

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

**MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2020  
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:** 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; Acting Assistant Chief Mike Brown, Los Angeles County Fire Department; Megan Currier, Community Services Representative, 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 Laflen requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of Detective Amber Leist, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

Commissioner Sol requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of the 21 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the December meeting.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**ACTION:** Motion by Commissioner Sol to approve the January 13, 2020 agenda, seconded by Commissioner Williams and approved.

**POSTING OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda for the January 13, 2020 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 Williams to approve the December 9, 2019 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Laflen, and approved with Commissioner Waack abstaining.

## **7. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

John Erickson, resident of West Hollywood, offered condolences to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and the West Hollywood community for the loss of Detective Amber Leist. Mr. Erickson thanked the Los Angeles County Fire Department for sending personnel to fight the fires in Australia.

Stephanie Harker, resident of West Hollywood, spoke in support of increased traffic patrols on the eastside considering the pedestrian accident today. Ms. Harker spoke in support of holding the Public Safety Commission's meetings at Plummer Park.

Cathy Blaivas, resident of West Hollywood, offered condolences to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department for the loss of Detective Leist. Ms. Blaivas spoke regarding an improved experience in Plummer Park and the surrounding neighborhood, and she thanked the Sheriff's Department for its dedication. Ms. Blaivas spoke in support of holding the Public Safety Commission's meetings at Plummer Park.

Chloe Ross, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding a traffic incident near the Cannabis Café where she was almost struck by a vehicle who was backing out of the parking lot onto La Brea and expressed concern for people driving under the influence.

Steve Martin, resident of West Hollywood, spoke in support of holding the Public Safety Commission's meetings at Plummer Park and spoke regarding improved public safety patrols.

## **8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS**

Commissioner Norton thanked the members of the public for their attendance and wished all a happy new year. Commissioner Norton spoke regarding incidents related to homelessness at Veteran's Park and requested more patrols. Commissioner Norton spoke regarding the lack of handicap parking on level three by the pedestrian bridge at the City's Five Story Parking Structure and said that City personnel are addressing the issue.

Commissioner Balbone spoke regarding incidents related to homelessness at Veteran's Park and requested more patrols.

**9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**9A. AGING IN PLACE/AGING IN COMMUNITY YEAR THREE EVALUATION REPORT AND YEAR FOUR UPDATE**

Commissioners received a presentation on the Aging in Place/Aging in Community Year Three Evaluation Report and Year Four Update from Elizabeth Anderson with the Strategic Initiatives Division.

Commissioner Williams thanked the Strategic Initiatives Division's staff for their support and for offering the many services that West Hollywood provides for its residents.

Ms. Anderson encouraged all to contact the City whenever in need of services.

Commissioner Waack asked if there is anything the Public Safety Commission can do to assist the community with public safety issues.

Commissioner Laflen asked if the public safety survey ratings are increasing

Ms. Anderson said that public safety survey ratings are increasing.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding senior safety seminars and asked about attendance.

Staff and Lt. Moulder said that the meetings are generally targeted specifically to the host building's residents.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding Project Lifesaver and asked if it is related to the MET vehicle the City added this past fall.

Lt. Moulder said that the Station is trained in Project Lifesaver and said that the City has provided Project Lifesaver receivers to the Station.

Commissioner Berger thanked all for their hard work on the various issues.

Ms. Anderson spoke regarding the complexities of becoming an age friendly community.

Commissioner Sol spoke in support of continuing the program after Year Five and reminded all to consider increasing expenses for the community.

Commissioner Balbone spoke in support of offering group volunteer activities to the senior community.

**9B. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WEST HOLLYWOOD MENTAL EVALUATION TEAM (MET)**

Commissioners received a presentation on the West Hollywood Mental Evaluation Team (MET) from Diane Kahn-Epstein with the Strategic Initiatives Division.

Commissioner Balbone asked if Block by Block is connected to the Mental Evaluation Team (MET).

Ms. Kahn-Epstein spoke regarding the collective work between Block by Block Security Ambassadors and MET.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding her previous work with PATH and asked when the current teams are deployed.

Ms. Kahn-Epstein stated that the contracted team is four days a week and that the supplemental team offers additional hours during evenings and weekends.

Commissioner Sol asked if the parking sheet stapled to her packet is part of the report.

Staff said that the parking sheet should not have been stapled to the report and is unrelated.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the benefit that the MET team provides the City.

**9C. 2019 WEST HOLLYWOOD HOMELESS DEMOGRAPHIC SURVEY RESULTS**

Commissioners received a presentation on the 2019 West Hollywood Homeless Demographic Survey results from Corri Planck, Strategic Initiatives Manager.

Commissioner Balbone spoke regarding the increase in the Latinx survey respondents.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding her previous work with PATH regarding shelter beds and asked where homeless individuals go now for

beds. Commissioner Williams spoke regarding pressuring legislators for assistance.

Ms. Planck spoke regarding Ascencia's services and various other housing providers. Ms. Planck spoke regarding circulating the MET report in Sacramento.

Commissioner Berger asked if the HIV Specialist is still part of the outreach teams.

Ms. Planck confirmed that the HIV Specialist is still part of the outreach teams.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding mental illness within the population. Commissioner Berger asked why the reported unemployed number is not higher.

Ms. Planck said that the information in the report is self-reported.

#### **9D. REPORT FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT**

Megan Currier, Community Services Representative, reviewed the Fire Department statistics for December 2019, including suppression, rescue, and fire prevention activities.

#### **9E. REPORT FROM SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT**

Lieutenant Moulder thanked all for their support regarding the loss of Detective Leist.

Lieutenant Moulder said that the end of the year statistics show that crime has decreased as compared to last year in the east and in the center city, and he said that the west side has experienced a slight increase. Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding the recent articles regarding vehicle burglaries. Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding the positive change to the parks and thanked the City for its support and resources. Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding Veteran's Park and said that he will ensure that Deputies respond.

Commissioner Norton said that neighbors complimented the Sheriff's Department on its work in the past at Veteran's Park and said that neighbors believe that there is a new group of individuals at Veteran's Park. Commissioner Norton spoke regarding the anti-Semitic vandalism in the neighborhood and asked for more information.

Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding recent vandalism incidents and said that Detectives are looking into it and encouraged anyone with information to call the Station.

Commissioner Norton spoke regarding the political situation in the world currently, and she asked if there has been an increase in anti-Iranian sentiment.

Lieutenant Moulder said that he has not seen an increase in anti-Iranian sentiment.

Commissioner Williams thanked the Sheriff's Department for parking the decoy car near a problem property.

Commissioner Waack spoke regarding a recent article on WeHoville regarding mail theft.

Lieutenant Moulder offered to look more into the issue.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding a recent meeting with neighbors regarding vehicle burglaries and asked Lieutenant Moulder to provide more information.

Lieutenant Moulder said that suspects from the Bay Area drive rental cars to Southern California and commit very quick vehicle burglaries and then rapidly depart.

Commissioner Berger asked for information regarding calls for service at the Cannabis Café.

Commissioner Laflen asked if the Cannabis Café monitors its patrons' driving.

Lieutenant Moulder said that the Cannabis Café has stated that their staff monitor its parking lot.

Commissioner Waack asked if it is possible to control their patrons' parking.

Sergeant Klaus said that the Cannabis Café trains its bartenders to watch for patrons who appear over-served.

Commissioner Laflen said that there is no standard for determining cannabis levels in the same way that there is for alcohol.

Commissioner Sol spoke regarding the recent vehicle accident into Pump and requested an update on sidewalk bollard installation.

Staff said that engineering staff are working with a consultant on the sidewalk bollard project.

Commissioner Laflen asked for additional information on the pedestrian accident from earlier today.

Lieutenant Moulder said that the pedestrian is recovering at the hospital, and it appears that the vehicle ran the light before striking the pedestrian in the crosswalk. Lieutenant Moulder said that the pedestrian is a West Hollywood, City Center resident.

Sergeant Klaus reviewed the Sheriff's Department's statistics for December 2019, including crimes, response times, and calls for service. Sergeant Klaus spoke regarding the upcoming homeless count and the LA Marathon.

Lieutenant Moulder said that arrests are up by 17% as compared to last year.

#### **9F. REPORT FROM BLOCK BY BLOCK SECURITY AMBASSADORS – MONTHLY REPORT**

Mr. Gibson reviewed the monthly reports from December 2019, including pedestrian assistance, crosswalk assistance, homeless issues, and park patrols.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding issues near the 7-11 at Santa Monica Boulevard and Curson.

Commissioner Berger asked if a second kiosk has been added yet to the park.

Mr. Gibson said that they are working on a second kiosk.

Commissioner Norton asked if West Hollywood Park is included in the data.

Mr. Gibson said that West Hollywood Park is included.

Commissioner Waack asked for additional information on "restroom count" and "restroom servicing" data.

Mr. Gibson said that "restroom count" is the total number of people visiting the restroom and that "restroom servicing" is the number of times that the restroom is serviced throughout the day.

Commissioner Williams asked about the responsibility of staff in cleaning the restrooms.

**9G. 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.

Commissioner Berger asked for a status update on Jackie Carrington.

Lieutenant Moulder said that he would look into his status.

Commissioner Waack asked for an update on modifying the single use restroom doors at Plummer Park.

Staff said that Block by Block has made a substantial improvement to the atmosphere near the restrooms and that modifications to the doors will be reevaluated in a few months by facilities staff.

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

**10A. CONSIDERATION OF A RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL TO FORMALLY CHANGE THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION'S MEETING LOCATION TO PLUMMER PARK**

Commissioners and staff discussed Plummer Park as a permanent location for the Public Safety Commission.

**ACTION:** Motion by Commissioner Williams to recommend to the City Council to formally change the Public Safety Commission's meeting location to Plummer Park, seconded by Commissioner Waack and approved.

Commissioner Waack asked if additional microphones could be provided for meetings.

**11. ITEMS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES**

None.

**12. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

None.

**13. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Yola Dore, resident of West Hollywood, expressed condolences to Sheriff's personnel and staff for the loss of Detective Leist and spoke in support of improving the lighting in Plummer Park. Ms. Dore thanked the Commissioners for their hard work.




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

Commissioner Balbone spoke regarding her recent attendance at the Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board. Commissioner Balbone spoke regarding the Los Angeles LGBT Center's collection drive and said that they are running low on underwear, bras, and socks.

Commissioner Williams commented on the photos in the new public safety booklet.

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 8:34 PM in memory of Detective Amber Leist and the 21 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the December meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2020 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.)***