

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

**Monday, March 11, 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 6:03 P.M.

2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Harrison led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3) ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present:

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

Commissioners Absent:

Commissioner Freiberg

Others Present:

Danny Rivas, City Director of Community Safety; Anita Shandi, City Public Safety Manager; Jessica Anukam, City Public Safety Specialist; Battalion Chief Zackary Cates, Los Angeles County Fire Department; Lieutenant Fanny Lapkin, Sergeant Jason Duron, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

4) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION: Approve the agenda of March 11, 2024. **Motion by Vice Chair Saltzman, seconded by Commissioner Harrison, and approved by the Commission.**

5) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Approve the minutes of February 12, 2024.

Director Rivas suggested that the comments made by Vice Chair Saltzman at the last commission meeting to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department be amended in the minutes to reflect the Vice Chair's specific requests.

Motion by Vice Chair Saltzman, seconded by Commissioner Eramian, and approved by the Commission.

6) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Erickson greeted the Commission and apologized for missing the recent Public Safety Awards Luncheon. He also thanked all the City's Public Safety partners who were recognized for their hard work and service.

Mikie Friedman, West Hollywood, expressed her feelings about the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department contract regarding the Sheriff's Deputies and Security Ambassadors serving the City.

Steve Martin, West Hollywood, thanked Vice Chair Saltzman for his requests to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and asked if the Commission receives reports from the Los Angeles County Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission. He also inquired about the City logo on the Sheriff's Department vehicles assigned to West Hollywood.

Nik Roybal, West Hollywood, shared his experience of almost being hit by a car on his way into the Commission meeting and the importance of pedestrian safety.

Alan Strasburg, West Hollywood, expressed his feelings about public safety in the City.

Director Rivas asked the Commission if they would approve moving agenda item 7A after the public safety agency reports. He also mentioned that a representative from Block by Block could not be present to provide the monthly agency report due to an unforeseen and abrupt conflict that emerged.

8) NEW BUSINESS

8A. REPORT FROM LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT

Battalion Chief Cates reported on fire activity for February, including the number of total fires reported, emergency medical service runs, hazardous materials calls, regular service calls, and good intent calls. Battalion Chief Cates also noted the house-related fire incidents that usually occur during the colder periods of the year.

Commissioner Nickle inquired about the possibility of delivery robots not recognizing sirens from emergency fire vehicles.

Battalion Chief Cates responded to all the Commission's questions and comments.

8B. REPORT FROM BLOCK BY BLOCK SECURITY AMBASSADOR PROGRAM – MONTHLY REPORT

Director Rivas provided a brief update of the Block by Block Security Ambassador report for February based on the statistical data and charts submitted to the City.

Commissioner Eramian inquired about the restroom data from the monthly report.

Commissioner Blau asked about the number of Security Ambassadors currently working and requested an update on a "heat map" of the Security Ambassadors' deployment throughout the City.

Steve Martin, West Hollywood, expressed his content with placing the Security Ambassador kiosk at Fairfax Avenue and Santa Monica Boulevard and suggested more security near the bus stops. He also inquired about the City's mental health outreach partners.

Nik Roybal, West Hollywood, agreed with the prior commentator about the Security Ambassadors. He also expressed his disappointment with the absence of the Block by Block representative from the meeting.

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

8C. REPORT FROM LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT

Sergeant Duron reported on the February crime stats, including 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. He thanked the Commission and the City for their support during the Public Safety Awards Luncheon and discussed the upcoming LA Marathon.

Lieutenant Lapkin responded to the Commissioners' questions from the last meeting, including questions about body cameras, the percentage rate of activations, equipment, traffic-related updates, and other specified reporting.

Commissioner Harrison inquired about citations for scooter riders.

Chair Hallman asked about the sidewalk rules for bicycle and scooter riders.

Commissioner Blau thanked the Sheriff's Department for the requested updated reports.

Commissioner Nickle inquired about a recent incident involving a Security Ambassador, the City logo on the Sheriff's Department patrol vehicles, and a canceled event due to antisemitic threats.

Commissioner Blau asked questions about the LGBTQ+ sensitivity training for the Sheriff's Department.

Nik Roybal, West Hollywood, thanked the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station and City staff for their work and spoke about his concerns with the lack of consequences for crimes committed in the City.

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

7) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7A. LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT CONTRACT

Commissioner Blau spoke about his concerns with a particular clause in the Sheriff's Department contract.

Director Rivas provided some insight regarding the language and details of the Sheriff's Department contract.

Vice Chair Saltzman provided his feedback and concerns for the City Council to consider regarding the service levels at the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station.

Commissioner Blau inquired about the most recent 575 document.

Colin Boyd, West Hollywood, expressed his concerns regarding the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department contract.

Nik Roybal, West Hollywood, shared his opinions about the Commission's discussion about the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department contract.

Steve Martin, West Hollywood, provided feedback on how the Commission could further deliberate on the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department contract.

Commissioner Nickle provided data highlighting the importance of more police presence in the City. He also clarified his earlier suggestion of looking into different public safety personnel to support our contracted law enforcement officers.

Commissioner Harrison expressed his opinions about having a fully staffed Sheriff's Department.

Commissioner Eramian shared his feelings about supporting the appropriate number of Sheriff's Deputies who will keep the City safe.

The Commission continued their discussion from the last meeting about the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department contract with a focus on reviewing existing service levels, and acknowledging the current contract moratorium in place that prevents adding any Sheriff's Department personnel from being added to a cities contract.

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

9) ITEMS FROM STAFF

Manager Shandi provided updates to the Commission, which included highlights from the recent Public Safety Appreciation Luncheon, the Annual Elton John's AIDS Foundation Oscar's party, and announcements for the upcoming Pride and LA Marathon events.

Director Rivas shared that there will be an update to the municipal code regarding vacant properties and enhanced security measures.

10) PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

11) COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Eramian shared some community engagements he participated in, including a visit to the UCLA outreach medical team and the City's Public Safety Appreciation Luncheon. He also asked the Commission if they would be willing to have staff look into scheduling a Public Safety Commission open house outreach event where Commissioners and public safety agencies would be present to connect with the community.

ACTION: Request staff to arrange a Public Safety Commission open house outreach event and invite the City's public safety partners to connect with community members.

Motion by Commissioner Eramian, seconded by Vice Chair Saltzman, and approved by the Commission.

Chair Hallman shared his experience attending the City's Public Safety Appreciation Luncheon and a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Trendsetters Barbershop with Mayor Erickson. He also asked the Commission if they would support requesting staff to coordinate a presentation from one of the City's mental health contract providers, such as Healthcare in Action, at a future meeting.

ACTION: Request staff to arrange a presentation to the Public Safety Commission at a future date from one of the City's mental health partners.

Motion by Commissioner Eramian, seconded by Chair Hallman, and approved by the Commission.

Commissioner Nickle shared his experience attending the City's Public Safety Appreciation Luncheon and requested reports from the City's CARE Team. He also shared his sentiments about the recent cancellation of a book signing event at a local business due to antisemitic threats.

Commissioner Harrison shared his experience attending the City's Public Safety Appreciation Luncheon and would like to see future luncheons open for the community.

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

12) ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 8:25 P.M. to its next regular meeting on April 8, 2024.

DocuSigned by:


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Public Safety Commission Chair

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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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