

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION**

**MINUTES
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2017**

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

- 1. CALL TO ORDER at 6:30 PM**
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** led by Captain Sergio Aloma
- 3. ROLL CALL**

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

Commissioners Absent: None

Others present: Captain Sergio Aloma, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Sergeant Jeff Bishop, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Battalion Chief Alvin Brewer, Los Angeles County Fire Department; David Aguilar, Block by Block; Kristin Cook, Public Safety Director; Rob Winrader, Public Safety Administrative Analyst

- 4. SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF SEPTEMBER 11TH AND ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS**

Commissioner Williams introduced Captain Aloma who spoke regarding the 16th anniversary of the September 11th tragedy and recognized those who lost their lives.

Commissioner Sol requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of the 14 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the August meeting.

Commissioner Norton requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of the victims from Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma and Enrique Lopez Nava.

- 5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Waack to approve the September 11, 2017 agenda as amended to hear item 10A before 9A, seconded by Commissioner Williams, and approved.

POSTING OF THE AGENDA

The agenda for the September 11, 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 Sol to approve the August 14, 2017 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Norton, and approved.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rick Watts, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding not enough lighting in common areas and unsafe driving by ride share drivers.

Michael King, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding unsafe ride share drivers.

Stephanie Harker, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding the success of speed bumps on Vista Street and asked for assistance with crime and safety issues on the east side.

Cathy Blaivas, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding crime and safety issues on the east side, unsafe ride share drivers, traffic safety issues on Fountain, and a homicide on Fairfax in Los Angeles.

Edourd Motoyl, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding customer service issues with the Sheriff's Department.

Jake Lee, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding the suspect in the recent assault with an axe and spoke in support of more foot patrols.

Michael Wojtkielewicz, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding public safety and code issues at the Sierra Bonita building.

Robert Lo, resident of West Hollywood, introduced himself to the Commission and said that he was a recent victim of vehicle burglary.

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS

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

Commissioner Montemayor announced his resignation from the Public Safety Commission and thanked Councilmember Horvath, his fellow Commissioners,

Chair Williams, and staff for their support. Commissioner Montemayor spoke regarding building a welcoming, sustaining environment to allow all members of the public to address important issues.

Commissioner Oliver thanked Commissioner Montemayor for his service. Commissioner Oliver gave a brief update on the recent homicide in LAPD's area on Fairfax and said that the suspect is in custody.

Commissioner Berger thanked Commissioner Montemayor for his service. Commissioner Berger asked Mr. Watts to provide staff with the address to be able to address the lighting issues. Commissioner Berger asked staff to provide an update on the security light program. Commissioner Berger said that ride share safety issues will be discussed next month. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding homeless and safety issues and asked for the issue to be placed on a future agenda. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding typical Sheriff's responses and asked Mr. Motoyl to contact him to further discuss his customer service issue. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding suspect in the assault with the axe and issues with the individual prior to the assault. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding his attendance at the Rent Stabilization Commission which discussed the impact of second hand smoke. Commissioner Berger thanked the members of the public for their attendance.

Commissioner Williams stated that all Commissioners are willing to meet members of the public and can see staff for contact information.

Commissioner Norton thanked the members of the public for their attendance. Commissioner Norton announced that Councilmember D'Amico is hosting a community meeting on Thursday, September 14th at 6 PM at Fiesta Hall to discuss safety issues on Fountain Avenue in order to engage the community and get everyone's input. Commissioner Norton thanked Commissioner Montemayor for his service.

Commissioner Waack thanked the members of the public for their attendance. Commissioner Waack asked for more information from the Sheriff's Department regarding foot and bike patrols. Commissioner Waack thanked Commissioner Montemayor for his service.

Commissioner Williams said that the community meeting to be hosted by Councilmember D'Amico will focus on the east side. Commissioner Williams thanked Commissioner Montemayor for his service. Commissioner Williams thanked her fellow Commissioners for their attendance at the mandatory training hosted by the City Clerk and City Attorney.

10. NEW BUSINESS

10A. PROPOSED CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD CANNABIS REGULATIONS

Commissioners received a presentation from Jerry Hittleman, Contract Planner for the Community Development Department, on cannabis regulation, including an overview of the progress made by the City Council and staff on the issue to date. Mr. Hittleman asked the Commissioners to provide input on public safety issues related to cannabis regulation in the City of West Hollywood that should be included in the business license vetting process.

Esther Baum, resident of West Hollywood, expressed concern for potential crime with cash businesses and said that proper security is needed.

Rick Watts, resident of West Hollywood, expressed concern for potential crime and issues with delivery and sales.

Commissioner Norton expressed concern that the report focused only on crime against the business proprietors while she was equally concerned about the potential for crime against customers carrying a lot of cash to the businesses and residents or visitors thought to be carrying a lot of cash because they might be customers of these cash businesses. Commissioner Norton asked if staff is meeting with representatives with the Treasurer's office to discuss other ways to pay besides cash.

Mr. Hittleman spoke regarding the recent cannabis education forum. Mr. Hittleman spoke regarding various proposals that are circulating at the state level to allow debit and credit cards.

Commissioner Berger said that most of the people he has spoken to do not oppose cannabis, but that many express concern about people consuming the product in public.

Jeff Aubel, Code Compliance Manager, said that Sheriff's Deputies are able to arrest individuals for consuming product in public.

Commissioner Berger expressed concern for product that looks like regular items, such as candy.

Mr. Hittleman said that there is a pending law at the State level that would prohibit sellers from making product that looks like it is for children and that proper labels will be required.

Commissioner Berger asked if product would have child proofing similar to pharmaceuticals.

Mr. Hittleman said he would follow up on that question.

Commissioner Berger spoke about the ease of getting a physician's recommendation.

Mr. Aubel said that the liability is on the physician writing the prescription.

Commissioner Berger asked where lounges and labs would be located.

Mr. Aubel said that they would likely be small office spaces.

Commissioner Berger asked if there is a way to check potency.

Mr. Aubel said that the State is looking into testing.

Commissioner Williams asked about the chemicals used in testing labs.

Mr. Aubel said that common chemicals are butane and CO2 which are used in the extraction process and that the Fire Department will be monitoring all hazard materials.

Commissioner Montemayor asked how smoking while driving will be handled.

Captain Sergio Aloma said that there is not a current field sobriety test for marijuana similar to a DUI test. Captain Aloma said that smoking while driving would be treated similar to an open container violation; but that in order to enforce driving under the influence, the Deputy would have to witness impairment before the traffic stop can be conducted.

Commissioner Montemayor asked about the distance required between locations and schools.

Mr. Aubel said that the State has set the distance at 600 feet.

Commissioner Montemayor asked if there is any cross over between increased meth use and marijuana use. Commissioner Montemayor spoke regarding the difficulties with privacy concerns and cameras filming transactions.

Commissioner Williams asked if having a bag of edibles in the car would be citable.

Mr. Aubel said it would be hard to prove eating while driving without witnessing the actual consumption.

Commissioner Montemayor spoke regarding the control given to local municipalities to provide a framework for taxation.

Commissioner Sol asked for clarification on allowable consumption areas.

Mr. Aibel said that all smoking laws are applicable with regard to locations for consumption areas.

Commissioner Sol asked for clarification on where it is grown and sold.

Mr. Aibel and Mr. Hittleman spoke regarding the category of micro businesses.

Commissioner Oliver spoke regarding taxing and regulating an economy that already exists. Commissioner Oliver spoke regarding the past work of the City Council to regulate dispensaries and the great framework it provided. Commissioner Oliver spoke regarding not selling tobacco, alcohol, or devices. Commissioner Oliver expressed concerns with volatile extraction.

Mr. Aibel spoke regarding sensitive uses and spoke regarding regulating volatile extraction as opposed to banning it in order to prevent it from occurring in unmonitored locations.

Commissioner Oliver asked about the proposed number of locations to be approved.

Mr. Aibel and Mr. Hittleman said that 32 is a number being considered and spoke regarding policies in other cities.

Commissioner Oliver said that 32 locations seem like a high amount.

Commissioner Waack expressed concern about the timeline.

Mr. Hittleman gave additional background and said that there is some fluidity at the local level. Mr. Aibel said that the City's ordinance is scheduled to be in effect on January 1, 2018.

Commissioner Waack asked for more information regarding security requirements, inspections, the level of County involvement, and cash deliveries.

Mr. Aibel provided clarification on proposed requirements, including security and deliveries.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding ride share services not falling under same guidelines as limousines. Commissioner Williams spoke regarding the potential for the involvement of the federal government.

Mr. Aubel stated that business owners and operators run the risk of being cited by the federal agencies.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9A. REPORT FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT

Battalion Chief Alvin Brewer reviewed the Fire Department statistics for August 2017, including suppression, rescue, and fire prevention activities. Chief Brewer spoke regarding three significant structure fires including a large fire at Executive Car Leasing and two residential fires.

Kevin Burton, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding Community Emergency Response Training and National Preparedness Month.

Commissioner Waack asked staff when the next CERT class will be held.

Staff stated that CERT training for businesses was held this year and hosted by the Chamber, and that when a new Community Services Representative is hired by the Fire Department an additional class will be scheduled.

Chief Brewer said that there are several instructors in the battalion that serves West Hollywood.

Commissioner Berger said that other agencies open up spaces in their classes to the City when possible. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding a recent ride-along where he learned about the new software program that paramedics are utilizing which can be cumbersome.

Chief Brewer spoke regarding the new electronic patient care record (EPCR) which digitizes all patient care records. Chief Brewer said that any new software has a learning curve, but that the Fire Department will be evaluating its contract with the vendor which expires in June of 2018.

Commissioner Berger spoke in support of training for residents and public safety personnel.

Chief Brewer spoke regarding the upcoming Great Shake Out Earthquake Drill in October.

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

Captain Sergio Aloma thanked Commissioner Montemayor for his service. Captain Aloma spoke regarding foot and bike patrols. Captain Aloma said that aggravated assaults are down 20%, but that larceny thefts (such as vehicle burglaries) are up slightly. Captain Aloma said that members of his

traffic team will attend the community meeting on September 14th hosted by Councilmember D'Amico. Captain Aloma spoke regarding the Sheriff Department's willingness to partner to address security and safety concerns that come with recreational cannabis.

Commissioner Montemayor spoke regarding the use of narcotics and meth and various apps, such as Grindr.

Captain Aloma spoke regarding narcotics use and Craig's list and apps, and illegal narcotics.

Commissioner Montemayor spoke regarding oil burners and improper use.

Commissioner Oliver spoke regarding paraphernalia and irresponsible public policy.

Commissioner Williams requested that staff share the monthly pedestrian information with the Transportation Commission.

Kevin Burton, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding homeless issues, in particular near 7-11s.

Victor Omelchenko, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding the recent assault with an axe, spoke in support of foot patrols, spoke regarding a message from Allegra Alison about various homeless issues, said that some street lights are out on Hayworth, and requested special attention for crime concerns in center city and security guards for late night businesses.

Commissioner Berger read a quote from a resident expressing compassion but overriding concern for impacts from homeless individuals. Commissioner Berger spoke in support of security guards similar to Ralph's and asked to put the topic on a future agenda. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the recent assault with an axe and asked for further clarification on why the individual was not arrested for a previous incident.

Captain Aloma said that any crime requires a victim, and he asked Detective Sergeant Jeff Bishop to elaborate.

Sergeant Jeff Bishop gave an overview of the assault with the axe case and its current status. Sergeant Bishop said that in an alleged prior encounter with the suspect, the victim was unable to identify the suspect and deputies had to release him. Sergeant Bishop said that the cameras at the 7-11 were valuable in identifying the suspect and that thankfully the victim is doing very well. Detectives successfully filed felony charges for attempted murder and aggravated mayhem, which if convicted could carry a sentence of 25 years or longer.

Commissioner Berger said that most homeless people are carrying a weapon.

Commissioner Williams reminded all to be brief when possible and to make appointments with staff or public safety personnel to discuss items not on the agenda.

Commissioner Montemayor asked for information regarding the Gemmel Moore case.

Captain Aloma said that the Homicide Bureau is working with the District Attorney's office to grant limited immunity to those who provide information to homicide. Captain Aloma gave a brief summary of the case including the initial response which was turned over to the Coroner's office who responded with an on scene investigator.

Commissioner Montemayor asked why there is additional scrutiny by the Homicide Bureau.

Captain Aloma said that out of an abundance of caution, the Homicide Bureau is reviewing information, including possible information not known to them on the day of the incident.

Sergeant Jeff Bishop gave a brief overview of crime statistics for August 2017.

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

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

11. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff announced the Annual Congress for Commissions and Boards to be held on October 30th.

Commissioner Montemayor asked for an update on the PSAs being completed by the Communications Department.

Staff said that they would check in with the Communications Department.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Victor Omelchenko, resident of West Hollywood, asked for more detail in the minutes and thanked Commissioners for various comments.

Rick Watts, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding crosswalk upgrades and thanked everyone for their work on the issue and spoke regarding narcotics paraphernalia.

13. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Sol thanked Commissioner Montemayor for his service.

Commissioner Montemayor encouraged the Commissioners to continue to support cameras in public spaces, sufficient deployment of sheriff's deputies, and pickpocketing prevention.

Commissioner Oliver requested that the meeting be adjourned with wishes for a full and speedy recovery of the victim of the recent assault with an axe. Commissioner Oliver thanked the Sheriff's Department and Block by Block for their monthly updates, case updates, and investigations. Commissioner Oliver thanked Commissioner Montemayor for his service.

Commissioner Berger thanked the members of the public for their attendance and spoke in support of transparency. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding Prop 47 and Prop 57. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the upcoming community meeting hosted by Councilmember D'Amico on September 14th.

Commissioner Norton clarified that her original adjournment request for those affected by the Hurricanes does include international victims. Commissioner Norton requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of victims of the earthquake in Mexico.

Commissioner Montemayor requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of Gemmel Moore.

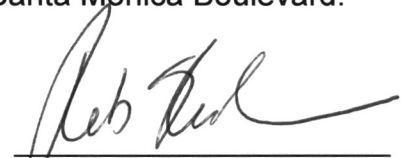
Commissioner Williams requested that the meeting be adjourned in honor of Rita Norton's 97th birthday on Thursday.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 9:35 PM in the memory of the victims of the September 11th Terrorist Attacks, the victims of Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma, the victims of the earthquake in Mexico, Gemmel Moore, the 14 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the August meeting, in memory of Enrique Lopez Nava, with wishes for a full and speedy recovery for the victim of the axe assault, and in honor of Rita Norton's 97th birthday.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 9, 2017 at 6:30 PM at West Hollywood City Hall Community Room located at 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard.


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.)