

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION**

**MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2015**

WEST HOLLYWOOD LIBRARY - COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM

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

Commissioners Present: Bazley, Burke*, Clarkin, Hoffman, Norton, Sol

*Commissioner Burke had to leave early at 7:20 PM.

Commissioners Absent: Williams

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

4. **ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS**

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

5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Clarkin to approve the February 9, 2015 agenda, seconded by Commissioner Norton, and approved.

POSTING OF THE AGENDA

The agenda for the February 9, 2015 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 Clarkin to approve the January 12, 2015 minutes as amended, seconded by Commissioner Sol, and approved.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Anne-Marie Williams, resident of West Hollywood and Human Services Commissioner, spoke regarding a recent hate crime and gave a call to action.

Tristan Schukraft, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding the importance of public safety and the upcoming West Hollywood election.

Heidi Shink, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding a hate incident she experienced.

Cathy Blaivas, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding the cancelation of the proposed cell tower at Sierra Bonita, Block by Block, and vandalized and missing election signs.

Stephanie Harker, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding Facebook posts and pictures of homeless individuals passed out and urged better care of these individuals.

Michael Wojtkielewicz, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding issues at Sierra Bonita.

Geoff Thomas, property manager at 1145 N. La Brea Avenue, spoke regarding public safety concerns.

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS

Commissioner Sol thanked the public speakers for their attendance and participation.

Commissioner Clarkin thanked the public speakers for their attendance and participation.

Commissioner Norton thanked the public speakers for their attendance and participation and spoke regarding the cancelation of the installation of the proposed cell tower at Sierra Bonita. Commissioner Norton spoke regarding hate crimes and the lack of outcry from the community regarding the recent incident. Commissioner Norton spoke regarding an incident near the Roxy which caused a lot of traffic and some confusion among the Block by Block Security Ambassadors. Commissioner Norton spoke regarding her attendance at the recent Senior Advisory Board.

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

Commissioner Bazley thanked the public speakers for their attendance and participation. Commissioner Bazley spoke regarding One Billion Rising to be held on Friday, February 13th.

Commissioner Hoffman thanked the public speakers for their attendance and participation. Commissioner Hoffman spoke regarding AA groups as a resource. Commissioner Hoffman spoke in support of expanding the Block by Block team.

9. ITEMS FROM STAFF

9A. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE HOMELESS SERVICES SUBCOMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Commission received a presentation from David Giugni, Social Services Manager, regarding the homeless services subcommittee recommendations.

Commissioner Bazley spoke regarding the Greater West Hollywood Food Coalition and the negative impacts to the Gateway.

Commissioner Sol spoke regarding the positive impacts of the housing voucher program and the feeding program. Commissioner Sol spoke regarding the need for mental health training and partnerships.

Commissioner Clarkin spoke in support of mental health and first aid training for Sheriff's volunteers, Block by Block Security Ambassadors, and other relevant groups.

Commissioner Hoffman thanked Mr. Giugni for his presentation.

Commissioner Norton thanked Mr. Giugni for his presentation.

9B. NEWS FROM STAFF/MONTHLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Staff spoke regarding the upcoming Walkabout with the Captain on February 18, 2015.

Commissioner Clarkin spoke regarding an upcoming safety education to be conducted by the Fire Department on February 19, 2015.

9C. SHERIFF/PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES SURVEY

Staff asked the Commissioners to select two Commissioners to be part of a committee to select a vendor to conduct a public safety survey.

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Clarkin to appoint Commissioners Sol and Norton to the committee with Commissioner Clarkin as alternate, seconded by Commissioner Hoffman, and approved.

10. REPORT FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Ms. Grycan reviewed the suppression, rescue, and fire prevention activities during the month of January 2015 including inspections, fires, and emergency medical calls. There were 7 fires, but no damage.

Commissioner Hoffman asked for an update regarding the recent CERT course.

Ms. Grycan stated that the class went very well with 37 graduates including a few for a CERT reunion.

Commissioner Norton asked for clarification regarding the 80 people who had originally signed up.

Ms. Grycan stated that it is common for some people to not show up.

11. REPORT FROM THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Sergeant Klaus reviewed the Sheriff's Department statistics for January 2015, including crimes, calls for service, and arrests. Sergeant Klaus stated that there was an increase in petty thefts, assaults, and residential burglaries.

Lieutenant Smith spoke regarding the close examination of crime stats and stated that the Sheriff's Station increased Sheriff's staffing to address the increase in crime and made several key arrests.

Sergeant Klaus spoke regarding a recent crosswalk enforcement operation which netted several dozen arrests.

Sergeant Klaus stated that there were 12 DUI arrests and 3 DUI related accidents in December.

Sergeant Klaus stated that there were 5 vehicle vs. pedestrian incidents and 2 vehicle vs. bicyclist incidents.

Lieutenant Smith stated that there are no new leads regarding the hate crime last month. Lieutenant Smith encouraged all to call the Sheriff's Station regarding homeless persons who may need assistance. Lieutenant Smith spoke regarding Block by Block resources on Sunset and stated that he will speak with the Sunset supervisor regarding the incident brought forward by Commissioner Norton.

Commissioner Hoffman asked if the DUI statistics include the DUI checkpoints.

Lieutenant Smith stated that there were 6 additional arrests from DUI checkpoints.

Commissioner Sol thanked the Sheriff's personnel for their outreach at the Farmer's Market and asked if there would be another DUI checkpoint.

Staff stated that the next DUI checkpoint will be on February 21, 2015.

Commissioner Clarkin spoke regarding community support for the crosswalk enforcement operation.

Lieutenant Smith spoke regarding community support for the crosswalk enforcement operation.

Commissioner Bazley asked if Mr. Brooks' incident is classified as a hate crime.

Lieutenant Smith confirmed that it is classified as a hate crime.

12. REPORT FROM BLOCK BY BLOCK

David Aguilar, Block by Block, gave a report on January's activities, including assisting pedestrians to cross the street.

Commissioner Clarkin asked when the Santa Monica Boulevard Security Ambassadors began service.

Mr. Aguilar said that service began in June 2013. Mr. Aguilar thanked the Commissioners for their support.

Commissioner Bazley asked for clarification regarding Block by Block's service area.

Mr. Aguilar said that his Ambassadors serve the length of Santa Monica Boulevard and the immediate surrounding area.

Commissioner Clarkin spoke regarding Block by Block's visibility along Santa Monica Boulevard.

Commissioner Norton thanked Block by Block for their service.

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

13A. COMMISSION INFORMATION SHEET/SPEAKER SLIP UPDATE

Staff thanked the Commissioners for their comments and stated that the documents can be made available at the next meeting.

Commissioner Sol suggested making the information sheet clear as to the purview of the Public Safety Commission.

Staff stated that the information sheet will be sent out one more time for the Commissioners to make comments.

13B. PUBLIC SAFETY – PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN, HATE FREE CITY

Staff passed out the “Hate Free City” public safety education campaign materials and asked the Commissioners to review and make suggestions for outreach and/or edits.

Commissioner Clarkin spoke regarding the unique needs of a victim and ensuring that information is readily available to victims. Commissioner Clarkin spoke in support of street outreach. Commissioner Clarkin spoke regarding being the victim of a hate incident.

Commissioner Sol spoke regarding education and clearing defining hate incident vs hate crime.

Commissioner Hoffman suggested adding text to make it clear “to leave the situation”.

Commissioner Clarkin spoke regarding the involvement of alcohol in crimes.

Commissioner Norton made a suggestion to include LAPD Wilshire’s number on the brochure.

Anne-Marie Williams, resident of West Hollywood and Human Services Commissioner, spoke in support of using social media and creative technology.

Commissioner Bazley spoke in support of using other ways than a pamphlet to educate the community. Commissioner Bazley spoke regarding the importance of looking inward as a City regarding racial tolerance and including messaging in broader events and celebrations. Commissioner Bazley spoke in support of the Pick Up Line and Block by Block Security Ambassadors.

Commissioner Hoffman asked if there were any witnesses to the recent hate crime on Fairfax.

Lieutenant Smith stated that there was video footage but not enough for any leads.

14. PUBLIC COMMENT

Patric Rodriguez, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding the recent graffiti in his neighborhood and thanked Lieutenant Smith for his assistance.

15. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Sol reminded all that Saturday is the Cupid's Undie Run. Commissioner Sol spoke regarding the six transgender women have been murdered in the last month.

Commissioner Norton asked if the names of the women could be added to the adjournment list.

Commissioner Sol asked if the Public Safety Awards will be held this spring.

Staff stated that next month's agenda will include an item on the Public Safety Awards for Commission discussion.

16. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 8:25 PM in the memory of the law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the last meeting and the six transgender women murdered in the last month. The next meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2015 at 6:30 PM at the West Hollywood Library Community Meeting Room.


Public Safety Commission Chair


Staff Liaison