

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

**Monday, January 8, 2024
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

Commissioner Nickle led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3) ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present:

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

Commissioners Absent:

Commissioner Blau

Others Present:

Danny Rivas, City Director of Community Safety; Anita Shandi, City Public Safety 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, Block by Block.

4) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION: Approve the agenda of January 8, 2024. **Motion by Vice Chair Saltzman, seconded by Commissioner Eramian and approved by the Commission.**

5) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

6) PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

7) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Director Rivas informed the Commission that Assistant Fire Chief Smith would arrive later in the meeting, and the Sheriff's Department would 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 December 2023, which included calls for service, number of arrests, response times, stats for Part 1 crimes, theft, and traffic-related incidents. Sergeant Duron also highlighted notable incidents that occurred in the City last month.

Commissioner Nickle inquired about recent reported crimes, including burglary activity. He also asked for some safety tips and advice for the community to deter these burglaries.

Vice Chair Saltzman shared a perspective on the impact of traffic stops and the disproportionate effect on minority individuals.

Commissioner Freiberg inquired about a recent scooter-related incident and protocol for citations given to riders. She also asked about the Sheriff's station's status on hiring a Public Information Officer.

Commissioner Harrison inquired about an incident regarding a high-profile individual and a group of cyclists taking over the roadway.

Chair Hallman inquired about the recent Andy Warhol painting theft. He also asked about the number of detectives working out of the West Hollywood station.

Commissioner Nickle asked for the Sheriff's to respond to a previous comment regarding a correlation between traffic stops and the races of individuals.

Sergeant Duron and Lieutenant Lapkin responded to the Commission's questions and comments.

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

Chief Smith briefly shared that there was no significant change in data from the previous month and there was no significant increase in fire activity during the holiday season considering the time of year. He also spoke about preparation for upcoming community events, updates in the Fire Department, and various emergency trainings alongside the Sheriff's Department. He concluded the report by providing some winter fire safety tips for the community.

Commissioner Eramian inquired about inspections on older buildings in the City to determine retrofitting in preparation for the likelihood of an earthquake.

Commissioner Freiberg asked if there were Russian language interpreters available at the fire station.

Chair Hallman asked questions regarding seismic retrofitting requirements and information on winter fire safety that can be passed on to the community.

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

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

Erica Leon, General Manager of Block by Block, provided the reports for December 2023, which included the number of business contacts, engagement with the unhoused community, and calls for service. She talked about the increase in residential patrols, focusing on more patrols in busy areas. She also spoke about notable incidents in December and provided an update on the continued trainings for security personnel.

Commissioner Freiberg asked if the security ambassadors assist in providing the City's social service programs to the community. She also pointed out the increase in hospitality assistance from the prior year and if the ambassadors will be visiting senior residential facilities in the City.

Commissioner Harrison inquired about the spikes in the data from the monthly report.

Commissioner Eramian noted the increase in engagement with unhoused individuals and asked to get some details on the data provided in the monthly report.

Chair Hallman asked about the incident involving the unresponsive individual and how the security ambassadors handle situations of unhoused individuals occupying bus stop areas.

Commissioner Nickle inquired about the status of the ambassador's work once 24-hour restrooms are open and implemented at some of the City parks.

Erica Leon responded to all the Commission's questions and comments.

8) ITEMS FROM STAFF

Director Rivas introduced Anita Shandi, the City's new Public Safety Manager, to the Commission.

Anita Shandi greeted the Commissioners and shared her background work in public safety.

Director Rivas provided an update on the structure fire at 1030 Sierra Bonita Avenue. He also brought attention to the upcoming item that will be brought to the Commission to review the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department contract.

Commissioner Eramian inquired about the security of the 1030 Sierra Bonita Avenue property.

Commissioner Nickle also inquired about the property at 1030 Sierra Bonita Avenue.

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

9) PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

10) COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Eramian expressed his concerns about the activity that takes place at the Hancock parking lot.


Chair Hallman gave thanks to City staff and all the public safety partnered agencies.

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

12) ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 7:26 P.M. to its next regular meeting on February 12, 2024.

DocuSigned by:



Public Safety Commission Chair

DocuSigned by:



Public Safety Commission Secretary

**Video and audio of this meeting can be obtained by visiting,
<https://www.weho.org/city-government/wehotv>**

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