

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION**

**MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 12, 2018**

**FIESTA HALL- PLUMMER PARK
7377 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD, WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER at 6:30 PM**
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 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 Alvin Brewer, 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 17 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the February meeting and the 17 victims who were killed in Parkland, Florida.

5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

POSTING OF THE AGENDA

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

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tom Demille, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding the March for Our Lives on March 24, 2018.

Michael Hardigree, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding safety and traffic issues at the intersection at Lexington and Gardner.

Tai Sunnanon, resident of West Hollywood spoke regarding Kirk Doffing and his good progress and expressed concern for the consideration by the State legislature for the extended hours of sale for alcohol.

Sharon Knolle, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding the increase of crime in her neighborhood, including narcotics activity in her building, and asked for more enforcement.

Anson Snyder, resident of West Hollywood, asked if the Public Safety Commission could meet on the eastside at least twice a year, asked for more Sheriff's presence in Plummer Park, and spoke regarding homeless issues.

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding the traffic safety issues at Lexington and Gardner. Commissioner Williams thanked all for coming to the meeting.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the Homeless Connect Day and shared some statistics with the Commission.

Commissioner Norton thanked all for coming to the meeting. Commissioner Norton wished Commissioner Williams a Happy Birthday.

Commissioner Waack thanked all for coming to the meeting. Commissioner Waack asked staff to bring back information regarding the proposal to sell alcohol until 4 AM to the next meeting.

Commissioner Oliver spoke regarding the proposal to sell alcohol until 4 AM and expressed concern for how it will impact West Hollywood and the surrounding area.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding the proposal to sell alcohol until 4 AM and expressed concern for the impacts.

Commissioner Williams wished Commissioner Norton a Happy Birthday.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9A. REPORT FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT

Battalion Chief Alvin Brewer reviewed the Fire Department statistics for February 2018, including suppression, rescue, and fire prevention activities. Chief Brewer highlighted five minor fires and some minor hazardous materials incidents.

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

Geoffrey Buck, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding homelessness issues at Poinsettia Park and expressed the need for tougher enforcement regarding homeless individuals engaged in criminal activity.

Virginia Gillick, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding homelessness issues and suggested that the City owned property at Santa Monica Boulevard and Crescent Heights be used for homeless individuals to set up tents.

Commissioner Williams asked staff to follow-up on the idea to place a homeless encampment at the City owned property at Santa Monica Boulevard and Crescent Heights.

Staff said that the current policy is to prevent encampments, not to encourage them, but that they would pass along the comments to the appropriate staff.

Stephanie Harker, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding the recent homicide, ongoing safety issues with the homeless, and asked for stronger enforcement.

Cathy Blaivas, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding ongoing issues with the homeless population and asked for an eastside substation.

Carlos Carrasco expressed concern for the size of a residential construction project on Poinsettia Place.

Anson Snyder, resident of West Hollywood, asked for increased Sheriff's presence due to negative impacts from homeless people.

Sarah Sareh, resident of Los Angeles, spoke regarding her experience with calling LAPD, and asked for clarification on proper steps to address homelessness.

Staff spoke regarding the immediate changes made in Sheriff's deployment and also the proposals to permanently increase Sheriff's staffing with the July 1st budget as well.

Sergeant Klaus reviewed the Sheriff's Department's statistics for February 2018, including crimes, 1,886 calls for service, 2,346 observations, 44 felony arrests, and 146 misdemeanor arrests. Sergeant Klaus reviewed the vehicle/pedestrian and vehicle/bicycle accidents and pickpocket thefts.

Lieutenant Ramirez spoke regarding the problems that the eastside residents are facing. Lieutenant Ramirez spoke regarding the laws at the state level which have decriminalized many offenses. Lieutenant Ramirez spoke regarding the increased presence on the eastside including foot patrols, bike patrols, and vehicle patrols. Lieutenant Ramirez spoke regarding the Sheriff's Department's countywide specialized team to address homeless issues. Lieutenant Ramirez spoke briefly about the recent homicide.

Commissioner Waack asked staff for an update on the safety camera program.

Staff said that the camera pilot project will be presented at the March 19th City Council meeting.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding the necessity for cameras at Fairfax and Santa Monica Boulevard.

Commissioner Oliver said that he is the Field Deputy for Council Member Koretz and has Poinsettia Park in his area. Commissioner Oliver spoke regarding homelessness and the negative impacts. Commissioner Oliver spoke regarding the lawsuit regarding homeless property which impacts how the LAPD and Los Angeles City staff can respond. Commissioner Oliver asked for an update in the Gemmel Moore case.

Lieutenant Ramirez said he would have to check with the Homicide Bureau.

Commissioner Oliver spoke regarding accidental firings of some law enforcement officer's service weapons and asked for an update on training and outcomes.

Lieutenant Ramirez said he would speak with the Training Bureau and report back to the Commission.

Commissioner Laflen recommended that the public speakers contact the Sheriff's Department directly after the meeting to address their individual concerns.

Staff and Sheriff's personnel said that they are available.

Commissioner Laflen spoke regarding issues at the City's borders and asked for more information from the Sheriff's on how they work together with LAPD.

Lieutenant Ramirez explained how the Sheriff's Department, LAPD, and other agencies work together.

Commissioner Laflen encouraged the Los Angeles residents present at the meeting to contact Commissioner Oliver for assistance who is a supportive advocate for his constituents.

Commissioner Norton asked for an update on the camera project and asked for clarification on the privacy concerns and the timing of the project.

Staff gave a brief history of the safety camera project and its timeline and said that the pilot project is on the Council agenda for March 19th. Staff also said that the Innovations Division will be presenting an update to the Public Safety Commission at the April meeting.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding Prop 47 and Prop 57 and the limitations it puts on officers. Commissioner Berger asked for an update on the status of the contract with the County's Department of Mental Health.

Staff said that according to the Department of Mental Health, the delay is due to the County Counsel's office.

Commissioner Berger asked for an update regarding the AED program at a future meeting.

Commissioner Williams asked for staff to provide an update for the possibility of an eastside substation.

Staff said that the building across from Plummer Park is a future option for a Sheriff or security presence.

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

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

Commissioner Laflen asked for an update on increasing the Sunset Block by Block deployment.

Staff said that they will follow-up during the budget process.

Commissioner Berger asked David Aguilar to provide his phone number to the members of the public and to explain the difference between Block by Block and the Sheriff's Department.

Mr. Aguilar gave a description of the types of calls that Block by Block can handle and gave his contact information to the group.

Commissioner Williams thanked Block by Block for their hard work in the neighborhood.

9D. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE JOINT WOMEN'S SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE

Staff reported on the recommendations for consideration by the Commission from the members of the Joint Women's Safety Subcommittee of the Women's Advisory Board and Public Safety Commission. The recommendations include expanding the distribution of the "Only Yes Means Yes" campaign, increasing public safety awareness and reporting from the public, and planning an awareness activity on April 15, 2018. In addition, Commissioners will be advertising the campaign at the Responsible Beverage Service Training on March 16th.

Commissioner Laflen asked if a Sheriff's representative can attend on April 15th.

Staff said that Sheriff's personnel will be invited.

Commissioner Sol expressed concern for the public not reporting directly to the Sheriff's Department.

Staff agreed that the public should contact the Sheriff via 911 or the business line when an incident occurs and that any advertising by the subcommittee to report other ways needs to be clearly outlined to still encourage a direct report to the Sheriff.

Commissioner Laflen said that the subcommittee is trying to find other ways for victims to discuss their incidents in addition to reporting it to law enforcement.

Commissioner Oliver asked if one can text to 911.

Staff confirmed that the texting system is operational.

Commissioner Norton asked if participating Commissioners will be given instructions.

Staff said that the participating Commissioners will be briefed and to plan on being out for a couple of hours.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding working with Communications on graphics and animation.

Commissioner Laflen spoke in support of having people input the Sheriff's Department's phone number into their cell phones.

Tai Sunnanon, spoke in support of the "Only Yes Means Yes" campaign and suggested extending the campaign to both mothers and seniors and to include the use of bus stops.

Commissioner Williams thanked all for their suggestions.

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Waack to approve the recommendations, seconded by Commissioner Norton, and approved.

Commissioner Williams asked staff to inform the Women's Advisory Board of the Public Safety Commission's support.

10. ITEMS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES

The Commission received a synopsis of what occurred at the Public Safety Awards Subcommittee Meeting that occurred on Thursday, February 15, 2018.

Staff spoke regarding recognizing personnel who were assigned to the major fires this past winter, including the Thomas Fire, the Skirball Fire, the Creek Fire, and others.

Commissioner Sol asked for a special recognition that can be taken back to their home stations.

Commissioner Waack asked staff to check on a date for the next subcommittee meeting between the Transportation Commission and the Public Safety Commission.

Commissioner Oliver asked how public safety award nominations are submitted.

Staff explained the nomination process and encouraged people to submit nominations.

11. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff spoke regarding the upcoming Sheriff's Civilian Oversight Commission on March 15th, the Ribbon Cutting for the Drop Zones on March 15th, and the Coffee with the Cops on March 28th.

Commissioner Sol spoke regarding the upcoming Kids Fair on April 14th.

Commissioner Norton spoke regarding the upcoming Neighborhood Watch Block Captain training on March 29th including a presentation on mail thefts. Commissioner Norton said that the signage for public safety is still in city hall and is confusing to visitors.

Staff will follow-up on the signage.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Anson Snyder, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding great participation from the community and said that the theme is to increase Sheriff's presence on the eastside.

Cathy Blaivas, resident of West Hollywood, wished a Happy Birthday to Commissioners Norton and Williams and asked if there is a way for the Sheriff's to include quality of life incidents in the statistics.

Stephanie Harker, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding ongoing safety issues.

George Nickle, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding a squatter in a house behind his residence, safety issues, and spoke in support of a Sheriff's substation on the eastside.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding the difficulty with getting people to volunteer for Neighborhood Watch.

Heather Morgan, resident of Los Angeles, spoke regarding criminal homeless issues and an abandoned property.

13. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the complexities of the various safety issues outlined by residents during public comment.

Commissioner Norton spoke regarding the recent Senior Advisory Board meeting and a presentation on the number of affordable units in the City of West Hollywood.

Commissioner Oliver spoke regarding abandoned properties and how the City of Los Angeles responds within its jurisdiction. Commissioner Oliver spoke regarding


the negative impacts of homelessness and also recommended that Los Angeles residents call the Los Angeles City Attorney's office to say the current policy is not working.

Commissioner Waack thanked all for attending the meeting and encouraged all to attend in April.

Commissioner Williams encouraged all to attend the meetings when they are held on the eastside.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 8:34 PM in memory of the 17 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the February meeting and the 17 victims of the Parkland, Florida shooting. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 9, 2018 at 6:30 PM at Plummer Park Community Center, Rooms 5 & 6, 7377 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA 90046.



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.)