

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES
MONDAY, AUGUST 13, 2018
6:30 P.M.
COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM
8300 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD
WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90069**

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

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

Others present: Captain Aloma, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Lieutenant Ed Ramirez, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; and Sergeant Jon Klaus, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Battalion Chief John Mancha, Los Angeles County Fire Department; Bonnie Smith, Public Safety Supervisor; Rob Winrader, Public Safety Administrative Analyst.

4. **ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS**

Commissioner Sol requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of the 23 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the July meeting. Commissioner Berger adjourned in the memory of Rita Norton, mother of Commissioner Norton. Commissioner Norton asked for the meeting to be adjourned in the name of the victims of the mass shooting in Texas. Chair Waack also asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of staff Rob Winrader's father, Robert N. Winrader.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Sol to approve the August 13, 2018 agenda, seconded by Commissioner Norton and approved.

POSTING OF THE AGENDA

The agenda for the August 13, 2018 Public Safety Commission meeting was posted at City Hall, Plummer Park, and the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station, and the West Hollywood Library.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Sol to approve the July 13, 2018 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Leflen, and approved. Commissioner Norton abstained.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Renee Sotilet and MJ Godges spoke concerning a video on intimate partner violence that they had produced with a grant from the City of West Hollywood. The video is called "I Remember Nicole." They asked for the commission to endorse an event in October. They also requested support for an event scheduled for next June.

Ben Creed, of the Bicycle Coalition, requested the commission consider taking a request to City Council for green bicycle lanes to be painted in West Hollywood as the City of Beverly Hills recently did. He also requested an extension of the bicycle lanes to La Brea.

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS

Commissioner Berger thanked Renee and MJ for attending the meeting. He requested staff to find out what they can do. He also spoke about riding his bike in the city. Commissioner Berger spoke of his support of the scooters with safer infrastructure and policies in place.

Commissioner Norton thanked the staff, commissioners, and the Sheriff's Station for their kind thoughts due to the passing of her mom.

Commissioner Laflen asked if there has ever been a thought of having protected bike lanes. Staff replied that there is limited space in the boulevard and spoke about the Santa Monica Boulevard Rehabilitation Project that began in 1999 and that protected bike lanes would require removal of parking. She suggested that a further conversion needs to be had about a public bike lane. Commissioner Laflen spoke of attending National Night Out events and enjoying the events.

Commissioner Oliver expressed his condolence to Commissioner Norton. He spoke of attending NNO at Poinsettia Park. Commissioner Oliver also discussed his thought of how to reverse the parking lane and the bike lane so that the bike lane was next to the curb.

Commissioner Sol thanked the audience for attending. She suggested that they attend the Women's Advisory Board and also the Transportation Commission meetings to get help.

Chair Waack let the commission know that Commissioner Burton was listening to all the comments. He spoke of attending NNO and thanked his deputy for the ride. Chair Waack would like to discuss future NNO and how to increase the attendance. Staff let the chair know that NNO was moved to the City Manager's Department. Chair Waack asked staff to provide an update on security cameras. He also sent well wishes to Commissioner Williams.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9A. REPORT FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT

Battalion Chief John Mancha reviewed the Fire Department statistics for July 2018, including suppression, rescue, and fire prevention activities.

Speaker Kevin Burton spoke concerning next month being National Preparedness Month. He spoke of the upcoming CERT training.

Commissioner Berger asked if any of the residential fires could be prevented. Chief Mancha spoke about the importance of the fire detector.

Chief Mancha spoke about residential apartment checks. He stated that the Fire Department checks all residential apartments. He also spoke of the landlords being required by law to check the fire alarms.

Commissioner Berger asked if there is anything the commission can do to make sure landlords are checking smoke detectors.

Commissioner Oliver spoke about hard wired smoke alarms. He asked about a private home and the requirements.

Commissioner Norton commented about her condo complex and that it's important that neighbors keep their smoke detectors functional to keep the entire building safer.

Chief Mancha explained what a life/ fire hazard is and how the Fire Department initiates follow-ups with hazmat.

Commissioner Waack asked if fire alarms could be placed on the agenda.

Commissioner Sol asked if the city could tie the fire detectors/earthquake safety to National Preparedness Month.

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

Sargent Klaus reviewed statistics from July 2018

Lieutenant Ramirez spoke about his recent attendance at the Transportation Commission to give an update on citations that have been given out for

scooters. To date, 31 citations have been given out mostly for riding on the sidewalk and riding a scooter in an area zoned for 25 miles per hour. Sheriffs have also given out 8 citations for riding a motorized skateboard.

Commissioner Sol asked if the Sheriff's Station was aware of the alleged gay bashing that has been on social media. Lieutenant Ramirez said he was aware and they were attempting to check into any accounts that have been reported to them. Commissioner Sol asked if Gemmel Moore's family could file a civil lawsuit.

Commissioner Berger stated he had spoken with Gemmel's mom and family and that the family felt they had been treated unfairly. Commissioner Berger wanted to know if there was anything that could be done.

Commissioner Laflen spoke of the family feeling like they did not get justice but also stated that would not be the Sheriff's issue.

Lieutenant Ramirez spoke of his conversations with the family of Gemmel. He spoke of not being able to speak on behalf of the District Attorney.

Captain Aloma offered his condolences to Commissioner Norton. He spoke of visiting Commissioner Williams in the hospital. Captain Aloma spoke of the importance of working with the family and explaining the course of the investigation. He stated they do this with all families to attempt to explain how investigations are done. He spoke of having victim's advocates that are available also to speak to the family.

Commissioner Berger spoke of alleged drug paraphernalia that he heard was at the home. Captain Aloma spoke in general terms that when there are more than one person in that home, the Sheriff's must be able to prove possession.

Commissioner Berger thanked all for the wonderful NNO. He also thanked the Sheriff's for working on the Poinsettia Park issues that had spilled into West Hollywood.

Commissioner Laflen asked about the large number of vehicle burglaries. Captain Aloma agreed that there have been a large number of vehicle burglaries and reviewed the 88 smash and grabs in the month of July. The number one cause is leaving valuable in plain sight. Captain Aloma spoke of the theory that one crew is responsible for the majority of the smash and grab vehicle burglaries. He spoke of needing to be able to have evidence that they are involved in multiple burglaries.

Commissioner Sol inquired if there will be a school safety officer who will speak at the schools. Sergeant Klaus replied that there are evacuation plans

in place for the schools and they meet twice a year with each school. He also said the station will provide any training that the school requests.

Commissioner Waack thanked the station for their support on NNO and his Deputy Escort Brian Huevo.

Commissioner Norton asked about the violent crimes that happened in July. She inquired if there was additional information on the 4 rapes.

Lieutenant Ramirez stated the homicide had been a result of a family disturbance. He spoke of the use of alcohol that was involved during the 4 rapes. Lieutenant Ramirez also spoke of the arson and that it was a trash can fire.

Commissioner Sol spoke of requesting a DUI checkpoint. Lieutenant Ramirez said he would look into it.

Commissioner Laflen asked if there was additional information on the extended hours of alcohol. Commissioner Oliver stated the bill has not passed yet.

Commissioner Oliver asked if the area behind 24 hour fitness on Rugby could be monitored more closely as it always seems to be a mess on the sidewalk.

Staff commented they could alert the appropriate departments.

Commissioner Waack asked if there was a motorcycle officer available for Fountain Avenue enforcement. He also Waack asked for an update on the officer who was hit on his motorcycle.

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

Staff stated that David Aguilar was not able to attend the meeting and was hoping to send a colleague this evening. Staff said the monthly Security Ambassadors Report was available on the information table.

10. ITEMS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES

Staff discussed the “Only Yes Means Yes” outreach scheduled for this Saturday. A pop up will be located on the Sunset sidewalk alcove in front of Hart Park located in the vicinity of 8314 and 8316 Sunset Boulevard. Commissioners and staff will meet at 6:00 PM and outreach in that vicinity until 8:00 PM. Parking is available at meters on Sunset. Commissioners were reminded to display their parking placards. Commissioner Laflen was able to procure Mel’s Milkshakes as an incentive for the outreach.

Rob Winrader commented that the CERT Subcommittee, Chair Waack and Commissioner Berger, is scheduled to meet with him via Go to Meeting on Wednesday, August 15th. Staff reminded the commission of the upcoming CERT Training scheduled in October. Flyers are available on the information table.

11. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff thanked everyone who participated in National Night Out.

Staff reminded commissioners that the Public Safety Commission will not meet in September due to lack of quorum on Rosh Hashana.

Rob Winrader reviewed an e-mail from Assistant Planner Tara Worden regarding scooter issues and recent legislation including the date that impounds will begin.

Commissioner Oliver spoke of there not being a ban in the city since the scooters are everywhere. Lieutenant Ramirez spoke of the complaints that the station receives about scooters on the sidewalks. Commissioner Oliver spoke of not spending too much of Sheriff's resources being wasted on the scooters.

Commissioner Laflen asked about a way to track who uses the scooters. Staff did not have an answer for this.

Chair Waack stated his major issue with the scooter is the speed that the scooter can go on the sidewalk.

Commissioner Oliver spoke of the real issue being user error.

Commissioner Berger spoke of the Los Angeles Times article that was written concerning the public destroying the scooters.

Commissioner Oliver asked if the City of West Hollywood would be impounding the scooters. Staff stated that they believed impounds would begin on August 18th, 30 days after the second reading.

Commissioner Sol asked about Halloween Carnaval and if anything was changing. Staff replied that there was no change to the Halloween footprint.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

13. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

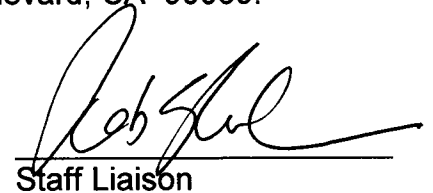
Commissioner Norton wished Commissioner Williams well.

Commissioner Berger thanked the audience for coming. He spoke of the value of the Mental Evaluation Team (MET) working with the Sheriff's. He said sidewalk deep cleaning has started and is noticeable in the City.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 8:10 PM in memory of the 23 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the May meeting, Rita Norton and Robert N. Winrader, the father of staff Rob Winrader and the victims of the mass school shooting in Santa Fe, Texas. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 8, 2018 at 6:30 PM at the West Hollywood City Hall - Community Meeting Room at 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, CA 90069.


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.)