

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

**MONDAY, MARCH 9, 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 Waack
3. **ROLL CALL**

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

Commissioners Absent: Norton

Others present: Lieutenant Bill Moulder, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Sergeant Jon Klaus, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Sergeant Fanny Lapkin, 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 10 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the February meeting.

Commissioner Berger requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of Reserve Deputy Harry Morton.

Commissioner Williams requested that the meeting be adjourned in honor of Commissioner Norton's birthday.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Williams to approve the March 9, 2020 agenda, seconded by Commissioner Waack and approved.

POSTING OF THE AGENDA

The agenda for the March 9, 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 Sol to approve the February 10, 2020 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Williams, and approved.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Alexis Sanchez, Safe West Hollywood Community Coalition, spoke regarding an upcoming "Overdose Reversal Training and Free Naloxone" harm reduction fair on Wednesday, March 25th in Fiesta Hall at 6 PM.

Adam Eramian, Mickys, spoke regarding an increase in quality of life and criminal impacts from persons experiencing homelessness.

Yola Dore, resident of West Hollywood, congratulated Sergeant Jon Klaus for his recent award from the Special Olympics and expressed concerns for the proposed automated delivery service and its impact on people living with disabilities.

Richard Maggio, resident of West Hollywood and liaison from the Rent Stabilization Commission, spoke regarding the COVID-19 virus, the City's role to care for its residents, and a recent assault by a person experiencing homelessness.

John Boucher, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding a recent battery and assault that occurred near Hart Park.

Bill Karpiak, Ramada Plaza, spoke regarding quality of life and criminal impacts from persons experiencing homelessness and the impact on hospitality.

Stephanie Harker, resident of West Hollywood, expressed concerns for the proposed automated delivery service, recommended canceling Pride due to the COVID-19 virus, spoke regarding an individual who has been trespassing at the Sierra Bonita apartments, and thanked all for the positive improvements at Plummer Park.

Larry Block, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding an assault that happened at his store, quality of life and criminal impacts from persons experiencing homelessness, and recommended that Commissioners take a more active role.

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS

Commissioner Berger thanked the public speakers for their attendance. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding Women's History Month and International Women's Day and gave some statistics on women's health issues. Commissioner

Berger said that March is “American Red Cross” month and asked staff to see if the City Council can acknowledge it.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding the COVID-19 virus. Commissioner Williams asked staff to follow-up on the trespasser at the Sierra Bonita Apartments. Commissioner Williams spoke in support of strong collaboration across other Commissions regarding shared issues. Commissioner Williams spoke regarding the complex issues surrounding homelessness.

Commissioner Balbone spoke regarding the recent Active Shooter training held in February and recommended that an Active Shooter tip sheet be handed out to volunteers and businesses at the City’s major events. Commissioner Balbone spoke regarding quality of life issues at Veteran’s Park, including a homeless person washing clothing in the fountain.

Commissioner Williams expressed concerns regarding the proposed automated delivery service.

Commissioner Laflen expressed concerns regarding the proposed automated delivery service.

Commissioner Balbone asked if the Public Safety Commission could provide input on what would constitute an appropriate pilot.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9A. 2020 MEETING SCHEDULE

Commissioners and staff discussed a potential conflict with the July 13, 2020 meeting due to the Democratic National Convention. Commissioners will reassess the need to cancel the July at a later date.

9B. REPORT FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT

Chief Steve Bowie reviewed the Fire Department statistics for February 2020, including suppression, rescue, and fire prevention activities.

Commissioner Balbone asked for more information regarding rubbish fires.

Chief Bowie said that some of the causes of rubbish fires include improperly discarded cigarette butts or warming fires.

Commissioner Balbone said that a better understanding of the causes of rubbish fires would be helpful.

Commissioner Berger asked for additional information regarding high-rise buildings and automatic fire sprinklers and asked for more information regarding proactive inspections.

Staff shared some information from Building and Safety regarding high-rise buildings and automatic fire sprinklers.

Chief Bowie spoke regarding the required inspections by the Fire Department of all buildings four stories and higher.

Staff spoke regarding a future item from Code Compliance regarding proactive inspections in common areas.

Commissioner Waack asked if the inspector has the right to inspect inside the units.

Staff spoke regarding privacy concerns from the residents.

Commissioner Waack expressed concern with not changing the state law to ensure that all buildings have sprinklers.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding buildings that do not have working smoke alarms and said that a representative from the American Red Cross said that most buildings do not have working smoke alarms.

Chief Bowie said that many tenants remove the batteries in their smoke detectors.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding property owners that do not conduct annual inspections.

Commissioner Laflen spoke regarding the importance of personal responsibility.

Commissioner Waack spoke regarding a recent construction project and how code compliance inspected for all safety issues, including checking for working smoke detectors.

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

Lieutenant Bill Moulder congratulated Sergeant Jon Klaus for his recent recognition by the Special Olympics. Lt. Moulder said that Sergeant Klaus will be retiring in June and that Sergeant Fanny Lapkin will be taking over at that time.

Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding significant decreases in crimes across the City. Lieutenant Moulder said that he will respond to the concerns from

the public speakers and the businesses on the west side. Lieutenant Moulder said that he will dedicate resources to address the many issues and offered to meet and speak with anyone interested.

Sergeant Klaus reviewed the Sheriff's Department's statistics for February 2020, including crimes, response times, and calls for service. Sergeant Klaus spoke regarding an increase in arrests.

Commissioner Balbone asked if there is a trend or reason for the increase in aggravated assaults.

Lieutenant Moulder said that at times they can pinpoint a rationale in an increase, but for this month, it just appears to be more without a concerning trend.

Commissioner Waack spoke regarding an article in the Los Angeles Times regarding ALPR cameras and thanked Lieutenant Moulder and Sergeant Gaw for their response and how the Sheriff handles the data appropriately.

Commissioner Berger asked for more information on an aggravated assault that occurred at the Healthy Spot.

Lieutenant Moulder said that the suspect was arrested.

Commissioner Berger asked generally what happens when a suspect is arrested for assault.

Lieutenant Moulder described a typical process for assaults.

Commissioner Berger asked if there is anything citizens can do when threats happen and asked for more information regarding the steps to obtaining a restraining order.

Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding stay away and restraining orders, and he recommended calling the Sheriff's Station every time it is violated.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the recent vehicle burglaries and asked for additional information.

Lieutenant Moulder said that he was not sure if the suspects in question were related to the suspects traveling from Northern California.

Commissioner Berger asked for additional information on John Boucher's case. Commissioner Berger asked for additional information regarding the body camera program.

Lieutenant Moulder said that the body camera program at West Hollywood Station is moving forward and that the data storage room is being constructed.

Commissioner Berger asked for more information regarding a recent incident outside of Gelson's where a homeless individual was kicked.

Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding the incident outside of Gelson's.

Commissioner Balbone asked how increasingly violent incidents are impacting the Sheriff's Deputies and the Block by Block Security Ambassadors. Commissioner Balbone asked if there is anything that the Commission should do differently in order to positively impact the issues.

Lieutenant Moulder said that the most important thing is to call the Sheriff's Station when incidents occur.

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

Mr. Gibson reviewed the monthly reports from February 2020, including pedestrian assistance, crosswalk assistance, homeless issues, and park patrols.

Commissioner Berger asked regarding the status of an extra kiosk for Block by Block.

Staff said that it will be considered during the regular budget process for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

Commissioner Balbone asked how increasingly violent incidents are impacting the Block by Block Security Ambassadors.

Mr. Gibson spoke regarding the impact to the Security Ambassadors.

9E. PUBLIC SAFETY AWARDS

Commissioner Williams gave a summary of the planning for the upcoming Public Safety Awards.

Commissioner Sol spoke regarding working with Captain Ramirez on the award in Detective Amber Leist's honor and asked for areas for photos both inside and outside of the Council Chambers.

Commissioner Balbone offered her assistance with the event.

10. NEW BUSINESS

10A. WESTSIDE LIVABILITY/OPERATION NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY CONCERNS

Larry Block, resident of West Hollywood, spoke in support of having disposable dollars for Sheriff's Deputies to assist individuals "on the spot" and spoke in support of an activist solution.

Dan Harrington Tyrell, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding security and trespassing issues at Sierra Bonita Apartments.

Marcus Rainford, Starbucks, spoke regarding the various issues faced by his business and spoke in support of a collaborative solution from Sheriff's Deputies and Block by Block Security Ambassadors.

Commissioner Laflen spoke regarding the various quality of life and public safety issues in the areas surrounding the Ramada Plaza. Commissioner Laflen gave specific examples shared with her by business owners and managers. Commissioner Laflen spoke in support of transitional housing and for fostering a vibrant environment where people feel safe. Commissioner Laflen spoke in support of additional foot patrols in the neighborhood.

Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding a recent increase in patrols on the west side. Lieutenant Moulder recommended calling the Station for any suspicious activity.

Commissioner Laflen spoke in support of a larger Sheriff's presence in the area.

Commissioner Williams suggested creating a business watch.

Commissioner Laflen spoke regarding the MET team and asked for additional patrols.

Staff and Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding the flexibility of deploying patrols and said that Deputies will move with the issues in order to address them.

Commissioner Sol spoke regarding the City's homeless program and recommended inviting Corri Planck back to a future meeting.

Commissioner Laflen said that she has invited Ms. Plank to the Commission's next meeting. Commissioner Laflen said that she has contacted Code Compliance for the code issues raised this evening.

Commissioner Waack asked for additional information regarding foot patrol deployment.

Lieutenant Moulder said that there are foot patrols on both the east and west sides and spoke regarding the ability to adjust the locations of foot patrols.

Commissioner Waack spoke regarding the need for an all-day Sheriff's presence.

Commissioner Balbone said that she has contacted businesses in the City Center who report similar issues to those discussed this evening. Commissioner Balbone said that businesses experience scavengers going through trash bins. Commissioner Balbone spoke in support of sharing contact information for various issues with the businesses and the community.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the differences between the east side and west side and spoke in support of physical design to deter criminal activity. Commissioner Berger spoke in support of additional street cleaning. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding issues at the Recycling Center. Commissioner Berger spoke in support of utilizing Block by Block kiosks and forming a sub-committee to assist.

Commissioner Balbone spoke in support of assisting those that are not willing to accept services in a way to make it safe for everyone.

Commissioner Waack spoke in support of reinstating the "Walk About with the Captain" program.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the Sheriff's Department's HOST team and its positive impact on the homeless community.

11.ITEMS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES

None.

12.ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff reminded the Commission that the regular six month update will be presented to City Council on March 16th. Staff spoke regarding the COVID-19 virus and the City's actions and preparations.

Commissioner Balbone asked that the City regularly informs its social services providers to best serve the West Hollywood community.

Commissioner Sol asked for an update on the proposed bollard program.

Staff gave an update on the future installation of bollards.

13. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

14. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Williams said that her comments about activism are not intended to offend. Commissioner Williams spoke regarding extra funding for transportation for those in need. She stated that when she was with PATH she had a program in conjunction with Greyhound that gave free transportation to homeless teens that wanted to return home but did not have the funds and suggested contacting Social Services or the Human Services Commission to see if this was feasible for the Sheriff's Department to utilize.

Commissioner Laflen thanked the Sheriff's Department and Block by Block for their support.

Commissioner Williams thanked Commissioner Laflen for her hard work. Commissioner Williams congratulated Sergeant Klaus on his upcoming retirement.

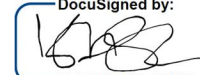
Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the next Coffee with the COPPS.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 9:01 PM in memory of Reserve Deputy Harry Morton and the 10 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the February meeting and in honor of Commissioner Norton's birthday. The next meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2020 at 6:30 PM at Plummer Park – Rooms 5/6 at 7377 Santa Monica Boulevard, CA 90046.

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Public Safety Commission Chair

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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.)