

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

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 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 Waack
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 Steve Bowie, 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 Sol requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of the 17 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the September meeting.

Commissioner Balbone requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of those that lost their lives in the Saddleridge and Sandalwood fires.

Commissioner Norton requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of Captain Albert Torres, the park ranger who also lost his life.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Sol to approve the October 14, 2019 agenda, seconded by Commissioner Williams and approved.

POSTING OF THE AGENDA

The agenda for the October 14, 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 September 9, 2019 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Norton, and approved.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Stephanie Harker, resident of West Hollywood, thanked all for the safety improvements made in Plummer Park, including hardscape improvements and crosswalk repainting.

Kimberly Copeland, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding a suspect who was stalking women and committing thefts and thanked Lieutenant Moulder and Sgt. Klaus for their attention to the problem.

West Seegmiller, Los Angeles Sex Workers Outreach Project, asked for the Commission's support of an item proposing a taskforce at the November 18th City Council meeting.

Yola Dore, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding the upcoming Disabilities Resources Fair on Thursday, October 17th and the Disabilities Advisory Board's televised meeting on October 23rd.

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS

Commissioner Waack spoke regarding his attendance at last week's Public Facilities tour. Commissioner Waack spoke regarding the Great Shake Out on October 17th.

Commissioner Williams asked if the City could help publicize the hazards of space heaters now that the weather is getting colder.

Commissioner Sol thanked West Seegmiller for his comments. Commissioner Sol spoke regarding the Great Shake Out on October 17th. Commissioner Sol stated that Los Angeles County has cut the funding for its mobile testing units but said that the AIDS Healthcare Foundation will still fund its own mobile unit. Commissioner Sol said that October is anti-bullying prevention month and read a quote on honesty and deceit.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9A. UPDATE FROM THE INNOVATIONS DIVISION ON THE CAMERA PILOT PROJECT

Francisco Contreras, Acting Economic Development Director, presented an update on the camera pilot project including the end of the current pilot, the possible expansion of the ALPR camera system, and the possible integration of cameras into the smart city street poles.

Commissioner Williams asked for clarification on the status of fiber installation in the City. Commissioner Williams spoke regarding the Ring Camera rebate and the difficulty with property owners giving permission to renters to install cameras. Commissioner Williams spoke regarding the need for cameras in residential areas due to crimes committed on side streets. She also suggested they check with the Sheriff's Department for data on the crimes committed in residential areas.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the difference between hard wired and cellular based cameras, and he asked if 5G would assist.

Mr. Contreras said that fiber is better than cellular for picture quality.

Commissioner Waack spoke regarding privacy concerns with cameras in residential areas. Commissioner Waack asked for additional information regarding public records requests.

Mr. Contreras spoke regarding staffing and public records requests.

Commissioner Waack spoke regarding having camera views of the sidewalks and asked about the timeframe for integrating cameras into the smart pole project.

Mr. Contreras said that the engineering division is managing the smart pole project and that the goal is to have about 10 to 15 smart pole cameras locations.

Commissioner Waack asked if the Public Safety Commission would be involved regarding smart pole cameras placement.

Mr. Contreras said that staff would return to the Public Safety Commission for input on locations.

Commissioner Balbone spoke regarding the importance of oversight with any camera project and suggested evaluating the volume of use and requests. Commissioner Balbone spoke in support of placing cameras on the most vulnerable blocks.

Commissioner Williams asked if the proposed park cameras are separate from this project.

Mr. Contreras said that the proposed park cameras are separate from this project.

Commissioner Williams spoke in support of access by the Sheriff's Department only.

Commissioner Sol spoke regarding the City of Palm Springs' camera program and asked if the City contacted them. Commissioner Sol spoke in support of cameras for the City's major special events.

Staff confirmed that cameras are used during the City's major special events.

Mr. Contreras spoke regarding the various cities and their camera programs that staff surveyed.

Commissioner Norton expressed concern for the length of time that the project has taken and said that it feels like the lessons learned from the pilot project were obvious at the beginning.

Commissioner Laflen asked for clarification on the various steps that the City has to take to implement projects.

Mr. Contreras explained the purpose of the pilot, the efficiencies gained by looking at the technology in concert with other smart city projects, and the lessons learned from the pilot.

Staff, Lieutenant Moulder, and Sergeant Klaus spoke regarding the benefit of the ALPR cameras and their help in solving crimes.

Commissioner Laflen asked that any proposed locations of the cameras be brought back to the Public Safety Commission.

Commissioner Waack asked for additional information on the extension of the fiber network on Sunset Boulevard.

Mr. Contreras spoke regarding the installation of fiber on Sunset Boulevard.

Commissioner Berger asked if the cameras are request driven.

Mr. Contreras spoke regarding accessing the footage from cameras instead of watching them live. Mr. Contreras said that there is technology available that can detect certain actions.

Commissioner Williams asked if all of the Commissioners' comments could be forwarded to the City Council.

Mr. Contreras confirmed that he would share the Commission's comments.

Commissioner Balbone asked that staff report back to the Public Safety Commission on installation and the progress of the project.

Kevin Burton, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding technology that is available that does counts of "movements", including pedestrians and vehicles.

9B. REPORT FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT

Battalion Chief Bowie reviewed the Fire Department statistics for September 2019, including suppression, rescue, and fire prevention activities. Chief Bowie spoke regarding recent senior safety presentations and Halloween preparations. Chief Bowie spoke regarding the resources that responded to the Saddleridge Fire. Chief Bowie said that he would get information about space heater safety and said that the most important thing to have is a working smoke detector.

Commissioner Berger asked if Chief Bowie concurred with the Fire Chief back in August 2018 who estimated that roughly 50% of apartment smoke detectors are not working in the City.

Chief Bowie said that it is difficult to estimate the number of smoke detectors that do not work and that a lot of people take the batteries out of their smoke detectors.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the communication during the Saddleridge Fire.

Staff said that people can text the word "ready" to 888-777 for updates.

Commissioner Berger asked for additional information regarding a possible arson discussed at last month's meeting.

Chief Bowie spoke regarding a suspicious fire at The First Baptist Church of Beverly Hills.

Commissioner Laflen directed staff to follow-up with code compliance about the importance of smoke detector inspections.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding the importance of checking smoke detectors. She urged the City to see if Rent Stabilization or the City can

remind all property owners they need to maintain the smoke detectors for tenants.

Commissioner Norton reminded all that she had asked for additional information on two arsons from the August report.

Commissioner Balbone said that the overdoses decreased dramatically from August to September, and asked if it is a trend that will continue or if it is seasonal phenomenon.

Chief Bowie said that at times a bad batch of a narcotic can cause lots of calls for service, and that the time of the year affects the calls for service as well.

9C. REPORT FROM SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT & REVIEW OF ANNUAL STAFFING

• UPDATE FROM SHERIFF'S PERSONNEL REGARDING THE ARREST OF ED BUCK

Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding the two arsons in the month of August which included a suspect who was arrested for lighting an abandoned refrigerator on fire and a second fire which was set in a vehicle. Lieutenant Moulder said that robbery prevention information has been shared by the Sheriff's Station.

Commissioner Berger asked if the robbery prevention information was included on social media.

Lieutenant Moulder confirmed that tips are shared via social media. Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding complaints received regarding desk personnel.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding residents who were complaining about one person at the desk whose name he would share separately with Lieutenant Moulder. Commissioner Berger asked for additional information regarding the training that the Department provides.

Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding the training that Station personnel receive.

Lieutenant Moulder reviewed the Sheriff's Department's statistics for September 2019, including crimes, response times, and calls for service. Lieutenant Moulder said that there is a significant downturn in Part 1 crimes.

Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding the progress made at the parks, including Plummer Park and thanked the City for the funding to provide for

additional patrols. Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding homeless outreach and nuisance enforcement, speeding enforcement, and various neighborhood patrols.

Commissioner Laflen asked Lieutenant Moulder to give an update on the recent arrest of Ed Buck.

Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding the recent arrest of Ed Buck by Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's Homicide Detectives, and he said that federal prosecutors added five different counts to the charges.

Commissioner Laflen asked if there is any truth to the speculation that there is a leak in the Sheriff's Department.

Lieutenant Moulder said that he does not know if there is an investigation into the allegation of a leak within the Sheriff's Department.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the length of time that it took to make the arrest. Commissioner Berger asked what the Sheriff's Station is doing to prevent these issues in the future.

Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding tips including, knowing your surroundings and being careful of situations, and the importance of reporting anything that is suspicious.

Commissioner Laflen spoke regarding the purview of the Public Safety Commission.

Commissioner Waack asked for additional information regarding someone possibly struck intentionally by a vehicle and a second incident involving a rideshare driver arrested for sexual assault.

Lieutenant Moulder said that there is an investigation into the hit and run incident. Lieutenant Moulder said that he would research the assault incident.

Commissioner Williams asked for more information regarding a rideshare incident reported today by the news involving passengers picked up in West Hollywood.

Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding the incident reported today by the news where a rideshare driver picked up two passengers in the City of West Hollywood who began fighting inside the vehicle. The driver pulled over, and one individual jumped out of the car and was sadly killed by a passing vehicle.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the importance of training regarding use of force and changes in the law.

Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding the language update in a recent bill that changes the word, "unreasonable", to "necessary".

Commissioner Laflen asked for an update regarding the suspect mentioned in the previous meeting who was lurking in the neighborhood and committing crimes.

Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding the arrest of the suspect who was loitering in the neighborhood and committing crimes. Lieutenant Moulder said that multiple charges were filed thanks to the involvement of the community.

West Seegmiller, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding the length of time that it took to arrest Ed Buck.

Kevin Burton, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding the classification of pedestrian and bicycle statistics, the differences between Sheriff and Fire Department statistics, and the need for more clarification.

Commissioner Balbone spoke regarding the importance of using data to analyze the connections between potentially related crimes, for example reviewing overdose volumes, in order to prevent future incidents of crimes targeting vulnerable people.

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

Mr. Gibson reviewed the monthly report from September 2019, including pedestrian assistance, crosswalk assistance, homeless issues, and disturbances. Mr. Gibson spoke regarding the new security for the park bathrooms at both Plummer Park and West Hollywood Park that will begin this week. Mr. Gibson said that the shifts at West Hollywood Park will begin at 5:30 AM and end at 10:00 PM and at Plummer Park will begin at 8:00 AM and end at 10:30 PM.

Commissioners thanked Mr. Gibson for the new security ambassadors and for his attention to park safety.

9E. CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD CENSUS 2020 COMPLETE COUNT COMMITTEE – UPDATE FROM LIAISON

Commissioner Williams gave an update on the first meeting of the Complete Count Committee (CCC), including goals and objectives of the CCC.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding the importance of counting every resident which affects the distribution of federal funding. Commissioner Williams spoke about the importance of reaching out to neighbors and partnering with upcoming events to ensure that all are informed and counted. She also encouraged her fellow Commissioners to contact her with any suggestions they might have in regard to outreach and incentives for residents to be counted. She also said this Census will allow residents to complete the questionnaire on-line, by phone, or mail.

Commissioner Norton asked how one would know if the information will be held confidentially.

Commissioner Williams said that all information will be held in confidence by the Census Bureau.

9F. PLUMMER PARK SAFETY ISSUES

Staff thanked the community, the Sheriff's Department, and Block by Block for their attention to Plummer Park and asked them to continue their efforts.

10. NEW BUSINESS

10A. ROBOTIC DELIVERY DEVICES

Commissioners received a presentation from the Bob Cheung, Planning and Development Services Department, and Vignesh Ganapathy, Government Relations – Postmates, on robotic delivery devices.

Commissioner Laflen expressed concern with the proposed system, including the need for a person to accompany the "Serve" robot and the already congested sidewalks in the City. Commissioner Laflen spoke regarding the uniqueness of West Hollywood.

Mr. Ganapathy spoke regarding the desire to reduce congestion and to set up a pilot program that is the least disruptive as possible.

Commissioner Berger asked for clarification regarding the vision of the project and said he was curious to see more information.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding the various safety issues and also questioned the need for a handler. She also expressed concern as to how orders would be delivered to residents living in secure buildings as well as those with stairs. She also mentioned the length of time it would take to receive an order via robot in comparison to a vehicle as well as a handler accompanying a robot from a restaurant to its destination would take even longer.

Mr. Ganapathy spoke regarding the importance of the availability of a person when the technology is new.

Commissioner Sol asked if Postmates is seeking a monetary investment from the City in order to start the project.

Mr. Ganapathy said that they are not looking for a monetary investment from the City.

Commissioner Norton asked how the Public Safety Commission could assist with providing information to the proposed project.

Mr. Cheung said that the comments received tonight will be helpful in designing a pilot project.

Commissioner Balbone asked for more information regarding the length of time of the proposal, and she suggested that the proposal narrow its focus so it can be better presented. Commissioner Balbone spoke regarding the many hills in West Hollywood, and she also asked what the liability to the City is with regard to an accident involving the robot.

Commissioner Waack asked for the dimensions of the robot and spoke regarding the width of the sidewalks and the ability to accommodate the size of the robot. Commissioner Waack spoke regarding the handler and asked if the handler would continue past the pilot project.

Commissioner Berger spoke in support of the project with monitoring.

Kevin Burton, resident of West Hollywood, spoke in support of the proposed project.

Stephanie Harker, resident of West Hollywood, spoke against the proposed project.

10B. WORK PLAN FOR 2019-2020 AND COMMISSION SUB-COMMITTEES

Commissioners discussed the draft 2019-2020 work plan and liaisons.

Commissioner Laflen gave a suggested slate of liaisons for her fellow Commissioners to consider.

Commissioners discussed the various liaison positions and approved the following:

Commission	Assigned to:
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Arts & Cultural Affairs Commission	Sol
Business License Commission	Laflen
Historic Preservation Commission	Williams
Human Services Commission	Berger / Balbone
Planning Commission	Laflen
Public Facilities Commission	Waack
Rent Stabilization Commission	Laflen
Transportation Commission	Waack / Williams
Advisory Board	Assigned to:
Disabilities Advisory Board	Berger
Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board	Balbone
Russian Advisory Board	Berger
Senior Advisory Board	Norton
Transgender Advisory Board	Sol / Williams
Women's Advisory Board	Balbone

11. ITEMS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES

None.

12. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff reminded all that the November meeting is canceled due to the Veteran's Day Holiday. Staff spoke regarding an upcoming domestic violence event hosted by the Women's Advisory Board on October 28th.

12A. DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE

Commissioners selected December 9th as the date for the annual Don't Drink and Drive outreach and changed the start time of the Public Safety Commission meeting to 5:30 PM that evening.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the difference between driving while intoxicated from alcohol and driving under the influence and suggested updating the language of the coasters.

13. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

14. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Waack asked for an update on the various crosswalk improvements made across the City.

Commissioner Balbone suggested involving the Sheriff and Fire dispatchers more in public safety activities, including the Public Safety Awards.

Commissioner Norton spoke regarding the upcoming Disabilities Resources Fair on October 17th.

Commissioner Williams suggested reverting back to time limits for items on the agenda.

Commissioner Laflen suggested limiting presentations to 5 minutes and public speakers to 2 minutes when there is a heavy agenda.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 9:55 PM in memory of the 17 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the September meeting, Captain Albert Torres, and those that lost their lives in the Saddleridge and Sandalwood fires. The next meeting is scheduled for December 9, 2019 at 5:30 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.)