

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

**Monday, April 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 Blau
Commissioner Eramian
Commissioner Freiberg
Commissioner Harrison
Commissioner Nickle
Chair Hallman

Commissioners Absent:

Vice Chair Saltzman

Others Present:

Danny Rivas, City Director of Community Safety; Anita Shandi, City Public Safety Manager; Jessica Anukam, City Public Safety Specialist; Battalion Chief Sara Rathbun, Los Angeles County Fire Department; Lieutenant Fanny Lapkin, 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 April 8, 2024. **Motion by Commissioner Eramian, seconded by Commissioner Harrison, and approved by the Commission.**

5) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Approve the minutes of March 11, 2024.

Motion by Commissioner Harrison, seconded by Commissioner Nickle, and approved by the Commission.

6) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Summant Shendye, West Hollywood, spoke about the traffic issues near North Cynthia Street and North Doheny Drive.

Wendy Goldman, West Hollywood, also spoke about the traffic in the same neighborhood from the previous speaker's comments and requested extra enforcement to address the issues.

Nik Roybal, West Hollywood, spoke about a recent Eastside meeting at Plummer Park. He also suggested signage at various pedestrian crossing areas and brought up his concerns about the homeless in the City.

7) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

8) NEW BUSINESS

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

Battalion Chief Rathbun introduced herself to the Commission and reported on fire activity for March 2024, including the number of total fires reported, emergency medical service runs, good intent calls, and cooking-related fire calls.

Commissioner Eramian inquired about specific data presented in the monthly report on service calls.

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

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

Sergeant Duron reported on the March 2024 crime stats, including calls for service, emergency responses, and the number of arrests. He also provided stats for Part 1 crimes, theft, and pickpocketing categorized by City regions. Sergeant Duron also shared stats on the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station volunteer time in various community engagements and reported on highlights from the recent Los Angeles Marathon event.

Commissioner Harrison inquired about the increase in Part 1 crimes in the data report.

Commissioner Eramian asked about the decrease in total arrests presented in the data report.

Commissioner Nickle inquired about an assault on St. Patrick's Day, recent robberies on Santa Monica Boulevard, traffic issues on North Lexington Avenue and Gardner Street, and questions about drug testing strips.

Commissioner Frieberg asked questions regarding the pickpocketing data, observation data from a previous monthly report, and follow-up regarding the statistics on "Stops and Searches" from the meeting with the Center for Policing Equity organization.

Commissioner Blau asked a question about the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station online reporting system.

Chair Hallman inquired about warning signs for bars and restaurants to post regarding pickpocketing. He also asked if the City distributes information on its "X" page, formerly known as Twitter.

Commissioner Eramian asked if alert graphics could be added regarding pickpocketing concerns at City bus shelters where electronic messaging is conducted.

Commissioner Harrison asked if the approved Public Information Officer positions that were approved by the City Council for the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station would be able to provide information to the community about public safety concerns. He also shared concerns he heard about while attending a recent neighborhood meeting.

Nik Roybal, West Hollywood, thanked the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station representatives at the meeting and provided information about an upcoming community meeting for the LGBTQ+ and West Hollywood Sheriff's Station focus discussion. He also spoke about his experience attending a recent neighborhood meeting at Plummer Park, expressed his content with the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station focus on scooter citations, and asked about the best ways to deal with a violent situation involving a member of the unhoused community.

Kevin Burton, West Hollywood, thanked the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station for their update in providing detailed reports about pedestrian and vehicular traffic data. He also requested some additional reports to consider related to bicyclist.

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

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

Erica Leon, General Manager of Block by Block, provided the March 2024 reports, including the number of business contacts, unhoused contacts, and calls for service. She also spoke about adding two fixed posts at Plummer Park and El Tovar Alley and launching the 24/7 bathroom program at West Hollywood Park. She concluded by providing updates on the LGBTQ+ sensitivity training that ambassador's recently completed and the process of adding "Response Time" data to the monthly Commission reports.

Commissioner Eramian inquired about calls made for incidents that occurred since the launch of the 24/7 bathroom program and asked for clarity on the "Response Time" data.

Commissioner Harrison asked about the unhoused contact data.

Commissioner Blau inquired about the LGBTQ+ sensitivity training and thanked Block by Block for their assistance during an incident near a Ralph's store.

Chair Hallman inquired about the recruitment of new security ambassadors.

Nik Roybal, West Hollywood, thanked the security ambassadors for their service.

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

8D. WEHO PRIDE 2024 PARADE FLOAT PARTICIPATION

Manager Shandi and Director Rivas provided details about the Commission's Pride float participation requirements, which entail the Commission members adding their name to a drawing to be selected to ride a float designated to the City's Boards and Commission groups.

Upon discussion, Chair Hallman declined participation in the drawing, while the remaining Commission members agreed to add their names.

8E. PROPOSAL TO CHANGE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION MEETINGS TO FOURTH MONDAY OF THE MONTH

Manager Shandi and Director Rivas provided details on changing the regularly scheduled Commission meetings from the second to the fourth Monday of each month.

The Commission discussed the feasibility of changing the meetings, and by consensus, the Commission agreed to the proposal to change the regularly scheduled Commission meetings. The Commission was informed that the request for change will go before the City Council for consideration and approval, and the Commission Bylaws would then be updated.

9) ITEMS FROM STAFF

Manager Shandi provided updates to the Commission, which included the upcoming Public Safety Commission Open House, the City's Civic Leadership Academy, National Night Out planning, plans to extend the Block by Block Security Ambassador contract for a year, public safety agency planning for Pride 2024, research being conducted on a Community Services Officer program, and a presentation that is scheduled in May to be presented to the Commission from Healthcare in Action.

Commissioner Blau inquired about the new date set for the June Commission meeting.

Director Rivas asked the Commission to confirm their availability for the rescheduled June 17th Commission meeting.

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

10)PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

11)COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Harrison expressed his content and opinions about the upcoming Civic Leadership Academy.

Commissioner Blau inquired about City Street borders with neighboring cities. He also asked about the City's research on hiring Community Safety Officers.

Commissioner Eramian asked if the Commission would be able to tour the Real-Time Watch Center at the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station when it is up and running.

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

Chair Hallman thanked all the community members, City staff, and public safety partners for joining the evening's meeting.

12) ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 7:31 P.M. to its next regular meeting on May 13, 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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