

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION**

**MINUTES  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2018**

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER** at 6:30 PM
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** led by Corri Planck
3. **ROLL CALL**

**Commissioners Present:** Berger, Laflen, Norton, Oliver, Sol, Waack, Williams

**Commissioners Absent:** None

**Others present:** Lieutenant Ed Ramirez, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Sergeant Jon Klaus, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Battalion Chief Mike Brown, Los Angeles County Fire Department; Kristin Cook, Public Safety Director; Rob Winrader, Public Safety Administrative Analyst

4. **ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS**

Commissioner Sol requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of the 15 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the January meeting.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**ACTION:** Motion by Commissioner Sol to approve the February 12, 2018 agenda, seconded by Commissioner Norton, and approved.

**POSTING OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda for the February 12, 2018 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 January 8, 2018 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Norton, and approved.

## **7. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Senior Lead Officer Inga Wecker, LAPD, introduced herself and spoke regarding shared public safety issues on the West Hollywood and Los Angeles border, including negative impacts from the Supreme store.

Commissioner Sol asked if other stores are interested in collaborating with LAPD as well.

Officer Wecker said that they are beginning with Supreme since it has a weekly impact, but that others will be involved.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding an unleashed pit bull outside of Cantor's Deli and asked Officer Wecker to follow-up.

## **8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS**

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding a County Oversight Panel and suggested having a liaison attend their meetings since ICE's relationship with law enforcement was recently discussed. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the recent Coffee with the Cops event, the Fountain Street safety meeting, and the Rent Stabilization Commission's potential work with code enforcement.

Commissioner Williams asked staff to get additional information on the oversight meetings.

Commissioner Sol spoke regarding Captain Aloma's presentation on how the Sheriff's Department works with ICE under the law.

Commissioner Norton agreed it would be good to have a liaison attend the oversight meetings. Commissioner Norton spoke regarding the required sexual harassment training. Commissioner Norton spoke regarding her attendance at the Senior Advisory Board which discussed the issue of loneliness and how Great Britain has established a cabinet position to address the problem. Commissioner Norton said that the Senior Advisory Board will be looking at ways to combat loneliness in West Hollywood.

Commissioner Oliver spoke regarding issues along the West Hollywood and Los Angeles border including trash, graffiti, and numerous complaints. Commissioner Oliver spoke about his work with the Supreme store to be a better neighbor including better line management, trash services, and restrooms.

Commissioner Sol asked if Commissioner Oliver could encourage the Fairfax businesses to form a group or Business Improvement District to better work together.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding the City's Aging in Place program which has a place for addressing loneliness. Commissioner Williams said that once staff brings back the information on the oversight meetings it will be easier to know how best to participate.

## **9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **9A. COMMISSION INPUT FOR THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD PLAN TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS**

Commissioners received a presentation from Corri Planck, Project Manager, and Abby Arnold, Consultant, on the West Hollywood Homeless Initiative.

Commissioner Norton asked why only 49 of the 88 cities in the County have agreed to participate in Measure H.

Ms. Arnold said that some cities have other priorities, but that the County will be encouraging all to participate as coordination is vital since homelessness does not respect boundaries.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding her work as a PATH employee and the difficulties with funding and reaching the core transient group.

Ms. Arnold said that the intent of the program is to break it into individual pieces to better address issues, such as newly homeless individuals being given rapid re-housing.

Commissioner Oliver asked for clarification regarding the funding from Measure H.

Ms. Arnold said that Measure H will generate \$355 million and that the City of West Hollywood received a \$50,000 planning grant.

Commissioner Sol asked if homeless individuals are included in the process to properly identify needs.

Ms. Arnold spoke regarding the extensive work West Hollywood has done to speak to homeless individuals on a regular basis in order to customize care and better meet needs.

Commissioner Waack spoke in support of breaking down the various pieces of the program. Commissioner Waack asked how the \$355 million will be allocated across the County.

Ms. Arnold said the County has broken it down into 44 strategies. The City and its agencies will be able to apply for funding opportunities.

Commissioner Laflen asked if the program will include education on how best to assist or report the homeless.

Ms. Planck spoke regarding the City's work on a public education campaign and said that she will share that information with the Commission. Ms. Planck spoke regarding the City's donation meters.

Commissioner Laflen asked about the locations of the donation meters.

Commissioner Williams encouraged collaboration with Block by Block.

Commissioner Sol spoke regarding the amount of gift cards that homeless individuals use and asked if the City collaborates with non-profits serving the homeless.

Ms. Arnold said that the City is working with these organizations.

Commissioner Berger thanked staff for the presentation and said that in order to meet the goal of solving homelessness it is essential to understand why the individuals will not accept services. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding a homeless individual who contacted him for assistance in the evening hours when help is less available. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the work other states are doing and suggested modeling some of their success stories. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the high number of individuals with addiction issues. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding utilizing metrics for success and other approaches based in psychology and offered to share these resources with staff.

Ms. Arnold spoke regarding comprehensive new approaches, including individualized case management by the County's Probation Department. Ms. Arnold offered to review any referrals or information provided by Commissioner Berger.

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

Battalion Chief Mike Brown reviewed the Fire Department statistics for January 2018, including suppression, rescue, and fire prevention activities. Chief Brown spoke regarding one residential structure fire, a few smaller fires, and one hazardous materials incident involving a fuel spill. Chief Brown spoke regarding work with Cedars Sinai on a new mechanical CPR system which has been shown to improve patient outcomes.

Commissioner Norton asked if there is additional information regarding the small trash fires.

Chief Brown said that he does not believe that there is an arsonist.

Commissioner Oliver asked where the training is being held at Cedars.

Chief Brown said that the EMS Section, working with medical director Dr. Kazan, will be conducting the training.

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

Lieutenant Ed Ramirez said that there was one arrest made for an individual intentionally setting trash fires.

Lieutenant Ramirez reviewed the Sheriff's Department's statistics for January 2018, including crimes, 2,131 calls for service, 2,391 observations, 44 felony arrests, and 173 misdemeanor arrests. Lieutenant Ramirez spoke regarding the high number of thefts of items left in plain view.

Commissioner Waack asked when thefts from trunks of vehicles are occurring.

Lieutenant Ramirez said that the thefts are usually during the evening hours.

Commissioner Williams asked for additional information regarding the sexual assaults.

Lieutenant Ramirez said that one assault was from the summer but was just now reported, and that the other involved an intoxicated individual who was put in a car with others to go home.

Commissioner Laflen asked if the vehicle was a ride share vehicle.

Lieutenant Ramirez said that it is unclear what type of vehicle it involved.

Commissioner Oliver spoke regarding the good customer service from the Sheriff's Station during a recent theft involving his neighbor.

Sergeant Klaus spoke regarding the Deputies' work on thefts and the various arrests made.

Keith Anyon, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding a theft that occurred on January 21, 2018 which involved a suspect slipping a drug in his drink.

Commissioner Berger asked which venue Mr. Anyon was at when his drink was compromised. Commissioner Berger spoke in support of educating the venues and their patrons.

Staff spoke regarding public education.

Commissioner Laflen thanked the public speaker and spoke regarding the public education work with the Women's Advisory Board.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding public education and code enforcement's work with the establishments.

Commissioner Waack spoke regarding the Sheriff's Department offering their station parking lots as a safe place to exchange items, such as for Craigslist transactions.

Commissioner Oliver thanked the public speaker for his attendance and asked if the victim will be given tips on how to deal with fraud.

Staff stated that the Detective Bureau provides resources.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding increased public education.

Commissioner Oliver spoke regarding his attendance at the civilian FBI academy and spoke regarding increased public education.

Staff said that they will speak with the Communications Department.

Commissioner Berger asked about the status of the contract with the Department of Mental Health.

Staff said that the Department of Mental Health still has not executed the contract approved by City Council on November 20<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Berger said that the next oversight meeting will be talking about mental health teams.

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

David Aguilar reviewed the monthly report from January 2018, including pedestrian assistance, crosswalk assistance, homeless issues, and disturbances.

Commissioner Sol spoke regarding the increased crowds for spring break and spoke in support of working with the entertainment establishments on preventing alcohol related issues.

Lieutenant Ramirez spoke regarding the work the Entertainment Policing Team does with the entertainment establishments.

Commissioner Williams asked if there have been any issues at the marijuana establishments.

Lieutenant Ramirez spoke regarding some issues with patrons blocking sidewalks, but that there are no criminal issues.

Commissioner Waack asked if there is going to be a future Walk About with the Captain.

Sergeant Klaus said that he will speak with Captain Aloma.

#### **10. ITEMS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES**

Commissioner Laflen gave a summary of the recent Women's Advisory Board / Public Safety Commission Subcommittee Meeting and the various upcoming events. The various items will be brought to the Commission for consideration at the March meeting.

Commissioner Sol asked why the Public Safety Commission is not a cosponsor of the Vagina Monologues.

Commissioner Williams said that Hollywood NOW sponsors the event and that she will speak to them about involving the Public Safety Commission next time.

#### **11. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

Staff gave a brief overview of the ALERT.LACOUNTY.GOV program and distributed brochures to the Commissioners and attendees. Staff thanked Commissioner Norton for bringing the item to the Commission.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding the high number of alerts she receives. Commissioner Williams thanked Commissioner Norton for bringing the item to the Commission.

#### **12. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

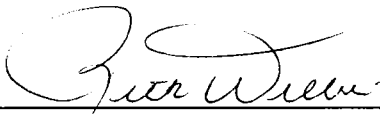
Nate Clark, Human Services Commissioner, introduced himself as the liaison to the Public Safety Commission.

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

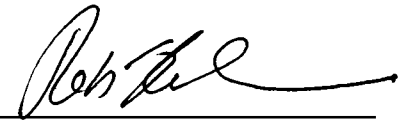
Commissioner Sol spoke regarding International Condom Day and events at Revolver and AIDS Healthcare Foundation.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 7:58 PM in memory of the 15 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the January meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 12, 2018 at 6:30 PM at the West Hollywood City Hall - Community Meeting Room 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.)***