

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
SPECIAL TELEVISED MEETING**

**MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2016**

**WEST HOLLYWOOD PARK PUBLIC MEETING ROOM - COUNCIL CHAMBERS
625 N. SAN VICENTE BOULEVARD**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** at 6:30 PM
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** led by Captain Perez
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; Assistant Chief Anthony Williams, Los Angeles County Fire Department; David Aguilar, Block by Block; Kristin Cook, Public Safety Director; Bonnie Smith, Public Safety Supervisor

4. **ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS**

Commissioner Sol requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of the 22 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the September meeting, including Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Sergeant Steve Owen.

Commissioner Norton requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of Efim Kutz.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Williams to approve the October 10, 2016 agenda, seconded by Commissioner Norton, and approved.

POSTING OF THE AGENDA

The agenda for the October 10, 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 Sol to approve the September 12, 2016 minutes as amended, seconded by Commissioner Waack, and approved.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jerome Cleary, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding Sheriff's customer service when calling the station.

Tom Demille, resident of West Hollywood, thanked the Commissioners and the Sheriff's Department for their hard work and spoke regarding homeless issues and the friendliness of the City's residents.

Michael, Wojtkielewicz, resident of West Hollywood, congratulated Stephanie Harker and Cathy Blaivas for their Disabilities Service Award and spoke regarding Lovedy Brydon and her work with the Stonewall Democratic Club.

David Nash, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding pedestrian safety and crosswalks, in particular the crosswalks at 24 Hour Fitness and San Vicente and Santa Monica Boulevard.

Yaniv Eihara, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding the meth epidemic and the involvement of social media.

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS

Commissioner Waack congratulated Stephanie Harker and Cathy Blaivas for their Disabilities Service Award. Commissioner Waack asked for additional information on the fire incident at 24 Hour Fitness.

Commissioner Sol thanked the public speakers for their attendance.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the County's Probation Oversight Commission's recent meeting, the meth epidemic, and follow-up with various constituent concerns.

Commissioner Coleman thanked the members of the audience for their attendance and spoke regarding Sheriff's Department customer service. Commissioner Coleman congratulated Stephanie Harker and Cathy Blaivas for their Disabilities Service Award. Commissioner Coleman asked staff to place a discussion of a joint committee with the Transportation Commission on the next meeting's agenda.

Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding his participation on the recent Captain's Walk About with the Women's Advisory Board. Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding homeless issues and social services on the eastside. Commissioner Coleman asked staff to place a discussion of the mobile command post and Sheriff's staffing on the next agenda.

Commissioner Norton thanked the members of the public for their attendance. Commissioner Norton congratulated Stephanie Harker and Cathy Blaivas for their Disabilities Service Award.

Commissioner Williams congratulated Stephanie Harker and Cathy Blaivas for their Disabilities Service Award. Commissioner Williams spoke regarding letters of agency and the need for more education. Commissioner Williams spoke regarding the meth epidemic and considering more community programs. Commissioner Williams spoke regarding the County's oversight commissions. Commissioner Williams thanked the Sheriff's Department for the decoy car parked on the eastside to deter speeding.

Commissioner Montemayor thanked the members of the public for their attendance at the Sheriff's Station Open House and Public Safety Awards. Commissioner Montemayor spoke regarding the meth epidemic and said that more will be discussed during the Sheriff's report. Commissioner Montemayor encouraged members of the public to attend future Public Safety Commission meetings.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9A. REPORT FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT & 5 MINUTE CPR DEMONSTRATION

Commissioners received a brief presentation from Firefighter/Paramedics Aguilar and Cody from Fire Station 7 on "5 Minute CPR".

Assistant Chief Anthony Williams reviewed the Fire Department statistics for September 2016, including suppression, rescue, and fire prevention activities. Chief Williams reported on the incident at 24 Hour Fitness where an air conditioning unit had malfunctioned and filled the building with smoke which had to be temporarily evacuated.

9B. PUBLIC EDUCATION/UPDATE ON PSA FROM COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Commissioners received a presentation from Communications Director, Lisa Belsanti, on her Department's strategy for public education. Ms. Belsanti spoke regarding continuing the WeHoans PSAs on disaster preparedness, crimes of opportunity, and nighttime safety.

Commissioner Williams thanked Ms. Belsanti for her work and congratulated the Communications Department on its Emmy award.

Commissioner Berger spoke in support of the ability for YouTube to track the number of views. Commissioner Berger asked if there were a way to link the video to the City's website.

Ms. Belsanti said that one can track generally where the views are originating on YouTube and said that "click-throughs" can be added to the videos.

Commissioner Coleman asked for clarification on the number and length of the videos.

Ms. Belsanti confirmed that there will be three videos at no more than two minutes each.

Commissioner Coleman spoke in support of using white board videos, bus shelters, and ads on The Pick Up Line, Facebook, and Grindr.

Ms. Belsanti spoke regarding her ongoing work to develop and use companion media on bus shelters, billboards, and social media.

Commissioner Coleman spoke in support of ongoing education.

Commissioner Sol suggested that the City mirror the Facebook "I'm ok" check in post disaster with a similar "I'm prepared" check in.

Commissioner Waack spoke in support of utilizing advertisements during Council meeting breaks and at other appropriate times on WeHo TV.

Commissioner Montemayor spoke in support of advocacy days and updating printed materials for existing campaigns.

Commissioner Williams spoke in support of utilizing a one page informational sheet for hotel guests.

Commissioner Montemayor spoke in support of advertising on The Pick Up Line.

Ms. Belsanti spoke in support of making shorter versions of popular videos and utilizing subtitles for those who prefer to watch the videos with the sound off.

Commissioner Coleman spoke in support of using videos with sub-titles on the Pick Up Line.

Ms. Belsanti spoke regarding placing information on the digital boards around the City when space is available.

9C. REPORT FROM SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT & HIGHLIGHTS FROM SIX MONTH REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL INCLUDING NARCOTICS RELATED INCIDENTS

Lieutenant Smith reviewed the Sheriff's Department statistics for September 2016, including crimes, 1,952 calls for service, 65 felony arrests, and 162 misdemeanor arrests. In 7 out of the 11 robberies for the month, suspects were arrested. Lieutenant Smith reviewed the pickpocket incidents. Lieutenant Smith stated that there were 4 DUI arrests and 3 DUI traffic collisions in the month of September. Lieutenant Smith stated that there were 4 vehicle vs. pedestrian accidents and 3 vehicle vs. bicyclist accidents in the month of September. Lieutenant Smith spoke regarding crosswalk and pedestrian safety operations. Lieutenant Smith spoke regarding nuisance issues at 7715 Santa Monica Boulevard. Lieutenant Smith spoke regarding the deployment of foot patrols every day of the week. Lieutenant Smith announced a Neighborhood Watch meeting on October 19th.

Commissioner Williams asked for more information on the 3 sexual assaults.

Lieutenant Smith gave additional information on the 3 sexual assaults.

Commissioner Coleman asked for more information regarding the month by month comparisons.

Lieutenant Smith stated that the information will be passed out next month.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding upcoming public safety needs once new buildings, such as the Avalon and Domain, have new residents. Commissioner Berger stated that a constituent shared with him that customer service issues are improving at the Sheriff's Station although asked Lt. Smith and Captain Perez to follow up on Mr. Cleary's complaint. Commissioner Berger spoke in support of collecting and comparing open data. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding tour buses violating laws.

Commissioner Montemayor spoke regarding the various laws, including federal laws, regarding tour bus companies and their operations.

Captain Perez highlighted some statistics from the recent public safety report to City Council. Captain Perez spoke regarding narcotics issues and identifying the underlying causes for the issue. Captain Perez said that arrests for possession have doubled. Captain Perez spoke regarding the difficulty of arresting suspects selling narcotics through various apps.

Commissioner Montemayor expressed concern for the narcotics issue and stated that it seems to be getting worse.

Commissioner Coleman thanked WeHoVille for covering the narcotics issue. Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding friends who know where to find and buy narcotics and asked about enforcement.

Captain Perez spoke regarding ongoing enforcement efforts and spoke regarding tips received through crimestoppers.com.

Commissioner Coleman asked the station to continue to advertise crime stoppers.

Commissioner Sol spoke regarding Impulse and a public education video, Chasing Tina, and suggested sharing it.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding code words and expressed concern for apps such as Grindr. Commissioner Berger asked if public education could include narcotics use.

Commissioner Montemayor spoke regarding the digital problem and the street problem of narcotics. Commissioner Montemayor spoke regarding the importance of Sheriff's Deputies networking and supporting local entertainment venues.

Steve Martin, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding narcotics issues.

9D. REPORT FROM BLOCK BY BLOCK SECURITY AMBASSADORS – MONTHLY REPORT

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

Commissioner Montemayor asked if the Sunset Boulevard team needs additional resources.

Mr. Aguilar stated that the Sunset Boulevard team is very short staffed.

Commissioner Sol reminded all that Halloween is coming up and expects additional staffing.

Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding the increases and decreases of various statistics on Sunset and Santa Monica Boulevards.

Mr. Aguilar stated that the team is trying different strategies to combat various issues.

Commissioner Williams asked if Block by Block had decreased or changed their schedules on the eastside.

Mr. Aguilar stated that the patrols can vary, and that lately the focus has been on Formosa/Detroit.

9E. VIDEO SYSTEMS/CAMERAS IN PUBLIC SPACES UPDATE / SELECTION OF SUB-COMMITTEE FOR RFP REVIEW AND PANEL

Staff stated that a draft RFP is being written and asked for volunteers to serve on the RFP panel.

Commissioners Berger, Montemayor, and Williams volunteered to assist staff.

9F. SHERIFF'S OPEN HOUSE/PUBLIC SAFETY AWARDS DEBRIEF

Staff asked for feedback from the Commissioners regarding the Public Safety Awards and the Sheriff's Station Open House.

Commissioner Coleman spoke in support of the music, tours, and resources present for the Open House. Commissioner Coleman spoke in support of merging the Sheriff's Station Open House and the Public Safety Awards with the Kids Fair.

Commissioner Williams spoke in support of the tours of the Sheriff's Station and keeping the Public Safety Awards a separate and televised event. Commissioner Williams stated that when presentations such as CSI, K9s, and homeland security were included, there was much better attendance. Commissioner Williams concurred with Commissioner Coleman on a presence at Kids Fair, but she spoke in support of keeping the awards ceremony a separate event. Commissioner Williams stated that families commented that it is difficult to attend on a Sunday.

Staff spoke regarding the dramatically decreased attendance over the years.

Commissioner Montemayor suggested that the sub-committee work with staff to discuss options to bring back to the full Commission.

Commissioner Waack spoke in support of merging the Sheriff's Station Open House and the Public Safety Awards with the Kids Fair.

Commissioner Coleman requested to volunteer on the sub-committee.

Commissioner Berger offered to step off and let Commissioner Coleman volunteer with Commissioners Sol and Williams.

10. NEW BUSINESS

10A. SENSITIVITY TRAINING FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

Commissioner Montemayor asked Captain Perez to give a brief background on sensitivity training.

Captain Perez spoke regarding aligning West Hollywood's sensitivity training with the overall Sheriff's Department's plan. Captain Perez spoke regarding diversity center leadership training hosted for all recruits and spoke in support of additional refreshers for West Hollywood personnel.

Commissioner Montemayor spoke in support of a broad training and to do as much awareness and education as possible.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding his attendance at the transgender sensitivity training with Drian Juarez and asked if it has been able to be filmed.

10B. DISCUSSION OF MEETING LOCATION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION

Staff stated that the current, permanent home for the Public Safety Commission is at the City Hall. Staff suggested that if a bigger room is needed, Plummer Park or the CMR could be considered.

Commissioner Coleman spoke in support of hosting the Public Safety Commission meeting permanently in the Council Chambers.

Commissioner Williams spoke in support of hosting meetings on the eastside and supported the locations proposed by staff.

Commissioner Sol spoke in support of the locations proposed by staff.

Commissioner Berger spoke about the uniqueness of the Public Safety Commission.

Commissioner Norton spoke in support of television coverage and spoke in support of holding the meeting in the Council Chambers. Commissioner Norton stated that if the City Council Chambers are not available, the meetings should be held in the Library Community Meeting Room and at Plummer Park every few months.

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Coleman to direct staff to forward the Commission's recommendation to host the Public Safety Commission in the Council Chambers and to be televised, seconded by Commissioner Berger, and approved with Commissioner Sol voting "no".

Staff reminded the Commissioners that the Council Chambers is not currently an option for the meeting location.

Commissioner Williams suggested moving the meeting to the eastside.

Commissioner Montemayor spoke in support of moving the meeting to the eastside.

Commissioner Norton spoke in support of hosting the meeting in the CMR.

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Waack to host the Public Safety Commission in the CMR, seconded by Commissioner Norton, and approved.

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Coleman to host the Public Safety Commission in the CMR and on the eastside when possible, seconded by Commissioner Williams, and approved.

11. ITEMS FROM STAFF

11A. NEWS FROM STAFF – MONTHLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Staff spoke regarding the Don't Drink and Drive event that is traditionally held the second Monday in December.

Commissioner Coleman suggested a Sunday afternoon.

Staff spoke regarding the Mobile Command Van.

Commissioner Sol asked if the City is participating in the Great Shake Out earthquake drill.

Staff said that personnel are participating in the Great Shake Out earthquake drill.

Commissioner Norton stated that she had asked staff at the September meeting to place a discussion of expanding the purview of the Public Safety Commission to include code compliance on the next agenda and that staff said that they would discuss with public works and code compliance. Commissioner Norton asked staff to provide any follow-up on the issue.

Staff explained that code compliance and public safety are separate departments, and while staff collaborate almost daily, it is not appropriate to add to the Commission's work plan.

Commissioner Montemayor asked staff to place a discussion of expanding the purview of the Public Safety Commission to include code compliance on the next agenda.

11B. HALLOWEEN

Karen O'Keefe, resident of West Hollywood, expressed concerns with the congestion at the event.

Commissioner Montemayor spoke regarding the personnel involved with the event.

Staff gave a brief overview of the public safety planning for the event.

Commissioner Waack requested that staff have a plan to address hot dog vendors.

Staff stated that the Health Department will be present to help address the hot dog vendors.

Commissioner Sol expressed concern with the congestion that food trucks cause when near stages.

Commissioner Coleman asked about the clear bag policy.

Staff stated that the clear bag policy will be advertised.

Commissioner Sol suggested adding silly string to the list of banned items.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding discouraging pets and children in strollers.

Commissioner Montemayor thanked Captain Perez for her work.

11C. NOVEMBER PSC MEETING – JOINT MEETING WITH HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

Staff spoke regarding an upcoming joint meeting with the Human Services Commission on November 14, 2016.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Steve Martin, resident of West Hollywood, thanked the Commissioners for their hard work and spoke in support of utilizing the Council Chambers for Commission meetings.

13. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS


Commissioner Berger congratulated Kevin Burton for his Public Safety Award and thanked the public speakers for their comments. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the County's Probation Oversight Commission and said he would send the information to the Commission.

Commissioner Williams wished all a happy new year.

Commissioner Montemayor thanked the members of the public for their attendance.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 9:34 PM in the memory of Sergeant Steve Owen, Efim Kutz, and the 22 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the September meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for November 14, 2016 at Plummer Park.



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.)