

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION**

**MINUTES  
MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2016**

**WEST HOLLYWOOD LIBRARY – COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** at 6:30 PM
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** led by Lieutenant Dave Smith
3. **ROLL CALL**

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

**Commissioners Absent:** None

**Others present:** Captain Holly Perez, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Lieutenant Dave Smith, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Sergeant Jon Klaus, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Maria Grycan, Community Services Representative, Los Angeles County Fire Department; David Aguilar, Block by Block Santa Monica Boulevard; Steve Salisbury, Block by Block Sunset Boulevard; 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 Bill Rosendahl.

Commissioner Williams requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of Bill Rosendahl.

Commissioner Sol requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of Courtney Yocum and the 17 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the last meeting.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**ACTION:** Motion by Commissioner Williams to approve the April 11, 2016 agenda, seconded by Commissioner Montemayor, and approved.

**POSTING OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda for the April 11, 2016 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 Williams to approve the March 14, 2016 minutes as amended, seconded by Commissioner Sol, and approved.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Georgina Sanchez, Bossa Nova, spoke regarding ongoing issues with patrons from The Penthouse including large, unruly crowds.

Manny Rodriguez, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding ongoing issues with patrons from The Penthouse including large, unruly crowds.

Robert Gamboa, Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board and resident of Los Angeles, spoke regarding the Institute for Public Strategies' Safe WeHo Leadership Council.

Nir Zilberman, resident of West Hollywood, shared a video with the Commissioners and spoke regarding Love No Hate.

Christie Roberts, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding ongoing issues with patrons from The Penthouse including large, unruly crowds as well as an increase in homeless issues.

Tai Sunnanon, resident of West Hollywood, thanked the Commission and the Sheriff's Department for their hard work.

Stephanie Harker, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding an incident at Plummer Park, homeless issues, dog waste stations, and Block by Block.

**8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS**

Commissioner Williams asked that Sheriff and staff respond to issues at The Penthouse.

Commissioner Berger thanked the public speakers for their attendance. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding a neighborhood meeting on the eastside. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding an event to recognize Kirk Doffing and stated that he sees more Sheriff's presence in West Hollywood Park.

Commissioner Coleman thanked the public speakers for their attendance. Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding The Penthouse. Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding a neighborhood meeting on the eastside.

Commissioner Sol thanked the public speakers for their attendance. Commissioner Sol spoke regarding the recent Walkabout with the Sheriff's Captain.

Commissioner Waack spoke regarding the recent Walkabout with the Sheriff's Captain and the Coffee with the Mayor and the Captain.

Commissioner Williams thanked the public speakers for their attendance. Commissioner Williams spoke regarding the Coffee with the Mayor and the Captain and the upcoming community meeting to discuss Sheriff's services on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Montemayor spoke regarding his attendance at the Street Media Sub-committee which is discussing street furniture and wayfinding. Commissioner Montemayor spoke regarding the Coffee with the Mayor and the Captain and expressed a desire to continue casual events with the Captain and the community.

Commissioner Norton thanked the public speakers for their attendance. Commissioner Norton spoke regarding an incident from last weekend that was a possible hate crime. Commissioner Norton spoke in support of continuing events like the Coffee with the Mayor and the Captain and encouraged all to attend the community meeting to discuss Sheriff's services on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

## **9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **9A. REPORT FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT**

Maria Grycan, Community Services Representative, reviewed the Fire Department statistics for March 2016, including suppression, rescue, and fire prevention activities. Ms. Grycan discussed two fires of note, including a suspicious dumpster fire and a kitchen fire at Pump. Ms. Grycan discussed an incident where a resident's broiler had been left on overnight. Ms. Grycan stated that there were 10 pedestrian vs. vehicle accidents in the month of March to which the Fire Department responded.

### **9B. REPORT FROM SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT**

Nir Zilberman, resident of West Hollywood, thanked the Captain for her correspondence, thanked the Sheriff's Deputies for their service, and spoke regarding crimes and community responsibility.

Sergeant Klaus reviewed the Sheriff's Department statistics for March 2016, including crimes, calls for service, and arrests. In March, there were 1,961 calls for service and 208 arrests. Response times continue to be excellent.

Sergeant Klaus stated that there were 8 DUI arrests and 2 DUI traffic collisions in the month of March. Sergeant Klaus stated that there were 7 vehicle vs. pedestrian accidents and 2 vehicle vs. bicyclist accidents in the month of March to which the Sheriff's Station responded. Sergeant Klaus spoke regarding deployment options to address the issues at The Penthouse.

Lieutenant Smith spoke regarding Part II crimes, including forgery, fraud, narcotics, and vehicle code violations.

Lieutenant Smith gave the following pickpocket thefts:

Abbey – 13  
Micky's – 5  
Rage – 0  
Fiesta Cantina – 0  
1 Oak – 5  
Flaming Saddles – 1

Commissioner Coleman asked if there were any pickpocket arrests.

Lieutenant Smith said that there were no pickpocket arrests.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the differing occupancies at the various locations.

Lieutenant Smith spoke regarding a special traffic enforcement which netted 5 citations for bicycles riding illegally on sidewalks and 16 citations for pedestrians.

Lieutenant Smith spoke regarding the issues at The Penthouse and stated that the Sunday promotion is a "day party" from 3 to 11 PM. Lieutenant Smith stated that he has already met with the management at the location to discuss future events. Lieutenant Smith stated that the occupancy for the second Sunday was less than half of the first Sunday and that the management intends to keep the crowd at the lower level. Lieutenant Smith stated that The Penthouse pays for Sheriff's Deputies to be present at the Sunday events.

Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding an undesirable element not welcome in West Hollywood.

Staff stated that code compliance is aware of the issue and will issue citations when appropriate.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding the importance of holding promoters accountable.

Commissioner Montemayor spoke regarding being a tolerant city and having an open mind while still examining and preventing issues of violence.

Commissioner Coleman clarified that the element he was referring to is an element that causes violence.

Commissioner Norton asked if appropriate to invite the business to attend a future meeting.

Staff offered to extend an invitation if there is not improvement.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding a previously successful Neighborhood Watch meeting with a business causing neighborhood issues.

Commissioner Waack spoke in support of finding solutions sooner rather than later.

Staff encouraged the members of the public to email or call staff and Lieutenant Smith with issues at The Penthouse.

Commissioner Norton encouraged the members of the public to attend the meeting next month.

Lieutenant Smith spoke regarding the possible hate crime which occurred near Pavilions. Lieutenant Smith said that the victim never called the station and then drove home and posted information on Facebook. The Station reached out to the victim via the Station's Facebook page and encouraged him to come into the Station to make a report which he eventually did.

Lieutenant Smith spoke regarding an incident at the Hancock parking lot where two individuals were having consensual sex, and then the suspect stabbed the victim in the shoulder.

Commissioner Coleman asked for more information about the incident when it is available.

Lieutenant Smith encouraged Commissioner Coleman who knows the victim from the incident near Pavilions to have the victim contact Detective Briones who has tried to contact him.

Commissioner Montemayor spoke regarding the speed with which KTLA had information regarding the incident.

Commissioner Coleman stated that there were several Facebook posts which may have gotten the attention of KTLA.

Commissioner Montemayor said how important it is to not misinform the public and to ensure that the information released is correct.

Staff spoke about protecting the victim's confidentiality and the dangers of misinformation.

Commissioner Berger expressed that it was important to respect the privacy of the victim but would like to respectfully make himself available to speak to him if and when he was ready.

Commissioner Montemayor talked about respecting the privacy of the victim and encouraged all to let law enforcement do their job and be the point of contact with the victim.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding respecting the privacy of victims. Commissioner Williams spoke about the increase in daily and evening population with visitors to West Hollywood.

Lieutenant Smith spoke regarding a broken pedestrian gate that has been repaired on the eastside.

Commissioner Williams asked for more information about the one sexual assault.

Sergeant Klaus stated that he will follow up with the detective but that he has no additional information to report.

Lieutenant Smith stated that vehicle burglaries continue to be an issue.

Commissioner Coleman asked Lieutenant Smith to describe the role that the Sheriff's Deputies play in linking constituents with PATH.

Sergeant Klaus stated that intoxicated persons are not accepted immediately into PATH, but they can be admitted into PATH eventually.

Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding the difference in accessing services depending on the time of day and whether or not City Hall is open.

**9C. REPORT FROM BLOCK BY BLOCK SECURITY AMBASSADORS –  
MONTHLY REPORT**

Steve Salisbury, Block by Block Sunset Boulevard, gave a brief update on monthly activities in March, including pedestrian assistance, crosswalk assistance, homeless issues, and disturbances.

David Aguilar, Block by Block Santa Monica Boulevard, gave a brief update on monthly activities in March, including pedestrian assistance, crosswalk assistance, homeless issues, and disturbances.

Kevin Burton, resident of West Hollywood, thanked staff and the Bicycle Coalition for a successful bike light program and the upcoming BE SEEN education program.

Nir Zilberman, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding difficulties with providing housing to the homeless.

Commissioner Montemayor asked if Block by Block Security Ambassadors have noticed issues with The Penthouse.

Mr. Aguilar stated that he will check with his team.

#### **9D. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Staff asked for a brief update on all subcommittees.

Cameras:

Staff gave a brief overview of the fiber project currently underway and the Sheriff's Department's efforts to switch camera vendors.

CERT:

Staff spoke regarding the Tip of the Month and the upcoming CERT breakfast and tour of Fire Station 7 on Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at 10 AM.

Contract and Service Review:

Staff gave a brief overview of the budget process and request for staffing while Captain Perez reviews her deployment.

Homeless Issues:

Staff spoke regarding the upcoming Homeless Collaborative Meeting.

Neighborhood Watch:

Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding a meeting to be held on May 21<sup>st</sup> to meet with Block Captains to discuss the program.

Commissioner Berger thanked Laura Manukian for her hard work and time spent with the sub-committee cataloging all the programs and activities attempted over the years.

**Transportation:**

Commissioner Coleman said that he and Commissioner Waack met to discuss ideas.

Staff encouraged the sub-committee members to identify ideas and goals ahead of time.

Commissioner Norton spoke regarding the past sub-committee's work.

Staff spoke in support of being as transparent and inclusive as possible and to wait for the City Clerk's direction on cross Commission sub-committees.

Commissioner Sol asked staff to reach out to the City of Los Angeles (Studio City) to share success stories in light of a recent accident.

**Women's Advisory Board:**

Please see update below under item 10A.

Commissioner Coleman spoke in support of instituting a rent stipend program for Deputies who are residents.

Staff stated that she will report back to the Commission on whether or not a housing incentive program is possible.

Commissioner Coleman spoke in support of changing regular patrols to a beat program.

Staff stated that Captain Perez will report back to the Commission when she is finished conducting her deployment study.

**9E. PUBLIC EDUCATION**

Staff spoke regarding a request for an increase in the Public Safety Department's advertising budget to do Public Service Announcements with the Commission.

Nir Zilberman, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding homeless issues.

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

**10A. WOMEN'S SAFETY CAMPAIGN**

Staff spoke regarding the "Coasters and Posters" public education campaign that has been designed with the Women's Advisory Board which includes "clings" that can be used on mirrors and doors.

Commissioner Sol asked that for Denim Day, staff partner with the local school that recently experienced a tragedy where a transgender youth was intentionally struck by a vehicle.

Commissioner Williams spoke in support of Peace Over Violence.

Staff said that she is in contact with Peace Over Violence.

**11. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

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

Staff spoke regarding the upcoming Kids Fair and Sheriff's Customer Service Survey community meeting.

Commissioner Sol requested that staff organize a sidewalk CPR event for the Farmers' Market.

Commissioner Williams spoke in support of hosting a Sheriff's Open House.

**12. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Nir Zilberman, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding an upcoming event, Enough is Enough.

Robert Gamboa, Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board, announced that Commissioner Williams will be given the Rainbow Key Award in June.

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

Commissioner Berger thanked staff for their responsiveness.

Commissioner Williams said that West Hollywood Democratic Club will be hosting a forum on homelessness on April 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM at West Hollywood Park Auditorium.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 8:37 PM in the memory of Bill Rosendahl, Courtney Yocum, and the 17 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the last meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for May 9, 2016 at the West Hollywood Library Community Meeting Room.

  
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.)***