

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

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2021
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, Roshay, Sol, Williams

Commissioners Absent: None

Others present: Lieutenant Bill Moulder, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Sergeant Fanny Lapkin, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Battalion Chief Leland Delaney, 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 27 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the January meeting. Commissioner Sol requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of all those black community members who have died at the hands of law enforcement.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Sol to approve the February 8, 2021 agenda, seconded by Commissioner Williams, and approved.

POSTING OF THE AGENDA

The agenda for the February 8, 2021 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 Balbone to approve the January 11, 2021 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Sol, and approved with the additional direction to staff to follow-up with the City Clerk's office about including Lieutenant Moulder's responses to Commissioners' questions in the formal minutes.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS

None.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9A. REPORT FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT

Chief Leland Delany reviewed the Fire Department statistics for December 2020, including suppression, rescue, and fire prevention activities.

Commissioner Balbone asked for an update on vaccination efforts within the Fire Department.

Chief Delaney said that many personnel are assigned to the County vaccination sites which are going well although vaccine supply is an issue. Chief Delaney said that over 75% of firefighters have participated in the COVID-19 vaccination program so far. Chief Delaney said that positive cases among the Fire Department have decreased significantly.

Commissioner Sol asked for additional information regarding trash and rubbish fires. Commissioner Sol asked that the Fire Department look into the Christmas Tree recycling program. Commissioner Sol asked that staff follow up with removing brown trees in need of recycling. Commissioner Sol asked if the Fire Department is aware of the street maintenance occurring.

Chief Delaney said that he is aware of the street maintenance.

Vice-Chair Berger asked for additional information regarding COVID-19 testing kiosks and vaccinations.

Staff said that the City is working with the County to possibly have some testing kiosks and said that the County posts vaccination statistics on its website and that over 70% of vaccines received have been administered.

Commissioner Berger asked regarding power lines sparking and asked if there is anything that can be done to prevent issues.

Chief Delaney spoke regarding power lines sparking and said that it usually corresponds to a wind event and that personnel are briefed during that time to be aware of potential issues.

Commissioner Norton spoke regarding the many difficulties with the vaccination appointment system. Commissioner Norton asked if it were possible to make appointments through the Fire Department or the City.

Staff said that at this time only the County system allows for appointments but encouraged residents to contact their providers and pharmacies for possible access to vaccinations.

Chief Delaney said that chief officers are assisting at vaccination sites, and that personnel who work in West Hollywood are not affected.

Commissioner Williams said that Cedars is vaccinating its patients 65 and up.

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

Lieutenant Bill Moulder reviewed the crime statistics for January 2021, including calls for service. Lieutenant Moulder said that crime is down in many areas and categories. Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding work with Tarzana Treatment Center. Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding a recent sexual assault and the suspect's description that has been released by the Sheriff's Department. Lieutenant Moulder said that two of the four of the sexual assaults on the January report were from 2018. Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding the Sheriff's Department's Active Shooter video and ongoing face covering enforcement.

Lieutenant Moulder said that the Sheriff's Department has approved a study by the Center for Policing Equity and said that the West Hollywood Station is looking forward to the study to find ways to improve. Lieutenant Moulder said that the State of California Attorney General's office will also be doing a study. Lieutenant Moulder said that the Body Worn Camera program is going well at West Hollywood Station, and it has helped with resolving complaints and training for officers.

Lieutenant Moulder reported the following based on requests from the January Public Safety Commission Meeting:

- Commissioner Balbone had a question about people not wearing masks harassing those who were wearing masks. Lieutenant Moulder made the Desk and command staff aware of this issue and

asked them to send those calls as priority with a Sergeant. The incident Commissioner Balbone called the station about was indeed dispatched as a call (Tag 71). Deputies did check the area but did not locate that group.

- Commissioner Balbone had a question about groups rushing into businesses to steal merchandise. There is a weekly called with the Chamber of Commerce that the Public Safety Director Kristin Cook and Lieutenant Moulder are on and brought this up at the meeting to inform our business community.
- Commissioner Williams indicated there were vehicles speeding around Lexington, Curson, and Genesee. Lieutenant Moulder has directed Motor Deputies to conduct traffic enforcement in that area.
- Commissioner Williams indicated Sheriff vehicles and an ambulance in the vicinity of Lexington. Nearby, there was a deceased person on Norton (Tag 104), which was the only event in that area based on the description given.
- Commissioner Sol asked about a robbery in which the station did not send a Deputy to take a report from the December PSC meeting. Lieutenant Moulder reviewed the December PSC meeting. Kevin Burton spoke about a friend of his who tried to report a stolen bike, but the station referred her to report it on our website reporting portal. There was an issue with the online reporting process. Lieutenant Moulder got her contact information from Kevin Burton and reached out to her and to help her with the reporting process.
- During that meeting, Lieutenant Moulder provided an update about Cookies and a robbery that had recently occurred. After the update, a member of the public spoke about Cookies and that robbery. She said her friend was the victim of the robbery. Deputies did respond to take the report and conduct an investigation. The speaker said, "The police responded within five minutes so that was good."
- A request was made to conduct a check of the lighting on that street. Sheriff conducted a check of the street for lighting recommendations in addition to tree pruning. Sheriff and staff will have a further conversation with public works about the recommendations.
- Commissioner Balbone had a question from the December Public Safety Commission meeting about a traffic trailer in Beverly Hills. Sheriff drove by the trailer and called Beverly Hills about the trailer and are continuing their research.
- Commissioner Balbone had a question from the December Public Safety Commission meeting about our Decoy Car. The vehicle is still out of service.

Commissioner Williams asked for more information regarding Block by Block and face covering enforcement.

Mr. Shea Gibson said that Security Ambassadors do carry masks to give to people who do not have them.

Commissioner Williams asked staff to follow-up on tree trimming on the east side. Commissioner Williams spoke in support of working with the Center for Policing Equity.

Lieutenant Moulder spoke in support of working with staff on improving lighting.

Commissioner Williams asked for additional information regarding a possible overdose at the Abbey.

Lieutenant Moulder asked for additional information to be able to follow-up.

Commissioner Balbone said that three categories are experiencing increases, including aggravated assaults, robberies, and burglaries.

Lieutenant Moulder said that some of the recent issues are tied to the transient population and that regarding the robberies, a large number were “estes robberies” where a shoplifting incident becomes classified as a robbery after a struggle. Lieutenant Moulder said that they have increased patrols in the areas that are experiencing increases.

Commissioner Sol spoke regarding a regular individual experiencing mental health issues at Target and requested that the Mental Evaluation Team respond to assist her. Commissioner Sol spoke in support of increasing services to protect the person’s dignity and do more than ask them to move along. Commissioner Sol spoke in support of ending qualified immunity for law enforcement.

Lieutenant Moulder said that the MET team can be called out to assist at Target.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding her work with PATH and the various services that PATH offers.

Staff said that the various services that the City offers are outlined on the City’s website and encouraged Commissioners to review them as the equity in policing discussions continue.

Commissioner Balbone spoke regarding the services that the Saban Clinic offers. Commissioner Balbone spoke in support of a quarterly update from MET.

Staff said that the next MET annual report will be sent to Council on February 16th and then will be brought to the Commission.

Commissioner Balbone spoke regarding the many difficult situations related to pandemic and spoke in support of analyzing data and using MET as much as possible.

Staff and Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding the pressure that the community is under due to the pandemic and spoke in support of using data to address the many issues and to make recommendations.

Vice-Chair Berger spoke regarding the “other” burglaries and said that they appear to be random. Vice-Chair Berger spoke regarding a carjacking and asked if the ALPR cameras were used.

Lieutenant Moulder said that he could follow-up with more information regarding the carjacking.

Commissioner Roshay thanked Lieutenant Moulder for his responsiveness. Commissioner Roshay asked if there is a need for more MET teams.

Lieutenant Moulder said that more MET coverage is always preferred since it is an outstanding program. Lieutenant Moulder said that West Hollywood is the first City to contract for its own MET team.

Chair Laflen spoke regarding MET. Chair Laflen expressed concern for the sexual assault that occurred earlier this month where the suspect is unknown to the victim. Chair Laflen expressed concern for resource deployment based on recent crimes.

Commissioner Roshay asked if there were still large, unmasked gatherings since the last meeting.

Lieutenant Moulder said that since the last Commission meeting there have not been large gatherings.

Commissioner Roshay spoke regarding an incident on February 3rd near Barney’s Beanery that involved recall Newsom activities with unmasked people and asked for more information on the incident and what the definition of peaceful protesting means. Commissioner Roshay asked for an updated number on citations and what the feedback is after a citation. Commissioner Roshay asked to be notified on any future meetings with the Center for Policing Equity.

Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding very large peaceful protests and enforcement which is focused on large crowd safety. Lieutenant Moulder

spoke regarding the response to the recall Newsome people who were cited for not having masks on. Lieutenant Moulder said that 128 citations have been written and that additional enforcement is taking place.

Chair Laflen expressed concern for the crimes that feel more unusual for West Hollywood and said that people feel more unsafe than before.

Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding the recent robbery and burglary suppression activities conducted by West Hollywood Deputies.

Chair Laflen spoke regarding the ongoing issues at Target and expressed concern for the response and asked why the individual has not been arrested. Chair Laflen spoke regarding face covering enforcement and encouraged enforcement outside of busy businesses. Chair Laflen asked for more information regarding code enforcement's efforts and expressed concern with queue lines.

Lieutenant Moulder and staff outlined code enforcement's efforts.

Commissioner Balbone spoke regarding issues with take-out queues and how businesses have had to adapt their business models to adjust to life during the pandemic.

Commissioners and staff spoke regarding the Social Justice Taskforce and possible collaboration with the Commission.

Commissioner Roshay spoke in support of utilizing social services teams to address the individual at Target who needs assistance.

Staff and Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding the coordination between Sheriff and social services teams.

Commissioner Sol asked for an update on the bike patrol team.

Lieutenant Moulder said that while there is not an official bike team, there are Deputies who are trained and authorized to ride bikes and that they are primarily used during the summer months.

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 during the Sheriff's report. Lieutenant Moulder said that he and the City Attorney gave public comment during the last Los Angeles Cannabis Commission meeting.

Chair Laflen spoke regarding the upcoming meeting of the Los Angeles Cannabis Commission meeting.

Staff said that the next meeting of the Los Angeles Cannabis Commission is scheduled for February 18th.

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

Mr. Shea Gibson reviewed the monthly reports from January 2021, including pedestrian assistance, crosswalk assistance, homeless issues, and park patrols.

Commissioner Williams thanked Block by Block for their service.

Commissioner Roshay spoke in support of utilizing Block by Block to assist pedestrians and provide safety escorts for residents.

Mr. Gibson spoke regarding the many calls that they do receive and that the businesses refer patrons to them.

10. ITEMS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES

None.

11. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Commissioners agreed to hold the March 8, 2021 meeting at 6:00 PM.

Staff reported that applications are open for the Social Justice Taskforce and that information regarding the small business grants program and the upcoming roundtable is on the City's website.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

13. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Williams thanked all for reaching out to her to wish her well.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 8:03 PM in the memory of the 27 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the January 2021 meeting and all those black community members who have died at the hands

of law enforcement. The next meeting is scheduled for March 8, 2021 at 6:00 PM via teleconference.

DocuSigned by:

Public Safety Commission Chair

DocuSigned by:

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.)