

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION**

**MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2014**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** at 6:30 PM
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** led by Stephanie Harker
3. **ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present: Burke, Clarkin, Hoffman, Norton, Sol, Szyskowski, Williams

Commissioners Absent: None

Others present: Lieutenant Dave Smith, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Kristin Cook, Public Safety Director; Bonnie Smith, Acting Public Safety Supervisor; Maria Grycan, Community Services Representative, Los Angeles County Fire Department; David Aguilar, Block by Block Security Ambassadors

4. **ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS**

Commissioner Hoffman requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of actor Philip Seymour Hoffman.

Commissioner Sol requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of the 20 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the last meeting.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Sol to approve the February 10, 2014 agenda, seconded by Commissioner Norton, and approved.

POSTING OF THE AGENDA

The agenda for the February 10, 2014 Public Safety Commission meeting was posted at City Hall, Plummer Park, the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station, and the West Hollywood Library.

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Sol to approve the January 13, 2013 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Norton, and approved.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Michael Wojtkielewicz, resident of West Hollywood, expressed concern for the perception of differing rights of those renters at Sierra Bonita versus other non-subsidized renters by West Hollywood Housing Corporation staff.

Cathy Blaivas, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding public safety at Plummer Park and wondered if there were any safety issues regarding Great Hall/Long Hall.

Stephanie Harker, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding the placement of new bicycle racks at Plummer Park and said that once bicycles are attached to them they block the walk way. Ms. Harker spoke regarding a lifted sidewalk caused by tree roots at 1157 N. Vista.

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS

Commissioner Williams directed staff to follow up on the issues brought up by the public speakers.

Commissioner Hoffman spoke regarding recent visits to the Disabilities Advisory Board and the Rent Stabilization Commission. Commissioner Hoffman asked that the next agenda include a discussion of possible public safety workshops.

Commissioner Sol spoke regarding her attendance at the two recent senior safety meetings. Commissioner Sol asked if the blinking lights passed out to cyclists at Operation Firefly could be shared with wheelchair users.

Commissioner Norton thanked the public speakers for their attendance and spoke regarding her recent attendance at the Senior Advisory Board. Commissioner Norton agreed with Commissioner Sol that the blinking lights could increase visibility for those with disabilities and should be shared.

Commissioner Clarkin thanked the public speakers for their attendance. Commissioner Clarkin spoke regarding Operation Firefly and encouraged staff to hold more events like this. Commissioner Clarkin thanked Sheriff's Volunteer Richard Best for his leadership at an upcoming law enforcement conference for civilians.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding recent calls regarding the possibility of a medical marijuana facility opening at the old site of the Jeff Griffith Youth Center. Commissioner Williams asked staff to invite LAPD Captains Davis and Grimala and other neighboring law enforcement representatives to a future meeting.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding a gun violence prevention event sponsored by NCJW to be held on March 12th. Commissioner Williams spoke regarding a human trafficking event to be held on May 14th at NCJW and thanked staff and the Commission for their support.

Commissioner Clarkin spoke regarding a recent meeting on January 28th with Sheriff's representatives, including Commander Fraser, regarding gay and lesbian issues.

9. ITEMS FROM STAFF

**9A. EMERGENCY OPERATIONS BUREAU – DIGNITARY PROTECTION UNIT
– DEPUTY JIM REWALD**

Commissioners received a presentation from Deputy Jim Rewald, Team Leader, Dignitary Protection Unit, Emergency Operations Bureau.

Commissioner Norton asked about language training.

Deputy Rewald stated that the group of Deputies is diverse and speaks 8-9 languages and said that a large part of their training is regarding the various cultures of the visiting dignitaries.

Commissioner Hoffman asked if Deputies act similarly to the Secret Service.

Deputy Rewald stated that Deputies do have similar roles to the Secret Service.

Commissioner Clarkin thanked Deputy Rewald for his attendance and spoke regarding the dedication of the Reserve Deputies who participate in the Unit.

Stephanie Harker, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding the difference between violent and non violent protests.

Commissioner Norton asked if their training included the Secret Service.

Deputy Rewald stated that Deputies regularly train with the Secret Service.

Commissioner Burke asked for clarification regarding the communication and relationship among the Sheriff's Department and other jurisdictions.

Deputy Rewald explained the collaboration and information sharing that occurs among the various agencies.

**9B. INTRODUCTION OF NEW PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER, JOSHUA
SCHARE**

Staff introduced Joshua Schare, Public Information Officer for the City of West Hollywood.

Mr. Schare gave a brief synopsis of his background and his first few weeks at the City of West Hollywood.

Commissioner Norton thanked Mr. Schare for the recent promotion of the senior safety seminars.

Ms. Grycan thanked Mr. Schare for the recent promotion of the Fire Department preparatory seminars.

9C. CANCEL OR RESCHEDULE APRIL MEETING DUE TO CONFLICT WITH PASSOVER

Staff and the Commission discussed various options for the April meeting due to Passover.

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Williams to cancel the April meeting, seconded by Commissioner Clarkin, and failed.

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Sol to reschedule the April meeting to Tuesday, April 1st, seconded by Commissioner Clarkin, and passed.

9D. NEWS FROM STAFF/MONTHLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Staff spoke regarding One Billion Rising, the Oscars, and the Los Angeles Marathon.

Staff stated that they will contact Public Information staff to see if the May meeting can be televised and also host the Public Safety Awards.

Commissioner Sol suggested that a sub-committee of Commissioners assist staff with the Awards.

Staff said that a sub-committee would be helpful and also that Commander Kelley Fraser is slated for the May meeting so may also be willing to be the key note speaker for the Awards if held in May.

Commissioners Sol, Williams, and Hoffman volunteered to be the sub-committee for the Awards.

10. REPORT FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Ms. Grycan reviewed the suppression, rescue, and fire prevention activities during the month of January 2014 including inspections, fires, and emergency medical calls. Ms. Grycan spoke regarding the recent gas line incident and upcoming CERT training.

Commissioner Hoffman asked for more information regarding registration for CERT.

Ms. Grycan said that in a few days the online registration for CERT will be available.

11. REPORT FROM THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Lieutenant Smith reviewed the Sheriff's Department statistics for January 2014, including calls for service, arrests, and crimes. Crime is down approximately 23% when comparing January 2013 to January 2014. Lieutenant Smith stated that there were 12 DUI arrests and 7 DUI related collisions in December. Lieutenant Smith stated that the West Hollywood Team running Baker to Vegas is running in honor of Lieutenant Jim Farrell.

Staff stated that the foot patrols of Plummer Park are continuing.

Commissioner Williams reminded staff that the Commission would like to see bicycle accidents in the monthly statistics prepared by the Sheriff's Station going forward.

Commissioner Clarkin asked Lieutenant Smith if West Hollywood Station has a reputation for deterring criminal activity.

Lieutenant Smith said that it is a larger team that helps to deter criminal activity, including the community, the Station, and the District Attorney.

Commissioner Williams asked if the development at Fountain Avenue and La Brea Avenue will impact service on the east side.

Staff and Lieutenant Smith stated that the Sheriff's Department is prepared for the increase in residents.

Commissioner Williams asked staff to formally place a report from Block by Block on the agenda.

David Aguilar, Block by Block, gave an update on recent activities of the Security Ambassadors.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding issues at a laundromat and liquor store at Santa Monica Boulevard and Genessee Avenue.

Commissioner Clarkin asked about the best way to contact Block by Block and asked for business cards to pass out.

Mr. Aguilar said that he is happy to provide business cards to the Commission.

Commissioner Norton asked if adults sending kids inside restaurants to sell candy is a concern and asked if the Sheriff's Station checks on these minors.

Lieutenant Smith said that if a disturbance is caused or a law is suspected of being broken, Deputies then have cause to check on the minors.

12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

12A. PUBLIC SAFETY EDUCATION OUTREACH/SOCIAL MEDIA

Staff announced that the next outreach will be held on Saturday, March 22nd.

Commissioner Clarkin asked for clarification regarding comments made by the Disability Advisory Board.

Commissioner Hoffman asked if the issue of possible public safety workshops could be placed on next month's agenda.

13. NEW BUSINESS

13A. DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE/CRASH CAR FOR HOLIDAY WEEKENDS

Commissioner Sol suggested that the crash car be on both Santa Monica Boulevard and Sunset Boulevard and also on an additional holiday such as Labor Day.

Staff spoke regarding additional signage and the options that may be available while not distracting drivers from the road.

Commissioner Clarkin spoke regarding the importance of sharing information with the Sheriff's main desk so everyone is on the same page.

14. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

15. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Sol stated that the Neighborhood Watch Block Captain training will be held on Wednesday February 26, 2014 at the Sheriff's Station. Commissioner

Sol spoke regarding the Courtyard at La Brea grand opening on Saturday March 1st.

Commissioner Clarkin spoke regarding the upcoming Relay for Life and the wonderful partnership with the Sheriff's Volunteer Program.

Commissioner Burke thanked the public speakers for their attendance and their participation in the meeting.

Commissioner Hoffman thanked Lieutenant Smith for his ride along.

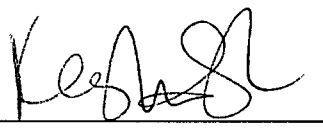
Commissioner Szyskowski thanked Block by Block for its service.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding human trafficking and the work done by NCJW and the possible involvement of the Public Safety Commission.

16. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 8:07 PM in the memory of Philip Seymour Hoffman and the 20 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the last meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 10, 2014 at 6:30 PM at the Library Community Room at 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard.


Public Safety Commission Chair


Staff Liaison