

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

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2018
6:30 P.M.**

**PLUMMER PARK COMMUNITY CENTER,
ROOMS 5 & 6
7377 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD, WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA**

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

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

Commissioners Absent: None

Others present: Captain Sergio Aloma, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Lieutenant Ed Ramirez, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Battalion Chief Brian Kane, Los Angeles County Fire Department; 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 Robert Oliver's mother in law, Janice Lee Heller.

Commissioner Norton asked that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of the victims of the Tree of Life shooting, the Borderline Shooting, the Woolsey Fire, and the Camp Fire.

Commissioner Sol requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of the 18 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the October meeting.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Sol to approve the December 10, 2018 agenda, seconded by Commissioner Norton and approved.

POSTING OF THE AGENDA

The agenda for the December 10, 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 October 8, 2018 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Norton, and approved with Commissioners Oliver and Williams abstaining.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Eric Jon Schmidt, resident of West Hollywood, spoke in support of public panic phones similar to ones that universities use, a 25% increase to the Sheriff's budget, foot patrols, an eastside substation, and a Block by Block presence on the west side.

Yola Dore, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding International Human Rights Day and wished Sheriff and Fire personnel a happy holidays.

Binh Dang, Edition Hotel, introduced himself and spoke regarding the new hotel property to be opened in April 2019.

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS

Commissioner Sol thanked public safety staff, Sheriff's personnel, and Fire personnel for their work at Halloween.

Commissioner Norton spoke regarding the Woolsey Fire and thanked West Hollywood public safety personnel for responding. Commissioner Norton asked if active shooter training could be provided for the public.

Commissioner Williams thanked everyone for their support during her illness.

Commissioner Waack asked for a briefing on Halloween during the Sheriff's report.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9A. SMART CITY PUBLIC SAFETY PILOT PROJECT

Innovations staff presented an update on the Smart City Public Safety Pilot Project. Kate Kigongo gave an update on the safety cameras currently installed and discussed upcoming outreach for a video sharing pilot program for local businesses. Francisco Contreras provided details on an Eastside

Ring residential security camera rebate pilot program which is scheduled for release on January 24, 2019 at 6 PM at Fiesta Hall.

Commissioner Williams asked if buildings with multiple units can participate.

Mr. Contreras said that each individual unit is eligible.

Commissioner Norton asked if the Ring program is only available on the eastside. Commissioner Norton asked if the event will be publicized.

Mr. Contreras said that Ring has various products for which the rebate can be used. In addition, he said that staff will be publicizing the upcoming event.

Commissioner Berger thanked Innovations staff for their work on the project and asked if other areas of the City will be eligible.

Mr. Contreras said that if the pilot goes well, the program will be expanded.

Commissioner Sol spoke in support of utilizing other companies as well if this pilot project is successful.

Mr. Contreras said that staff did reach out to multiple companies, but that Ring was the only company willing to partner with the City at this time.

Commissioner Waack spoke in support of utilizing the Ring camera and said that the quality of the picture is outstanding. Commissioner Waack spoke regarding the safety cameras that are currently installed and asked about plans for the future.

Mr. Contreras said that staff will be providing Council with an assessment of the pilot project companies and options for Council to move forward.

Commissioner Waack asked if one company would be selected.

Mr. Contreras said that it is likely for only one to be selected.

Commissioner Waack asked if the cameras are being watched at the Sheriff's Station.

Mr. Contreras explained that the Sheriff's Station has access via the internet to the video footage but does not watch it "live".

Commissioner Waack asked for clarification about plans for the light poles.

Mr. Contreras said that staff is currently reviewing responses to a request for proposals for smart poles.

Commissioner Waack asked if Sheriff's personnel speak to businesses when their private cameras may have caught a crime on their recording.

Ms. Kigongo said that creating a database of existing private security cameras may be helpful to the Sheriff's Station.

Commissioner Williams said the 7600 Norton Neighborhood Watch group was not mentioned and some residents from Lexington participate in the group and might be interested in purchasing the Ring cameras.

Commissioner Norton spoke regarding working with private businesses and encouraging them to participate.

Ms. Kigongo said that the goal is to get as many businesses participating as possible.

Commissioner Berger asked if smart poles could include cameras.

Mr. Contreras said that smart poles could include cameras.

Commissioner Laflen suggested that call boxes could be incorporated into the smart pole technology.

9B. REPORT FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT

Battalion Chief Kane reviewed the Fire Department statistics for October and November 2018, including suppression, rescue, and fire prevention activities. Chief Kane spoke regarding the large response to the Woolsey Fire from the Los Angeles County Fire Department and the extraordinary situations experienced during the initial hours of the fire.

Commissioner Williams thanked the Fire Department for their response to the emergency.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding partnering with the Red Cross to distribute smoke detectors to the community.

Staff said that they will work with Commissioner Berger and Chief Kane to partner with the Red Cross.

Commissioner Waack asked about emergency alert systems.

Staff said that the City of West Hollywood is covered by the broader County alert system which can be customized for West Hollywood, but that staff is looking into additional ways to alert the West Hollywood community as a back-up. Currently, residents can sign up for Nixle and Alert LA.

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

Captain Aloma spoke regarding Active Shooter Training and the video produced by the Sheriff's Department which is online and available to the public. Captain Aloma spoke regarding a successful Halloween event. Captain Aloma spoke regarding the Sheriff's Department's response to the Woolsey Fire.

Lieutenant Ramirez reviewed the Sheriff's Department's statistics for October and November 2018, including crimes, response times, and calls for service. Lieutenant Ramirez spoke regarding an increase in property crime and a corresponding increase in arrests.

Commissioner Laflen spoke regarding a report from LAPD describing an increase in crimes committed by homeless persons.

Lieutenant Ramirez said that he would look into it, but that he said that West Hollywood is not experiencing as great of an increase.

Commissioner Laflen asked for clarification on changes in laws regarding detaining individuals for mental health evaluations.

Staff and Captain Aloma stated that there are no changes at the state level in the definition of who meets 5150 criteria at this time. Captain Aloma spoke regarding petty thefts from retail establishments. Captain Aloma spoke regarding the booking process for suspects who do not have an address.

Commissioner Berger asked for more information on the increase in crime from 2017 to 2018 and also if the MET team has had a positive impact.

Lieutenant Ramirez said that the MET team has been a positive impact for West Hollywood.

Captain Aloma said that the majority of the crimes are larceny thefts, including vehicle burglaries and petty thefts. Captain Aloma said that the entire west side of the Los Angeles area has experienced an increase in vehicle burglaries. Captain Aloma spoke regarding the West Hollywood Station's efforts to address these crimes and the successful arrests of multiple suspects.

Commissioner Waack asked if the Health Department was utilized on Halloween.

Staff said that the Health Department staffing was doubled from the previous Halloween.

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

David Aguilar reviewed the monthly reports from October and November 2018, including pedestrian assistance, crosswalk assistance, homeless issues, and disturbances.

Commissioner Laflen asked for clarification on security ambassador staffing on the west side of the City.

Mr. Aguilar reviewed the staffing on the west side of the City.

10. NEW BUSINESS

10A. JANUARY PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING / COMMUNITY MEETING

Staff spoke regarding the various ways the Sheriff's Station is attempting to increase its visibility in the community, including recent "pop-ups" at the Farmer's Market and Plummer Park Community Center. Staff and Commissioners discussed hosting a Public Safety Community Meeting to follow a future Public Safety Commission Meeting. Staff recommended starting the Commission meeting at 6:00 PM to accommodate a Community meeting at 7:00 PM.

Commissioner Williams suggested that Sheriff Villanueva be invited and that we discuss specific topics such as emergency preparedness and invite a vendor to attend so residents can purchase survival supplies.

Commissioner Laflen suggested a town hall set up with public safety speakers and an opportunity for the audience to ask questions with a moderator.

Commissioner Sol recommended hosting a weekend meeting instead of a meeting on a Monday night.

Commissioner Laflen recommended using a week night instead of a weekend and also hosting quarterly meetings.

Commissioner Williams suggested changing the topics if quarterly meetings would be held and inviting specialized speakers.

Commissioner Oliver suggested holding the meeting after the March election.

Commissioner Berger asked to clarify the goal for the meetings.

Commissioner Laflen suggested explaining the role of the Public Safety Commission and giving people an opportunity to ask questions of Sheriff's personnel.

Commissioner Williams suggested using a different month than January.

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Williams to host a public safety community meeting on March 11th at 7 PM following the Public Safety Commission to begin at 6 PM at Plummer Park, seconded by Commissioner Laflen and approved.

10B. IMPROVING ATTENDANCE AT NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2019

Public Safety Commissioners discussed ways to improve attendance at National Night Out 2019 with the City's Community Affairs Coordinator, Jasmine Duckworth.

Commissioner Williams said that groups asked for additional funding toward the parties. Commissioner Williams suggested having tables at each location which advertise the other groups.

Commissioner Laflen spoke regarding the need for better advertising for the event.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding contacting the National Association of Town Watch for ideas, including public safety personnel serving the community.

Commissioner Laflen suggested finding ways to pull in the younger residents to participate.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding changing demographics in the City and the need to reach all residents.

10C. PUBLIC SAFETY AWARDS 2019 AND SELECTION OF SUB-COMMITTEE

Public Safety Commissioners discussed planning for the Public Safety Awards in 2019.

Staff gave a brief history of the different ways the awards have been presented.

Commissioner Waack spoke in support of increased advertising.

Commissioner Williams volunteered to be on the subcommittee.

Commissioner Laflen spoke regarding possible confusion if the March community meeting is held too close to the awards night if it takes the place of a regular Public Safety Commission meeting.

Commissioner Laflen spoke in support of hosting a joint awards ceremony with other boards and commissions.

Commissioner Williams said that the logistics of a combined event would be difficult.

Commissioner Norton spoke regarding the difficulty with combining awards with other boards and commissions.

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Norton to host the Public Safety Awards at the regular Public Safety Commission meeting on May 13th, seconded by Commissioner Williams and approved.

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Norton to appoint Commissioners Oliver, Sol, and Williams to a Public Safety Awards planning subcommittee, seconded by Commissioner Sol and approved.

11. ITEMS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES

Staff spoke regarding the recent Women's Advisory Board and Public Safety Commission subcommittee meeting held on December 5th. There was discussion whether to keep the group as a standing subcommittee or an ad hoc subcommittee. There was consensus to continue outreach activities on January 19th at the Women's March, Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April, LA Pride, and Halloween. Staff and Commissioner Waack gave an update on the subcommittee meeting with the Transportation Commission which covered the recent updates to Fountain Avenue.

12. ITEMS FROM STAFF

12A. COYOTE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Staff spoke regarding the City's Coyote Management and Coexistence Plan which was sent to all Public Safety Commissioners. Additional copies are

available to the public on the informational table and on the City's website. Code Compliance staff report that there has been recent coyote activity on Huntley, and follow-up revealed that food and water had been left at the location which encourages coyotes to return. The Department of Agriculture Commissioner, Weights and Measures has been contacted and plans to conduct some community meetings to discuss appropriate "hazing" techniques so coyotes do not become comfortable in the residential areas.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding residents reporting many coyote sightings on the Eastside in the early morning hours.

Commissioner Oliver spoke about advertising the tips to residents.

Commissioner Laflen spoke in support of using digital billboards to advertise tips.

12B. CERT UPDATE

Staff spoke regarding the recent, successful CERT courses held in October 2018, and fourteen people completed the three week course.

Kevin Burton, resident of West Hollywood and co-founder of Re-CERT, spoke regarding his participation in the CERT program and reminded all of the primary purpose of the class to build skills to protect yourself and others.

Commissioner Williams thanked Kevin for his work on the CERT team and encouraged all to get to know their neighbors who are plumbers, electricians and/or medical professionals in the event of an emergency where professionals cannot get to them in a citywide emergency.

Staff spoke regarding the upcoming Don't Drink and Drive campaign on Wednesday, December 12th.

13. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

14. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS


Commissioner Norton wished all a happy holidays.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 8:56 PM in memory of the victims of the Tree of Life shooting, the Borderline Shooting, the Woolsey Fire, the Camp Fire, and the 18 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away

since the October meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 14, 2019 at 6:30 PM at Plummer Park – Rooms 5/6 at 7377 Santa Monica Boulevard, 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.)