

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

**MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2017**

**WEST HOLLYWOOD CITY HALL - COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM
8300 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** at 6:45 PM
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** led by Captain Sergio Aloma
3. **ROLL CALL**

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

Commissioners Absent: None

Others present: Captain Sergio Aloma, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Lieutenant Dave Smith, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Battalion Chief Jim Sullivan, Los Angeles County Fire; David Aguilar, Block by Block; Kristin Cook, Public Safety Director; Rob Winrader, Public Safety Administrative Analyst

4. **ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS**

Commissioner Williams requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of Leslie Gersicoff and the mother of Maria Grycan.

Commissioner Norton requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of Whitney Washuta, Karen Smith, Jonathan Martinez, London Police Officer Keith Palmer, Kurt Cochran, French Police Officer Xavier Jugele', Carl Williams, Zackary Randalls, Mark Gasset, David Martin Jackson, and Robert Godwin.

Commissioner Sol requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of the 24 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the March meeting.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Norton to approve the April 26, 2017 agenda, seconded by Commissioner Williams, and approved.

POSTING OF THE AGENDA

The agenda for the April 26, 2017 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 Coleman to approve the March 13, 2017 minutes as amended, seconded by Commissioner Williams, and approved.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Captain Sergio Aloma greeted the Commissioners and announced that he will be hosting the first "Coffee with the Cops" on May 3, 2017 at 8 AM at Astro Burger.

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS

Commissioner Waack congratulated Captain Aloma on his new assignment.

Commissioner Berger thanked Captain Aloma for his willingness to get constituent feedback. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding his recent ride-along with the Sheriff's Department and spoke positively regarding Ascencia's homeless outreach team. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the crosswalk safety issues at Lexington and Vista. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding his attendance at the Safe WeHo Leadership meeting and the homeless issues meeting at the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding safety issues with Uber.

Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding his attendance at the Neighborhood Watch Block Captain training, the Safe WeHo Leadership meeting, and the Transportation Commission. Commissioner Coleman welcomed Captain Aloma and Rob Winrader.

Commissioner Norton thanked the members of the public for their attendance. Commissioner Norton spoke regarding her attendance at the Neighborhood Watch Block Captain training and said that some people who had attended the meeting told her that there was not enough training on how to be a block captain.

Commissioner Williams congratulated Captain Aloma on his new assignment. Commissioner Williams spoke regarding her attendance at the Neighborhood Watch Block Captain training.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9A. WEST HOLLYWOOD PEDESTRIAN – BICYCLE MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Bob Cheung, Senior Transportation Planner gave the Commissioners an overview of the West Hollywood Pedestrian – Bicycle Master Plan.

Matt Benjamin, Fehr and Peers, gave the Commissioners an overview on four priority projects.

Karen O’Keefe, WeHo Bicycle Coalition, spoke regarding bicycling challenges in the City of West Hollywood and spoke in support of the West Hollywood Pedestrian – Bicycle Master Plan with additional needed work.

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Williams to receive and file the report, seconded by Commissioner Norton, and approved.

9B. REPORT FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT

Battalion Chief Jim Sullivan reviewed the Fire Department’s statistics for March 2017, including fires, emergency medical calls, notable calls for service, and community involvement. Chief Sullivan spoke regarding a structure fire at 858 Westbourne Drive that started with an improperly discarded cigarette in a trash can. Chief Sullivan spoke regarding the upcoming Kids Fair on Saturday, April 29, 2017 and the Senior Health Fair in May. Chief Sullivan announced that Fire Service Day will be held on May 13, 2017 from 10 AM to 5 PM and that both stations will be open to the public.

Commissioner Williams asked if the Fire Department still does inspections of apartment buildings.

Chief Sullivan said that apartment building inspections are annual.

9C. REPORT FROM SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT

Lieutenant Smith reviewed the Sheriff’s Department’s statistics for March 2017, including crimes, 1,942 calls for service, 47 felony arrests, and 117 misdemeanor arrests. Lieutenant Smith said that crime is down since the beginning of the year. Lieutenant Smith reviewed the pickpocket incidents. Lieutenant Smith said that 9 cell phones were recovered by the Sheriff’s Department from thefts at The Abbey. Lieutenant Smith stated that there were fewer thefts from vehicles, but it is still an issue.

Commissioner Berger asked what contributed to the decrease in thefts from vehicles.

Lieutenant Smith said that the Station has increased patrols in problem areas based on crime statistics.

Lieutenant Smith stated that there were 5 DUI arrests and 4 DUI traffic collisions in the month of March. Lieutenant Smith stated that there were 2 vehicle vs. pedestrian accidents and 1 vehicle vs. bicyclist accident in the month of March. Lieutenant Smith spoke regarding the upcoming "Coffee with the Cops" and the recent Los Angeles Marathon.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding bicyclists failing to follow traffic rules.

Lieutenant Smith spoke regarding bicyclists failing to follow traffic rules on Willoughby.

Commissioner Sol asked regarding plans for enforcement for Cinco De Mayo and Memorial Day weekend.

Commissioner Berger asked for the status on the Alzheimer's training.

Lieutenant Smith said that Deputies caution and cite bicyclists when possible.

Karen O-Keefe, WeHo Bicycle Coalition, spoke regarding the difficulties for bicyclists to stop at every stop sign on Willoughby.

Commissioner Montemayor asked if any of the thefts have occurred in the City parking lots.

Lieutenant Smith spoke regarding regular patrols of the City lots.

Commissioner Montemayor asked for a status on the sensitivity training for Deputies.

Lieutenant Smith said that training was held today for some of the Deputies.

Commissioner Williams expressed concern regarding the sexual assaults.

Lieutenant Smith gave a brief overview of the sexual assaults.

Commissioner Montemayor asked if Lieutenant Smith expects an increase in pickpocket thefts during the summer.

Lieutenant Smith said that there could be an increase during the summer and encouraged reporting all crimes.

Commissioner Montemayor asked for a brief update on the upcoming LA Pride protest march.

Commissioner Berger asked for more information regarding narcotics arrests.

Lieutenant Smith spoke regarding the differences between misdemeanors and felonies and the work of the narcotics detectives.

Jason Beck, resident of West Hollywood, said that on April 20, 2017 (420) there were no serious crimes in West Hollywood.

Commissioner Montemayor spoke regarding long range planning in the City of West Hollywood and asked for the Sheriff's perspective on the number of bars and clubs in the City.

Lieutenant Smith said that there has been a steady increase in alcohol related establishments and spoke in support of education and personal responsibility. Lieutenant Smith said that he is seeing a little more aggression in some of the incidents.

Commissioner Williams asked if there is a limit on ABC licenses in the City.

Lieutenant Smith said that he was not sure if there is a limit.

Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding a constituent who contacted him who had a negative experience with calling the station who was later assisted by Lieutenant Smith. Commissioner Coleman asked if the City of West Hollywood is an "always respond" city.

Lieutenant Smith spoke in support of responding to every call for service. Lieutenant Smith spoke regarding call volumes and customer service.

Commissioner Coleman asked what kind of training would be helpful to Deputies to improve response.

Lieutenant Smith spoke regarding customer service training for the desk personnel facilitated by the watch commanders.

Commissioner Berger asked if there is a standard procedure for staff answering the calls.

Lieutenant Smith said that there is a standard procedure.

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

David Aguilar, Block by Block, gave an update on monthly activities in March 2017, including pedestrian assistance, crosswalk assistance, homeless issues, and disturbances.

Commissioner Berger asked if the Ambassadors have been conducting checks of the preschool crosswalk.

Mr. Aguilar stated that the Ambassadors have been doing checks.

Commissioner Berger asked if there is any update on an apartment building on Lexington and Formosa which has some safety issues.

Mr. Aguilar said that the property manager has secured the vacant units.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the success of the "Lights on West Hollywood" program and if there has been any positive impact. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding challenges with policing and Prop 47.

Lieutenant Smith spoke regarding each station's work to track frequent offenders.

Commissioner Coleman asked if Mr. Aguilar can review the team's deployment.

Mr. Aguilar reviewed the deployment of the four new officers which are staffed from Friday to Tuesday during the day from Formosa to Curson.

9E. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS – PUBLIC SAFETY AWARDS

Staff spoke regarding the upcoming Public Safety Awards.

Commissioner Montemayor asked for an update on the safety camera project.

Staff stated that the budget process for the camera consultant is moving forward.

Commissioner Coleman asked for an update on items for the Public Safety Awards.

Staff stated that an update will be emailed to Commissioners.

Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding the sub-committee with the Transportation Commission which will include pedestrian and bicycle issues and meet for up to 6 meetings.

Staff stated that Community Development staff will be bringing an item forward to Council on the sub-committee.

Jason Beck, resident of West Hollywood, asked all to refer to “adult use” marijuana, not “recreational” marijuana.

10. ITEMS FROM STAFF

10A. NEWS FROM STAFF – MONTHLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS/JUNE DATE

Staff suggested canceling the rescheduled June meeting due to its proximity to the July meeting.

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Williams to cancel the June meeting, seconded by Commissioner Sol, and approved with Commissioner Berger and Commissioner Coleman voting no.

10B. REPORT FROM STAFF – SCHEDULE OF SPEAKERS TO PSC ON THE FOLLOWING TOPICS: SANCTUARY CITIES, RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA, RED LIGHT PROGRAM

Staff announced that speakers will be attending the May meeting to discuss sanctuary cities and the photo enforcement program. Staff will coordinate with code compliance on a date for marijuana.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

12. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the AED program and said that they are not showing up on Pulse Point. Commissioner Berger asked about the PSA.

Staff said that the AED PSA is slated to be done by May 8th.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the upcoming Midnight Stroll on April 28th.

Commissioner Norton spoke regarding guidelines for adjournment requests.

Staff gave a brief history of the evolution of adjournment requests at Commission meetings.

Commissioner Montemayor asked staff to provide guidelines for consideration at the next meeting. Commissioner Montemayor asked for an update on the safety PSAs from the Communications Department.

Staff will follow-up with the Communications Department.

Commissioner Montemayor spoke regarding the "Lights on West Hollywood" program and asked if there is an end date.

Staff said that funding for the program is adequate for now.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 8:34 PM in the memory of Leslie Gersicoff, the mother of Maria Grycan, Whitney Washuta, Karen Smith, Jonathan Martinez, London Police Officer Keith Palmer, Kurt Cochran, French Police Officer Xavier Jugele', Carl Williams, Zackary Randalls, Mark Gasset, David Martin Jackson, Robert Godwin, and the 24 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the March meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for May 8, 2017 at the West Hollywood City Hall 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.)