

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

**MONDAY, JUNE 10, 2019
6:30 P.M.**

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

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

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

Commissioners Absent: None

Others present: Lieutenant Hector Mancinas, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Battalion Chief Brian Kane, Los Angeles County Fire Department; Kristin Cook, Public Safety Director; Shea Gibson, Block by Block; Janet Jimenez, Assistant to the City Manager

4. **ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS**

Commissioner Norton requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of the twelve victims of the Virginia Beach shooting.

Commissioner Sol requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of the 10 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the May meeting.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Norton to approve the June 10, 2019 agenda, seconded by Commissioner Williams and approved.

POSTING OF THE AGENDA

The agenda for the June 10, 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 April 8, 2019 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Norton as amended, and approved.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding his recent attendance at the Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board and the Human Services Commission. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the work on the homeless initiative and also the problem with fentanyl laced narcotics. Commissioner Berger thanked Michael Carter and his co-captain for his work on Neighborhood Watch issues.

Commissioner Norton thanked all first responders for their service during Pride weekend. Commissioner Norton spoke regarding her recent attendance at the Senior Advisory Board.

Commissioner Williams thanked all first responders and public safety staff for their service during Pride weekend. Commissioner Williams asked to be notified of Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Oversight Commission meetings.

Commissioner Laflen spoke regarding outreach with the Women's Advisory Board during Pride weekend and thanked all first responders and public safety staff for their service during Pride weekend.

Commissioner Sol thanked all at City Hall for their work during Pride weekend. Commissioner Sol spoke regarding the grievance against staff and asked for her resignation.

Commissioner Waack thanked all first responders and public safety staff for their service during Pride weekend. Commissioner Waack asked for an update on the City's camera program, including whether facial recognition will be utilized. Commissioner Waack spoke regarding the state's consideration of extended hours for alcohol service and asked for an update. Commissioner Waack thanked staff for her service.

Commissioner Williams thanked staff for her service.

Commissioner Berger asked if the Public Safety Commission could be involved in the camera review process.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9A. REPORT FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT

Battalion Chief Kane reviewed the Fire Department statistics for May 2019, including suppression, rescue, and fire prevention activities. Chief Kane gave an overview of the 2019 Pride event.

Chief Kane spoke regarding preparations and deployment for the Pride weekend. Chief Kane shared statistics for the weekend, including the calls for service, including 36 calls on Friday, 67 calls on Saturday, and 114 calls on Sunday.

Commissioner Norton asked for clarification on the difference between ALS and BLS ambulance units.

Chief Kane said that the BLS ambulance is staffed with emergency medical technicians, and that at times when a higher level of care is needed, a paramedic accompanies the patient to the hospital.

Commissioner Waack asked for additional information about the Pride medical tent, including if the City pays or if area hospitals pay.

Staff spoke regarding the history and benefits of the medical tent and confirmed that the City pays for the medical tent.

Commissioner Norton asked if there is a common drug that is seen among the attendees.

Chief Kane said that it is difficult to tell for certain what type of drug is being used at first and said that that most calls for service are alcohol related.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding a recent fire on Sweetzer, and asked if the fire was preventable or if there is any additional information.

Chief Kane said that the fire on Sweetzer is currently under investigation by arson personnel.

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

Lieutenant Mancinas thanked staff and public safety partners for their work during Pride weekend. Lieutenant Mancinas said that there were 0 arrests on Friday, 3 arrests on Saturday, and 4 arrests on Sunday.

Lieutenant Hector Mancinas reviewed the Sheriff's Department's statistics for May 2019, including crimes, response times, and calls for service.

Commissioner Williams asked for more information regarding a possible arrest of a person with a gun near Fairfax.

Staff said that they had heard that LAPD stopped an individual carrying a plastic or toy gun.

Commissioner Williams asked for an update on massage parlor enforcement at a future meeting.

Commissioner Berger asked for an update on massage parlor enforcement at a future meeting.

Commissioner Laflen asked for more information about the new food cart policy.

Commissioner Waack asked how many citations were given.

Staff estimated that there were six to twelve citations per night.

Commissioner Sol asked for proactive deployment from the Sheriff's Department to address and prevent DUIs.

Commissioner Williams asked if there are any statistics on citations for scooter riders.

Commissioner Waack asked for an update on scooters policies and enforcement at a future meeting.

Commissioner Laflen spoke regarding some confusion regarding scooter enforcement and rules and said that the City app is a great way to report and have scooters removed.

Commissioner Berger asked for an update regarding Sheriff Villanueva's policies on working with ICE and also regarding a recent controversial reinstatement of personnel.

Commissioner Waack complimented Flaming Saddles for addressing pickpocket thefts.

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

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

Commissioner Laflen asked what the primary issue is that the Security Ambassadors have to address.

Mr. Gibson said that issues related to homelessness are the main issue for the Security Ambassadors.

Commissioner Williams asked if anyone had information on cyclists wearing yellow t-shirts that say "Hollywood Media" riding along eastside streets.

Commissioner Berger asked for additional clarification on homeless contacts and spoke regarding the recent homeless count as well as an encampment on Sunset Boulevard near Martel in Los Angeles.

Mr. Gibson said that there is more activity on Santa Monica Boulevard than Sunset Boulevard.

Commissioner Sol spoke regarding the City's homeless initiative and asked if the City's social service providers are connected with the Block by Block Security Ambassadors.

Commissioner Laflen spoke regarding a smaller team deployed on Sunset as compared to Santa Monica Boulevard which may impact the statistics. Commissioner Laflen asked what the second biggest challenge is for Security Ambassadors.

Mr. Gibson said that the most common issue after addressing impacts from homelessness is burglary and other crimes in the neighborhoods.

Commissioner Laflen asked if Block by Block Security Ambassadors reach out to residents and visitors to discuss crime prevention tips.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding 4 vehicle burglaries on May 22nd and asked if the Sheriff's Department coordinate with the Block by Block Security Ambassadors when incidents occur.

Mr. Gibson said that the Security Ambassadors stay in touch with the Sheriff's Department on crimes in the area.

Lt. Mancinas said that Sheriff's Deputies saturate the area when a crime occurs.

10. ITEMS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the importance of pet preparedness. Commissioner Berger spoke the important work of Fairfax County, Virginia emergency management personnel and shared a resolution from Fairfax County.

11. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff spoke regarding the American Red Cross initiative to install smoke detectors and said that the City's Communications staff is working with the American Red Cross to share the information city wide. Staff thanked Commissioner Berger for bringing the initiative forward.

Commissioner Williams asked if property owners and managers could be held accountable for not properly installing and maintaining smoke detectors and suggested that the City intervene.

Commissioner Waack asked staff to follow-up on the smoke detector issue.

Staff said they would follow up with housing, code compliance, and building and safety.

Commissioner Berger asked for the issue to be put on a future agenda.

Commissioner Laflen said that she would be attending the next Rent Stabilization Commission meeting and would follow-up. Commissioner Laflen spoke about an inspection program in the City of Los Angeles.

Commissioner Norton asked about the difference between hard wired and battery smoke detector units.

Chief Kane said that the hard wired units are more difficult to install as compared to the battery units.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Yola Dore, resident of West Hollywood, thanked the Block by Block Security Ambassadors for their assistance during Pride weekend. Ms. Dore thanked public safety personnel and staff for their service during Pride weekend.

Kerri Balbone, resident of West Hollywood, thanked public safety personnel for their service to during Pride weekend. Ms. Balbone expressed concern for suitcases chained to bike racks and for an unsanitary water fountain by Kings and Santa Monica Boulevard.

13. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Berger asked if the WeHo App would report to the Sheriff's Station regarding suitcases chained to bike racks.

Staff confirmed that it would be relayed to the Sheriff's Station.

Commissioner Williams asked how many people were in attendance during Pride weekend.

Chief Kane said that 22,000 were approved to be inside the Festival and that there were at least double or triple that amount outside of the Festival.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding six different species of mosquitos and the risk of Zika Virus. Commissioner Berger recommended removing any still water from the bottom of plants and fountains and contacting Vector control with concerns. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the County's Civilian Oversight Commission and said that he did not receive a reply when he contacted the County. Commissioner Berger asked if staff could find out if there is another way to provide input to the Oversight Commission other than public comment.

Commissioner Williams asked for staff to follow-up on receiving reports from the Civilian Oversight Commission meetings.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 7:43 PM in memory of the 12 victims from the Virginia Beach shooting and the 10 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the May meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for July 8, 2019 at 6:30 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.)