

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

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 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, Waack, Williams

Commissioners Absent: None

Others present: Lieutenant Bill Moulder, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Sergeant Fanny Lapkin, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Assistant Chief Drew Smith, Los Angeles County Fire Department; Battalion Chief Jason Ghorbani, Los Angeles County Fire Department; Battalion Chief Derrick Chapman, 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 20 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the November meeting.

Commissioner Williams requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of West Hollywood resident Victor Saul.

Commissioner Balbone requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of James Mattioli and all the victims of the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary eight years ago.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Williams to approve the December 14, 2020 agenda, seconded by Chair Laflen and approved.

POSTING OF THE AGENDA

The agenda for the December 14, 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 November 9, 2020 minutes, seconded by Chair Laflen, and approved.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Adam Darvish, resident of West Hollywood, spoke in support of utilizing cameras and said that a traffic calming sign is covered on his street.

Rebecca Bucalo, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding two properties in the 1100 block of Ogden and Orange Grove which share a gate where criminal activity has occurred.

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS

Commissioner Waack thanked former City Councilmember Heilman, his fellow Commissioners, staff, and public safety personnel as his term on the Commission is coming to an end.

Commissioner Norton thanked Commissioner Waack for his service.

Commissioner Williams thanked Commissioner Waack for his service.

Vice-Chair Berger thanked Commissioner Waack for his service. Vice-Chair Berger spoke regarding various work occurring at the County level, including the passage of Measure J, the Department of Youth Development and the Youth Justice Advisory Group, the Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission, and CERT.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9A. REPORT FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT

Battalion Chief Jason Ghorbani reviewed the Fire Department statistics for November 2020, including suppression, rescue, and fire prevention activities. Chief Ghorbani spoke regarding election preparations and the coordinated response from Fire, Sheriff, and City personnel.

Commissioner Williams asked if there was a tree fire on Willoughby today.

Chief Ghorbani said that he would check and follow-up with the Commission.

Chair Laflen asked about the recent fire on Miller on the border with the City of Los Angeles.

Chief Ghorbani said that the fire was likely accidental due to a warming fire.

Commissioner Norton asked about a recent incident on the roof of the old French Market on Santa Monica Boulevard.

Chief Ghorbani said that it was a very small fire which was handled in a few minutes.

9B. SHERIFF'S REPORT: MONTHLY REPORT; REIMAGINING POLICING REFORM

Lieutenant Bill Moulder reviewed the crime statistics for November, including calls for service. Lieutenant Moulder said that crime is significantly down when compared to last year. Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding vacant properties, catalytic converter thefts, and the status of Jackie Harrington.

Commissioner Balbone spoke regarding a trailer parked in the City of Beverly Hills that has flashing blue and red lights that may be deterring criminal activity and suggested looking into this for the City of West Hollywood. Commissioner Balbone spoke regarding a vacant property on Sherwood.

Chair Laflen spoke in support of more proactive enforcement regarding vacant properties.

Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding joint code compliance and Sheriff efforts to monitor vacant properties.

Commissioner Sol asked if there is a way to check and enforce for the letter of agency in a proactive way at all properties.

Lieutenant Moulder said that letters of agency can be required for vacant properties, but that they are voluntary for other properties.

Chair Laflen and Commissioner Sol spoke in support of advertising the availability of the letter of agency.

Kevin Burton, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding the recent increase in bicycle thefts and the shortage of bicycles for sale, and he spoke in support of utilizing registered owner databases when law enforcement recovers bicycles. Mr. Burton spoke regarding a friend who was having trouble filing an online theft report.

Lieutenant Moulder offered to assist the resident with the online report.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding vehicle burglaries and asked for an update.

Lieutenant Moulder said that he would review the reports from last week. Lieutenant Moulder said that they have not seen the organized teams committing vehicle burglaries recently.

Commissioner Berger asked if there is a relation between vehicle burglaries and street robberies.

Lieutenant Moulder said that those crimes have not been connected recently.

Commissioner Norton thanked Lieutenant Moulder for his quick responses. Commissioner Norton spoke regarding a 60 Minutes story regarding paramedics and law enforcement responding to people under the influence using Ketamine.

Lieutenant Moulder said that the Deputies refer to the Fire Department for any kind of patient treatment.

Chief Ghorbani spoke regarding the ability of paramedics to treat patients in distress, but that there are strict regulations in how medications are used and that they do not use Ketamine. Chief Ghorbani spoke regarding the good relationship with the Sheriff's Department and said that personnel work in concert with each other to reduce risk to the patient to be able to transport the patient safely to the hospital.

Vice-Chair Berger spoke in support of continuing work on policing reform and developing a new work plan.

Chair Laflen spoke in support of having new Commissioners pending appointment participate in the development of the work plan.

Commissioner Balbone asked for clarification on the carotid artery restraint.

Lieutenant Moulder said that the carotid artery restraint is only allowed as deadly force. Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding the difference between a choke hold which is never allowed and the carotid artery restraint.

Commissioner Norton spoke regarding the Office of the Inspector General's report on the Sheriff's Department's Use of Force policy and expressed concern for the response from Sheriff Villanueva.

Lieutenant Moulder said that the conversation between the two departments continues at multiple levels of the organizations.

Commissioner Balbone spoke regarding the number of uses of force in the City of West Hollywood and asked if there is a link between the number of nightlife related incidents.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding the Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission and said that the Inspector General does participate in the meetings and discusses these issues.

Commissioner Sol spoke regarding the number of the uses of force in the City of West Hollywood and asked if Sheriff's personnel can provide additional information.

Lieutenant Moulder said that most are "category 1", or minor uses of force and that Deputies respond to many people who are either under the influence or who are experiencing mental health issues.

9C. UPDATE ON IMPACTS FROM COOKIES

Lieutenant Moulder gave an update on mitigation efforts and ongoing coordination with the City of Los Angeles to address nuisance impacts from Cookies. Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding the recent armed robbery near Cookies.

Samantha Lavin, resident of West Hollywood, said that her friend is the victim of the recent robbery and spoke in support of better lighting in the area.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding the lights on West Hollywood program and asked if any are still available for distribution.

Staff said that Sheriff can review and make recommendations on lighting improvements.

Chair Laflen asked if neighbors near Cookies participated in the City's Ring Camera rebate program.

Staff said that the neighbors around Cookies coordinate well with each other and share videos, pictures, and information with Sheriff and staff.

Chair Laflen spoke in support of a robust Neighborhood Watch program.

Commissioner Sol thanked the public speaker for her comments.

Chair Laflen spoke in support of speaking at the Los Angeles Cannabis Relations Commission and participating in any other measures that would help.

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

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

Chair Laflen asked for additional information regarding the definition of a disturbance.

Mr. Gibson said that it could be loud music, or an altercation, or other disturbance.

Commissioner Norton asked for clarification regarding health order enforcement at Plummer Park.

Mr. Gibson reviewed the Security Ambassadors' work at the parks.

10. ITEMS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES

Commissioner Balbone said that work will continue with the Human Services Commission in a few months.

11. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Commissioners agreed to begin the January meeting at 6:00 PM.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

13. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Williams wished happy holidays to all.

Commissioner Balbone thanked Commissioner Waack for his service and wished happy holidays to all.

Commissioner Waack thanked everyone and wished happy holidays to all.

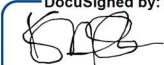
Commissioner Norton wished happy holidays to all.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 7:58 PM in the memory of Victor Saul, James Mattioli, the victims of the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary, and the 20 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the November meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2021 at 6:00 PM via teleconference.

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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.)