

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION**

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

6:30 P.M.

**PLUMMER PARK COMMUNITY CENTER
ROOMS 5 & 6
7377 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD
WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90046**

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

Commissioners Present: Berger, Laflen, Oliver, Sol, Waack

Commissioners Absent: Norton, Williams

Others present: 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 23 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the May meeting.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

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

POSTING OF THE AGENDA

The agenda for the July 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 May 14, 2018 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Berger, and approved.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Darren Embry, resident of Los Angeles, spoke regarding the Robertson Lane project.

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS

None.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9A. REPORT FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT & BUDGET UPDATE

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

Commissioner Sol spoke regarding public safety concerns with a neighbor on Genesee and asked for clarification on a recent response.

Chief Kane explained how to request information about a call for service.

Commissioner Laflen asked for further information on the types of narcotics involved in overdoses.

Chief Kane stated that the call for service is tagged as “overdose” without the specific narcotic named, but that most of the calls for service are alcohol related.

Staff said that the six month reports to Council include a break-down of narcotics related arrests which helps to determine what narcotics are present in the West Hollywood community.

9B. REPORT FROM SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT & BUDGET UPDATE

Lieutenant Ramirez announced that the new Mental Evaluation Team Deputy and Department of Mental Health Clinician are working together in West Hollywood and already making a positive impact. Lieutenant Ramirez gave a few examples of recent mental health calls for service.

Sergeant Klaus reviewed the Sheriff's Department's statistics for May and June 2018, including crimes and calls for service. Sergeant Klaus reviewed the DUI arrests and accidents, the vehicle/pedestrian and vehicle/bicycle accidents, and pickpocket thefts. Sergeant Klaus spoke regarding the hard work of the Station's volunteers.

Commissioner Oliver asked for more information regarding increases in petty thefts, rape, and arson.

Lieutenant Ramirez spoke regarding the increase in petty theft crimes and quality of life issues related to homeless persons. Lieutenant Ramirez said that most of the sexual assaults are alcohol related.

Commissioner Berger asked if Sheriff's volunteers were working Pride weekend.

Sergeant Klaus said that Sheriff's volunteers worked all weekend for Pride.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding facility and event security.

Commissioner Berger asked if there is a direct number to reach the Mental Evaluation Team and if they will be able to positively impact homeless issues.

Lieutenant Ramirez said that it is best to call the station directly and that the team is already addressing various homeless issues.

Commissioner Waack asked if the Sheriff's Department is getting complaints about the influx of scooters.

Lieutenant Ramirez said that the Station is providing education for all Deputies regarding vehicle regulations and scooters.

Commissioner Waack asked for information regarding the homicide on July 8, 2018.

Lieutenant Ramirez gave a brief overview of the homicide in the 8700 block of Shoreham on July 8, 2018.

Commissioner Laflen asked if a determination has been made about the recent death where a person allegedly jumped off of a balcony.

Lieutenant Ramirez said that it has not been determined if it was a suicide or a homicide.

Commissioner Waack thanked the Sheriff's Department, the Fire Department, and Block by Block for their hard work during Pride weekend.

Sergeant Klaus said that each year a debrief meeting is held to identify areas of improvement for Pride weekend.

9C. REPORT FROM BLOCK BY BLOCK SECURITY AMBASSADORS – MONTHLY REPORT & BUDGET UPDATE

David Aguilar reviewed the monthly report from June 2018, including pedestrian assistance, crosswalk assistance, homeless issues, and disturbances. Mr. Aguilar spoke regarding the expansion to both the Sunset and Santa Monica Boulevard teams.

Commissioner Laflen asked if the new Sunset Trip trolley is reducing the number of intoxicated pedestrians in the street.

Mr. Aguilar said that there is no identifiable change at this time.

Commissioner Sol asked if the Block by Block expansion is a pilot program or permanent.

Staff said that the expansion is approved for the current budget cycle.

Commissioner Berger asked if the community is aware of the 24 hour service availability of Block by Block on the eastside.

Mr. Aguilar said that the community is aware.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the increased sidewalk cleaning and the recent PACWEST security guard expansion.

9D. DISCUSSION OF UPCOMING PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION MEETINGS

Commissioners discussed the upcoming Public Safety Commission Meeting schedule:

- September 10, 2018 (Rosh Hashanah) will be cancelled due to a lack of quorum.
- November 12, 2018 (Veteran's Day) will be cancelled due to the National Holiday.
- December 10, 2018 (previously Don't Drink and Drive) will be a regular meeting due to the loss of November's meeting.

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Laflen to cancel the November meeting and hold a regular meeting in December while rescheduling the Coaster Distribution to a separate evening, seconded by Commissioner Oliver, and approved.

Commissioner Sol suggested hosting the Don't Drink and Drive coaster distribution on the same day as The Abbey's Undie Run.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding canceled meetings and the need to properly post and alert people ahead of time, including better signage.

9E. SELECTION OF LIAISON TO DESIGN DISTRICT STREETScape MASTER PLAN WORKING GROUP

ACTION: Commissioner Oliver was selected as the liaison to the Design District Streetscape Master Plan Working Group by consensus of the Commission.

10. ITEMS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES

Staff reviewed the "Only Yes means Yes" outreach in the spring. Staff stated that an outreach on Sunset Boulevard is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, August 18th from 7 PM – 9 PM.

Staff spoke regarding the Joint Ad Hoc Pedestrian Safety Sub-committee meeting which reviewed crosswalks throughout the city and made recommendations for improvement.

Commissioner Oliver spoke regarding some of the simple fixes proposed to improve pedestrian safety.

Commissioner Waack asked staff to reach out to Transportation Commission's staff to schedule another sub-committee meeting before the end of the year.

Commissioner Waack volunteered to re-join the CERT sub-committee.

11. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff gave a brief update from the City Engineer about the acquisition of the street lights from Southern California Edison. Staff announced CERT training dates for the fall. Staff announced the availability of the Block by Block app in the Apple iTunes store and in Google Play. Staff reminded all that National Night Out is Tuesday, August 7th.

Commissioner Berger let everyone know that he will be staffing a table at one of the National Night Out events.

Commissioner Oliver expressed concern with installing LED lights as they may not give as much illumination as the old lights and they may cause issues for those who are epileptic due to the light patterns.

Staff said that they would pass along the concerns about the LED lights to public works staff.

12. NEW BUSINESS

12A. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Berger to select Commissioner Waack as Chair and, seconded by Commissioner Oliver, and approved.

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Lafflen to select Commissioner Oliver as Vice-Chair, seconded by Commissioner Sol, and approved.

13. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

14. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Sol reminded all about the importance of emergency preparedness and asked staff to have Communications remind the community of preparedness tips.


Commissioner Berger suggested utilizing a pop up tent for events to improve visibility due to the success of the bike light program. Commissioner Berger suggested inviting the speaker from the United Way to come speak to the Commission about their services.

Commissioner Waack congratulated Commissioner Oliver on his recent wedding. Commissioner Waack thanked outgoing Chair Williams for her outstanding work as chair.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 7:35 PM in memory of the 23 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the May meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 13, 2018 at 6:30 PM at the West Hollywood City Hall - Community Meeting Room at 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, 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.)