

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

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2021
6:00 P.M.**

VIA TELECONFERENCE

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

Commissioners Present: Balbone, Berger, Hallman, Oliver, Roman, Roshay, Soon-shiong

Commissioners Absent: None

Others present: Lieutenant Bill Moulder, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Assistant Chief Drew Smith, Los Angeles County Fire Department; Battalion Chief Leland Delaney, Los Angeles County Fire Department; Megan Currier, Community Services Representative, Los Angeles County Fire Department; Shea Gibson, Block by Block; Kristin Cook, Public Safety Director; Margarita Kustanovich, Emergency Management Coordinator; Jessica Anukam, Public Safety Specialist

4. **ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS**

None

5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

ACTION: Motion by Vice-Chair Roshay to approve the October 11, 2021 agenda, seconded by Commissioner Balbone and approved.

POSTING OF THE AGENDA

The agenda for the October 11, 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 Vice-Chair Roshay to approve the September 13, 2021 minutes as amended, seconded by Commissioner Balbone, and approved.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Patrick Blood, Disabilities Advisory Board Member, spoke regarding a recent dock-less mobility presentation to the Disabilities Advisory Board, expressed concern for safety, and said that more enforcement is needed.

William Karpiak, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding the impacts from homelessness and spoke in support of Block by Block kiosks on the west side, especially at the Ramada plaza and Robertson.

Kimberley Copeland, Rent Stabilization Commissioner, introduced herself as the liaison to the Public Safety Commission.

Chelsea Byers, resident of West Hollywood, spoke in support of the reimagining policing work of the Public Safety Commission and Measure J.

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

None

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9A. REVIEW OF 2021-2022 SHERIFF SERVICE LEVEL AUTHORIZATION WITH CONTRACT LAW REPRESENTATIVES

Commissioners received a brief presentation from Contract Law representatives regarding the 2021-2022 Sheriff Service Level Authorization, including Captain Sergio Escobedo, Lieutenant Bryan Aguilera, and Sergeant Mina Cho.

Staff spoke regarding the history of policing levels in West Hollywood and said that the levels of sworn personnel have remained relatively stable and are slightly less than they were ten to fifteen years ago. Staff said that the City has added more non-sworn public safety resources, such as Block by Block, over the past ten years. Staff reminded the Commissioners that two Deputies and one Sergeant were cut during the July 1, 2020 budget reductions.

Vice-Chair Roshay asked for additional clarification regarding the Service Level Authorization 575 for West Hollywood, including liability charges.

Commissioner Soon-shiong asked for additional information regarding how Deputies manage and track their time, including how overtime is managed.

Lieutenant Aguilera explained the items on the 575, liability charges, and how a Deputy's time is tracked by computer.

Chair Berger referenced the training video shared with Commissioners previously.

Commissioner Balbone asked how services like dispatch, relief, and training are included in the cost model.

Lieutenant Aguilera said that the relief formula attached to a unit of service determines how many people need to be assigned to any one station covered by a contract. Lieutenant Aguilera said that dispatchers and training are covered in the overhead cost and that rates are set by the County's auditor / controller's office.

Commissioner Hallman asked how staffing for special events is contracted.

Staff said that separate agreements are made between various County departments for public safety staffing for events and that the funding is approved during the City's regular budget process.

Commissioner Oliver asked when Commissioners will review annual contract amounts for next fiscal year.

Staff said that the first formal discussion for 2022-2023 service levels is scheduled for the Public Safety Commission's meeting in February.

Chair Berger spoke regarding the various levels of service and inquired about "no relief" items.

Lieutenant Aguilera explained the difference between items that require 24/7 coverage such as patrol and specialty items where no backfill is required.

Chair Berger asked how the need for surges in personnel are handled.

Lieutenant Aguilera spoke regarding mutual aid and also how overtime is used by the County to fulfill special needs.

Commissioner Roman asked how long a newly assigned Deputy is required to stay in West Hollywood.

Lieutenant Aguilera said that the minimum is one year per new assignment.

Commissioner Roman spoke regarding mutual aid with the Beverly Hills Police Department.

Lieutenant Aguilera spoke regarding mutual aid and how neighboring agencies assist each other which does not result in charges to the City.

9B. REPORT FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT

Assistant Chief Drew Smith said that fire personnel are doing well. Chief Smith spoke regarding mutual aid and providing resources across the state. Chief Smith reviewed the September report. Chief Smith spoke regarding Halloween and LA Marathon preparations.

Chair Berger asked Chief Smith to report on items that the Department is working on improving in the future.

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

Shea Gibson provided a report on Block by Block Security Ambassador activity for the month of September 2021 which includes the possibility of adding a kiosk on the eastside. Mr. Gibson spoke regarding preparations for the LA Marathon.

Commissioner Oliver spoke in support of adding a kiosk on the westside near the Ramada.

Vice-Chair Roshay spoke in support of an eastside kiosk while considering other locations that may be beneficial.

Commissioner Oliver spoke in support of increased presence around the whole City. Commissioner Oliver spoke regarding the immediate need for Security Ambassador presence near the Ramada.

Commissioner Hallman spoke in support of implementing the eastside kiosk first.

Commissioner Balbone spoke in support of both locations and suggested staggering implementation.

Commissioner Oliver spoke regarding the need for both locations. Commissioner Oliver spoke in regarding supporting businesses.

Commissioner Roman asked for clarification regarding the role of the Security Ambassador in responding to a person experiencing homelessness. Commissioner Roman said that Block by Block kiosks will not be able to assist with solving the long term issues. Commissioner Roman spoke in support of Deputies staying at least two years in the City and participating in

foot and bike patrols. Commissioner Roman spoke in support of a pilot program with kiosks.

Commissioner Hallman spoke regarding the history of eastside residents advocating for resources and said that the request for an eastside kiosk was made last fiscal year.

Commissioner Balbone suggested that the Commissioners discuss it later in the meeting when considering all recommendations to the City Council in order to make a robust request. Commissioner Balbone suggested that the request include officers on bikes and to package it in one request.

Commissioner Oliver spoke in support of holding the discussion now.

Commissioner Roman suggested moving Security Ambassadors out of patrol in order to staff kiosks.

Chair Berger spoke regarding negative impacts to tourists.

Commissioner Soon-shiong spoke in support of providing space to have a broader conversation about safety in order to leave room for other resources to be included.

Commissioner Oliver expressed concern with how long it has taken to implement the additional Block by Block Security Ambassadors.

Commissioner Soon-shiong questioned the efficacy of increasing patrols and said that increasing access to social services has been shown to reduce public safety related incidents.

Chair Berger spoke in support of addressing the root causes.

Commissioner Balbone spoke regarding the positive momentum with eastside residents who now enjoy the park again due to the presence of Security Ambassadors. Commissioner Balbone spoke regarding the importance to also provide social services.

Commissioner Oliver spoke in support of an increased presence of Security Ambassadors.

Vice-Chair Roshay spoke in support of holding a special meeting to discuss public safety resources.

Commissioner Balbone spoke regarding months of feedback from residents and the importance of supporting a broader plan. Commissioner Balbone

spoke in support of continuing to use data and constituent feedback to guide discussions.

Commissioner Oliver spoke against holding a special meeting and in support of discussing the items at a regular meeting.

Victor Omelchenko, resident of West Hollywood, thanked the Commissioners and public safety personnel for their work and said that the kiosk is a micro issue and that the Commission should focus on the macro issue.

Vice Chair Roshay spoke in support of holding a special meeting in the near future to discuss leveraging services and to include Block by Block and Sheriff resources.

Commissioner Oliver spoke in support of broadening the scope.

Commissioner Soon-shiong spoke in support of broadening the discussion to include proven public health interventions and other social services.

Commissioner Balbone spoke in support of the need for robust help and to support any door of entry in order to receive services. Commissioner Balbone spoke regarding the need to connect services and resources together to best serve the individual's needs. Commissioner Balbone encouraged all to consider requests that have been heard by the Commission in the past.

Commissioner Hallman spoke regarding the difficulty with getting resources for the eastside. Commissioner Hallman said that he does not want the meeting to slow the implementation of an eastside kiosk.

Chair Berger spoke in support of kiosks at both locations.

Vice-Chair Roshay said that she does not want the meeting to slow the implementation of an eastside kiosk.

Commissioner Oliver spoke in support of holding the discussion at a regular meeting.

Commissioner Balbone spoke in support of moving forward with the eastside kiosk and of the importance of tying outcomes to data.

ACTION: Motion by Vice-Chair Roshay to hold a special meeting to discuss public safety resources and priorities, seconded by Commissioner Balbone, and approved with Commissioner Oliver voting no.

Commissioner Oliver clarified that he is in support of the discussion, but that he prefers to hold the discussion at a regular meeting.

9D. SHERIFF'S REPORT – MONTHLY REPORT

Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding September incidents and crimes and said that Part 1 Crimes are up 11% as compared to September of last year. Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding the special operations and outreach to people experiencing homelessness. Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding the bikes that are currently being outfitted for the Deputies who will be using them. Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding planning for Halloween and the LA Marathon. Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding the data exchange with the Center for Policing Equity.

Commissioner Roman offered his assistance with outfitting the bikes for the Deputies.

Lieutenant Moulder said that the bikes are in a bike shop just waiting for their lights and police sirens.

Commissioner Balbone asked that the station use metrics to determine if bikes are useful.

Lieutenant Moulder said that enforcement tools and targeting specific problems can help serve as deterrents. Lieutenant Moulder said that utilizing bikes is one piece of the puzzle and that multiple things are needed.

Commissioner Roman asked if they are electric bikes.

Lieutenant Moulder said that they are traditional bikes.

Commissioner Roman spoke regarding the success with electric bikes and parking enforcement. Commissioner Roman said that Deputies riding in vehicles is impersonal.

Chair Berger spoke regarding the importance of metrics and isolating the one item you change to monitor the effect.

Commissioner Balbone spoke in support of utilizing metrics and using targeted solutions to solve and prevent crimes.

Commissioner Hallman spoke regarding LAPD's efforts to put more officers on bikes and horseback in the Melrose area and asked if Lieutenant Moulder has heard if that has helped.

Lieutenant Moulder spoke in support of having Deputies on foot and on bikes and interacting more with the community.

Commissioner Roman spoke regarding the various studies that show the effectiveness of law enforcement utilizing bikes.

Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding the foot patrols that are on both the east side, the west side, and at City parks.

Commissioner Oliver said that he is conveying the sentiment of the community who want more of a community policing spirit.

Commissioner Roman said that there are no foot patrols.

Lieutenant Moulder gave an overview of existing foot patrols.

Commissioner Balbone spoke in support of a monthly report that shows bike and foot patrols and their effectiveness

Commissioner Hallman spoke in support of the need for improvement.

Commissioner Oliver said that resources need to shift now in order to make people feel safe.

Lieutenant Moulder said the Commission could make a recommendation to have a full time foot beat program.

Commissioner Soon-shiong said that it is fundamental question whether people feel safer with more cops on the ground rather than adding other supportive services.

9E. UPDATE ON IMPACTS FROM COOKIES

Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding a concern from a neighbor regarding boxes being taken into a house near Cookies and said that the attorney for Cookies confirmed that they were regular household items and not marijuana products.

9F. REIMAGINING POLICING, PROMOTING EQUITY, MEASURE J / ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION, COLLABORATION WITH THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT COMMISSION, AND THE CENTER FOR POLICING EQUITY STUDY

Commissioners spoke regarding the upcoming discussion regarding public safety and related services at the City Council meeting on November 15, 2021.

Commissioner Soon-shiong spoke regarding the Care First Community Investment.

Commissioner Balbone asked staff to research updated information on Measure J.

9G. WORK PLAN DRAFT DEVELOPMENT AND LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS

Commissioners tabled the work plan to the special meeting.

Commissioners assigned liaisons to other Boards and Commissions as follows:

Commission	Assigned to:
Arts & Cultural Affairs Commission	Commissioner Hallman
Business License Commission	
Historic Preservation Commission	Commissioner Roman
Human Services Commission	Commissioner Balbone & Commissioner Soon-shiong
Planning Commission	Commissioner Oliver
Public Facilities Commission	Chair Berger
Rent Stabilization Commission	Commissioner Oliver
Transportation Commission	Chair Berger
Advisory Board	Assigned to:
Disabilities Advisory Board	Commissioner Balbone
Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board	Vice Chair Roshay
Russian Advisory Board	
Senior Advisory Board	
Transgender Advisory Board	
Women's Advisory Board	Vice Chair Roshay

10. ITEMS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES

None

11. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff said that Danny Rivas, Code Compliance Manager, will attend in November.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Victor Omelchenko, resident of West Hollywood, asked if written submissions to the Public Safety Commission could be posted similarly to posted comments to the City Council.

Chair Berger confirmed that it will be possible.

13. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Oliver spoke in support better time management during meetings. Commissioner Oliver said that his views on law enforcement were mischaracterized earlier in the meeting by a fellow Commissioner.

Commissioner Balbone asked for regular updates about the vaccination mandate. Commissioner Balbone asked if Commissioners can be copied on emails to City Council related to public safety concerns. Commissioner Balbone asked if the Los Angeles County Civilian Oversight Commission's concerns will be shared on November 15th.

Commissioner Soon-shiong spoke regarding Sheriff Villanueva's stance on refusing to enforce the County's vaccination mandate.

Vice-Chair Roshay asked if it is necessary to have code compliance attend the next meeting.

Chair Berger said that Commissioners have requested regular updates from code compliance.

Commissioner Oliver made a motion to forgo the special meeting if the City Clerk can include their comments after the packet deadline. There was no second for the motion.

Commissioner Hallman spoke in support of working collaboratively and being sensitive to each other as the group gets to know each other.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 10:10 PM. The next regular meeting is scheduled for November 8, 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.)