

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

**Monday, October 14, 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

Nik Roybal led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3) ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present:

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

Commissioners Absent:

None.

Others Present:

Danny Rivas, City Director of Community Safety; Anita Shandi, City Public Safety Manager; Jessica Anukam, City Public Safety Specialist; Marisa Faynsod, UCLA Rape Treatment Center Licensed Clinical Social Worker; Battalion Chief Chad Sourbeer, Los Angeles County Fire Department; Erica Leon, General Manager, Block by Block; Lieutenant Fanny Lapkin, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION: Approve the agenda of October 14, 2024.

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

4) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Approve the minutes of September 23, 2024.

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

5) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mikie Friedman, West Hollywood, shared her concerns regarding the Fountain Avenue project and provided information about an upcoming rally supporting the opposition.

Monica Iannessa, West Hollywood, spoke about criminal activity in her residential building where she serves as the HOA board member.

Cathy Blaivas, West Hollywood, expressed her concerns about the divisive language and statements made when discussing plans for the Fountain Avenue project.

Louise Smith, West Hollywood, spoke about criminal activity in her residential building and expressed her concerns about public safety in the City.

Steve Martin, West Hollywood, expressed his support for community concerns about public safety, shared his disagreements about City Council members' comments, and disagreed with the possible changes to Fountain Avenue.

Wendy Goldman, West Hollywood, spoke about earthquake safety with the upcoming "Great Shake Out" drills. She also provided suggestions to the City for community improvement, which involved replacing street traffic bollards in her neighborhood, addressing crime, and addressing the lack of scooter citations for scooters on sidewalks.

Kevin Burton, West Hollywood, shared his thoughts about pedestrian safety and thanked the Sheriff's Department for providing monthly reports on the statistics. He also expressed his support for the possible changes to Fountain Avenue and agreed with a prior commenter about the divisive language and statements made on the topic.

Stephanie Harker, West Hollywood, expressed her disapproval of the language used by community members, Commissioners, and City Council members during the various discussions of the Fountain Avenue project. She also shared her feedback about her thoughts opposing the project and provided quoted statements of hateful comments.

6) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

8) NEW BUSINESS

8A. UCLA RAPE TREATMENT CENTER PRESENTATION

Marisa Faynsod, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker for the UCLA Rape Treatment Center in Santa Monica, provided a PowerPoint presentation of an overview of the services that are provided at the treatment center and their partnership with the City of West Hollywood and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

Commissioner Nickle inquired about how the UCLA team would handle a situation involving spiked drinks and their available locations.

Commissioner Freiberg asked how members of the community find them and if other medical facilities send victims to the UCLA Rape Treatment Center for specialized care. She also inquired about social media outlets for outreach.

Vice Chair Harrison asked if their facility is listed in the brochure of services for the City of West Hollywood.

Chair Eramian asked why some of the other medical centers do not utilize rape kits.

Commissioner Hallman asked about the process for patients at the treatment center.

Director Rivas thanked Marisa Faynsod and the UCLA Rape Treatment Center staff and provided additional information on their partnership with the City of West Hollywood.

Marisa Faynsod responded to all the Commission's questions and comments.

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

Battalion Chief Chad Sourbeer introduced himself to the Commission as the new Battalion Chief to the West Hollywood Fire Stations. He reported on the September 2024 fire report, which includes the number of total fires, medical calls, hazardous condition calls, service calls, and good intent calls. There were no significant fires or fire-related property damage to report for the month.

Commissioner Blau inquired about the data on the increase in hazardous condition cases.

Commissioner Nickle inquired about the plans for replacing Fire Station No. 8.

Chair Eramian asked if the City has reached out about the traffic plans for the Fountain Avenue project.

Director Rivas informed the Commission that no official traffic plans regarding the Fountain Avenue project have been submitted for review to the Fire Department, and the project is still developing.

Battalion Chief Chad Sourbeer 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 September 2024 reports, including the number of calls for service, business contacts, safety escorts, and unhoused contacts. She also discussed collaborating with the City's Code Enforcement team to address unlicensed food vendors, working on the recent AIDS Walk event, and preparing for the upcoming Halloween event. She wrapped up the report by sharing their plans to rebrand their kiosks to provide more visibility to the community and update the operating hours for the La Brea Avenue and Santa Monica Boulevard kiosks.

Commissioner Hallman thanked Block by Block for updating the operating hours for the kiosk mentioned. He also followed up on a public commentator's question from a prior meeting about the logged bicycle mileage and inquired about any upcoming training scheduled for Ambassadors that the Commission could attend.

Commissioner Freiberg asked about the protocol for safety escorts assisting intoxicated individuals and requested an update on Block by Block personnel visiting senior residential buildings.

Vice Chair Harrison asked about the reported assaults toward Ambassadors and the follow-up that occurs with Ambassadors after these types of situations occur to them.

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

Stephanie Harker, West Hollywood, thanked Block by Block for their work and suggested that the Ambassadors be better equipped to protect themselves.

David Eckert, West Hollywood, suggested that the Ambassador kiosks should have more lighting in the area where they are located in the evening hours.

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

Lieutenant Lapkin reported on September 2024 crime stats, including calls for service, emergency responses, and the number of arrests. She also provided stats for Part 1 Crimes, theft, and pickpocketing categorized by City regions. She spoke about some notable incidents, including the fatal traffic collision that occurred on October 10th, the attack that took place at Barney's Beanery Restaurant, and the number of robberies committed in the Norma Triangle neighborhood.

Vice Chair Harrison inquired about the Sheriff's Department deployment for the recent traffic collision.

Commissioner Blau inquired about traffic citations.

Commissioner Hallman asked about the accident that involved a Tesla vehicle and the West Hollywood Pickup Trolley.

Commissioner Nickle inquired about the car accident on Spaulding and Fountain Avenue and the other on Santa Monica Boulevard and Gardner Street. He also discussed the implementation of red-light cameras and asked if the public comments regarding burglaries were included in the monthly Sheriff's Department report. Commissioner Nickle concluded by inquiring when the Sheriff's Department Community Academy will be offered again.

Commissioner Freiberg inquired about updates on fentanyl-related cases and the data from the monthly report about assaults and pickpocketing.

Chair Eramian inquired about the data from the pickpocketing cases and updates on upcoming operations to focus on these crimes. He also asked about the timeframe for implementing the City's technological public safety enhancements.

Kevin Burton, West Hollywood, spoke about speed cameras, traffic enforcement officers, and the dangers they encounter in their jobs.

Mikie Friedman, West Hollywood, wanted to confirm the information she received from the Citizen App regarding an incident.

Lieutenant Lapkin responded to all the Commission's questions and comments.

9) ITEMS FROM STAFF

Manager Shandi provided updates for the Public Safety Division, including the recent Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training, CPR, First Aid, and AED training, Business Town Hall meeting, AIDS Walk Los Angeles, and the West Hollywood Civic Leadership Academy with the City's Public Safety Division and Public Safety Partners. She also announced the upcoming CERT Alumni meeting to be held at the City's Recreation and Aquatic Center. She concluded her update by mentioning the City's preparations for the upcoming Halloween event and notice of the additions to the monthly Commission reports, which included information on Senate Bill 1421(SB1421).

10) PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

11) COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Hallman spoke about his attendance at the recent CERT training and inquired about adding more lighting to the Block by Block Ambassador kiosks for the evening hours.

Commissioner Post discussed his attendance at the recent Civic Leadership Academy, suggested a way to obtain more community feedback regarding the prospective public safety technological enhancements, and inquired about updates on the comprehensive alternatives for community response discussed in prior Commission meetings.

Commissioner Nickle expressed his discontentment about comments made regarding a recent traffic accident and towards members of the public that came out to speak in disagreement of the Fountain Avenue project.

Chair Eramian welcomed the new Fire Battalion Chief and thanked the UCLA Rape Treatment Center for providing a presentation. He also thanked the Public Safety agency partners and all the public speakers who attended the evening's meeting. He also asked about possibly adding cameras to residential streets as part of the public safety technological enhancements.

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

12) ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 8:00 P.M. to the next Adjourned Regular Meeting on November 12, 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

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

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