanor arrests.

Sergeant Klaus stated that there were 2 DUI arrests and 2 DUI traffic collisions in the month of October. Sergeant Klaus stated that there were 8 vehicle vs. pedestrian accidents and 2 vehicle vs. bicyclist accidents in the month of October. Sergeant Klaus reviewed the pickpocket incidents.

Lieutenant Ed Ramirez spoke regarding vehicle burglaries and the recent arrest of two suspects for multiple burglaries.

Commissioner Sol thanked Sheriff, Fire, and staff for a successful Halloween event.

Commissioner Oliver asked about encampments in the City of West Hollywood.

Sergeant Klaus stated that there are currently no encampments in the City of West Hollywood.

Commissioner Laflen described an encampment on Sunset just outside the City's border.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding recent package and mail theft in her area and motorists running the stop sign on Lexington and Curson and concern over high pedestrian activity with seniors walking to Plummer Park as well as a recent accident at that site, she requested motor officers if available.

Commissioner Sol spoke in support of having a "crash car" at the Don't Drink and Drive event.

Staff explained the difficulties with obtaining a "crash car" but said that they will follow up.

Commissioner Oliver asked how traffic deputies are selected.

Staff explained that the Captain determines deployment in conjunction with the City. Staff outlined the City's budget process.

Commissioner Berger asked for additional information regarding an incident on Robertson where a photographer's car was hit with a rock which was posted on WeHoville.

Sergeant Klaus said that he will check with the Detective on the status of the incident.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding recent assaults and asked for clarification regarding typical outcomes for suspects.

Sergeant Klaus spoke regarding felonies vs misdemeanors and what usually happens after an arrest.

Commissioner Sol asked for a decoy car to be placed on Commissioner Williams' street and asked if there is any update on the Gemmel Moore case.

Sergeant Klaus said that the Gemmel Moore case is being handled by the Homicide Bureau.

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

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

Commissioner Laflen asked why there are more Security Ambassadors on Santa Monica Boulevard as compared to Sunset Boulevard.

Staff spoke regarding the history of the Sunset Strip Business Improvement District and its funding of Security Ambassadors.

Commissioner Laflen asked staff to forward a request to have the City consider funding Security Ambassadors on Sunset Boulevard.

Commissioner Berger asked for clarification on the Security Ambassadors' roles on residential streets.

Mr. Aguilar stated that residential requests are generally handled by the Sheriff's Department.

Commissioner Berger asked for additional information on the alleged incident regarding Security Ambassadors in WeHoville.

Mr. Aguilar stated that Block by Block is aware of the allegations and is investigating the incident.

10. ITEMS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES

The Commission received a summary from staff of what occurred at the Women's Advisory Board/ Public Safety Commission Subcommittee Meeting from Wednesday, November 08, 2017.

Commissioner Williams spoke in support of the campaign being ongoing and materials being available at events such as National Night Out, Public Safety Meetings and NW meetings.

Staff stated that the first sub-committee meeting with the Transportation Commission will be held on December 4th and will include Public Safety Commissioners Jeffrey Waack and Robert Oliver and Transportation Commissioners Misty Cooper and Kevin Burton.

11. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff discussed the 2018 calendar with the Commission and will bring the item back to the January meeting.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

13. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Sol spoke regarding Transgender Awareness Month and sensitivity training. Commissioner Sol reminded all that the Transgender Day of Remembrance will be held on Monday, November 20th at the Center for Early Education.

Commissioner Berger said that Council Member Meister will be hosting a meeting on November 30th to discuss homeless issues. Commissioner Berger reminded all that the next Coffee with the Cops will be held on November 29th.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding a successful Transgender Job Fair.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 8:25 PM in the memory of the victims of the tragic shooting at the First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs, Texas and the 33 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the August meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 11, 2017 at 5:30 PM at the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station Briefing Room located at 720 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.)