

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

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2019  
5:30 P.M.**

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER** at 5:30 PM
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** led by Sergeant Jon Klaus
3. **ROLL CALL**

**Commissioners Present:** Balbone, 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 Brian Kane, Los Angeles County Fire Department; Megan Currier, Community Services Liaison, Los Angeles County Fire Department; Shea Gibson, Block by Block; Kristin Cook, Public Safety Director; Janet Jimenez, Assistant to the City Manager

4. **ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS**

Commissioner Norton requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of the 34 people who passed away in the recent boat fire off of the California coast.

Commissioner Sol requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of the 9 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the August meeting.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**ACTION:** Motion by Commissioner Sol to approve the September 9, 2019 agenda, seconded by Commissioner Norton and approved.

**POSTING OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda for the September 9, 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 August 12, 2019 minutes as amended by Commissioner Waack, seconded by Commissioner Williams, and approved.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

West Seegmiller, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding the difficulties of broken window policing and said that enforcement of petty offenses does not deter crime.

Alexis Sanchez, resident of Los Angeles, thanked all for attending the successful community education events and encouraged everyone to attend the next West Hollywood Community Coalition meeting to be held on Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM at Plummer Park.

Stephanie Harker, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding public safety issues around Plummer Park and the surrounding neighborhood and thanked all for the increased public safety presence.

**8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS**

Commissioner Sol spoke regarding the murder of an African American transgender woman, the importance of knowing your HIV status, recent vaping deaths, National Mental Health Awareness Month and walk on October 5<sup>th</sup>, and personnel issues at City Hall.

Commissioner Waack spoke regarding his recent attendance at the Public Facilities Commission and the progress to address the single use restrooms in the park.

Commissioner Balbone spoke regarding her recent attendance at the Kings Road Neighborhood Watch meeting and the various issues discussed.

Commissioner Williams thanked the Sheriff's personnel and Block by Block for their hard work.

Commissioner Laflen spoke regarding the difference between the purview between public safety and code compliance.

**9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**9A. REPORT FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT**

Battalion Chief Kane reviewed the Fire Department statistics for August 2019, including suppression, rescue, and fire prevention activities. Chief Kane spoke regarding a successful CicLAvia event.

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

Lieutenant Moulder reviewed the Sheriff's Department's statistics for August 2019, including crimes, response times, and calls for service. Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding various arrests made in recent crimes including a robbery and a vehicle burglary. Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding the various deployment and extra patrols and said that services are always offered to people experiencing homelessness.

Sergeant Klaus spoke regarding a successful CicLAvia event and spoke regarding planning for Halloween.

Commissioner Williams asked for additional information regarding the one sexual assault.

Sergeant Klaus offered to follow-up on the assault with the assigned Detective.

Commissioner Norton asked for additional information regarding the two arsons.

Lieutenant Moulder offered to follow-up on the arsons.

Commissioner Berger thanked the Sheriff's Department for their quick response to the speeding issues near Plummer Park. Commissioner Berger asked if there is an increase in aggressive incidents.

Lieutenant Moulder said that some suspects are traveling from Northern California to commit burglaries and sometimes robberies in West Hollywood. Lieutenant Moulder said that there have been a couple of aggressive incidents lately.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding a suspect who attempted to steal a phone from a victim who ran away.

Lieutenant Moulder said that it can be safer to comply and turn the property over.

Commissioner Balbone asked if other areas are also experiencing an increase in robberies.

Lieutenant Moulder said that the West Hollywood Station coordinates with neighboring agencies and that there has been a slight uptick.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding motorists ignoring the stop signs in her neighborhood.

Commissioner Laflen asked about public safety education regarding robberies and crimes of opportunity.

Lieutenant Moulder said that the Station can distribute public safety tips via their social media accounts.

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

Mr. Gibson reviewed the monthly report from August 2019, including pedestrian assistance, crosswalk assistance, homeless issues, and disturbances. Mr. Gibson spoke regarding public education, increased patrols, and a possibility for more security for the park bathrooms.

Commissioner Laflen asked if there are Block by Block teams on Melrose.

Mr. Gibson confirmed that there are teams on Melrose.

Commissioner Norton asked for additional information on the difference between homeless contacts on Sunset Boulevard versus Santa Monica Boulevard and asked for clarification on what constitutes a contact.

Mr. Gibson spoke regarding his team's work with the homeless population and how they coordinate with social service agencies and the Sheriff's MET team.

Commissioner Williams asked for patrol checks at the 7-11 at Santa Monica Boulevard and Curson.

**9D. PLUMMER PARK SAFETY ISSUES**

Kevin Burton, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding pervasive public safety issues, an individual in the Senior Center whose phone was stolen, cleaning issues at restrooms in Plummer Park, and comments from Trader Joe's staff who said that they are closing an hour earlier due to crime.

Stephanie Harker, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding the LAPD kiosk at the Grove.

Kathy Bray, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding an individual who has repeatedly threatened her and has attempted to break into her home.

Commissioner Laflen asked Sheriff and staff to follow-up with Ms. Bray.

Lieutenant Moulder said that he will follow-up with Ms. Bray. Lieutenant Moulder encouraged all to call the station at any time if they encounter the individual.

Commissioner Berger asked that Lieutenant Moulder follow-up regarding the customer service issues with the dispatch personnel.

Lieutenant Moulder said that he would follow-up regarding the customer service issues.

Commissioner Norton asked if Sheriff's personnel do anything to notify the victims regarding the release of a suspect.

Lieutenant Moulder stated that it depends on the crime.

Commissioner Balbone asked for clarification regarding how the station monitors quality and tracks complaints.

Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding the Station's complaint process and reminded all to ask for the Watch Commander if ever having an issue with the desk personnel.

Staff thanked Mr. Gibson for his assistance with a proposal for additional security for park restrooms, spoke regarding the upcoming six month report, to City Council, and a visit to the LAPD kiosk at the Grove with then Captain Aloma.

**10. ITEMS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES**

None.

**11. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

Staff reminded all that the City Clerk's Office is hosting the annual Commission and Advisory Board Congress on September 11<sup>th</sup> and said that a "Mock Election" will be held on September 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.

**12. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**13. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

None.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 6:30 PM in memory of the 34 people who passed away in the recent boat fire off of the California coast and the 9 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the August meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for October 14, 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.)***