

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

**MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2019
6:30 P.M.**

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER** at 6:32 PM
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** led by Yola Dore
3. **ROLL CALL**

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

Commissioners Absent: None

Others present: Lieutenant Bill Moulder, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Sergeant Jon Klaus, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Battalion Chief Mike Brown, Los Angeles County Fire Department; Shea Gibson, Block by Block Security Ambassadors; Kristin Cook, Public Safety Director

4. **ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS**

Commissioner Sol requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of the 12 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the March meeting.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Sol to approve the April 8, 2019 agenda, seconded by Commissioner Williams and approved.

POSTING OF THE AGENDA

The agenda for the April 8, 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 March 11, 2019 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Norton, and approved.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Alexis Sanchez, West Hollywood Project, spoke regarding the Safe West Hollywood Community Coalition and invited Public Safety Commissioners to attend their next meeting on Thursday, April 25th at 6 PM in Art Room 4 at Plummer Park.

Stephanie Harker, resident of West Hollywood, thanked the Sheriff's Department and Block by Block for their participation in the Kids Fair and said that the City of Beverly Hills is suing the State of California regarding cannabis delivery and asked West Hollywood's personnel to monitor the issue.

David Eichman, Chair of the Transportation Commission, spoke regarding shared issues between the Transportation Commission and the Public Safety Commission.

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS

Commissioner Norton congratulated Captain Ramirez on his promotion. Commissioner Norton spoke regarding the Pizza with Public Safety event and suggested having a more formal structure with speakers and an opportunity for the audience to ask questions. Commissioner Norton spoke regarding her attendance at the recent Senior Advisory Board meeting and the request to have a report from public safety and Block by Block at their next meeting.

Staff said that Captain Ramirez has been invited to the next Senior Advisory Board meeting.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding his attendance at the Sunset Experience Project and an event at The Los Angeles LGBT Center. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding his recent attendance at the Human Services Commission and the possibility for joint work between Human Services and Public Safety. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the Ring camera rebate program.

Commissioner Williams reminded all that renters need to get a waiver from their property owners to install cameras.

Commissioner Norton thanked Commissioner Berger for his preparation for and participation at the Human Services Commission.

Commissioner Waack congratulated Captain Ramirez on his promotion. Commissioner Waack thanked staff for passing along the issues with the speed signs on Fountain. Commissioner Waack spoke regarding the various options available for the Ring camera rebate program.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9A. REPORT FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT

Staff reviewed the Fire Department statistics for March 2019, including suppression, rescue, and fire prevention activities.

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

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

Lieutenant Bill Moulder spoke regarding larceny crimes, including vehicle burglaries and thefts. Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding an increase in patrols and reminded all not to leave items in plain view inside of vehicles.

Commissioner Berger asked the status of the incoming traffic officer.

Lieutenant Moulder said that the traffic officer is going through training.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the speed signs on Fountain. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the vehicle burglaries and asked if there has been any progress with suspects. Commissioner Berger asked if there is anything additional that Commissioners can do to assist.

Lieutenant Moulder said that the vehicle burglaries are happening in various locations and that the Station is deploying resources to address them.

Commissioner Waack said that visitors may not be aware of the risks of leaving items in plain view. Commissioner Waack asked if there is anything additional that Commissioners can do to assist.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding the importance of personal responsibility. Commissioner Williams spoke regarding the need for increased traffic enforcement on the east side and expressed concern for the Gardner/Lexington intersection. Commissioner Williams spoke regarding safety concerns and scooters. Commissioner Williams asked for additional information on the two sexual assaults in March.

Lieutenant Moulder said that one assault involved people who had met out at a club with alcohol involved, and that the second assault involved a victim who felt that something had happened but did not remember specifics. Lieutenant Moulder said that both crimes are being investigated.

Commissioner Norton spoke regarding the death at 1234 Laurel and said that the Coroner's Office has released its report. Commissioner Norton asked about the status of the investigation from the Sheriff's Department.

Lieutenant Moulder said that the Sheriff's Department will present its information to the District Attorney as part of the entire package that the District Attorney will consider.

Commissioner Laflen spoke regarding the importance of the criminal investigation continuing.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding the death at 1234 Laurel and concerns that if the resident of the unit had supplied the drugs and possibly was responsible for injecting the victim, should not he be held responsible for the death of the victim.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding a recent assault on a bus and the importance of speaking out in support of vulnerable populations. Commissioner Berger asked what the Sheriff's policy is for cases like this.

Commissioner Sol said that the case is currently in court.

Lieutenant Moulder gave a general explanation on how assault cases and restraining orders work.

Commissioner Berger expressed concern for not knowing about the event and asked if there are services available to the victim.

Lieutenant Moulder offered to connect with the Deputies from the Transit Services Bureau to follow-up and said that victims of crimes are offered services.

Kevin Burton, Transportation Commissioner, spoke regarding upcoming traffic calming measures, including the intersection at Lexington/Gardner where a traffic circle is planned and the intersection at Vista/Willoughby where the City of West Hollywood is working together with the City of Los Angeles for traffic calming measures.

Commissioner Williams asked if a pedestrian light has ever been considered for the intersection at Lexington/Gardner due to the high pedestrian walkway to Plummer Park.

Mr. Burton said that he did not recall a light being discussed but that the March report is still available on the City's website.

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

Mr. Gibson reviewed the monthly reports from March 2019, including pedestrian assistance, crosswalk assistance, homeless issues, and disturbances.

10. NEW BUSINESS

10A. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION INPUT ON INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS FOR BLOCK BY BLOCK AMBASSADORS

Staff gave a brief report on informational materials to be distributed by Block by Block Security Ambassadors and to be used at community events.

Kerri Balbone, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding the importance of educating the public on safety tips and gave suggestions on items to include. Ms. Balbone spoke in support of examining statistics month over month instead of comparing them to the previous year.

Commissioner Laflen spoke in support of reaching a younger population via social media and via bigger signs at bus stops and billboards.

Commissioner Berger asked Mr. Gibson to name the top three areas of concern for citations.

Mr. Gibson spoke regarding vehicle burglaries, loitering, and aggressive individuals.

Commissioner Berger suggested issuing “friendly warnings” to warn people in order to prevent a future violation and citation.

Commissioner Laflen said that people may get hostile with warnings since Block by Block Ambassadors do not have authoritative powers.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding past campaigns where people were not interested in being stopped on the street. Commissioner Williams spoke regarding the difficulty of having a solution that will reach people and promote personal responsibility.

Commissioner Berger said that a “friendly warning” approach is unique and might be effective.

Mr. Gibson said that a “friendly warning” approach may not be respected, but that the Security Ambassadors will continue to be a visual deterrent. Mr.

Gibson offered to look further into the suggestion though and to report back at a future meeting.

Commissioner Waack spoke regarding the difficulty of reaching people who are distracted by looking at their phones. Commissioner Waack spoke in support of bus stop advertisements and social media, which may be limited in reach if people are not following the City's twitter account or Facebook page.

Yola Dore, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding a friendlier card to hand out with the slogan "If You See It, They See It, Save It" or something similar to get people's attention.

Commissioner Laflen asked if education could be incorporated into the upcoming electronic parking pass program as a screen to click through or be added to the parking meter screens.

Commissioner Waack spoke regarding adding warnings to the visitor permits.

10B. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Waack to elect Commissioner Laflen as Vice-Chair, seconded by Commissioner Williams and approved.

11. ITEMS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES

Commissioner Laflen spoke regarding the work with the Women's Advisory Board, an upcoming event on April 19th in front of Book Soup, and education planned for Pride. Commissioner Laflen asked if people are using the safety escort program with Block by Block and suggested better advertisement for the program.

Commissioner Williams said that the sub-committee also discussed whether the group will be ongoing, and that staff will be returning with more information for the sub-committee members to consider.

Mr. Gibson said that people do use the escort program.

Commissioner Berger said that the Public Safety Commission needs to name another Commissioner to participate on the sub-committee with the Transportation Commission. Commissioner Berger expressed concern for the lack of follow-up regarding a transportation issue. Commissioner Berger said that Los Angeles City Fire Department, Battalion 5 is hosting upcoming CERT training.

12. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff said that updated Social Services Guides are now available at Public Safety Commission meetings.

13. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

14. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

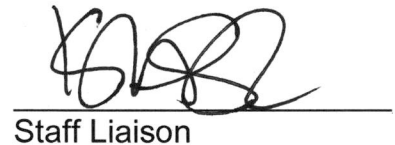
Commissioner Berger spoke regarding National Volunteer Week and asked staff to reach out to the City's volunteers and thank them. Commissioner Berger asked for the Sheriff's Department to provide statistics on narcotic related incidents to the Human Services Commission.

Staff said that statistics have been provided to the Social Services Division to share with the Human Services Commission.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 7:58 PM in memory of the 12 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the March meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2019 at 6:30 PM at the City Council Chambers at 625 N. San Vicente 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.)