

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

**MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2023
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 6:07 P.M.

2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the entire Commission.

3) ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present:

Commissioner Berger
Commissioner Oliver
Commissioner Steele
Vice Chair Balbone
Chair Hallman

Commissioners Absent:

None.

Others Present:

Danny Rivas, City Director of Community Safety and Jessica Anukam, City Public Safety Specialist.

4) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION: Approve the agenda of March 13, 2023. **Motion by Commissioner Berger, seconded by Commissioner Steele, and approved by the Commission.**

POSTING OF THE AGENDA

The agenda for the March 13, 2023, Public Safety Commission meeting was posted at City Hall, Plummer Park, and the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station.

5) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Approve the minutes of February 13, 2023. **Motion by Vice Chair Balbone, seconded by Commissioner Steele, and approved by the Commission.**

6) SPECIAL STUDY SESSION & COMMUNITY LISTENING ON THE MUNICIPAL POLICE FORCE FEASIBILITY STUDY

6.1) Introduction and Overview of the City's Municipal Police Force Feasibility Study Request for Proposals.

Mayor Pro Tempore Erickson gave thanks for everyone involved in the recent active shooter trainings and expressed well wishes to Vice Chair Balbone.

Chair Hallman gave a brief overview of the evening's meeting.

Director Rivas provided details on the Request for Proposal (RFP) process of the Municipal Police Force Feasibility Study and the next phases to follow.

Commissioner Steele inquired about additional information from the RFP panel.

6.2) Public Comment

Annie Jump Vicente, West Hollywood, expressed her feelings on the importance of diversity representation. She also spoke about her personal experiences out in the community and provided some suggestions for emergency services.

Richard Eastman, Hollywood, spoke about his experiences with the Sheriff's Department and the importance of safety.

Mito Aviles, West Hollywood, gave his recommendation in opposition of the RFP City selected consultant. He also shared his personal experiences as an active community member.

Zekiah Wright, West Hollywood, expressed disagreement with the RFP process and provided a recommended consultant for staff to consider.

Adam Eramian, West Hollywood, brought up questions and concerns to the Commission should a decision be made for West Hollywood to have its own police force.

Elyse Eisenberg, West Hollywood, expressed her disagreement on the RFP to select a consultant to perform a feasibility study or consider the possibility of a West Hollywood Police Force.

Vanessa, West Hollywood, expressed her concerns with the idea of having a West Hollywood Police Force. She also spoke about her personal experiences living in West Hollywood.

William Forth, West Hollywood, expressed his disagreement on the RFP to select a consultant to perform a feasibility study and would like to see the money spent on enhancements with the current Sheriff's contract.

Michael King, West Hollywood, shared his feelings about the feasibility study and recommended that the City continues its contract with the West Hollywood Sheriff's Department.

Larry Block, West Hollywood, voiced his opinions about the feasibility study and highlighted the possible costs associated with the City having its own police force.

Steve Martin, West Hollywood, spoke about the importance of community involvement with the consultant selection and feasibility study.

6.3) Public Safety Commissioner Comments

Chair Hallman thanked community members for sharing their feedback on the evening's discussion.

Commissioner Steele also thanked community members and provided explanation of the objective for the feasibility study. She also expressed her disagreement with the RFP process. She provided feedback on some of the questions and comments from members of the public, fellow Commissioners, and staff. She shared her opinions about the selected consultant and the consultant of her preference.

Commissioner Berger expressed his gratitude to hear from the members of the public on this discussion. He highlighted some of the recent changes that have occurred in the City that should be considered and encouraged the City Council not to move forward with the feasibility study.

Commissioner Steele reminded the Commission of the current status of the feasibility study to move forward. She also requested for a member of the community to stop contacting her directly.

Vice Chair Balbone provided her feedback about the RFP feasibility study and highlighted the importance of connecting this work to the pending actions from ongoing public safety discussions and focus groups.

Commissioner Oliver agreed with many of the sentiments shared from members of the community regarding the feasibility study and recommended the financial and

logistical implications be considered thoroughly before the City Council moves forward with this item.

Chair Hallman reiterated the importance of the community and Commissioner's feedback for this special meeting. He briefly shared his perspective and involvement with the RFP process and explained the agenda preparation meeting held in advance of this meeting with staff.

Commissioner Steele provided her perspective and remarks on the agenda preparation meeting held in advance of this meeting as well as the RFP study process.

Director Rivas suggested for the Commission to summarize and provide feedback for consideration to be given to the City Council.

The Commission continued to have a lengthy discussion and debate regarding their opinions about the RFP, the prospective feasibility study, and ways to move forward as it relates to making recommendations to the City Council.

Chair Hallman announced that the Commission would take a short recess.

The Commission resumed their discussion and debate on the RFP and feasibility study.

Commissioner Berger made a motion to recommend to the City Council to pause the feasibility study until the Center for Policing Equity (CPE) study has been concluded, but the motion was not seconded.

Director Rivas provided an update on the CPE study and further clarified the RFP process and its intent.

Commissioner Steele brought forth a second motion recommending the City Council select a different consultant from what staff recommended, but the motion was not seconded.

The Commission continued to provide feedback on their final recommendations to the City Council.

ACTION: Vice Chair Balbone motioned to recommend the Municipal Police Force Feasibility Study RFP process be re-evaluated and tabled by the City Council until the City reviews the completed Center for Policing Equity study and until the Community Safety and Well-Being Strategy has been implemented and assessed. **The motion was seconded by Commissioner Berger and passed unanimously by the Commission.**

Vice Chair Balbone provided additional feedback on the feasibility study process and her feelings about a remark made about one of the Commissioners. She also announced her resignation from the Public Safety Commission.

Chair Hallman announced that Commissioner Roman was no longer apart of the Public Safety Commission.

Commissioner Berger also announced his resignation from the Public Safety Commission.

The Commissioners gave farewell wishes to both Vice Chair Balbone and Commissioner Berger.

7) ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 8:26 P.M. to its next regular meeting to on April 10, 2023.

DocuSigned by:

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Public Safety Commission Chair

DocuSigned by:
Jessica Anukam
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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.)