

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION**

**MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2015**

WEST HOLLYWOOD LIBRARY – COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM

1. **CALL TO ORDER** at 6:32 PM
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** led by Michael Wojtkielewicz
3. **ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present: Berger, Coleman, Montemayor, Norton, Sol, Waack

Commissioners Absent: Williams

Others present: Lieutenant Dave Smith, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Sergeant Jon Klaus, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; David Aguilar and Steven Salisbury, Block by Block; Kristin Cook, Public Safety Director; Bonnie Smith, Public Safety Supervisor

4. **ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS**

Commissioner Norton requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of the nine shooting victims in Roseburg, Oregon.

Commissioner Sol requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of the 19 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 October 12, 2015 agenda, seconded by Commissioner Coleman, and approved.

POSTING OF THE AGENDA

The agenda for the October 12, 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 Sol to approve the September 10, 2015 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Montemayor, and approved with Commissioner Berger abstaining.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Phyllis Coto, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding homeless individuals harassing passengers on the City Line.

Patrick Shandrick, resident of West Hollywood, introduced himself as the liaison from the Human Services Commission to the Public Safety Commission.

Michael Wojtkielewicz, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding an incident at 1060 N. Sierra Bonita Avenue and requested the assistance of the Public Safety Commission with the issue.

Robert Coto, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding homeless individuals with mental health issues and an incident where he was assaulted by a homeless person.

Roxanne McBryde, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding three incidents over the weekend including a theft from a business. Ms. McBryde spoke regarding seeing more belligerent suspects in the neighborhood, extra patrols, and encouraging residents to lock their storage areas.

Stephanie Harker, resident of West Hollywood, spoke in support of the Commission reaching out to the public speakers to inform them of ways that the community can help the Commission solve the various issues.

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS

Commissioner Waack stated that his building requires locks on storage areas and encouraged others to have the same rules.

Commissioner Sol spoke regarding her participation in the National Association of Mental Illness Walk, thanked the Sheriff and Fire Departments for their work during AIDS Walk, thanked the Sheriff and Fire Departments for their work to prepare for Halloween, and spoke regarding suicide prevention assistance.

Commissioner Berger spoke about the incident at Larry Workman's home. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding homeless and mental health issues. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the various issues raised by the public speakers. Commissioner Berger expressed concern with the use of the word "complainant" in the August meeting minutes.

Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding homeless and mental health issues and the work being done by the Human Services Department to address the issue. Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding the issues raised by public speakers and spoke regarding homelessness, harassment, mental health, the Sheriff's organizational study, and a beat program. Commissioner Coleman asked for more information regarding services provided by a business on La Brea Avenue and thanked staff for the public safety update. Commissioner Coleman asked for an update on Halloween preparations.

Commissioner Montemayor spoke regarding the importance of having regular participation from public speakers and encouraged the members of the audience to bring their friends and neighbors to attend future meetings. Commissioner Montemayor spoke in support of personalizing issues for people to encourage participation. Commissioner Montemayor spoke regarding El Nino and encouraged preparedness. Commissioner Montemayor spoke regarding a successful AIDS Walk and asked for an update about Halloween.

Commissioner Norton thanked the public speakers for their attendance and encouraged participation in future meetings. Commissioner Norton thanked Commissioner Berger for circulating a Los Angeles Neighborhood Watch flyer and spoke regarding her attendance at the meeting and the various networking between the two cities that may be possible. Commissioner Norton spoke regarding her recent attendance at the Senior Advisory Board and thanked Shirley Berry for her presentation on emergency preparedness. Commissioner Norton thanked Maria Grycan and Firefighter Paramedic Sheila Keliher for the Fire Department's excellent response to her mother's recent illness. Commissioner Norton thanked all for their great work on AIDS Walk and asked for an update on Halloween. Commissioner Norton spoke regarding Block by Block and said she was glad the representative from the Sunset Team was in attendance. Commissioner Norton thanked staff for the public safety update to City Council. Commissioner Norton spoke regarding ALPR cameras and the need for street surveillance cameras. Commissioner Norton spoke regarding issues raised by the public speakers and requested that staff include Commissioners on future walk throughs.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the Brown Act and the ability to ask questions for clarification and spoke regarding the use of the word "complainant" in the August meeting minutes.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9A. EXPANSION OF MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS FOR HOMELESS POPULATION

Commissioners received a presentation from David Giugni, Social Services Manager, regarding the expansion of mental health supports for the

homeless population. Mr. Giugni spoke regarding the program “Step Up on Second” and how it may be possible to bring the resources to West Hollywood. Mr. Giugni also spoke regarding a recent meeting with Cedars Sinai who is interested in collaborating on the project and may be able to provide medical professionals to assist in the field. Mr. Giugni announced that PATH has a new clinical social worker.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding comments at City Council regarding a successful outreach and treatment program in Wisconsin.

Mr. Giugni spoke regarding the differences between providing regular care and crisis response.

Commissioner Sol spoke regarding the availability of welfare checks by the Sheriff’s Department. Commissioner Sol asked if general health and STD testing are included in field care. Commissioner Sol spoke in support of utilizing interns to broaden the team.

Mr. Giugni spoke regarding the physical care that teams may be able to provide, such as wound care, and also testing resources that are available to the community.

Michael Wojtkielewicz, resident of West Hollywood, asked for clarification on the services presented and spoke regarding various issues with social services.

Robert Coto, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding mental health resources, advocacy, his experience, and offered his assistance with mental health issues.

Phyllis Coto, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding mental health resources, “self-help” groups, and support systems and spoke in support of using West Hollywood Park Auditorium as a place for homeless to come and receive services.

Cathy Blaivas, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding the presentation and spoke regarding her attendance at the last Human Services Commission and the need for improvement for services for the homeless and those with mental health needs.

Commissioner Coleman thanked Mr. Giugni for his presentation. Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding the difficulty of contacting PATH. Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding a recent incident where he assisted a person connecting with PATH and how PATH was able to get the person a bus ticket to go home to Boston. Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding a second incident where he had difficulty receiving the same level

of assistance. Commissioner Coleman spoke in support of better collaboration and education among staff and Sheriff's Deputies with PATH to ensure that all know of the various resources that are available.

Mr. Giugni spoke regarding the various issues raised by the public speakers. Mr. Giugni spoke regarding the need for a good clinical team, the upcoming RFP process for funding for social services agencies, the homeless services collaborative, the various services that the Social Services Division provides, and the wet weather shelter program.

Commissioner Norton asked if Commissioners can attend a future homeless collaborative meeting in the future.

Mr. Giugni stated that attendance at a future meeting can be arranged by staff.

9B. REPORT FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Report was tabled to the next meeting.

9C. REPORT FROM SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Lieutenant Smith reviewed the Sheriff's Department statistics for September 2015, including crimes, calls for service, and arrests. In September, there were 1,815 calls for service, 2,412 observations, 37 felony arrests, and 154 misdemeanor arrests. Response times continue to be excellent. Lieutenant Smith stated that aggravated assaults are up in the west side and slightly down on the east side.

Bonnie Smith gave a brief update on the mobile command post including the next step to construct the interior of the van.

Sergeant Klaus stated that there were 5 DUI arrests and 4 DUI traffic collisions in the month of September. Sergeant Klaus stated that there were 2 vehicle vs. pedestrian accidents that the Sheriff's responded to and 4 vehicle vs. bicyclist accidents in the month of September.

Sergeant Klaus gave a brief update on the mail theft cases.

Commissioner Norton asked if people could be reporting some incidents directly to the postal service.

Lieutenant Smith said that people could be reporting it to the US Postal Service instead of the Sheriff's Station directly.

Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding the recent arrests made by the Sheriff's Department in the mail theft incidents.

Lieutenant Smith gave some details about the recent arrests and spoke regarding the availability of a "master key" to criminals and the need for the postal service to change the key.

Commissioner Waack asked if any of the keys have been recovered.

Lieutenant Smith said he is unsure if master keys have been recovered.

Commissioner Montemayor inquired as to what areas in the City have been most affected by the mail thefts.

Lieutenant Smith stated that the west side and the city center have been most affected.

Commissioner Berger asked for clarification on who has access to police reports.

Lieutenant Smith spoke regarding public access to police reports and also about utilizing crimemapping.com as a resource.

Lieutenant Smith spoke regarding the issues with the homeless persons at the bus stops and the difficulty of incarceration and the need for more mental health resources. Lieutenant Smith spoke regarding the work by Sheriff McDonnell to increase resources in the Sheriff's Department and to partner with mental health professionals to provide better care. Lieutenant Smith spoke regarding a recent meeting with two neighbors at Formosa Park and the Friends Community Center on La Brea Avenue.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the feeding program at Sycamore and Romaine.

Lieutenant Smith spoke regarding the feeding program at Sycamore and Romaine.

Lieutenant Smith spoke regarding sensitivity training for Sheriff's and Block by Block personnel to be held on November 18th.

Commissioner Norton asked if Commissioners could attend the sensitivity training.

Lieutenant Smith said that Commissioners are welcome to attend.

Lieutenant Smith spoke in support of a beat program and its benefits. Lieutenant Smith spoke regarding a recent ride along with a Neighborhood Watch Block Captain. Lieutenant Smith spoke regarding Halloween preparations, including Sheriff resources and the Health Department's illegal hot dog vendor enforcement.

Commissioner Coleman spoke in support of the food trucks at the event.

Staff described the multi-agency preparations for Halloween.

Commissioner Sol requested that Deputies be stationed on the side streets again this year.

Lieutenant Smith stated that Deputies will be deployed along the side streets.

Lieutenant Smith asked if the Commissioners were still happy with the format for the monthly statistics that compare September 2014 to September 2015, etc.

Commissioner Norton recommended to keep it the same.

Commissioner Coleman asked for a hybrid report that includes the previous month.

Lt. Smith thanked Manny Rodriguez for sharing a picture of a Deputy writing a traffic ticket on Dorrington.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding Halloween. Commissioner Berger requested that staff put New Year's Eve on next month's agenda.

Commissioner Coleman thanked Deputy Holloway for his assistance recently. Commissioner Coleman expressed frustration with the lack of traffic control officers for the malfunctioning traffic light at Robertson and Santa Monica Boulevard. Commissioner Coleman stated that he did not see Sheriff's foot patrols during the weekend.

Lieutenant Smith said that the foot patrols were scheduled.

Commissioner Coleman stated that he did not see any foot patrols.

Lieutenant Smith offered to look into the foot patrol issue.

9D. REPORT FROM BLOCK BY BLOCK SECURITY AMBASSADORS

Staff gave a brief overview of the changes to the Sunset Strip Security Ambassador Program.

David Aguilar, Block by Block Santa Monica Boulevard, gave a brief update on monthly activities in September, including pedestrian assistance, homeless issues, a new eastside daytime deployment, and a new app.

Commissioner Berger asked if the Block by Block app can talk to the Sheriff's computer system.

Mr. Aguilar stated that the app is internal, but that information is still shared with the Sheriff's Department.

Steve Salisbury, Block by Block Sunset Boulevard, gave a brief overview of the capabilities of the Block by Block app.

Commissioner Coleman stated that Block by Block is a good way to prevent issues by providing a positive presence. Commissioner Coleman spoke in support of a collaboration with the Sheriff's Department on a beat program.

Mr. Salisbury spoke regarding statistics and similarities and differences between Sunset and Santa Monica Boulevards.

Commissioner Berger asked if the Sunset team is short staffed.

Mr. Salisbury said that the team is short staffed due to the smaller budget.

Staff stated that deployment for security ambassadors will be analyzed during the Sheriff's Department organizational study.

Commissioner Norton asked if responsibilities are different from Santa Monica Boulevard and asked if a different statistical categorization would be helpful.

Mr. Salisbury spoke regarding crowd control, traffic control, and pan handling.

Commissioner Norton asked Mr. Salisbury to alter his report if necessary.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the pulse point app.

Mr. Aguilar spoke regarding the pulse point app.

10. NEW BUSINESS

10A. CROSSWALK/PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Staff stated that the Long Range and Mobility Planning staff members are nearing completion of a citywide crosswalk study which will provide a framework for evaluating improvements to un-signalized crosswalks. Staff will likely be able to attend the Commission's November meeting to give an update.

Commissioner Montemayor suggested tabling the conversation to the next meeting.

Commissioner Norton asked if staff recommended a joint meeting between Public Safety and Transportation Commissions.

Staff said that a joint meeting is not recommended at this time.

Commissioner Sol spoke in support of the bicycle light program, "Operation Firefly".

10B. WORK PLAN - SELECTION OF LIAISONS TO BOARDS/COMMISSIONS

Staff gave a brief overview of the work plan template.

Commissioner Sol requested that staff add a town hall meeting.

Commissioner Norton asked for more televised meetings.

Commissioner Berger offered to video tape meetings.

Staff stated that most boards and commissions are asking for more televised meetings and said that staff would follow up with the Communications and City Clerk Divisions to determine the status of increasing filming and/or podcasting of meetings.

Commissioner Coleman requested that minutes be sent out earlier.

Staff stated that minutes are generally done the next day and can be shared in a rough draft form with the Commission.

Commissioner Coleman spoke in support of expanding the walkabouts with the Captain to include Commissioner led events and to choose a location with a high volume of pedestrians.

Commissioner Sol requested that walkabouts include law enforcement.

Commissioner Waack spoke in support of expanding the walkabouts.

Staff said that more can be added, but that law enforcement needs to be included.

Commissioner Berger spoke in support of a work plan implemented by Los Angeles County and suggested using similar metrics.

Commissioner Norton spoke regarding different kinds of public education and street outreach.

Commissioner Montemayor spoke in support of focusing on selecting liaisons.

Staff agreed that selecting liaisons would be helpful and for the Commissioners to take the next month to focus on the goals and then select corresponding tasks.

The following liaisons were selected:

Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission – Commissioner Sol
Business License Commission – Commissioner Berger
Historic Preservation Commission – TBA
Human Services Commission – Commissioner Berger
Planning Commission – TBA
Public Facilities Commission – Commissioner Waack
Rent Stabilization Commission – Commissioner Berger
Transportation Commission – Commissioner Coleman

Disabilities Advisory Board – TBA
Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board – Commissioner Montemayor
Russian Advisory Board – TBA
Senior Advisory Board – Commissioner Norton
Transgender Advisory Board – Commissioner Sol
Women’s Advisory Board – Commissioner Williams

Eastside Working Group – Commissioner Williams

10C. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Staff spoke regarding the use of social media with regard to El Nino preparedness and requested the Commission to assist with community preparedness.

Michael Wojtkielewicz, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding Los Angeles City’s work on earthquake preparedness and retrofitting and spoke in support of the need for the City of West Hollywood to address the same issues.

Commissioner Montemayor requested that staff place earthquake retrofitting on the next agenda.

11. ITEMS FROM STAFF

11A. NEWS FROM STAFF/MONTHLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Staff addressed issues from Commissioner comments including cameras, communicating with staff, and the importance of Commissioners keeping their Council Members apprised of the various concerns of the Commission.

Commissioner Norton asked for an update on the meeting with the two eastside neighbors at Formosa Park.

Lieutenant Smith gave a brief synopsis of the meeting.

Staff spoke regarding the upcoming CERT refresher, a domestic violence resource meeting on October 28th, and the Transgender Job Fair on October 29th.

11B. ANNUAL CONGRESS OF COMMISSIONS AND BOARDS – OCTOBER 14TH

Staff reminded all that the Annual Congress of Commissions and Boards is Wednesday, October 14th.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

13. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Berger thanked the community for attending the meeting.

Commissioner Norton volunteered to participate in the community selection process for the new Captain.

Staff stated that the Sheriff's Department will be waiting until after Captain Honings officially retires to begin conversations with the City Manager about replacing the Captain.

Commissioner Norton spoke regarding the Gay Men's Chorus presentation of "It Gets Better" and suicide prevention. Commissioner Norton spoke regarding the Transgender Day of Remembrance.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 9:52 PM in the memory of the 9 shooting victims in Roseburg, Oregon and the 19 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the last meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for November 9, 2015 at 6:30 PM at the Community Meeting Room at the West Hollywood Library.


Public Safety Commission Chair


Staff Liaison

A copy of the audio recording of this meeting can be obtained from the City Clerk's office upon request.

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