

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

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2020  
6:00 P.M.**

**VIA TELECONFERENCE**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** at 6:00 PM
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** led by Chair Laflen
3. **ROLL CALL**

**Commissioners Present:** Balbone, Berger, Laflen, Norton, Sol, Williams

**Commissioners Absent:** Waack

**Others present:** Lieutenant Bill Moulder, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Sergeant Fanny Lapkin, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Acting Assistant Chief Drew Smith, 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 Sol requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of the 24 law enforcement officers and firefighters who passed away since the September meeting.

Commissioner Williams requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**ACTION:** Motion by Commissioner Sol to approve the October 12, 2020 agenda, seconded by Commissioner Balbone and approved.

**POSTING OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda for the October 12, 2020 Public Safety Commission meeting was posted at City Hall, Plummer Park, and the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station.

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**ACTION:** Motion by Commissioner Sol to approve the September 14, 2020 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Williams, and approved.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Adam Darvish, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding the importance of speed bumps and traffic calming measures for his neighborhood, especially on Larrabee near Cynthia.

John Erickson, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding social services and the importance of working with all community groups to better serve West Hollywood residents.

**8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS**

Commissioner Balbone identified overlapping issues between the Public Safety Commission and the Human Services Commission including after hours and weekend needs for services and use of force data where services could have impacted positively. Commissioner Balbone asked for Commissioners' input on other areas of intersection.

Vice-Chair Berger spoke regarding Domestic Violence Prevention Month and upcoming events to be hosted by Strength United. Vice-Chair Berger spoke regarding the Great Shake Out drill and the Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission to be held this week.

Commissioner Norton spoke in support of having code compliance staff attend and present regularly to the Public Safety Commission, especially during the pandemic when residents may have questions about compliance with the health order.

**9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**9A. REPORT FROM SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION**

Corri Planck, David Giugni and Katie Egan, Human Services Department, presented a report on the various social services provided to the West Hollywood community. Ms. Egan spoke regarding the various contracted partners, including Ascencia, Step Up on Second, Housing Works, The Los Angeles LGBT Center, the Friends Research Institute, the Tarzana Treatment Center Jail In-Reach program, and others. All current case management and field outreach include utilizing personal protective equipment and following all health order guidelines due to the pandemic. Ms. Egan spoke regarding the upcoming Homeless Collaborative meeting to which Commissioners Balbone and Berger have been invited.

Commissioner Williams asked for more information regarding Ascencia's hours in the City. Commissioner Williams asked if there is sufficient bed space. Commissioner Williams asked if it is possible to contract with PATH again.

Ms. Egan said that Ascencia's teams are in the City on Monday and Wednesday mornings, Tuesday afternoons, Thursdays, and by request from staff.

Mr. Giugni said that during the 2016 funding cycle, Ascencia was the agency that had beds available to the City.

Commissioner Balbone spoke regarding the various services that the City offers and asked how referrals are working via the Sheriff's Station and expressed concern for availability after hours.

Mr. Giugni spoke regarding the various resources available and said that most shelters are not able to accept a new client during late weekend hours.

Commissioner Balbone asked how field teams and first responders communicate.

Ms. Egan spoke regarding the close relationship between social service providers and law enforcement, particularly with the Sheriff MET team. Ms. Egan said that immediate crisis response is handled by Sheriff, Fire/emergency medical, and/or MET.

Commissioner Balbone spoke in support of better training for dispatchers.

Ms. Planck gave additional information on how MET team members respond to various calls throughout the City.

Commissioner Balbone spoke regarding identifying missed opportunities.

Vice-Chair Berger spoke regarding training for dispatchers. Vice-Chair Berger spoke regarding situations where there is a small window of opportunity to serve constituents. Vice-Chair Berger spoke regarding reducing the number of individuals who are not housed and thanked staff for their work. Vice-Chair Berger spoke regarding using a City park as a temporary place for homeless individuals to park overnight.

Mr. Giugni spoke regarding services that field teams and shelters provide to constituents.

Commissioner Sol thanked staff for the detailed information on the contracted agencies that serve the City. Commissioner Sol spoke in support of including Veterans in outreach and services.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding her previous work at PATH in regard to finding bed space, and the difficulty when neighbors live near temporary shelters, and claim they don't want them in their "back-yard" and this might be the case in a location such as Plummer Park.

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

Assistant Chief Drew Smith spoke regarding the recent major fires and brush fire preparations for the upcoming months. Chief Smith reviewed the Fire Department statistics for September 2020, including suppression, rescue, and fire prevention activities. Chief Smith spoke regarding the updated Fire Code, including code enhancements that apply to high rise buildings which include sprinkler systems, helipads, and better exiting.

Commissioner Williams asked if the Fire Department had more information regarding the recent electrical outages.

Chief Smith spoke regarding the Fire Department's response to electrical outages.

Chair Laflen requested that code compliance or building and safety staff attend a future meeting to discuss how and when buildings are required to update to current codes.

Vice-Chair Berger spoke regarding the Barrington Fire in Los Angeles City and asked for clarification regarding the new code requirements for sprinklers for high rise buildings.

Chief Smith said that he will follow-up with staff that know more about high rise building code updates.

**9C. SHERIFF'S REPORT: MONTHLY REPORT; POLICING REFORM UPDATE; HALLOWEEN STAFFING**

Lieutenant Bill Moulder reviewed the crime statistics for September, including calls for service and said that September was the third lowest month of 2020. Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding "other" burglaries in outside areas around residences, such as carports.

Sergeant Fanny Lapkin reviewed traffic reports and DUI statistics for September.

Chair Laflen asked for information regarding Halloween staffing.

Staff said that additional Sheriff, Fire, and code compliance staff will be working on Halloween to keep the City safe.

Commissioner Williams asked if there are any street closures planned.

Lieutenant Moulder said that there are no planned street closures.

Commissioner Balbone asked for additional information regarding the increase in felony arrests.

Lieutenant Moulder said that the arrests are higher, but crime is down.

Commissioner Balbone spoke regarding use of force report that was included in the City Council packet.

Staff said that since the October 5<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting was cancelled, the report was rescheduled for October 19<sup>th</sup>, and more information will be discussed at the November Public Safety Commission meeting.

Commissioner Balbone spoke regarding the negative impacts from Cookies.

Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding the various resources addressing the area surrounding Cookies and the work with the City of Los Angeles to address the business itself.

Vice-Chair Berger asked if there is a theme between some thefts and burglaries in the month of September.

Lieutenant Moulder said that at this time there is not any information to indicate that there is an organized group coming into the City committing multiple crimes.

Vice-Chair Berger asked for additional information on how dispatchers send out the MET team.

Lieutenant Moulder explained how the dispatchers assess a call for service and refers to MET and said that the West Hollywood MET team usually proactively responds to appropriate calls.

Chair Laflen spoke regarding the need for dispatch to be improved in assessing calls.

Commissioner Norton asked for more information regarding preparations for the election and asked if there have been any reported issues with ballot drop boxes for early voting.

Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding the additional resources that will be available for ensuring a safe election and facilitating any protests that may take place. Lieutenant Moulder said that there have been no reported issues with ballot drop boxes in West Hollywood.

Commissioner Balbone asked for an update regarding face covering enforcement.

Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding face covering enforcement and citations.

Commissioner Balbone asked for additional information regarding the use of force on Sunset.

Lieutenant Moulder said that the incident is under review and will be discussed at the next City Council meeting.

Commissioner Balbone spoke regarding adjacent protests in the City of Beverly Hills where people are not wearing face coverings.

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

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

Commissioner Williams thanked Block by Block for walking residential streets and asked if Ambassadors are ever in situations that places them in harm.

Mr. Gibson says that Ambassadors have training that dictates safe distances and protocols to call the Sheriff's Department when needed.

Commissioner Balbone thanked Block by Block for assisting a business on Melrose with nuisance impacts.

Mr. Gibson spoke regarding the additional patrols on Melrose, including the area around Cookies.

**10. ITEMS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES**

None.

**11. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

Commissioners agreed to begin the November meeting at 6:00 PM. Staff reminded Commissioners about the presentation from the City Clerk's office regarding the election.

**12. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

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


Vice-Chair Berger spoke regarding the slides provided on the Liability Trust Fund and community outreach regarding equity in policing.

Commissioners expressed support for traffic calming on Larrabee and asked staff to forward their comments to the appropriate staff.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 7:53 PM in the memory of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg and the 24 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the September meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for November 9, 2020 at 6:00 PM via teleconference.

DocuSigned by:  
  
5E4B89EF84294470...  
Public Safety Commission Chair

DocuSigned by:  
  
33A84583BCC34C5...  
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.)***