

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

**MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2021
6:00 P.M.**

VIA TELECONFERENCE

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

Commissioners Present: Balbone, Berger, Hallman, Norton, Roshay, Williams

Commissioners Absent: Laflen

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; Shea Gibson, Block by Block; Kristin Cook, Public Safety Director; Janet Jimenez, Assistant to the City Manager

4. **ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS**

Commissioner Balbone requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of Gabe Donnay.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Williams to approve the April 12, 2021 agenda, seconded by Commissioner Norton, and approved.

POSTING OF THE AGENDA

The agenda for the April 12, 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 Williams to approve the March 8, 2021 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Norton, and approved.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS

Commissioner Roshay spoke regarding the recent training regarding Human Trafficking. Commissioner Roshay thanked Jasmine Duckworth for a productive Neighborhood Watch Captains' meeting. Commissioner Roshay spoke regarding her attendance at the first West Hollywood Housing Element Advocates Meeting and a Measure J meeting. Commissioner Roshay spoke in support of having "reimagining policing" as its own agenda item going forward instead of part of the Sheriff's report.

Commissioner Norton spoke in support of having "reimagining policing" as its own agenda item going forward.

Commissioner Balbone spoke in support of monitoring Measure J as part of the "reimagining policing" agenda item. Commissioner Balbone spoke regarding her attendance at recent meetings including the first West Hollywood Housing Element Advocates Meeting, a Measure J meeting, the Neighborhood Block Captains' meeting, and the Human Trafficking training. Commissioner Balbone suggested closely monitoring funding streams from different avenues, such as Cal Health, that fund social services programs.

Vice-Chair Berger spoke in support of providing the human trafficking materials to the Neighborhood Watch Captains and the Public Safety Commission.

Staff said that the City Clerk will provide the human trafficking materials to the Neighborhood Watch Captains and the Public Safety Commission.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9A. LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS - 2019 HATE CRIMES REPORT

Marshall Wong of the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations reviewed the 2019 Hate Crimes Report.

Commissioner Williams asked for clarification regarding data reporting from the station versus county wide.

Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding the reporting of data and said that the station data does match the county data.

Vice-Chair Berger spoke in support of properly recording crimes as hate crimes when applicable.

9B. REPORT FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT

Battalion Chief Ghorbani said that when reviewing the Fire Department statistics for March 2020, including suppression, rescue, and fire prevention activities, all look normal.

Commissioner Balbone asked for additional information about “psychological calls”.

Chief Ghorbani said that the term is used broadly by the dispatchers to be able to clearly differentiate the call from traditional calls such as “chest pain”. Chief Ghorbani said that he would look further into the data to see if there are any trends of note.

Assistant Chief Drew Smith said that Fire personnel are doing well, and he spoke regarding staffing changes within Battalion 1 and Division VII.

9C. SHERIFF’S REPORT: MONTHLY REPORT; DRAFT STAFFING & BUDGET FOR 2021-2022; REIMAGINING POLICING

Lieutenant Bill Moulder reviewed the crime statistics for March 2021 which overall are significantly down. Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding vacant properties, mail thefts, and a recent robbery on Norton. Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding an incident on March 31st near Cookies where individuals fired several rounds from a gun. Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding the outreach efforts by the Sheriff’s Station to assist community members experiencing homelessness and the expansion of an existing partnership with the Tarzana Treatment Center to assist incarcerated individuals. Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding the increased staffing in partnership with Code Compliance to address health order and entertainment related issues. Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding the MOU with the Center for Policing Equity which is currently under review. Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding an arrest for a sexual assault on Fountain.

Lieutenant Moulder reported the following based on questions from the March Public Safety Commission Meeting:

- Vice-Chair Berger asked, regarding the MET presentation, about the outcomes of the 40 or so cases that were reported but not handled by MET but by regular Patrol. Because of HIPAA protections, Sheriff personnel are not able to access outcome information regarding those cases where someone was committed to a hold.

- Commissioner Hallman asked if gun crimes have increased. Lieutenant Moulder provided the following statistics:

Armed Robberies (most are with firearm) – Whole City

2021 – 5
2020 – 26
2019 – 29

Assault with a Deadly Weapon (firearm) – Whole City

2021 – 3
2020 – 9
2019 – 9

- Commissioner Hallman asked about fielding Bike Deputies. Lieutenant Moulder said that during the warmer months, they will field Community Impact Team Deputies on various bike patrol operations and will also coordinate with the City if additional equipment is needed.

Commissioner Williams asked if there has been any success in tracking down mail theft suspects. Commissioner Williams expressed concern for people not wearing face coverings.

Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding health order enforcement and mail thefts.

Commissioner Hallman spoke regarding the Derek Chauvin trial and asked if plans are in place for the pending verdict.

Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding law enforcement plans for the pending verdict, including a possible countywide tactical deployment and having an operational plan in place.

Commissioner Hallman spoke regarding encampments on the border of West Hollywood on Formosa and asked if the Sheriff's Department is monitoring.

Lieutenant Moulder said that they are in contact with LAPD and are aware of the civilian complaints regarding the encampment.

Commissioner Roshay asked how West Hollywood can assist individuals just outside of West Hollywood.

Staff and Lt. Moulder said that social service agencies and Sheriff's Deputies collaborate with LAPD to assist individuals.

Commissioner Roshay asked if there are different protocols for reporting and handling Part I crimes and Part II crimes.

Lieutenant Moulder gave a description of Part I and Part II crimes and said that Part I crimes are primarily used to guide deployment and resources.

Commissioner Roshay asked staff to send a summary of the Commission's work on equity to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Balbone asked for additional information regarding an increase in vehicle burglaries.

Lieutenant Moulder said that the recent vehicle burglaries appear to be opportunistic, and at this time it is not related to an organized group coming into the community to commit these crimes. Lieutenant Moulder cautioned all not to leave valuables in plain view inside vehicles.

Commissioner Balbone spoke regarding potential protests and asked if the City works with the Chamber to coordinate.

Lieutenant Moulder said that the City, the Station, and the Chamber all coordinate and meet weekly.

Commissioner Balbone expressed concern for the large crowds and lines waiting to enter West Hollywood restaurants and bars.

Staff gave an overview of the response to the pandemic and cautioned all that it is still a very critical time, and that people should not let down their guard. Staff spoke regarding the joint Code Compliance and Sheriff teams who work together to enforce the health order.

Commissioner Hallman asked for additional information on the plans to manage crowds on Robertson, including hours of operation.

Staff and Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding mitigation measures and staffing.

Vice-Chair Berger thanked West Seegmiller for sending articles over related to homelessness encampments in the City of Los Angeles. Vice-Chair Berger asked if the Sheriff's Station is in contact with the Postmaster regarding the recent mail thefts.

Lieutenant Moulder said that law enforcement is in contact with the Postmaster.

Vice-Chair Berger spoke regarding issues of homelessness and how that intersects with the business community. Vice-Chair Berger spoke regarding recent crimes that were committed by individuals experiencing homelessness.

Lieutenant Moulder said that Deputies follow-up with outreach operations to attempt to house the individual, work with businesses to have a letter of agency, and encourage businesses to report every crime.

Staff reviewed the draft 575 which covers contracted Sheriff staffing for the City of West Hollywood.

Commissioners asked clarifying questions regarding the draft 575.

Commissioner Balbone recommended monitoring Measure J and how that county wide funding may impact the City of West Hollywood.

Vice-Chair Berger requested that staff send the video link from the public safety presentation to City Council on April 5, 2021.

9D. DISCUSSION ON COLLABORATION WITH THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

Commissioners discussed a proposed joint, virtual community conversation on mental health and homelessness in June 2021 in lieu of the regular Public Safety Commission meeting in partnership with the Los Angeles County Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission (COC).

Staff said that the Chair and Vice-Chair would be panelists along with COC Commissioners.

Commissioners agreed by consensus to support the joint meeting with COC on June 14, 2021.

9E. UPDATE ON IMPACTS FROM COOKIES

This item was heard during the Sheriff's report.

9F. REPORT FROM BLOCK BY BLOCK SECURITY AMBASSADORS – MONTHLY REPORT AND PROPOSED STAFFING FOR 2021-2022

Mr. Shea Gibson noted an increase in graffiti and an increase in individuals experiencing homelessness.

Commissioner Balbone asked for additional information on Security Ambassadors' schedules.

Mr. Gibson spoke regarding the various schedules of the Security Ambassadors that serve West Hollywood.

Commissioner Hallman spoke in support of permanent kiosk style presence of Block by Block at Santa Monica Boulevard and La Brea near the Dylan.

Staff spoke regarding the upcoming budget cycle for July 1, and that it is likely that existing budgets will not be increased quite yet.

Commissioner Balbone asked how staffing is determined. Commissioner Balbone spoke in support of assisting the public with directions and parking due to traffic impacts caused by the closure on Robertson.

Vice-Chair Berger spoke in support of extending MET to cover overnight hours.

Staff said that in the interim Strategic Initiatives staff are working with Lt. Gannon and MET to try some overtime shifts during periods where the City is not currently covered.

10. ITEMS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES

None.

11. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff spoke regarding the recent executive order in line with the updated health officer order.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS

West Seegmiller, Sex Workers Outreach Project, spoke in support of covering homeless encampments in future meetings and spoke regarding an upcoming screening of Crystal Diaries.

13. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Balbone spoke in support of having topic-based meetings.

Staff said that the May meeting will focus on Domestic Violence and will have a guest speaker from The Los Angeles LGBT Center.

Commissioner Roshay asked for a business card list of services to pass out to individuals. Commissioner Roshay requested a future training on the WeHo app.

Commissioners discussed the posting of previous agendas and special reports.

Commissioner Hallman spoke regarding the recent, successful Neighborhood Watch Captains training. Commissioner Hallman spoke regarding an upcoming eastside Co-Captains meeting. Commissioner Hallman spoke regarding his appointment to the LASD Community Advisory Commission.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 8:34 PM in the memory of Gabe Donnay. The next meeting is scheduled for May 10, 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.)