

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

**Monday, September 23, 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 Eramian called the meeting to order at 6:06 P.M.

**2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Nickle led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3) ROLL CALL**

**Commissioners Present:**

Commissioner Blau  
Commissioner Freiberg  
Commissioner Hallman  
Commissioner Nickle  
Chair Eramian

**Commissioners Absent:**

Commissioner Post  
Vice Chair Harrison

**Others Present:**

Danny Rivas, City Director of Community Safety; Anita Shandi, City Public Safety Manager; Jessica Anukam, City Public Safety Specialist; Battalion Chief Kevin Price, Los Angeles County Fire Department; Sergeant Jason Duron, Jamie Araki, Law Enforcement Technician, Detective Sergeant Avelio Galvez, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Steven BeCotte, Director of Operations, Block by Block.

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

**ACTION:** Approve the agenda of September 23, 2024.

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

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

**ACTION:** Approve the minutes of August 19, 2024.

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

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

Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur expressed his appreciation for the work of the Public Safety Commission, congratulated Chair Eramian on his recent selection as Chair, and recognized the former Chair, Commissioner Hallman. He also spoke about some current public safety initiatives to combat retail theft.

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

None.

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

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

Battalion Chief Price reported on the August 2024 fire report, which includes the number of total fires, medical calls, service calls, Advanced Life Support (ALS) calls, and Basic Life Support (BLS) calls. There were no significant fires or fire-related property damage to report for the month. He also mentioned that engine 8 was utilized for the Bridge Fires occurring in areas of Los Angeles and San Bernadino counties. He also briefly talked about preparing for the upcoming Halloween events.

Commissioner Hallman asked about the carbon monoxide data from the report.

Kevin Burton, West Hollywood, spoke about the upcoming CERT training and provided feedback on organizing future CERT training.

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

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

Steven BeCotte, Director of Operations for Block by Block, provided the August 2024 reports, including the number of calls for service, business contacts, and unhoused contacts. He also highlighted a team member's work during an incident that occurred during the Labor Day weekend and provided updates on unlicensed food vendors, the mileage recorded for bicycle patrols, the utilization of the City App, and the addition of kiosks in City areas.

Commissioner Nickle inquired about the protocol regarding unlicensed food vendors.

Commissioner Hallman suggested increasing the operation hours of the Santa Monica Boulevard and La Brea Avenue kiosk.

Larry Block, West Hollywood, spoke about the unlicensed food vendors and individuals on the street experiencing mental health issues that have had an impact on the operations and safety of many businesses in the City.

Steven BeCotte and 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 August 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 provided data from the Sheriff's Department Online Reporting and Tracking System (SORTS) and Mental Evaluation Team (MET) and spoke about the West Hollywood Station volunteers. Sergeant Duron also shared that a retail theft operation occurred at the West Hollywood Gateway commercial center and provided information on some notable City incidents and upcoming community events. Sergeant Duron concluded his comments by introducing Jamie Araki, West Hollywood Sheriff's Station Law Enforcement Technician, who will be temporarily assigned as the station's public information and social media liaison.

Commissioner Blau welcomed Jamie and inquired about the City's encampment ordinance, the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision on encampments, and how that decision would affect the City's approach in addressing encampments in the community.

Commissioner Nickle welcomed Jamie and inquired about the valet attendant attack that occurred at the Barney's Beanery Restaurant and the retail theft operation at the West Hollywood Gateway commercial center.

Commissioner Freiberg welcomed Jamie and asked follow-up questions regarding mail theft, the Barney's Beanery valet attack, and the City's Code Enforcement responsibility for handling noise complaints.

Chair Eramian thanked the Sheriff's Department for including the Mental Evaluation Team data in the monthly reports and asked questions based on the data provided. He also asked about more enforcement on unlawful scooter riders and noted a recent fatality involving a scooter-related accident in Los Angeles.

Commissioner Hallman spoke about the issues involving unlawful scooter riders in the community.

Kevin Burton, West Hollywood, thanked the Sheriff's Station for its detailed monthly crime reports and discussed the issue of unlawful scooter riders.

Mikie Friedman, West Hollywood, spoke about the issue of unlawful scooter riders.

Stephanie Harker, West Hollywood, welcomed Jamie to the Sheriff's Station and suggested adding more Deputies. She also expressed her feelings about public safety concerns in the City, unlawful scooter riders, and protected safety for the Block by Block Ambassadors.

Nik Roybal, West Hollywood, asked about the reason for the Sheriff's Department presence at the recent candidate forum. He also asked about a way to cite delivery robots obstructing the public right-of-way and an issue with persons experiencing homeless and individuals experiencing mental health issues at the West Hollywood Library.

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

#### **8D. LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT WEST HOLLYWOOD STATION DETECTIVE BUREAU**

Seargent Duron introduced Detective Seargent Avelio Galvez, who works in the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station Detective Bureau.

Detective Galvez provided a brief overview of the process when Detectives receive a call or report, an explanation of the different types of crime reports taken, and how they are investigated.

Commissioner Blau asked about the number of Detectives assigned to the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station.

Commissioner Nickle asked for a distinction between violent and nonviolent crimes.

Chair Eramian asked if the City Attorney could file charges if the District Attorney did not.

Commissioner Freiberg asked for clarification on the number of Detectives assigned to the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station.

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

## **9) ITEMS FROM STAFF**

Manager Shandi provided Public Safety Division updates, including an upcoming Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training, a CERT Alumni meeting, and community CPR, First Aid, and AED training in October. She also discussed the City's preparations for the upcoming Halloween event, AIDS Walk LA, and the West Hollywood Civic Leadership Academy with the City's Public Safety Division and Public Safety Partners. Manager Shandi also provided an update that future Sheriff's Department monthly reports will include information on Senate Bill 1421 and the method by which a member of the public can file complaints or commendations on Sheriff's Department Deputies. She concluded her remarks by sharing an update on the outreach item scheduled to go before the City Council related to public safety technology.

## **10) PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mikie Friedman, West Hollywood, asked about the scooters that are left in the public right-of-way and understanding of the scooter vendor's obligations in picking up the scooters. She also spoke about the recent fatal scooter-related accident that occurred in Los Angeles.

Cathy Blaivas, West Hollywood, briefly addressed her thoughts about the Fountain Avenue project and provided suggestions for issues pertaining to scooter riders.

Stephanie Harker, West Hollywood, spoke about the importance of publicly sharing personal experiences of being a victim of crime. She also spoke about the Fountain Avenue project plans possible impact on parking and public safety for pedestrians. Lastly, she spoke about her disapproval of the delivery robots.

David Eckert, West Hollywood, suggested some improvements to public safety around the City, including increased lighting in designated areas, activated crosswalk signals, and overgrown plants obstructing the vision of the intersection.

## **11) COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Hallman spoke about his attendance at the recent candidate forum, his experience attending past CERT Training, and his encouragement for community members to participate. He also acknowledged and thanked Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur for his presence and speaking at the Commission meeting.

Commissioner Nickle spoke about his attendance at the Transgender community meeting and was disappointed with the lack of community attendance.

Commissioner Freiberg asked about the update regarding Community Safety Officers.

Chair Eramian thanked Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur for attending and speaking at the Commission meeting. He spoke to address the concerns brought up by resident Mikie Friedman involving public safety issues with unlawful scooter riders. He also talked about his concerns to better protect the Block by Block Ambassadors and brought attention to suicide during this Suicide Awareness Month.

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

## 12) ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 7:41 P.M. to an Adjourned Regular Meeting on October 14, 2024.

DocuSigned by:

*Adam Eramian*

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Public Safety Commission Chair

DocuSigned by:

*Jessica Anukam*

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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>**

***(Disclaimer: Staff records the meetings for the sole purpose of composing the official meeting minutes; therefore, the recordings are not of commercial quality.)***