

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

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 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 6:02 P.M.

2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Blau.

3) ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present:

Commissioner Blau
Commissioner Eramian
Commissioner Freiberg
Commissioner Harrison
Commissioner Nickle
Chair Hallman

Commissioners Absent:

Vice Chair Saltzman

Others Present:

Vyto Adomaitis, City Neighborhood and Business Safety Manager, Jessica Anukam, City Public Safety Specialist, Assistant Fire Chief Drew Smith, Los Angeles County Fire Department, Lieutenant Fanny Lapkin and Sergeant Jason Duron, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Erica Leon, General Manager and David Aguilar, Regional Vice President - Southern California, Block by Block.

4) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION: Approve the agenda of September 11, 2023. **Motion by Commissioner Eramian, seconded by Commissioner Harrison, and approved by the Commission.**

5) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Approve the minutes of July 10, 2023. **Motion by Commissioner Nickle, seconded by Commissioner Harrison, and approved by the Commission.**

6) PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

7) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7A. REPORT FROM LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT

Chief Smith briefly spoke about the personnel support rendered for the wildfires in Maui and Northern California. He reported on fire activity for the months of July and August that included the number of total fires reported, emergency medical service runs, hazardous materials and condition calls, regular service calls, and good intent calls. Chief Smith also mentioned the various collaborative trainings that are held with other emergency service agencies.

Chair Hallman asked about the update of Covid related calls to the fire stations.

Commissioner Eramian asked about the Fire Department's plans related to the upcoming Halloween event.

Commissioner Freiberg asked for some clarification of the categories found on the monthly fire report. She also inquired if it is a benefit for seniors in the community to be set up with the Life Alert System.

Commissioner Harrison inquired about the collaboration of the other emergency service agencies including Block by Block for the upcoming Halloween event planning.

Commissioner Nickle thanked Station 8 for coming out to the City's National Night Out event in August. He also inquired about the vehicle vandalism that occurs at the fire station.

Chair Hallman inquired if the new business next to the fire station had available parking for the fire personnel to help mitigate the vandalism.

Commissioner Eramian inquired about the number of Fire Department personnel that were sent out to help in the efforts of the recent Hawaii fires and how it affects operations in our region. He also asked if there are reserved fire fighters at the station.

Commissioner Blau spoke about additional community resources that can be utilized that help free up the resources from the Fire Department.

Chief Smith responded to all the Commissioner's questions and comments.

7B. REPORT FROM LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT

Sergeant Duron reported on the crime stats mainly for the month of August since there were no significant changes in the month of July. This report included calls for service, number of arrests, and Part 1 crime comparisons with the prior year. He highlighted some of the recent theft activities such as pickpocketing, car related thefts, and spoke about traffic related reports. Sergeant Duron continued to provide updates on upcoming community events and notable activity that occurred in the City.

Lieutenant Lapkin provided updates on some concerns that were raised in the previous Commission meeting regarding discipline reports and service complaints on Sheriff's Department Deputies. She provided resources to the Commission on how to find particular information and data on the topic.

Commissioner Eramian inquired about the delay in receiving the Sheriff's reports for this Commission meeting, a recent incident that occurred between a member of the community and a Block by Block Security Ambassador, questions about driving under the influence related incidents, and requested an update on the new cameras being placed in the City.

Commissioner Harrison asked about their collaboration with the other emergency service agencies including Block by Block for major City event planning. He also asked about the special activations placed throughout the City for bicycle riders and pedestrians.

Commissioner Nickle inquired about typical Sheriff's protocol during traffic stops. He noted the higher crime activity near La Brea as well as the area above Sunset and the necessity of continued foot beat patrols.

Commissioner Freiberg inquired about fentanyl overdose statistics, wanted posters for pick pocketers and a definition key of the categories provided on the Commission Sheriff's report.

Commissioner Blau asked if the requested traffic reports for August could be made available as part of the agenda.

Commissioner Eramian spoke about the benefits of utilizing an identification system such as Patron Scan for the night life venues to help identify pick pocketers. He also inquired about the issue of individuals digging into trash cans and leaving trash all over the streets.

Chair Hallman confirmed with Commissioner Eramian if there was a prior motion to agendaize adding the recommendation for the night life businesses to utilize an identification system and inquired about a recent armed robbery that took place on Detroit Street as well as the increase in “tagging” on the east side. Additionally, he asked about the status in hiring the Public Information Officer positions at the station.

Sebastian LaCause, West Hollywood, shared some recent criminal incidents that occurred at Stache where he is the general manager.

Sergeant Duron and Lieutenant Lapkin responded to all the Commissioner and public comment questions.

7C. REPORT FROM BLOCK BY BLOCK SECURITY AMBASSADOR PROGRAM – MONTHLY REPORT

David Aguilar, Block by Block Regional Vice President, introduced Erica Leon to the Commission as the new General Manager for Block by Block.

Erica Leon, Block by Block General Manager, provided the reports for July and August which included calls for service, residential patrols, kiosks, and activity with the unhoused community. She also talked about their goal to continue more security recruitment, their partnership with the WeHo CARES Team, and an update on recent community events.

Chair Hallman asked if Block by Block was familiar with the incident that occurred recently at Stache West Hollywood and asked how the Ambassadors would respond to a similar situation. He also inquired if there were security patrols in particular areas of the City. He welcomed Erica to West Hollywood and inquired about the total number of Security Ambassadors and kiosks throughout the City.

Commissioner Nickle welcomed Erica. He provided a suggestion of more patrols on the east side of La Brea Ave near the Huxley apartment complex and areas above Sunset Boulevard.

Commissioner Freiberg welcomed Erica and followed up on the request for the Security Ambassadors to visit senior residential units. She also inquired about the way the statistics on the monthly reports are presented.

Commissioner Harrison complimented Block by Block information mailers and welcomed Erica.

Chair Hallman also complimented the information mailers and also suggested a smaller version that people can carry around.

Commissioner Eramian welcomed Erica and requested that more security patrols be placed on some of the side streets on the east side of the City. He also inquired about recent incidents involving Block by Block Security Ambassadors.

Commissioner Blau inquired about the policy regarding off duty Security Ambassadors.

David Aguilar and Erica Leon responded to all the Commissioner's questions and comments.

8) ITEMS FROM STAFF

Vyto Adomaitis, Neighborhood and Business Safety Manager, provided updates which included highlights from the City's National Night Out event, the joint special meeting with the Public Safety Commission and the City Council, the recent public safety meeting for the business community, and preparations for the City's upcoming Halloween event.

Commissioner Harrison inquired about the next steps to the joint special meeting held in August.

Commissioner Eramian welcomed Vyto and inquired about issues regarding unhoused individuals participating in illegal activities and occupying areas on the east side neighborhoods. He also asked about an update on the Holloway Interim Housing Program.

Chair Hallman also shared some other issues that affect some areas on the east side of the City. He also informed Commissioner Eramian that there was an overview of the Holloway Interim Housing Program previously presented to the Commission and suggested this presentation return for the newer Commissioners.

9) PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

10) ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Eramian thanked all the agencies present that evening. He provided updates on the recent National Night Out event, the business public safety meeting, and the Community Academy trainings.

Commissioner Nickle spoke about his experience and feedback attending the Community Academy training, the joint special meeting, and made a suggestion to

have some community members who volunteer for agencies such as the Sheriff's Department come speak about their volunteer experience at a future Public Safety Commission meeting.

Commissioner Harrison commemorated the anniversary of September 11th.

Chair Hallman also acknowledged the anniversary of September 11th and spoke about the recent community events and trainings he attended. He provided his feedback from the joint special meeting with the City Council.

Commissioner Blau spoke about the joint special meeting with the City Council and inquired about receiving responses to specific questions he had submitted. He also suggested that multiple large items of topic should not be placed on the same agenda and that the Commission should be able to preview the Public Safety equipment items for critique. He also brought attention to the City's WeHo Cares as a helpful community resource.

Chair Hallman explained Commission protocol pertaining to Commission questions and agreed to keep large agenda items separate.

11) ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 8:09 P.M. to its next regular meeting on October 9, 2023.

DocuSigned by:


Public Safety Commission Chair

DocuSigned by:
Jessica Anukam

Public Safety Commission Secretary

A copy of the audio recording of this meeting can be obtained from the City Clerk's office upon request.

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