

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

**MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 2019  
6:30 P.M.**

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER** at 6:31 PM
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** led by Commissioner Norton
3. **ROLL CALL**

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

**Commissioners Absent:** None

**Others present:** Acting Captain Bill Moulder, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; 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 Norton requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of Lyndia Lowy.

Commissioner Oliver requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of Timothy Dean.

Commissioner Sol requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of the 19 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the December meeting.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**ACTION:** Motion by Commissioner Williams to approve the January 14, 2019 agenda, seconded by Commissioner Norton and approved.

**POSTING OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda for the January 14, 2019 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 December 10, 2018 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Williams, and approved.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

William Seegmiller, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding the deaths of Timothy Dean and Gemmel Moore at 1234 Laurel.

**8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS**

Commissioner Berger asked staff if the Public Safety Commission is a podcast and being streamed and asked for the link if so. Commissioner Berger congratulated Sergio Aloma on his promotion to Commander.

Commissioner Williams thanked all for their attendance and congratulated Sergio Aloma on his promotion to Commander.

Commissioner Sol thanked all for their attendance and thanked the public speaker from the Sex Worker Outreach Project (SWOP) for his attendance.

Commissioner Waack thanked all for their attendance and congratulated Sergio Aloma on his promotion to Commander.

**9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**9A. REPORT FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT**

Battalion Chief Brown reviewed the Fire Department statistics for December 2018, including suppression, rescue, and fire prevention activities. Chief Brown spoke regarding the unexpected death of active duty Firefighter Randall Duarte.

Commissioners asked to adjourn the meeting in memory of Firefighter Randall Duarte.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the Red Cross smoke detector's program and encouraged a joint program with the City.

Staff said that they will look for ways to join the Red Cross program with the City's existing events.

Chief Brown spoke regarding the "change your clock, change your battery" program and said that there is additional information on the Los Angeles County Fire Department's website.

Staff suggested that the City utilize the Los Angeles County Fire Department information and share it with the public.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding the ordinance requiring smoke detectors and if the rent stabilization department can send a reminder to property management companies and landlords to check on their tenants smoke detectors.

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

Jerome Kitchen, resident of Los Angeles, spoke regarding the deaths of Gemmel Moore and Timothy Dean at 1234 Laurel and asked the Public Safety Commission to look into the issue.

Sergeant Jon Klaus said that there is no information yet from the Homicide Bureau regarding the death of Timothy Dean. Lieutenant Ramirez offered condolences for the deaths of Gemmel Moore and Timothy Dean and gave a brief update on the Sheriff's response to the scene.

Commissioner Norton asked for clarification regarding the death of Gemmel Moore and whether or not drugs were present at the scene.

Lieutenant Ramirez said that Homicide Detectives did investigate the death of Mr. Moore, and that the District Attorney's office declined to prosecute based on lack of evidence.

Commissioner Oliver asked if there were a large volume of calls to Mr. Buck's residence.

Sergeant Klaus said that in the last five years there were only 5 calls for service, including the two deaths.

Commissioner Oliver asked for clarification on the current coroner's hold.

Lieutenant Ramirez said that the coroner would have to speak to that.

Commissioner Oliver spoke regarding comments that Mr. Buck had narcotics present at the location and asked if any charges have been filed.

Lieutenant Ramirez said that the investigation is still active, and no charges have been filed at this time.

Commissioner Laflen asked for more information regarding the calls for service to Mr. Buck's building.

Sergeant Klaus spoke regarding his analysis of the calls for service.

Commissioner Laflen spoke regarding the amount of narcotics in the apartment and asked why no charges have been filed for possession.

Commissioner Berger expressed concern for the second death and asked why there was not an arrest in the first death.

Lieutenant Ramirez said that all of the evidence, including the presence of narcotics, will be taken into consideration.

Commissioner Berger asked if the Sheriff's Department can do or should have done an undercover operation to arrest a suspect.

Commissioner Sol expressed disappointment in the Sheriff's Department's response to the questions at the Public Safety Commission.

Michelle Enfield, resident of South Gate, spoke regarding the abuse of people of color and expressed concern for the incident at 1234 Laurel.

Yola Dore, resident of West Hollywood, expressed concern for the incident at 1234 Laurel and encouraged all to work together to put pressure on the District Attorney.

Byron Jose, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding the incident at 1234 Laurel.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding putting pressure on the District Attorney as to why she did not file charges when methamphetamine was present.

Commissioner Oliver asked why narcotics charges were not filed at the time as part of the investigation into the death of Gemmel Moore.

Commissioner Berger spoke in support of asking Commander Aloma to respond to the questions.

Commissioner Oliver spoke in support of asking Sheriff Villanueva to respond to the questions.

**ACTION:** Motion by Commissioner Waack to direct staff to send condolences to the families of Gemmel Moore and Timothy Dean, that the Public Safety Commission asks the Sheriff's Department to conduct a thorough and aggressive investigation and that the District Attorney carefully consider all of the evidence and prosecute any criminal behavior to the fullest extent of the law and ask that the District Attorney attend the February Public Safety Commission meeting, seconded by Commissioner Oliver, and approved.

Commissioner Williams spoke in support of pressuring the District Attorney to respond.

Commissioner Norton suggested that the District Attorney be asked to attend the February Public Safety Commission meeting.

Stephanie Harker, resident of West Hollywood, spoke in support of hosting a Town Hall to give people an opportunity to speak about the incident.

Staff reminded all that a Public Safety Town Hall is scheduled for March 11<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Laflen asked to move up the Town Hall scheduled for March 11<sup>th</sup>.

Sergeant Jon Klaus reviewed the Sheriff's Department's statistics for December 2018, including crimes, response times, and calls for service.

Commissioner Berger asked for an update on the traffic accident involving a pedestrian on La Brea.

Lieutenant Ramirez said that one of the vehicles jumped the curb and hit the pedestrian. Lieutenant Ramirez said that the pedestrian was taken to the hospital but has been released and doing fine.

Commissioner Norton asked why the number of pickpocket incidents is high at The Abbey.

Sergeant Klaus said that the number of incidents is higher due to the large number of people coming in and out of the location.

Commissioner Williams asked about the enforcement of scooters and asked if there are any statistics available. She also stated many scooters are illegally riding on the streets and sidewalks and expressed concern pedestrians are at risk. Also, many scooters are being left abandoned on residential streets.

Commissioner Waack asked if the DUI statistics can be placed into a chart so a monthly comparison can be made.

Kevin Burton, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding the traffic collision involving the pedestrian and the difficulty with the audience hearing the speakers into the microphones.

Commissioner Oliver asked if there is an update regarding the hatchet attack at 7-11.

Lieutenant Ramirez offered to check on the victim and report back.

Lieutenant Ramirez said that robberies, burglaries, and grand thefts were down when comparing December 2017 to December 2018, but that overall there was an increase in crime.

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

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

Commissioner Berger commented that the homeless contacts have decreased and asked if there are shelter options for homeless individuals during the rainy weather.

Staff said that there are wet weather shelter options.

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

**10A. DISCUSSION OF 2019 PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING CALENDAR**

Commissioners considered the 2019 calendar and discussed conflicts with special events and holidays in June and November.

Commissioner Williams suggested keeping the June meeting, but canceling the November meeting.

Commissioner Berger suggested keeping the June meeting, but canceling the November meeting.

Commissioner Waack suggested keeping the June meeting, but canceling the November meeting.

**ACTION:** Motion by Commissioner Williams to cancel the November Public Safety Commission meeting due to the Veteran's Day holiday, seconded by Commissioner Oliver, and approved.

Commissioners discussed locations options for the Public Safety Commission.

Commissioner Berger asked staff to work with the facilities to make Rooms 5/6 more comfortable and easier to hear.

**11. ITEMS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES**

Commissioner Berger asked if there are extra CERT field guides and if they could be distributed to CERT members who did not take the course in the fall.

Staff said that the guides are available to anyone who would like one.

**12. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

Staff spoke regarding upcoming events including the Ring Camera Rebate on January 24<sup>th</sup>, a neighborhood coyote forum on February 6<sup>th</sup>, and the Public Safety Community meeting on March 11<sup>th</sup>. Staff also gave an update on a possible location for a Sheriff's Sub-station on the east side.

**13. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Jerome Kitchen, resident of Los Angeles, spoke regarding the investigation into the death of Gemmel Moore at 1234 Laurel.

Donavan Caver, resident of Los Angeles, spoke regarding the deaths of Gemmel Moore and Timothy Dean at 1234 Laurel.

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

Commissioner Berger suggested that Sheriff look into the codes given by the public speaker. Commissioner Berger reminded all that the Coffee with the Cops will be held on Wednesday, January 30<sup>th</sup> at McDonalds.

Commissioner Oliver thanked all for coming, and expressed condolences to the friends and family members in the audience.

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 8:15 PM in memory of Lyndia Lowy, Timothy Dean, Randall Duarte, and the 19 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the December meeting. The next meeting is

scheduled for Monday, February 11, 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.)***