

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
SPECIAL STUDY SESSION & COMMUNITY LISTENING MEETING**

**MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2022
6:00 P.M.**

**West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room - Council Chambers
625 N. San Vicente Boulevard
West Hollywood, CA 90069**

1) CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hallman called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M.

2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Oliver.

3) ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present:

Commissioner Oliver
Commissioner Roman
Commissioner Steele
Vice Chair Balbone (Arrived at 6:29 P.M.)
Chair Hallman

Commissioners Absent:

Commissioner Berger
Commissioner Soon-Shiong

Others Present:

Danny Rivas, City Director of Community Safety; Jessica Anukam, City Public Safety Specialist; Sergeant Mike Yost, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

4) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION: Approve the agenda of August 24, 2022. **Motion by Commissioner Oliver, seconded by Commissioner Steele, and approved.**

POSTING OF THE AGENDA

The agenda for the August 24, 2022, Public Safety Commission meeting was posted at City Hall, Plummer Park, and the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station.

5) SPECIAL STUDY SESSION & COMMUNITY LISTENING ON PICK POCKETING

Director Danny Rivas gave a brief description and overview of the evening's discussion regarding pick pocketing. He also presented an on screen chart of the annual comparison and monthly summary of all pick pocketing that occurred in West Hollywood.

Sergeant Yost reported on the pick pocketing stats that occurred in West Hollywood for June and July 2022.

6) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Robert S., Director of Security for The Abbey Food and Bar, spoke about the business's experience with pick pocketing. He also spoke about the importance of prevention of this crime and how they utilize an online photo-sharing database system to help identify the perpetrators.

There was a lengthy discussion between the Commissioners and Robert S. regarding The Abbey's experiences and techniques they use to deter theft. Robert S. spoke about the success using the photo-sharing database system and mentioned the business noticed a significant decrease in theft.

Todd Barnes, General Manager for the Abbey Food and Bar, added to the conversation of the Abbey's experience with theft. He also spoke about the issues of vagrants and homelessness that affect business operations since the opening of the park nearby.

There was a lengthy discussion between the Commissioners and Todd Barnes regarding the business practices in dealing with theft. Todd Barnes also spoke about a system that another local business uses to scan identification. Todd and the previous speaker Robert S., also talked about their communication with neighboring businesses concerning theft issues and how they relay information to the Sheriff's Department.

Danny Hang, West Hollywood, thanked Commissioner Steele for bringing attention to this special commission study session focused on pick pocketing. He expressed his concerns with pick pocketing in the community and commended Mickey's West Hollywood for their active measures in combatting theft in their establishment.

Commissioner Roman asked questions about the arrest reports that were presented earlier in the meeting. He also made a suggestion for businesses to utilize the identification scanner.

Larry Block, West Hollywood, spoke about his experiences with the local businesses and other community members as it relates to the pick pocketing issue in the City. He expressed that the theft issue in the City has been occurring for a long time and when theft takes place at his establishment, it is the cost of doing business. He also shared his feelings about Public Safety in general and the decrease in funding for the Sheriff's Department.

There was a lengthy discussion between the Commissioners and Larry about theft that occurs at his business and how he handles it.

Adam Eramian, Operations Manager for Mickey's West Hollywood, spoke about the business's experience with pick pocketing. He presented the function of the technology that Mickey's utilizes called "Patron Scan" as a tool to help mitigate theft in their establishment.

There was a lengthy discussion between the Commissioners and Adam regarding Mickey's experience and techniques to deter theft utilizing the Patron Scan application. He also talked about the use of 360 degree cameras for business surveillance.

Catherine Eng, West Hollywood, would like to have the topic of cannabis included to Public Safety conversations. She also requested that extra foot patrols from the Block by Block Security Ambassadors be provided to the general West Hollywood community.

There was a discussion between the Commissioners and Catherine regarding pick pocketing that occurs in cannabis business establishments in West Hollywood.

Adam Darvish, West Hollywood, spoke about previous experiences involving phone theft in the residential community. He also suggested more camera placement in the commercial and residential areas.

Paul Nicholls, representing Heart and Rocco's West Hollywood, spoke about the pick pocketing experiences that occur in Heart and Rocco's in West Hollywood. He shared the process of the organized criminal operations that are happening in the City involving stolen phones.

There was a discussion between the Commissioners and Paul regarding pick pocketing that occurs in Heart and Rocco's in West Hollywood.

7) COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Chair Hallman thanked all the business representatives for attending and participating in the evening's pick pocketing study session.

Commissioner Jackie Steele asked some questions regarding the Sheriff's reports of the pick pocketing statistics. She also inquired if the West Hollywood Sheriff's Department is working alongside the FBI and other law enforcement agencies on this pick pocketing issue.

Commissioner Oliver expressed his concerns about the reported pick pocketing statistics that were presented. He also inquired about the communication between West Hollywood Sheriff's Station, the FBI, and other law enforcement agencies on this issue.

Commissioner Roman expressed his wish for the attendance of Captain Bill Moulder. He also questioned the arrest reports that were provided to the Commission.

Vice Chair Balbone gave her suggestions about the reported statistics that were provided earlier in the meeting. She also suggested working along with the cell phone manufactures such as Apple Inc. to help with the security component of stolen phones.

Chair Hallman explained that further commissioner comments on this pick pocketing study session will be added to the agenda for the next regular commission meeting.

Director Danny Rivas thanked all the business representatives, speakers, and the commission for participating in the evening's pick pocketing study session. He also gave a brief overview of the City's Community Safety and Well-Being Strategy Plan. He outlined upcoming phases for this plan that include community outreach and input.

8) ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 7:49 P.M. to its next regular meeting, which will be held on Monday, September 12, 2022, at 6:00 P.M. at the West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room – Council Chambers.

DocuSigned by:

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Public Safety Commission Chair

DocuSigned by:

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Public Safety Commission Secretary

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.)