

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

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2019
6:30 P.M.**

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER** at 6:34 PM
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** led by Tai Sunnanon
3. **ROLL CALL**

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

Commissioners Absent: None

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 9 law enforcement officers who have passed away since the January meeting.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Sol to approve the February 11, 2019 agenda, seconded by Commissioner Norton and approved.

POSTING OF THE AGENDA

The agenda for the February 11, 2019 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 January 14, 2018 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Laflen, and approved.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tai Sunnanon, resident of West Hollywood, gave an update on Kirk Doffing's positive progress and spoke regarding his public safety work with the Independent Cities Association.

John Erickson, resident of West Hollywood, thanked the Public Safety Commissioners for their work on eastside issues and spoke regarding the upcoming eastside candidates' forum on February 20th.

Stephanie Harker, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding public safety issues at Plummer Park, including ongoing problems with single use bathrooms.

Estevan Montemayor, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding CSW 2019 and thanked all for their support.

Cathy Blaivas, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding public safety issues at Plummer Park, light attendance at the Ring Camera event, homeless impacts in her neighborhood, and potential camera give-aways.

An anonymous speaker spoke regarding public safety issues in Plummer Park and suggested solutions that do not diminish the dignity of individuals involved.

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS

Commissioner Oliver spoke regarding being the recipient of unwanted sexual advances in the past by men in positions of power. Commissioner Oliver spoke regarding the allegations against Mayor John Duran and suggested that if these allegations are proven to be true, the Mayor should step down. Commissioner Oliver asked his fellow Commissioners to stand with him in this request and called on other Commissions and Boards to follow suit. Commissioner Oliver said that the other Councilmembers should hold Mayor Duran accountable.

Commissioner Williams asked if Plummer Park has security guards.

Staff confirmed that there are security guards assigned to Plummer Park.

Commissioner Williams stated the reason for the low turnout for the Ring camera is that the property owners had to give permission to tenants for Ring cameras to be installed and were not doing so. She also mentioned a few tenants researched on-line to get them and found the Ring cameras may be cheaper on Amazon without the monthly fee. Commissioner Williams spoke regarding safety issues at the

Gardner/Lexington intersection and asked the liaison to the Transportation Commission to follow-up.

Commissioner Laflen spoke in support of Commissioner Oliver's statement regarding the allegations against Mayor Duran.

Commissioner Sol spoke regarding the deaths of Gemmel Moore and Timothy Dean. Commissioner Sol spoke regarding public safety issues at Plummer Park and described the many Sheriff and security patrols. Commissioner Sol spoke in support of utilizing bollards in highly trafficked pedestrian nightlife areas. Commissioner Sol thanked the anonymous speaker for the comments about being open minded and compassionate.

Staff spoke about an upcoming staff item from Public Works staff in support of utilizing bollards.

Commissioner Sol requested that staff express the Commission's support.

Commissioner Waack spoke regarding the recent Ring camera event and asked if any cameras are left over, that they be given out to other neighborhoods if possible.

Commissioner Williams asked if there are still security lights available for the community.

Staff said that community members could contact the Community Affairs Division to request a light.

Commissioner Oliver thanked Commissioner Laflen for her support.

Commissioner Berger thanked Commissioner Oliver for his sincerity. Commissioner Berger said that he does not have enough information to make a decision on encouraging the resignation of the Mayor at this time.

Commissioner Oliver announced that it was his last meeting and left the meeting at 7:20 pm.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding the importance of fighting against sexual abuse and thanked Commissioner Oliver for his sincerity and said if the allegations are true against Mayor Duran, he should resign and hopes Commissioner Oliver will return to the Commission.

Commissioner Laflen said that Commissioner Oliver is not trying to dampen Mayor Duran's accomplishments, but said that it is important to hold elected officials responsible for their actions and spoke in support of an investigative process.

Commissioner Waack spoke in support of an investigative process.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9A. REPORT FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT

Battalion Chief Kane reviewed the Fire Department statistics for January 2019, including suppression, rescue, and fire prevention activities. Chief Kane and staff spoke regarding the Stop the Bleed training offered today for city staff and said that the training will also be offered to the community.

Commissioner Norton asked for more information about the kits.

Staff gave additional information.

Commissioner Sol suggested offering 5 Minute CPR at an upcoming Farmer's Market.

Chief Kane agreed to host 5 minute CPR at an upcoming Farmer's Market.

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

Sergeant Jon Klaus reviewed the Sheriff's Department's statistics for January 2019, including crimes, response times, and calls for service.

Lieutenant Ramirez read the statement made by Sheriff Villanueva regarding the investigation into the death of Timothy Dean. Lieutenant Ramirez spoke regarding the Station's new requirement to deploy a detective out to all overdose cases in the City of West Hollywood.

An anonymous speaker spoke regarding Me Too LA, the allegations into John Duran, and the investigation into Ed Buck.

Cathy Blaivas, resident of West Hollywood, said that racial profiling is not a part of the safety issues she is describing.

Stephanie Harker, resident of West Hollywood, thanked the Sheriff's Department for being here and for their responses and said that racial profiling is not a part of the safety issues she is describing.

Yola Dore, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding safety issues at Plummer Park and said that racial profiling is not a part of the safety issues at the park.

Commissioner Laflen spoke regarding the park in Santa Monica across from the pier which employs an ambassador and described the restroom configuration at the park which also includes an attendant.

Commissioner Berger spoke in support of a design solution to the restroom problem.

Commissioner Waack asked for more information about Sheriff's deployment.

Lieutenant Ramirez described the daily regular patrols and the extra patrols currently assigned to the park.

Commissioner Williams asked the liaison to the Public Facilities Commission to share the concerns heard this evening.

Commissioner Norton spoke regarding a recent update to the City Council regarding the investigations into the deaths of Timothy Dean and Gemmel Moore.

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

David Aguilar reviewed the monthly reports from January 2019, including pedestrian assistance, crosswalk assistance, homeless issues, and disturbances.

Commissioner Norton asked if there is an explanation for the decrease in some categories on the charts.

Mr. Aguilar said that the weather led to the decrease in miles ridden.

10. ITEMS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES

Commissioner Sol spoke regarding the Public Safety Awards subcommittee meeting on January 30, 2019.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding potential donations to the event.

11. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff shared the request from the staff liaison to the Human Services Commission to select a Public Safety Commissioner to attend their March 12th meeting. Commissioner Berger, as liaison to the Human Services Commission, agreed to attend.

Staff gave a brief update on the electric scooter ordinance.

Staff and Commissioner Berger spoke about the “Sound the Alarm” program with the American Red Cross.

Commissioner Williams spoke in support of reminding building owners and property management companies that the law in West Hollywood requires them to provide and maintain smoke detectors and asked if staff had contacted rent stabilization to remind them.

Staff responded that had been conveyed to rent stabilization.

Staff spoke regarding upcoming events including the Public Safety Community meeting on March 11th.

Commissioner Williams asked if it would be possible to reach out to emergency preparedness vendors to be present at the community meeting on March 11th for those wishing to purchase or update emergency preparedness equipment/supplies.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sepi Shyne, resident of West Hollywood, thanked all for their hard work and spoke regarding the upcoming election.

13. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

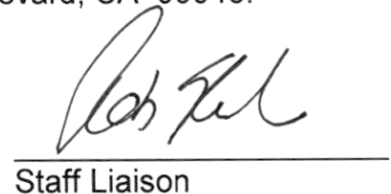
Commissioner Waack thanked Commissioner Oliver for his work on the Commission and for the City of West Hollywood.

Commissioner Williams asked if Commissioner Waack would be willing to meet with Commissioner Oliver to ask him to reconsider leaving the Commission, which he agreed to do.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 8:10 PM in memory of the 9 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the December meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 11, 2019 at 6:00 PM at Plummer Park – Rooms 5/6 at 7377 Santa Monica Boulevard, CA 90046.


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.)