

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

**Monday, November 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 6:05 P.M.

2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Nickle.

3) ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present:

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

Commissioners Absent:

None.

Others Present:

Danny Rivas, City Director of Community Safety, Jessica Anukam, City Public Safety Specialist, Margarita Kustanovich, City Emergency Management Coordinator, David Fenn, City Long Range Senior Planner, Assistant Fire Chief Drew Smith and Battalion Chief Jeff Swingle, Los Angeles County Fire Department, Lieutenant Fanny Lapkin and Sergeant Jason Duron, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, David Aguilar,

Regional Vice President - Southern California, Block by Block, Patrick Marchman, Project Manager and Raymond Cheung, Director of Emergency Management, Jacob Green and Associates Inc.

4) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION: Approve the agenda of November 13, 2023. **Motion by Vice Chair Saltzman, seconded by Commissioner Nickle, and approved by the Commission.**

5) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Approve the minutes of October 9, 2023. **Motion by Commissioner Eramian, seconded by Vice Chair Saltzman, and approved by the Commission.**

6) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rick Watts, West Hollywood, raised some concerns regarding an abandoned property on North Sweetzer Avenue and asked the Commission to help address these concerns with the City Council.

7) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Chief Smith thanked everyone for their continued support and introduced Battalion Chief Jeff Swingle to the Commission. He reported on fire activity for the month of October 2023 which included the number of total fires reported, emergency medical service runs, hazardous materials calls, regular service calls, and good intent calls. Chief Smith concluded the report with highlights from the recent Halloween Carnival event and quick tips for fire safety during the holiday season.

Commissioner Eramian inquired on the data provided for the fire service calls during the Halloween Carnival event.

Commissioner Blau asked if there were available resources and references to help guide the community on fire safety.

Commissioner Nickle thanked the Fire Department for responding to a past inquiry regarding a rubbish fire at an abandoned property. He also noted the stop light at Fire Station 8 is installed.

Chair Hallman inquired about a fire that occurred in the back stairwell at the Ralphs Store on Fountain Avenue and La Brea Avenue.

Rick Watts, West Hollywood, spoke about the dangers that can occur with abandoned buildings left unattended and shared his experience of an abandoned property in his neighborhood.

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

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

Sergeant Duron began by pointing out the changes made to the Sheriff's data reports. This was done at the request of the Commission. He also reported on the crime stats for the month of October 2023 which included calls for service, number of arrests, response times, and stats for Part 1 crimes. He pointed out some of the recent theft activities such as pickpocketing, car related thefts, and reported on traffic related incidents. He reminded the community to stay vigilant and take extra safety precautions. Sergeant Duron also highlighted notable incidents that occurred in the City and continued to provide updates on recent community events.

Commissioner Eramian thanked all the City's public safety partners for their help during this year's Halloween festivities. He also inquired about the concerns with a vacant property located on Sierra Bonita Avenue.

Commissioner Blau thanked the Sheriff's Department for the updated reports and asked questions regarding the stats provided in the monthly report.

Commissioner Eramian asked if there would be available reporting on the new Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) cameras that are being put up throughout the City.

Commissioner Nickle inquired about the antisemitic graffiti found in areas on Sunset Boulevard and confirmed the Sheriff's ongoing assistance of providing safety to the Jewish community during this time. He also noted the recent increase in burglaries and inquired about recent crimes and issues in and near the City.

Commissioner Freiberg first thanked the Sheriff's Department for their help with the recent Halloween event and asked some questions regarding data found in the Civilian Oversight Commission report pertaining to gang activity. She also inquired about information that can be shared from the Sheriff's Department pertaining to records of misconduct within the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station and asked staff how the City evaluates the service provided to the community by the Sheriff's Department.

Commissioner Nickle asked about the number of sworn officers in the Sheriff's Department contracted by the City.

Chair Hallman followed up on the status of burglaries that occurred on Detroit Street. He also asked about a request for more patrols at properties that are unattended.

Kevin Burton, West Hollywood, requested that more details are added to the pedestrian and vehicle statistics for future monthly Sheriff's reports.

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

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

David Aguilar, Block by Block, provided the reports for October 2023 which included an overall increase in calls for service, contacts from businesses, and engagement with the unhoused community. He also provided some updates of recent community events including the Halloween Carnival event. He circled back to answer questions from the prior Commission meeting regarding an update on the monthly reports and improper placement of scooters on the public right-of-way.

Commissioner Eramian thanked the ambassadors for their assistance during the recent Halloween event and asked about the current staffing capacity of Block by Block to ensure that certain areas of the City are being patrolled. He also suggested adding a social worker to accompany the Block by Block ambassadors during their patrols.

Commissioner Blau expressed his agreement of more ambassador patrols in the neighborhoods and asked for clarification of the statistics provided in the monthly report.

Commissioner Freiberg thanked the ambassadors for their assistance during the recent Halloween event and inquired about the ambassador's safety escorts that the program provides.

Commissioner Nickle inquired about the data provided regarding the improper placement of scooters in the public right-of-way.

David Aguilar and Director Rivas responded to all the Commission's questions and comments.

7D. PUBLIC SAFETY EQUIPMENT, TECHNOLOGY, AND SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS DEBRIEF

Director Rivas reiterated the intent of the debrief from the special meeting held on August 14, 2023, and asked the Commission to provide their comments and recommendations to the City Council.

There was a lengthy discussion amongst the Commissioners and Director Rivas regarding the proposed public safety equipment, technology, and security enhancements. The Commissioners provided feedback on the listed items they would like to recommend for further consideration.

Director Rivas compiled a list of all the Commissioner's recommendations to be sent to the City Council.

8) NEW BUSINESS

8A. UPDATE ON THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD'S TARGET VISION ZERO ACTION PLAN

David Fenn, Senior Planner, gave a brief presentation on the City's public safety initiative to have no transportation-related injuries or deaths by 2040.

Chair Hallman had a question regarding the fatality metrics that was shown during the presentation. He also provided feedback on the lighting at the crosswalks near Detroit Street and Fountain Avenue and Formosa Avenue and Fountain Avenue.

Vice Chair Saltzman provided some feedback for improvements in various intersections within the Norma Triangle area of the City.

Commissioner Eramian asked if scooters are accounted for in the data research of this action plan and if it was possible to retrieve the data directly related to accidents involving scooters.

Commissioner Nickle also inquired about scooters and asked for clarification on the scooter data for this action plan. He also provided some feedback on some of the prospects of the initiative.

Chair Hallman asked why there are different types of crosswalks placed in particular parts of the City and provided some feedback on traffic circles in various intersections.

Kevin Burton, West Hollywood, provided a comment in response to a Commissioner's inquiry earlier on the scooter data. He also gave thanks to staff for their work on the Vision Zero Action Plan and provided some feedback.

Commissioner Nickle made mention of the dangers of distracted driving and suggested for a City awareness campaign to address the issue.

David Fenn, Senior Planner, responded to all the Commissioner and public questions and comments.

8B. UPDATE ON THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD'S LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Margarita Kustanovich, Emergency Management Coordinator, provided a brief summary of the presentation on the City's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and introduced the City's consultants, Patrick Marchman and Raymond Cheung from Jacob Green and Associates Inc.

Patrick Marchman and Raymond Cheung gave a presentation on the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan outlined for the City which detailed the plans focused on minimizing the loss of life and property from the impact of disasters.

Commissioner Freiberg inquired about the emergency evacuation plan for the City.

Commissioner Nickle inquired about overall awareness of the City's emergency plans with consideration of older and disabled residents. He also inquired about available generators and personal protective equipment (PPE) from the City during an emergency situation.

Kevin Burton, West Hollywood, and cofounder of WEHO ReCERT, provided brief information about the work they do as a member of the Community Emergency Response Team. He also gave thanks to staff for their work on the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and provided feedback.

Margarita Kustanovich, Patrick Marchman, and Raymond Cheung responded to all the Commissioner and public questions and comments.

9) ITEMS FROM STAFF

Director Rivas thanked all the public safety partners and City staff for their hard work and services during the Halloween Carnival event. He also spoke about plans of increased Sheriff's Deputies and Block by Block security presence around the City to prepare for the holiday season. He responded to the vacant properties that were discussed earlier in the meeting and concluded with an online walkthrough of the reports found on the Los Angeles County Civilian Oversight Commission website and County of Los Angeles Office of the Inspector General.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

10) COMMISSIONER COMMENTS / ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Eramian spoke about his experience attending the Sheriff's Department Community Academy sessions and thanked all the City's public safety partners for a successful Halloween event.

Commissioner Nickle spoke about his experience attending the Sheriff's Department Community Academy sessions and the American Red Cross CPR, AED,


and First Aid training. He also talked about his neighborhood walkthrough with a neighborhood watch group leader and offered his availability for future walkthroughs with interested groups.

Vice Chair Saltzman spoke about his service with various Los Angeles County organizations and their continued work in the community.

Chair Hallman spoke about his experience attending the Sheriff's Department Community Academy sessions. He also gave thanks to all the City's public safety partners and City staff for their continued hard work during large City events such as the Halloween Carnival.


11) ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 9:27 P.M. to its next regular meeting on December 11, 2023.

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Public Safety Commission Chair

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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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