

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

**MONDAY, October 9, 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 Chair Hallman.

**3) ROLL CALL**

**Commissioners Present:**

Commissioner Eramian  
Commissioner Nickle  
Vice Chair Saltzman  
Chair Hallman

**Commissioners Absent:**

Commissioner Blau  
Commissioner Freiberg  
Commissioner Harrison

**Others Present:**

Danny Rivas, City Director of Community Safety, Jessica Anukam, City Public Safety Specialist, Richard Garland, City Principal Traffic Engineer, Corri Planck, City Human Services Manager, 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 October 9, 2023. **Motion by Vice Chair Saltzman, seconded by Commissioner Nickle, and approved by the Commission.**

#### 5) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**ACTION:** Approve the minutes of September 11, 2023. **Motion by Vice Chair Saltzman, seconded by Commissioner Nickle, and approved by the Commission.**

#### 6) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Hallman spoke about the recent hateful and racist zoom calls that have been occurring in public meetings across various cities. He shared the City's procedures on handling these types of situations.

Joshua Marin-Mora, Los Angeles, introduced himself to the Commission as Field Representative for the office of Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur and is looking forward to working with the City of West Hollywood.

#### 7) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Director Rivas informed the Commission that Assistant Fire Chief Smith will arrive later in the meeting and the Sheriff's Department will begin the presentation of their reports.

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

Sergeant Duron reported on the crime stats for the month of September 2023 which included calls for service, number of arrests, response times, and Part 1 crime comparisons with the prior year. He also provided crime stats broken down by City districts. He pointed out some of the recent theft activities such as pickpocketing, car related thefts, and reported on traffic related incidents. Sergeant Duron also highlighted notable activity that occurred in the City and continued to provide updates on upcoming community events.

Lieutenant Lapkin provided a status update on requested reports from the Commission.

Commissioner Nickle inquired about details regarding recent crimes that occurred in West Hollywood.

Commissioner Eramian asked about an overall solution to combat the pickpocketing crisis in West Hollywood and other crimes occurring by temporary residents.

Chair Hallman asked for clarification about the laws regarding encampment tents on the street.

Commissioner Eramian asked for clarification on a specific West Hollywood municipal code ordinance regarding occupying and riding bicycles on public ways.

Chair Hallman asked if Deputies are still patrolling on bicycles and if any would be patrolling during the City's Halloween event.

Kevin Burton, West Hollywood, co-founder of the West Hollywood Bicycle Coalition spoke about the City's municipal ordinance regarding bicycling on sidewalks. He also thanked the Sheriff's Department for adding the pedestrian traffic reports to the monthly Commission reports and made a request for additional statistics that could be added to the reporting.

Sergeant Duron, Lieutenant Lapkin, and Director Rivas responded to all the Commission's questions.

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

Chief Smith reported on fire activity for the month of September 2023 that included the number of total fires reported, emergency medical service runs, hazardous materials calls, regular service calls, and good intent calls. He also noted the increase in gas leaks with liquid propane that occurred in September. Chief Smith finished with mention of the upcoming Halloween event in October.

Chair Hallman inquired about a recent gas leak that occurred on Formosa Avenue.

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

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

Erica Leon, Block by Block General Manager, provided the reports for September 2023 which included an overall increase in calls for service. She also talked about their focus on staff recruitment, security training to enhance engagement with unhoused individuals, and more ambassador visibility to better serve the community with support from the City's Care Team. Erica Leon also addressed some of the Commission's questions and concerns from the last meeting.

Chair Hallman thanked Block by Block for their service assisting residents at the Huxley Apartments.

## **8) NEW BUSINESS**

### **8A. ENGINEERING TRAFFIC SPEED ZONE SURVEY**

Richard Garland, briefly shared with the Commission details of an upcoming Citywide speed survey conducted by the City's Engineering Division.

Chair Hallman inquired about the speed reduction on Fountain Avenue, between La Cienega Boulevard and Fairfax Avenue.

Vice Chair Saltzman inquired about the speed survey results on North Doheny Drive, between Santa Monica Boulevard and Sunset Boulevard. He also asked about the electronic billboard near Santa Monica Boulevard and Sunset Boulevard that displays the speed limit of the cars driving by.

Kevin Burton, West Hollywood, thanked staff for conducting the traffic speed zone survey and recommended that the data results from the survey be published to the public like it was done in prior years. He also expressed his views about the upcoming changes that will be occurring on Fountain Avenue.

Richard Garland responded to all the Commissioner and public questions and comments.

### **8B. UPDATE ON THE CITY'S WEST HOLLYWOOD CARE TEAM AND HOLLOWAY INTERIM HOUSING PROGRAM**

Corri Planck provided a presentation on the City's CARE Team followed by a quick update on the Holloway Interim Housing Program.

Commissioner Nickle asked various questions about the function, responsibilities, and qualifications of the CARE Team. He also inquired about the differences between the CARE and MET Team and requested for a monthly report to be shared with the Commission.

Commissioner Eramian asked some questions regarding the service that the CARE Team provides and inquired about licensed clinicians being a part of the team.

Chair Hallman asked about the timeframe for when the CARE Team will be staffed to serve 24 hours a day.

Commissioner Nickle confirmed the nature and intent of the Holloway Interim Housing Program for clarification.

Vice Chair Saltzman asked about the timeframe when the facility will house residents for the program.

Chair Hallman thanked Corri Planck for providing the update on the housing program to the Commission and inquired about the amount of time residents are eligible to stay in the program. He also suggested that the housing program partner up with programs such as AIDS Project Los Angeles.

Commissioner Eramian asked questions about the eligibility requirements for participants of the Holloway Interim Housing Program.

Corri Planck responded to all the Commissioner's questions and comments.

## **9) ITEMS FROM STAFF**

Director Rivas thanked all the speakers that provided updates during the meeting. He also shared some details on the City's upcoming Halloween Carnival event and an upcoming American Red Cross CPR, AED, and First Aid Training for the community that the City is providing for free.

Chair Hallman inquired about the possibility to add public safety messaging on the digital billboards that are placed throughout the City.

Vice Chair Saltzman inquired about the public safety technology proposals that were discussed during the joint special meeting with the City Council.

Director Rivas responded to all the Commissioner's questions and comments.

## **10) PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments.

## **11) COMMISSIONER COMMENTS / ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

Vice Chair Saltzman asked for some clarification on the next steps regarding the public safety technology proposals and suggested discussing the proposals at the next commission meeting to provide recommendations to the City Council.

**ACTION:** Include a debrief item on the public safety technology item on the November 2023 meeting agenda. **Motion by Vice Chair Saltzman, seconded by Commissioner Nickle, and approved by the Commission.**

Commissioner Eramian inquired about the process to agendize an item and when it will be available for discussion to the Commission. He also shared his experience at a recent Narcan training and his participation in the Sheriff's Department Community Academy training.

Chair Hallman shared his experience attending the Sheriff's Department Community Academy training.

Commissioner Nickle shared his experience attending the Sheriff's Department Community Academy training. He also encouraged the community to get involved with the City's Neighborhood Watch Program.

Director Rivas responded to all the Commissioner's questions and comments.

## 12) ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 7:55 P.M. to its next regular meeting on November 13, 2023.

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Public Safety Commission Chair

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*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.**

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