

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION**

**MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2018**

**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 Rick Watts
3. **ROLL CALL**

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

*Commissioner Berger arrived at 6:40 PM

Commissioners Absent: None

Others present: Sergeant Jon Klaus, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Battalion Chief Alvin Brewer, Los Angeles County Fire Department; 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 15 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the December meeting.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Sol to approve the January 8, 2018 agenda, seconded by Commissioner Norton, and approved.

POSTING OF THE AGENDA

The agenda for the January 8, 2018 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 December 11, 2017 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Norton, and approved.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Manny Rodriguez, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding the reporting of crimes to the neighbors and how the weekly report sometimes leaves crimes off the list.

Rick Watts, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding ongoing safety issues at his building caused by a problem tenant and thanked law enforcement for their assistance.

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS

Commissioner Sol thanked the City, Bonnie Smith, and the Sheriff's Department for the WeHo Toy and Food Drive. Commissioner Sol thanked the Sheriff's Department for their extensive foot patrols.

Commissioner Waack wished all a Happy New Year.

Commissioner Laflen spoke regarding a successful Coffee with the Cops event in December.

Commissioner Norton wished all a Happy New Year. Commissioner Norton spoke regarding homeless issues at Veteran's Park, including graffiti on the memorial. Commissioner Norton spoke regarding an upcoming event to be hosted by the National Council of Jewish Women to discuss homelessness.

Commissioner Williams thanked all for coming out in the rain for the meeting.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9A. FOUNTAIN AVENUE TRAFFIC SAFETY STUDY

Commissioners received a presentation from Walter Davis, Long Range & Mobility Planning Division, regarding the Fountain Avenue safety study including a map of existing conditions and proposed changes.

Commissioner Williams asked if eastbound travel at La Brea would have a right turn only lane due to the lane ending at La Brea and cars proceeding east are cutting off drivers in their correct lane.

Mr. Davis stated that the lane is going to be a "right – through" lane but that the east side of the intersection will be enhanced also.

Commissioner Sol expressed concern for motorists speeding and said that cars are often caught in the intersection when the light turns red.

Commissioner Waack thanked staff for taking their comments during the sub-committee meeting and asked about the timing for the improvements.

Mr. Davis said that projects are likely to occur in the spring.

Commissioner Waack asked specifically about the timing for Hayworth.

Mr. Davis said that priority locations are based on the ability for improvement and traffic collision data and that Hayworth is included in the priority list.

Commissioner Oliver spoke regarding the work of the sub-committee and the positive changes that the improvements will bring.

Commissioner Laflen asked for clarification on the definition of a "bulb out".

Mr. Davis said that a "bulb out" is an extension of the sidewalk and can reduce speeds of vehicles turning from main streets onto the side streets.

Commissioner Norton thanked staff for their hard work on the project.

Commissioner Berger thanked staff and Commissioners for their hard work on the project. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding drivers speeding at Fairfax at Norton while making the turn into the neighborhood. Commissioner Berger spoke about roundabouts on Hayworth at Norton and said that drivers are not stopping at the stop signs.

Mr. Davis spoke regarding refreshing the striping of the locations to help motorists see the limit lines. Mr. Davis said that drivers ignoring stop signs is an ongoing issue and staff is always looking for ways to improve compliance.

9B. REPORT FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT

Battalion Chief Alvin Brewer reviewed the Fire Department statistics for December 2017, including suppression, rescue, and fire prevention activities. Chief Brewer spoke regarding two significant fires in the month of December.

Commissioner Williams thanked the Fire Department for its extraordinary response to the major fires and now the mudslides.

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

Sergeant Jon Klaus reviewed the Sheriff's Department's statistics for December 2017, including crimes, 1,971 calls for service, 42 felony arrests, and 162 misdemeanor arrests. Sergeant Klaus spoke regarding the increase in vehicle burglaries from 2016 to 2017 and the recent arrest of Oakland area vehicle burglary suspects by WeHo Sheriff and Beverly Hills Police Department.

Sergeant Klaus stated that there were 4 DUI arrests and 3 DUI traffic collisions in the month of December. Sergeant Klaus stated that there was 1 vehicle vs. pedestrian accident and 1 vehicle vs. bicyclist accident in the month of December. Sergeant Klaus reviewed the pickpocket incidents.

Sergeant Klaus spoke regarding the crimes that did not make the weekly crime report and offered to look up any incident for the concerned resident.

Commissioner Sol asked if EP/LP and Au Fudge could be taken off the Pickpocket report and to add The Chapel.

Commissioner Waack asked about the narcotics distribution bins at the Sheriff's Station and asked staff to update the incorrect information on the website.

Sergeant Klaus and staff said that they would update the information.

Commissioner Waack asked if there have been any issues at the marijuana shops due to recreational use customers.

Sergeant Klaus said that there have not been any issues at the locations.

Commissioner Oliver asked if The Chapel's statistics are wrapped into The Abbey's statistics.

Sergeant Klaus stated that the locations are tracked separately.

Commissioner Oliver asked if the current marijuana locations are operating with approvals.

Staff said that the locations have temporary permits.

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

Staff shared the monthly report from December 2017, including pedestrian assistance, crosswalk assistance, homeless issues, and disturbances. Mr. Aguilar is out sick this evening.

9E. COMMISSION WORK PLAN

Commissioners discussed their work plan and selected liaisons from the Public Safety Commission to various Commissions, Boards, and special projects.

Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission – Commissioner Sol
Business License Commission – Commissioner Berger
Historic Preservation Commission – Commissioner Laflen
Human Services Commission – Commissioner Berger, Commissioner Williams alternate
Planning Commission – Commissioner Oliver
Public Facilities Commission – Commissioner Waack
Rent Stabilization Commission – Commissioner Laflen
Transportation Commission – Commissioners Oliver and Waack

Disabilities Advisory Board – Commissioner Sol
Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board – Commissioner Berger tentatively
Russian Advisory Board – Commissioner Oliver tentatively
Senior Advisory Board – Commissioner Norton
Transgender Advisory Board – Commissioner Sol
Women’s Advisory Board – Commissioners Laflen and Williams

CERT program – Commissioner Berger

Public Safety Awards – Commissioners Sol and Williams

Special Commission Events (TBA) – Commissioners Laflen and Norton

Commissioner Sol spoke in support of hosting a virtual feedback event where residents can forward public safety feedback in at their convenience.

Staff said that they would look into a virtual feedback opportunity.

9F. PUBLIC SAFETY AWARDS

Commissioner Williams suggested that the awards go back to being held during a Public Safety Commission’s regular meeting.

Commissioners decided to hold the public safety awards at its regular meeting on May 14th if the Council Chambers are available and to use April 9th as a back-up date.

10. ITEMS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES

Commissioner Laflen gave a brief a summary of the recent Women's Advisory Board / Public Safety Commission Subcommittee Meeting in December and said that the subcommittee plans to expand the "Only Yes means Yes" campaign, to increase public safety awareness, and to host an awareness activity.

Commissioner Waack asked for the timing on the next subcommittee with the Transportation Commission.

Staff spoke regarding the Fountain Traffic Study and the timing of its presentation to City Council.

11. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff introduced Jasmin Duckworth, Community Affairs Coordinator.

Staff discussed the 2018 calendar with the Commission, including the likelihood that the September meeting will not have a quorum due to the Jewish holidays.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Michael Haddad, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding an incident where he was threatened by an individual and reported it to the Sheriff's Department.

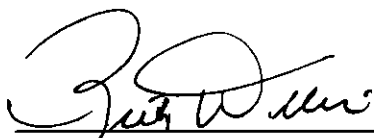
Victor Omelczenko, resident of West Hollywood, spoke in support of a stronger neighborhood watch program, the Fountain Avenue Traffic Study, speeding, and the budget.

13. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

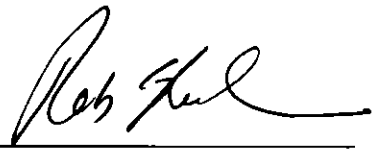
Commissioner Norton spoke regarding theft occurring related to copying checks made to charitable donations and reminded all to be vigilant to check bank accounts online or by phone on a regular basis.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 7:50 PM in the memory of the 15 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the December meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 12 at 6:30 PM at the West Hollywood City Hall - Community Meeting Room at 8300 Santa Monica 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.)