

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

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2021
6:00 P.M.**

VIA TELECONFERENCE

1. **CALL TO ORDER** at 6:00 PM
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** led by Commissioner Oliver
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; Sergeant Fanny Lapkin, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; 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; Margarita Kustanovich, Emergency Management Coordinator

4. **ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS**

None.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

ACTION: Motion by Vice-Chair Roshay to approve the December 13, 2021 agenda, seconded by Commissioner Oliver and approved.

POSTING OF THE AGENDA

The agenda for the December 13, 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 November 8, 2021 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Hallman, and approved.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Vice Chair Roshay thanked Rent Stabilization Commissioner Karen Eyres for her thoughtful story telling work for this year's World AIDS Day program.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9A. REIMAGINING POLICING AND PROMOTING EQUITY – PRESENTATION FROM DIGNITY AND POWER NOW

Commissioners received a presentation from Ivette Ale', Dignity and Power Now, regarding reimagining justice and applying public health approaches to public safety. Ivette Ale' discussed pretrial detention and the negative impacts to people. They reviewed recommendations from Strategy 3 of the Los Angeles County Alternatives to Incarceration Final Report including expanding return to court support services and providing warm handoffs to community based systems of care.

Vice-Chair Roshay thanked Ivette Ale' for their presentation and work on reimagining justice issues.

Commissioner Balbone asked for clarification on the wrap around services offered to individuals.

Ivette Ale' said that Los Angeles County needs to provide many more services to individuals than it does now and that many services are provided by community based organizations. Ivette Ale' said that the Office of Diversion and Reentry does a great job steering incarcerated individuals to proper care but that that the program needs more funding.

Commissioner Oliver asked for additional information regarding how to move from punitive approaches to public health and care first models.

Ivette Ale' said that West Hollywood could create a pre-trial service system as a pilot for the County.

Commissioner Hallman asked how to transform the system into a care first model.

Ivette Ale' said that it is important to provide a pathway to move from a punitive economy to a care first economy, including prioritizing funding.

Adam Darvish, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding the need for a wholistic approach to providing services and working with the Sheriff's Station.

Ivette Ale' spoke regarding the history of incarceration and the over reliance on law enforcement to provide mental health services.

9B. REPORT FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT

Assistant Chief Drew Smith spoke regarding the pending storm and the importance of preparedness. Chief Smith spoke regarding the recent rubbish fires.

Chair Berger asked for additional information regarding the rubbish fires.

Chief Smith said that the fires have mostly been in larger roll off bins.

Commissioner Oliver spoke regarding an incident where he called 911 to report a vehicle fire.

Chief Smith spoke regarding how calls are routed to the proper first responders.

Megan Currier, Community Services Liaison, offered to look up the call for Commissioner Oliver.

Chair Berger spoke regarding revamping the 911 system to accommodate the 988 system and asked staff to follow-up. Chair Berger recommended properly mounting fire extinguishers.

Megan Currier gave an update on the newly created Community Risk Reduction Captain who is responsible for CERT and other community programs. She spoke regarding a new volunteer system which should better link CERT volunteers to the Fire Department as well as future preparedness training which will include single session options.

Chair Berger spoke in support of tabletop exercises for the community and asked staff to make sure the various training options are advertised to the community.

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 November 2021. Mr. Gibson spoke regarding the new kiosk at La Brea and Santa Monica Boulevard.

Commissioner Oliver asked how the interactions have been at the new kiosk.

Mr. Gibson said that interaction so far is minimal since it is brand new but said that the Security Ambassadors were proactively visiting the corner even before the kiosk was placed.

Vice-Chair Roshay asked if there is anything that Block by Block needs.

Mr. Gibson said that educating the community on their services is always helpful.

Mr. Hallman asked if there has been a change in the types of calls that Block by Block is responding to and if there is a decrease in residential calls.

Mr. Gibson said that there has been an increase in more violent calls and that while Security Ambassadors do patrol residential areas, the main focus are the commercial streets.

9D. SHERIFF'S REPORT – MONTHLY REPORT AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Lieutenant Moulder said that Part 1 Crimes were up 77% when comparing November 2021 with November 2020. Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding recent vehicle burglaries, pickpockets, and robberies as well as a “nightlife safety” operation. Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding assistance provided to persons experiencing homelessness by the Community Impact Team. Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding a recent traffic stop where the driver rammed a patrol vehicle and was arrested. Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding the additional foot patrols in the City. Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding an upcoming community academy to be held in 2022 and encouraged the Public Safety Commission to be the inaugural class.

Commissioner Balbone asked if there is an increase in criminal activity outside of venues and/or after hours.

Lieutenant Moulder said that he would look into the locations and times of the calls.

Commissioner Roman asked if Lieutenant Moulder could provide a schedule of the foot patrols.

Lieutenant Moulder said that he would provide the Commission with a schedule.

Chair Berger asked if there has been an increase in violent crimes.

Lieutenant Moulder said that aggravated assaults have increased 36% when comparing November 2021 with November 2020.

Chair Berger asked for an update regarding the restoration of the two positions on the Entertainment Policing Team that were cut during the COVID-19 related budget reductions.

Staff spoke regarding the City's budget process and said that the Commission will be reviewing the Sheriff's staffing at the February meeting.

Adam Darvish, resident of West Hollywood, asked if Deputies receive any training regarding unconscious bias and asked for an update on traffic enforcement.

Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding training that the Deputies receive regarding bias and diversity.

Yola Dore, resident of West Hollywood and liaison from the Disabilities Advisory Board, wished the Commissioners a happy holiday and asked the Commission to support people with disabilities.

9E. UPDATE ON IMPACTS FROM COOKIES

Lieutenant Moulder said that they continue to monitor activity around Cookies and said that there were no complaints in November.

Commissioner Balbone asked if there is an update regarding the City's work with the City of Los Angeles on the various issues.

Commissioner Roman spoke regarding the multiple cannabis licenses in the City of West Hollywood.

Commissioner Balbone spoke in support of getting regular updates regarding the businesses who will be selling cannabis.

Lesa Slaughter, attorney for Cookies, thanked Lieutenant Moulder and Sergeant Lapkin for their assistance.

9F. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION WORK PLAN – UPDATE OF THE CITY'S EMERGENCY PLAN AND ONLY YES MEANS YES PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

Margarita Kustanovich spoke regarding the City's Emergency Plan update and asked for two Commissioners to serve as liaisons to the project.

Commissioners Hallman and Oliver volunteered to assist staff with the Emergency Plan update.

Commissioners received an update on the Only Yes Means Yes public education campaign with the Women's Advisory Board which includes an event on Thursday, December 16th.

Chair Berger asked for clarification on how the rape of an unconscious person is classified as a crime under Prop 57.

Lieutenant Moulder said that he would follow-up.

Vice-Chair Roshay spoke in support of working with the Women's Advisory Board sub-committee to research the issues and then present findings back to the Commission.

Chair Berger asked for input on the work plan. Commissioners and staff discussed the time sensitive items including the budget and the update of the Emergency Plan.

Commissioner Balbone asked for clarification regarding staffing ratios as compared to other municipalities.

Lieutenant Moulder said that he would follow-up on the staffing ratios.

Staff asked the Commissioners to review the documents from the November 15th City Council meeting which have been placed in Microsoft SharePoint for the Commissioners.

10. ITEMS FROM STAFF

10A. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION CALENDAR

Commissioners reviewed the upcoming schedule of agenda items.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

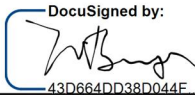
12. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Vice-Chair Roshay said that the first sub-committee meeting with the Women's Advisory Board will be held in January.

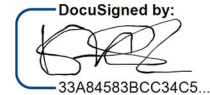
Chair Berger recommended reviewing the Emergency Plan from Fairfax, Virginia.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 8:30 PM. The next regular meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2022 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.)