

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

**Monday, July 22, 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 6:09 P.M.

2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Harrison led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3) ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present:

Commissioner Blau
Commissioner Eramian
Commissioner Freiberg
Commissioner Harrison
Commissioner Nickle
Commissioner Post
Chair Hallman

Commissioners Absent:

None.

Others Present:

Danny Rivas, City Director of Community Safety; Anita Shandi, City Public Safety Manager; Jessica Anukam, City Public Safety Specialist; Battalion Chief Jeff Swingle, Los Angeles County Fire Department; Lieutenant Fanny Lapkin, Sergeant Jason Duron, Representatives from the Mental Evaluation Team (MET), Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Erica Leon, General Manager, Block by Block.

4) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION: Approve the agenda of July 22, 2024.

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

5) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Approve the minutes of June 17, 2024.

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

6) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Yola Dore, West Hollywood, commended a Block by Block Ambassador and a Sheriff's station volunteer, announced the upcoming disabilities awards, and expressed her concerns about a recent incident in her neighborhood.

Mikie Friedman, West Hollywood, thanked Tod Hallman for his service as Public Safety Commission Chair and shared concerns regarding pedestrian safety.

Ben Gaster, Los Angeles, spoke about his concerns about an unsafe individual in West Hollywood.

Annalie Gernert, West Hollywood, spoke about an incident of an attempted kidnapping involving her neighbor.

Steve Martin, West Hollywood, spoke about the importance of community involvement and being aware of surroundings to prevent crime.

Joshua Marin-Mora, Los Angeles, expressed his appreciation to the Commission and presented outgoing Chair Hallman with a certificate from Assemblymember Rick Zbur's office.

Nik Roybal, West Hollywood, spoke about his experience during a recent incident in his neighborhood. He also commended a previous speaker on her experience and shared his opinions about a comment made by a Councilmember at an earlier City Council meeting.

7) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

8) NEW BUSINESS

8A. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Chair Hallman spoke about his experience on the Public Safety Commission and two terms as the Commission Chair.

Melissa Crowder, City Clerk, provided an overview of the nomination and election process and opened the nominations for the Chair of the Public Safety Commission.

Chair Hallman motioned to nominate Commissioner Eramian as Chair, seconded by Commissioner Nickle.

Commissioner Blau motioned to nominate Commissioner Harrison as Chair, seconded by Commissioner Post.

Commissioner Eramian was elected Chair of the Public Safety Commission, approved by a 5-2 roll call vote.

8B. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Melissa Crowder, City Clerk, opened the nominations for the Public Safety Commission Vice Chair.

Commissioner Nickle motioned to nominate Commissioner Harrison as Vice Chair, seconded by Commissioner Blau.

Chair Eramian motioned to nominate Commissioner Freiberg as Vice Chair, seconded by Commissioner Hallman.

Commissioner Harrison was elected Vice Chair of the Public Safety Commission, approved by a 4-3 roll call vote.

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

Battalion Chief Swingle reported on the June 2024 fire report, which includes the number of total fires, medical calls, hazardous condition calls, service calls, and good intent calls.

Commissioner Blau inquired about the data provided on the structure fires.

Commissioner Nickle inquired about the structure fire that took place on June 28, 2024.

Chair Eramian asked about weed abatement of vacant properties and a particular medication treatment for smoke inhalation for firefighters.

Vice Chair Harrison asked if the City would recover costs from homeowners if resources were used to handle a situation such as a fire on their property.

Steve Martin, West Hollywood, responded about the smoke inhalation medication and provided input on vacant properties and the upcoming changes to Fountain Ave.

Nic Roybal spoke about the concern of no cameras outside Fire Stations 7 and 8.

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

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

Sergeant Duron reported on June 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 spoke about the robbery suppression operations conducted by the Entertainment Policing Team (EPT) and Community Oriented Policing and Problem Solving Team (COPPS) and other notable incidents and community events for June 2024. Sergeant Duron also talked about a recent shooting that occurred on Santa Monica Boulevard at a 7-Eleven store.

Chair Eramian inquired about the number of Sheriff's Department Mental Evaluation Team (MET) call and adding their data to the monthly reports. He also asked about a recent stabbing and increased patrols.

Commissioner Blau asked about the shooting in the report and equipment availability for Deputies.

Commissioner Hallman inquired about the shooting in the report and the possible use of drones in similar situations. He also asked if summer is typically busier for pickpocket occurrences and if the City should create signs to remind people of this type of theft.

Commissioner Nickle asked questions about the Sheriff's protocol in situations similar to the recent shooting incident mentioned in the report, the attempted kidnapping incident from the public comment, and some recent robberies in the City.

Commissioner Post inquired about the data tracked for crimes committed by West Hollywood residents vs non-residents.

Kevin Burton, West Hollywood, congratulated the newly elected Chair and Vice Chair and thanked the former Chair for his service to the Commission. He also thanked the

Sheriff's Department for the monthly reports and suggested additional data for future reports.

Nik Roybal, West Hollywood, commended the Sheriff's Department, Director Rivas, and the various Sheriff's volunteers for their services to the community.

Steve Martin, West Hollywood, announced this year's National Night Out event on August 6, 2024. He spoke about the recent shooting incident mentioned in the Sheriff's report and spoke highly about former Chair Hallman.

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

Director Rivas introduced the Mental Evaluation Team (MET) to update the Commission briefly.

Deputy Garcia and MET Clinician Riveria provided a brief overview of the MET program and their roles in serving the West Hollywood community.

The Commissioners and the MET had a lengthy discussion about the specific level of care and services, including their specialty training, working with partnered agencies, and the type of calls they receive and respond to.

Deputy Garcia and MET Clinician Riveria responded to all the Commission's questions and comments.

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

Erica Leon, General Manager of Block by Block, began by thanking the former Chair for his services on the Commission and congratulated the newly elected Chair and Vice Chair. She provided the June 2024 reports, including the number of business contacts, unhoused contacts, and calls for service. She also mentioned the increased activity related to the recent 2024 Pride events, and the increased calls for security escorts. Manager Leon briefly discussed the partnership with Health Care in Action and WEHO Cares, and she commended the Security Ambassador team for responding to a recent incident on Gardner Street. She wrapped up the report by speaking about the extra security deployment for National Night Out on August 6, 2024.

Commissioner Blau inquired about the hot dog vendor data in the monthly report and the main challenges Block by Block encounters.

Commissioner Nickel asked about an incident that involved a Security Ambassador being assaulted and the promotion at the bars and restaurants for safety escorts.

Commissioner Freiberg asked if the Sheriff's Department shares information and images to Block by Block of suspected thieves.

Chair Eramian asked about the miles tracked on the Security Ambassador's bicycles.

Commissioner Hallman inquired if there was an increase in unauthorized overnight parked vehicles in Plummer Park. He also spoke about witnessing an Ambassador moving a scooter from the public right of way.

Vice Chair Harrison inquired about the recourse plan for scooters that do not get adequately returned.

Commissioner Freiberg asked about built-in software to stop a scooter from entering a prohibited area.

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

9) ITEMS FROM STAFF

Manager Shandi provided updates, including the upcoming National Night Out event on August 6, 2024, the community safety update presented at the July 15, 2024, City Council meeting, and a follow-up on the motions from the last Commission meeting regarding requests for additional data to be included in their monthly reports.

Commissioner Blau asked for clarification regarding the motion he presented at the June 2024 Commission meeting concerning the City's upcoming public safety technology enhancements.

Commissioner Post asked how the City would make the community aware of the upcoming technology enhancements.

Commissioner Blau asked about joint meetings with other Commissions.

Commissioner Hallman gave his opinion about the upcoming technology enhancements.

Director Rivas thanked Commissioner Hallman for his service as the prior Chair and congratulated the newly elected Chair Eramian and Vice Chair Harrison.

City Clerk Melissa Crowder and Director Rivas responded to all the Commission's questions and comments.

10) PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

11) COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

The Commissioners thanked former Chair Hallman for his years as Chair of the Commission and congratulated the newly elected Chair Eramian and Vice Chair Harrison.

Chair Eramian invited everyone to attend the upcoming National Night Out event on August 6, 2024.

Commissioner Post spoke about best practices for community responder programs and more ways to engage the public with City updates. He also reminded everyone of the very present COVID-19 illness.

A motion was made by Commissioner Post to agendize a comprehensive public safety presentation about how the alternative community response teams coordinate and communicate with each other and the Sheriff's Department and what types of responses they oversee to support public safety efforts in West Hollywood. Seconded by Commissioner Blau and approved by the Commission.

Commissioner Nickle also invited everyone to the National Night Out events and asked about including data from the City's CARE Team in the monthly reports.

Commissioner Blau asked if the City has something similar to a Victim Advocate Program.

A motion was made by Commissioner Blau for the Commission to receive an update about a Victim Advocate Program for the City of West Hollywood. Seconded by Commissioner Post and approved unanimously by the Commission.

Chair Hallman thanked the Commission and City Staff for working alongside him as Chair of the Commission.

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

12) ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 8:25 P.M. to its special meeting on August 19, 2024.

DocuSigned by:
Adam Eramian
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Public Safety Commission Chair

DocuSigned by:
Jessica Anukam
496B803FC06D450...

Public Safety Commission Secretary

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<https://www.weho.org/city-government/wehotv>**

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