

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

**Monday, May 13, 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 6:07 P.M.

**2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Blau led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3) ROLL CALL**

**Commissioners Present:**

Commissioner Blau  
Commissioner Freiberg  
Commissioner Harrison  
Commissioner Nickle  
Chair Hallman

**Commissioners Absent:**

Commissioner Eramian

Chair Hallman announced the resignation of Vice Chair Saltzman from the Public Safety Commission.

**Others Present:**

Danny Rivas, City Director of Community Safety; Anita Shandi, City Public Safety Manager; Jessica Anukam, City Public Safety Specialist; Derek Murray, City Human Services Acting Social Services Supervisor; Assistant Fire Chief Drew Smith, Los Angeles County Fire Department; Lieutenant Fanny Lapkin, Sergeant Jason Duron,

Sergeant Matthew Davis, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Erica Leon, General Manager, Block by Block.

#### **4) APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**ACTION:** Approve the agenda of May 13, 2024.

**The motion was made by Commissioner Blau, seconded by Commissioner Nickle, and approved by the Commission.**

#### **5) APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**ACTION:** Approve the minutes of April 8, 2024.

**The motion was made by Commissioner Harrison, seconded by Commissioner Blau, and approved by the Commission.**

#### **6) PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Louise E. Smith, West Hollywood, introduced herself as the new liaison from the City's Disabilities Advisory Board. She spoke about the importance of public safety and commended the work of the Block by Block Security Ambassadors.

Steve Martin, West Hollywood, made kind remarks about Commissioner Saltzman and inquired about the City's and Sheriff's Department response to the nationwide protests.

#### **7) UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

#### **8) NEW BUSINESS**

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

Chief Smith reported on fire activity for April 2024, including the number of total fires reported, service runs, rescue calls, hazard material calls, good intent calls, medical responses, and rubbish fires. He noted the expected increase in calls during the busier Summer months.

Commissioner Blau inquired about a structure fire that occurred at Jones Hollywood Cafe.

Commissioner Harrison asked about the reason for the expected increase in fire activity during the Summer months.

Chair Hallman asked if there would be any procedure changes for the Fire Department during the West Hollywood Pride events.

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

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

Sergeant Duron reported on April 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. He mentioned the Sheriff's Department plans to help combat pickpocketing and other preparations being implemented during the upcoming West Hollywood Pride Event. He also highlighted some notable operations and arrests that occurred during the month of April.

Commissioner Blau asked about the Sheriff's Department personnel training for working with people with mental health concerns, bicycle patrol training, and the available equipment, including vehicles at the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station.

Commissioner Nickle inquired about the currently trained Deputies on bicycle patrol and issues with mail theft.

Commissioner Blau provided helpful information on the topic of mail theft.

Commissioner Harrison also asked a question regarding mail theft.

Commissioner Freiberg asked if the Sheriff's Department could share video images regarding mail theft on the Sheriff's Department website.

Chair Hallman inquired about a recent incident related to narcotics, and he asked about Deputy bicycles.

Kevin Burton, West Hollywood, asked about how the Sheriff's Department is handling a new law that came into effect regarding bicyclist traffic protocol.

Sergeant Duron and Lieutenant Lapkin 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 April 2024 reports, including the number of business contacts, unhoused contacts, and calls for service. She spoke about the Ambassador's average call trends, hot spot areas around the City, partnering with social healthcare services, and the LGBTQ+ Sensitivity training

all the Ambassadors recently completed. Erica highlighted an incident regarding an Ambassador rendering help to an unresponsive individual, West Hollywood Pride Event preparations, and responded to previously asked questions by the Commission.

Commissioner Blau asked if the Security Ambassadors could report on Code Enforcement-related calls.

Commissioner Freiberg inquired about a recent incident at the Whole Foods store regarding private security services.

Chair Hallman asked about the frequency of the LGBTQ+ Sensitivity training and if the Commissioners are allowed to join the training.

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

## **8D. HEALTHCARE IN ACTION PRESENTATION**

Derek Murray, Human Services Acting Supervisor, summarized the services that Healthcare In Action provides for the City and introduced the representatives to present details of their outreach efforts.

Representatives from Healthcare In Action provided a detailed overview of the organization's services to the community, which included a PowerPoint presentation and a video showcasing their street team's mobile services. They also provided some telephone numbers for the community's reference: The City's Homeless Concern Line (323) 848-6590 and Healthcare in Action Patient Line (213) 669-6453.

Commissioner Blau asked about the TigerConnect app mentioned in the presentation. He also asked about the collaboration with the City's CARES Team.

Commissioner Nickle asked about ways of keeping contact with patients on the street to ensure follow-up.

Commissioner Freiberg shared her experience with the Human Services Commission to help bring Healthcare In Action to the City and praised their service to the community.

Commissioner Harrison also commended the organization's service.

Chair Hallman inquired about the couple mentioned in the presentation.

Nick Roybal, West Hollywood, asked about the proactive outreach of Healthcare In Action all over the City, digital signage to promote this organization's services, and their work alongside the Block by Block Security Ambassadors.

Derek Murray and the Healthcare In Action Representatives responded to all of the Commission and public comment questions.

Director Rivas and Chair Hallman thanked Derek Murray and Healthcare in Action for their work and for providing a presentation to the Commission.

## **8E. TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT PRESENTATION**

Sergeant Davis gave a PowerPoint presentation on the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station Traffic Enforcement Program.

Commissioner Harrison asked for comparative data from the information shared in the presentation and effectiveness of the new technological integrations.

Commissioner Nickle also asked about the effectiveness of new traffic improvements, such as a new stop sign in an area.

Chair Hallmann inquired about the speed limit for scooters.

Commissioner Blau asked if implementing legal technology helps with the current traffic enforcement. He also asked about resources to help determine traffic rules for bicyclists and scooters.

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

## **8F. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION CALENDAR**

Manager Shandi shared with the Commission an update to the Public Safety Commission meeting schedule upon approval by the City Council.

## **9) ITEMS FROM STAFF**

Manager Shandi provided updates to the Commission, including highlights from April's community engagements and events, upcoming events, and information on items planned to come before the Public Safety Commission.

## **10) PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Kevin Burton, West Hollywood, invited everyone to join the City's Long-Range Planning Division and West Hollywood Bicycle Coalition Bike to Work Day event for bicycle education. He also answered a previous question regarding the speed limits on scooters.

Stephen Post, West Hollywood, introduced himself to the Commission as the newly appointed commissioner to the Public Safety Commission.

## 11) COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Harrison spoke about the great turnout of the Public Safety Commission Open House event.

Commissioner Nickle spoke about the Open House event and his attendance at the Transgender Community Meeting.

Chair Hallman spoke about the Open House event, his attendance at the Coffee with the Mayor event, and the City's Civic Leadership Academy.

**ACTION:** Chair Hallman also asked if the Commission would approve agendaing an item to have the City's Traffic Engineer discuss options that could be installed to mitigate potential traffic hazards at certain locations in the City.

**The motion was made by Chair Hallman, seconded by Commissioner Blau, and approved by the Commission.**

Director Rivas explained to the Commission that staff will follow up with the City Clerk to get clarification and approval on the feasibility of the motion request to ensure the item falls under the purview of the Commission.

## 12) ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 8:18 P.M. to a special meeting on June 17, 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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