

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION**

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 9, 2018**

**ROOMS 5/6 - PLUMMER PARK
7377 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD, WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA**

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

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

Commissioners Absent: Berger

Others present: Captain Sergio Aloma, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Lieutenant Ed Ramirez, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Sergeant Jon Klaus, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Battalion Chief Brian Kane, 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 18 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the March meeting.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Norton to approve the April 9, 2018 agenda, seconded by Commissioner Oliver, and approved.

POSTING OF THE AGENDA

The agenda for the April 9, 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 March 12, 2018 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Norton, and approved.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sam Borelli, Human Services Commissioner, spoke regarding the various social services the City provides and encouraged all to be ambassadors for these programs along with the new "Let Us Help" campaign.

Geoffrey Buck, resident of West Hollywood, thanked Sheriff's personnel for their hard work and spoke regarding quality of life and homeless issues.

Cathy Blaivas, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding quality of life and homeless issues, including issues at Poinsettia Park and thanked Stephanie Harker for calling attention to eastside public safety issues.

Stephanie Harker, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding quality of life and homeless issues, including her recent walk of the eastside neighborhood, and spoke in support of extending Block by Block services to 24 hours a day on the eastside.

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS

Commissioner Sol spoke regarding the successful Transgender HIV awareness and testing day and three, new public art pieces out for display.

Commissioner Waack spoke regarding his attendance at the Transportation Commission, recent traffic improvement projects, and thanked all for their work to improve public safety on the eastside. Commissioner Waack asked for additional information regarding the motorized scooters briefly present in West Hollywood and asked for an update on the clean-up at Poinsettia Park.

Commissioner Oliver spoke regarding his attendance at the ALADS awards event and the heroic actions of the award winners. Commissioner Oliver spoke regarding the recent clean-up at Poinsettia Park in the City of Los Angeles. Commissioner Waack spoke regarding two upcoming community meetings in the City of Los Angeles and encouraged those interested to attend.

Commissioner Norton spoke regarding the various public safety issues on the eastside and thanked all for their attendance this evening.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9A. WEHO SMART CITY STRATEGIC PLAN PRESENTATION

Kate Mayerson, Innovation Analyst, and Francisco Contreras, Innovation Manager, gave a presentation regarding the Smart City Strategic Plan including the upcoming safety camera pilot.

Commissioner Williams thanked staff for including the Fairfax and Santa Monica Boulevard location for a camera project.

Commissioner Norton asked for clarification regarding the types of technologies to be used.

Mr. Contreras stated that staff is looking at all opportunities and capabilities of smart technology, but that the first priority is public safety.

Commissioner Williams asked for a timeline for the safety cameras.

Mr. Contreras stated that the pilot vendors should be under contract in June.

Commissioner Norton asked for clarification on the privacy policy, storage, and access issues.

Mr. Contreras said that the privacy policy was adopted in February, and that all the concerns and feedback from the Public Safety Commission and the community will be taken into account during the pilot to affect the final project.

Commissioner Oliver asked if the project is for commercial or residential streets.

Mr. Contreras said that the current proposal is to utilize the commercial corridor at this time.

Commissioner Williams said that some expressed concern for placing cameras on residential streets.

Mr. Contreras spoke regarding the parallel camera rebate program to be implemented to supplement the commercial corridor program as well as the information gathering from other cities that have private-public partnerships.

Commissioner Waack thanked staff for the consideration of the Fairfax location.

Mr. Contreras said that the matching of vendors to locations may depend on the quality of the proposals received.

Commissioner Waack asked for clarification regarding the timeline after the pilot is finished.

Mr. Contreras said that evaluation will be conducted during the pilot program with the goal to have a permanent system installed quickly after the pilot.

Commissioner Waack asked for the timeline of the pilot project.

Mr. Contreras said that the goal is to have pilot vendors under contract as soon as possible with the goal to be ready to go on July 1st.

Commissioner Williams asked if the City taking over the street lights is part of this project.

Mr. Contreras said that the street lights are a different project.

Commissioner Williams asked for an update at a future meeting regarding the street light program.

Commissioner Sol thanked staff for their thorough investigation into the project.

Victor Omelczenko, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding the inclusion of Fairfax and Santa Monica Boulevard into the pilot project, recommended including Crescent Heights, and suggested including the Public Safety Commission in the evaluation process.

Michael Seeley, resident of Los Angeles, spoke regarding surveillance cameras and asked if the Commission had looked at data to support its recommendation to install public safety cameras.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

10A. REPORT FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT & BUDGET UPDATE

Staff introduced Battalion Chief Kane as the new liaison to the City of West Hollywood and gave a brief overview of the Fire Department's budget.

Battalion Chief Brian Kane reviewed the Fire Department statistics for March 2018, including suppression, rescue, and fire prevention activities.

Commissioner Laflen asked if there is recurring narcotic of choice among the overdose calls for service.

Chief Kane said that he would look further into the overdose calls for service.

Commissioner Waack spoke regarding a recent New York Times article regarding the use of the medication, Narcan.

Chief Kane said that the paramedics do carry the antidote, Narcan.

Commissioner Oliver welcomed Chief Kane to the City of West Hollywood.

10B. REPORT FROM SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT & BUDGET UPDATE

Staff gave a brief overview of the proposed additions to the Sheriff's budget for July 1, including additions to the specialty teams and a supplemental patrol fund to address homelessness.

Sergeant Klaus reviewed the Sheriff's Department's statistics for March 2018, including crimes, 2,155 calls for service, 2,260 observations, 52 felony arrests, and 139 misdemeanor arrests. Sergeant Klaus reviewed the DUI arrests and accidents, the vehicle/pedestrian and vehicle/bicycle accidents, and pickpocket thefts.

Commissioner Waack congratulated the Sheriff's Station on its performance at Baker to Vegas. Commissioner Waack asked for clarification regarding the increase in DUI arrests.

Sergeant Klaus said that a Deputy newly assigned to the West Hollywood Station has contributed positively to the increase in arrests.

Commissioner Waack asked if the Station conducts stings regarding handicap placards.

Sergeant Klaus said that the Sheriff's Station's volunteers actively check vehicles parked in handicap places for proper placards, but that the station has not conducted a larger enforcement operation in some time.

Commissioner Laflen asked if there are any updates into the investigation of the death of Gemmel Moore.

Captain Aloma said that there is not an update since the last update given at a City Council meeting.

Commissioner Oliver asked if the Sheriff's Station conducts sensitivity training and asked if it is possible to conduct another one.

Captain Aloma said that 12 newly assigned Deputies to West Hollywood station just received an orientation, including sensitivity training.

Commissioner Oliver asked if there is a spike in calls for service and crimes related to the bars.

Lieutenant Ramirez said that the largest increases in calls for service are generally between 11 PM and closing on Fridays and Saturdays.

Commissioner Williams asked if there are any issues with the marijuana facilities.

Lieutenant Ramirez said that there are very few issues at the marijuana facilities.

Commissioner Sol thanked the Sheriff's Department for the recent DUI checkpoint and recommended more DUI checkpoints around spring break.

Lieutenant Ramirez said that the West Hollywood Station is in regular contact with the broader Sheriff's Department's Traffic Services Detail to appropriately schedule DUI checkpoints around key times.

Stephanie Harker, resident of West Hollywood, suggested hosting a town hall to discuss public safety in an informal setting, and asked if the City could include "If you see something, say something" and private security patrols.

Victor Omelczenko, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding being the victim of a theft of his bicycle wheel at Plummer Park during the previous week.

10C. REPORT FROM BLOCK BY BLOCK SECURITY AMBASSADORS – MONTHLY REPORT & BUDGET UPDATE

Staff gave a brief overview of the proposed increases to the Block by Block deployment for July 1st, including expansion of the Sunset team and the hours for the eastside team.

David Aguilar reviewed the monthly report from March 2018, including pedestrian assistance, crosswalk assistance, homeless issues, and disturbances.

Commissioner Williams thanked Block by Block for their hard work.

Commissioner Oliver thanked Block by Block for their hard work.

Commissioner Williams spoke in support of utilizing Block by Block at Poinsettia Park.

Commissioner Laflen requested that the City get input from businesses with regard to the best hours of deployment for the expansion on Sunset Boulevard.

Staff said that the deployment will be determined by Block by Block in conjunction with the Sheriff's Department, that personnel can visit businesses for their input, and that the deployment is flexible based on businesses' needs.

Stephanie Harker, resident of West Hollywood, thanked Block by Block for their hard work and spoke in support of increasing the staffing.

Yola Dore, resident of West Hollywood, thanked Block by Block for their hard work and spoke in support of increasing the staffing and the recent vandalism to her walker.

10D. UPDATE ON THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD'S AED PROGRAM

Staff gave an update on the City of West Hollywood's AED program.

Commissioner Waack asked if the locations of the AEDs are available.

Staff said that the locations and the promotional video are on the City's website.

Commissioner Williams suggested including the information on the City's app.

10E. UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF SB 905 AMENDING ALCOHOL SALES UNTIL 4:00 AM

Staff gave an update on the status of SB 905 amending alcohol sales until 4:00 AM.

Commissioner Oliver spoke against extending alcohol sales until 4:00 AM.

Commissioner Williams spoke against extending alcohol sales until 4:00 AM.

Commissioner Laflen asked for clarification regarding when in the morning businesses can resume selling alcohol and if it would have much of an effect

Lieutenant Ramirez said that he would need to look into the issue further.

Captain Aloma said that the Sheriff's Department's lobbyist is working in Sacramento to oppose the legislation due to concerns for staffing, impacts to trauma centers, and other cross jurisdictional issues.

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Oliver to forward the Public Safety Commission's recommendation to the City Council for City Council to oppose SB 905, seconded by Commissioner Norton, and approved.

Ayes – Commissioner Norton, Commissioner Oliver, Commissioner Waack, Commissioner Williams

Nays – none

Abstain – Commissioner Laflen, Commissioner Sol

11. ITEMS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES

Commissioner Sol said that they are still looking for speaker for the public safety awards and said that the banners are hard to read because of the coloring and location.

Commissioner Williams agreed that the banners are hard to read. Commissioner Williams said that she asked both Congressman Schiff and Sheriff McDonnell who are unable to attend.

Staff said that Chief Williams is looking for a speaker.

Commissioner Williams asked if any nominations have been received from the community and if Sheriff and Fire have turned in their names.

Staff said that no nominations have been received from the community and that Sheriff and Fire are still working on their selecting their nominees.

Commissioner Williams thanked Donny Cacy and 7-11 for donating water to the Public Safety Awards. Commissioners Williams encouraged all to come and honor the award recipients.

Commissioner Waack asked if the date for the next sub-committee meeting with the Transportation Commission has been selected.

Staff said that the tentative date is May 1st.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding Sexual Assault Awareness Month and the "Only Yes Means Yes" campaign including the outreach event with the Women's Advisory Board on April 15th.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding Denim Day on April 25th and the denim drive for The Los Angeles LGBT Youth Center.

Commissioner Williams thanked Commissioner Laflen, the Women's Advisory Board, and staff for putting together the events.

12. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff spoke regarding attendance at the Sheriff's Civilian Oversight Committee on March 15th. Staff spoke regarding the motorized scooters briefly located in the City of West Hollywood.

Commissioner Williams asked if laws regarding 5150 patients have been modified to be able to hold patients longer.

Staff said that there have been no changes in the laws at this time.

13. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Roxanne McBride, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding a recent assault on one of her neighbors and ongoing public safety issues in her neighborhood.

Victor Omelczenko, resident of West Hollywood, spoke against extending alcohol sales until 4:00 AM and spoke in support of a homeless shelter in the City.

Liz Hirsch, resident of Los Angeles, spoke regarding the causes of homelessness, the importance of acknowledging the dignity of homeless individuals, and outreach to the individuals at the homeless encampment at Poinsettia Park.

Kirsten Lynch, resident of Los Angeles, spoke regarding outreach to the individuals at the homeless encampment at Poinsettia Park and spoke in support of permanent, supportive housing.

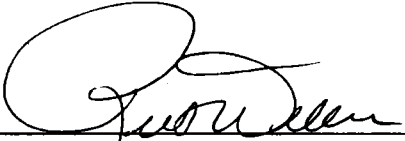
14. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Oliver asked for staff to continue scheduling Public Safety Commission meetings on the eastside when possible. Commissioner Oliver spoke regarding the challenges with homelessness and serving the homeless community.

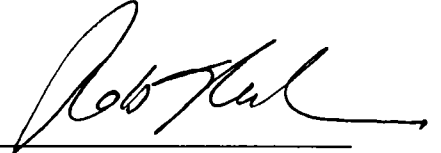
Commissioner Williams spoke regarding her work for the Foundation House and the Access Center and the difficulty reaching individuals who refuse assistance.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 8:37 PM in memory of the 18 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the March meeting. The next **special** meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 14, 2018 at 6:30 PM at the **West Hollywood Council Chambers, 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA 90069.**



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.)