

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION**

**MINUTES  
MONDAY, JULY 8, 2013**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** at 6:35 PM
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** led by Councilmember Prang
3. **ROLL CALL**

**Commissioners Present:** Burke\*, Clarkin, Kurpies, Norton, Sol, Szyskowski, Williams

\*Commissioner Burke arrived at 6:45 PM

**Commissioners Absent:** None

**Others present:** Sergeant Jon Klaus, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Maria Grycan, Community Services Representative, Los Angeles County Fire Department; Kristin Cook, Public Safety Director; David Aguilar, Block by Block Security Ambassadors

4. **OATH OF OFFICE**
5. **ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR**

Newly appointed Commissioner Josh Kurpies was sworn in by Councilmember Jeffrey Prang.

**ACTION:** Motion by Commissioner Norton to elect Commissioner Williams as Chair, seconded by Commissioner Clarkin, and approved.

**ACTION:** Motion by Commissioner Williams to elect Commissioner Burke as Vice-Chair, seconded by Commissioner Clarkin, and approved.

6. **ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS**

Commissioner Sol requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of the 29 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the last meeting.

Commissioner Clarkin requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of the grandmother of Matthew Shaffer.

Ms. Grycan, Los Angeles County Fire Department, mentioned that one of the Arizona firefighters is the son of a Los Angeles County firefighter. Ms. Grycan requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of Fire Captain Janet Chatelain.

**7. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**ACTION:** Motion by Commissioner Clarkin to approve the July 8, 2013 agenda with one amendment to add the oath of office for new Commissioner Josh Kurpies, seconded by Commissioner Williams, and approved.

**POSTING OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda for the July 8, 2013 Public Safety Commission meeting was posted at City Hall, Plummer Park, the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station, and the West Hollywood Library.

**8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**ACTION:** Motion by Commissioner Norton to approve the June 10, 2013 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Clarkin, and approved.

**9. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Norma Kemper, resident of North Hollywood, congratulated staff and the new Chair and Vice-Chair, thanked the outgoing Chair for her work, welcomed the new Commissioners, and spoke regarding her many years on the Public Safety Commission.

Amy Bojanowski, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding a vacant property at 1148-1150 Detroit.

Stephanie Harker, resident of West Hollywood, thanked the Commission and the Sheriff's Department and spoke regarding cameras at Plummer Park, a vacant property at 1120 Vista, and an issue with the Security Ambassadors.

**10. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS**

Commissioner Clarkin spoke regarding a recent visit to the Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board and thanked outgoing Commissioner Kemper for her hard work.

Commissioner Burke spoke regarding a recent visit to the Transportation Commission meeting and the importance of working together. Commissioner Burke thanked outgoing Commissioner Kemper for her hard work. Commissioner

Burke spoke regarding the Security Ambassadors and their recent response to an assault.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding work with the Women's Advisory Board. Commissioner Williams thanked outgoing Commissioner Kemper for her hard work. Commissioner Williams thanked Commissioner Sol for her hard work as Chair this past year.

Commissioner Norton congratulated staff and thanked outgoing Commissioner Kemper for her hard work. Commissioner Norton welcomed Commissioner Kurpies to the Public Safety Commission. Commissioner Norton congratulated Commissioner Williams and wished Commissioner Burke a happy birthday. Commissioner Norton thanked Commissioner Sol for her hard work as Chair this past year. Commissioner Norton spoke regarding a recent visit to the Senior Advisory Board. Commissioner Norton spoke regarding the low income housing list which is open and receiving applications this month. Commissioner Norton spoke regarding the tragic deaths of the Arizona firefighters.

Commissioner Szyskowski spoke regarding the vacant properties on Detroit. Commissioner Szyskowski spoke regarding homeless persons trying to break into her neighbor's home. Commissioner Szyskowski thanked the Security Ambassadors for their patrols.

Commissioner Kurpies said that he is pleased to join the Public Safety Commission and looks forward to working with the group, congratulated staff, and thanked outgoing Commissioner Kemper for her hard work. Commissioner Kurpies thanked the City Council for his appointment and thanked Councilmember Prang.

Commissioner Sol thanked the group for supporting her as Chair this past year.

## **11. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

### **11A. NEWS FROM STAFF/MONTHLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Staff spoke regarding National Night Out to be held on Tuesday, August 6, 2013 and a staff Emergency Exercise to be held on Wednesday, July 31, 2013.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding the Town Hall to be held on Saturday, July 20, 2013.

## **12. REPORT FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Ms. Grycan reviewed the suppression, rescue, and fire prevention activities during the month of June including inspections, fires, and emergency medical calls. None of the fires in June caused monetary damage.

Ms. Grycan shared public education materials including heat exhaustion, grilling safety, cooking safety, and clothes dryer safety.

Staff said that the information can be posted on the City's website.

Kevin Burton, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding the recent Community Emergency Response Training and a horrible fire in a Rhode Island nightclub a few years ago and asked that all club owners and managers watch the video of the tragedy.

### **13. REPORT FROM THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

Sergeant Klaus reviewed the Sheriff's Department statistics for June 2013, including calls for service, arrests, and crimes. Sergeant Klaus stated that crime is down across the City. Sergeant Klaus spoke regarding crimes of opportunity and people leaving valuables unattended. Sergeant Klaus stated that response times improved this year as compared to last year. Sergeant Klaus said that there were 15 DUI arrests and 4 DUI Collisions.

Commissioner Sol asked if there are any upcoming DUI checkpoints.

Staff stated that for now the Sheriff's Department plans to continue them monthly until the statistics decrease.

Commissioner Clarkin spoke regarding the nixle alerts that are sent out regarding the DUI checkpoints.

David Aguilar, Block by Block, spoke regarding the Security Ambassadors and their work along Santa Monica Boulevard.

Commissioner Williams thanked Block by Block for their bike patrols. Commissioner Williams spoke regarding an increase in the homeless population on the east side of West Hollywood. Commissioner Williams requested traffic enforcement in the area of Gardner, Curson, and Genesee for drivers running stop signs. Commissioner Williams asked if there were any reports of illegal fireworks on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Commissioner Williams thanked Deputy John Darnell from the Office of Paul Koretz for being at the meeting.

### **14. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **14A. 2013 PUBLIC SAFETY EDUCATION OUTREACH**

Commissioner Clarkin stated that he will be meeting with staff to discuss the upcoming schedule and that Commissioner Burke will be working on the issue with him.

Commissioner Clarkin spoke regarding the upcoming public safety outreach on Thursday at the Sunset Strip Farmer's Market which will include Sidewalk CPR offered by Fire Station 7.

Commissioners Sol and Clarkin spoke regarding the next "walk about" with the Captain which will be held on Thursday, July 25, 2013.

**14B. UTILIZING SOCIAL MEDIA, IMPROVING COMMUNICATION**

Staff stated that Sheriff's Station personnel are going to social media training on August 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> on how to properly utilize twitter so they can start a station twitter account.

Staff will be Inviting Lisa Belsanti to an upcoming meeting to discuss various ideas to better utilize social media in the City's programs.

Ms. Grycan volunteered to be part of the process and will coordinate with the Sheriff's Department.

Commissioner Burke spoke regarding a new executive in the City of Los Angeles who is pushing the City of Los Angeles to become a cutting edge IT center.

Commissioner Williams reminded all to consider those who do not utilize twitter.

Staff said that City Hall and the Sheriff's Station will be using various ways to communicate to residents.

**14C. WORK PLAN UPDATE**

Staff stated that the work plan will be resent to the Commission for review.

**15. NEW BUSINESS**

**15A. STARBUCKS AT GATEWAY**

Sergeant Klaus spoke regarding some issues with homeless persons harassing patrons at the location.

Robert Swarts, Starbucks, spoke regarding the security measures that Starbucks has instituted to improve the environment including limiting restroom access, free electricity, and free water.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding a Starbucks employee who had felt harassed by a homeless person.

Mr. Swarts said that Starbucks followed up with the employee.

Commissioner Sol thanked Mr. Swarts for removing the couches.

Commissioner Clarkin thanked Mr. Swarts for his hard work, community involvement, and good communication among his team.

**16. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**17. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Clarkin welcomed Commissioner Kurpies to the Commission, congratulated Commissioners Williams and Burke, and thanked Commissioner Sol. Commissioner Clarkin spoke regarding the Rhode Island fire from a few years ago. Commissioner Clarkin spoke regarding the Mobility Study activity on July 20, 2013.

Commissioner Williams asked if Commissioner Sol will continue to compile the adjournment requests.

Commissioner Sol agreed to continue to compile the adjournment requests.


Commissioner Sol spoke regarding WeHo Direct and encouraged Commissioners to share the information.

Commissioner Sol thanked the Commission for supporting her as Chair.

Staff asked that Commissioners review the sample drafted public safety messages for an upcoming emergency preparedness campaign.

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 8:00 PM in the memory of the 29 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the last meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 12, 2013 at 6:30 PM at the West Hollywood City Hall Community Conference Room at 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard.

  
Public Safety Commission Chair

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Staff Liaison