

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

**TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2022
5:00 P.M.**

VIA TELECONFERENCE

1. **CALL TO ORDER** at 5:03 PM
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** led by Chair Berger
3. **ROLL CALL**

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

*Commissioner Roman joined at 5:49 PM.

Commissioners Absent: None

Others present: Kristin Cook, Public Safety Director; Christine Safriet, Budget Officer; Lauren Wyman, StrategyCorp; Daniel Blazekovic, StrategyCorp; Matt Torigian, StrategyCorp

4. **ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS**

None

5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

ACTION: Motion by Vice-Chair Roshay to approve the April 19, 2022 agenda, seconded by Commissioner Balbone and approved.

POSTING OF THE AGENDA

The agenda for the April 19, 2022 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 April 11, 2022 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Hallman and approved as amended.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Michael Carter, resident of West Hollywood, thanked all for attending his recent Neighborhood Watch meeting.

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Balbone asked for clarification regarding paper packet public comment at City Council meetings.

Chair Berger said that emails from Commissioners to other Commissioners have been blocked.

Staff clarified that it is best to have discussions at the meetings themselves and not in emails that residents do not have access to and suggested discussing the issue more at the next regular meeting.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9A. COMMUNITY SAFETY AND WELL BEING PLAN FOR THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

The Public Safety Commission met with representatives from StrategyCorp consulting to discuss the development of a Community Safety and Well Being Plan for the City of West Hollywood.

Lauren Wyman, StrategyCorp, gave a brief introduction to the project including the various phases of Kick-Off and Project Planning, Current State Assessment and Gap Analysis, Recommendation Development and Prioritization, and Early Implementation Planning.

Ms. Wyman guided the discussion through current strengths. Detailed notes were kept by the consultants throughout the discussion.

Chair Berger listed Neighborhood Watch, engaged community members, Sheriff's Deputies, and Block by Block Security Ambassadors.

Commissioner Balbone listed community housing and investment, the data that is available to West Hollywood Public Safety Commissioners, and the way that the City rallies around large events.

Vice-Chair Roshay listed long term social services, transportation services, engaged community members, and the ease of identifying intersections of services and solutions to make change happen.

Commissioner Oliver listed being a small city, collaboration around homelessness services, and strong revenue resources.

Commissioner Hallman listed Block by Block Security Ambassadors and kiosks and said that he is very proud of them.

Ms. Wyman guided the discussion through opportunities. Detailed notes were kept by the consultants throughout the discussion.

Vice-Chair Roshay listed creating a Behavioral Health Crisis Unit, the need for rapid response from clinicians, and having a West Hollywood Police Department.

Commissioner Oliver listed the need for rapid response from clinicians in order to reallocate Deputies' time.

Commissioner Soon-Shiong listed the need to connect on the administrative side and to have a clear place to know where to go for immediate mental health services.

Chair Berger said that there is a need to change state laws and have more clarity and added that the Sheriff is measuring the wrong things. Chair Berger listed the need for a comprehensive plan, to tie in mental health, and to do more deep observation.

Commissioner Oliver listed the possible expansion of Sheriff's volunteers, and the need to look at the problem holistically.

Matt Torigian, StrategyCorp, gave a brief background on the positive work and approaches that he is seeing with various cities across the country.

Ms. Wyman guided the discussion through success factors. Detailed notes were kept by the consultants throughout the discussion.

Chair Berger said there is a need to listen to everybody.

Commissioner Hallman spoke in support of Sheriff's Deputies being embedded in the community and on foot.

Commissioner Balbone spoke regarding the earned distrust in law enforcement by listening to all who are both over- and under-served by the current process.

Commissioner Roman said that it is disappointing that Commissioners have to repeat their points multiple times while nothing changes. Commissioner Roman spoke in support of having a West Hollywood Police Department.

Commissioner Soon-Shiong said that there is a need for an independent mechanism for people to be able to report issues with the Sheriff's Department. Commissioner Soon-Shiong said that the way that data is presented needs to be improved.

Vice-Chair Roshay said that there are limited ways to file a complaint to the City and the Sheriff's Department and spoke in support of creating a non-biased third party to provide a safe pathway to do so.

Victor Omelczenko, resident of West Hollywood, spoke in support of breaking down silos and connecting residents with services quickly. Mr. Omelczenko listed the various organizations speaking about wellbeing and safety and the need to include the Human Services Commission and to streamline efforts.

Michael Carter, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding the need for a unification of the West Hollywood community, the various components of service, the Neighborhood Watch program, and the Community Emergency Response Team.

Ms. Wyman guided the discussion through next steps including reaching out to multiple commissions and boards, opportunities for public comment, and the future drafting of strategic goals.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Patrick Blood, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding frustration in the community and expressed faith in the Public Safety Commission. Mr. Blood thanked Commissioners for giving attention to disabilities related issues.

Victor Omelczenko, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding his posted comment and also the paper comments he picked up at the recent City Council meeting and said that all should be shared with the Public Safety Commission.

11. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Hallman said that he prefers the word action to the word study and wondered when something will actually happen.

Chair Berger said that he agrees with Commissioner Hallman and would like to see action and to use the form of metrics in a fair and unbiased way.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 6:39 PM. The next regular meeting is scheduled for June 13, 2022 at 6:00 PM via teleconference.

DocuSigned by:
Tony Berger
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Public Safety Commission Chair

DocuSigned by:
Danny Kinas
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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.)