

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

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2020
6:00 P.M.**

VIA TELECONFERENCE

1. **CALL TO ORDER** at 6:00 PM
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** led by Chair Laflen
3. **ROLL CALL**

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

Commissioners Absent: None

Others present: Lieutenant Bill Moulder, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Sergeant Fanny Lapkin, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Acting Assistant Chief Drew Smith, Los Angeles County Fire Department; Megan Currier, Community Services Liaison, Los Angeles County Fire Department; Shea Gibson, Block by Block; Kristin Cook, Public Safety Director; Janet Jimenez, Assistant to the City Manager

4. **ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS**

Commissioners Williams requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of Martin (Marty) Strudler.

Commissioner Sol requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of the 16 law enforcement officers and firefighters who passed away since the October meeting.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Sol to approve the November 9, 2020 agenda, seconded by Commissioner Norton and approved.

POSTING OF THE AGENDA

The agenda for the November 9, 2020 Public Safety Commission meeting was posted at City Hall, Plummer Park, and the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Sol to approve the October 12, 2020 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Balbone, and approved with Commissioner Waack abstaining.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Erickson, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding reimagining policing reform and thanked the Public Safety Commissioners for their work on the many issues.

Commissioners congratulated Councilmember-Elect Erickson.

West Seegmiller, Sex Workers Outreach Program, spoke regarding massage parlor regulations passed in February 2020 and asked code enforcement to work with him on building workers' rights awareness.

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding massage parlors and human trafficking issues.

Commissioner Waack congratulated the incoming Councilmembers and thanked the outgoing Councilmembers for their work over the years.

Vice-Chair Berger spoke regarding massage parlor regulations, the City's virtual Veteran's Day ceremony, and an upcoming CERT team training in the City of Los Angeles.

Commissioner Balbone congratulated the incoming Councilmembers and thanked the outgoing Councilmembers for their work over the years. Commissioner Balbone spoke regarding the upcoming Human Services Commission meeting and the possibility of a joint sub-committee. Commissioner Balbone spoke regarding the recent Homeless Collaborative meeting and the challenges some social services agencies are facing due to COVID-19.

Vice-Chair Berger spoke regarding the new homeless services brochure and the jail in-reach program which is a partnership between the Tarzana Treatment Center and the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station.

Commissioner Sol spoke regarding the upcoming Transgender Day of Remembrance ceremony on November 20th. Commissioner Sol congratulated President-Elect Biden and the incoming Councilmembers and thanked the outgoing Councilmembers for their work over the years.

Commissioner Laflen congratulated the incoming Councilmembers and thanked the outgoing Councilmembers for their work over the years.

Commissioner Williams congratulated the incoming Councilmembers and thanked the outgoing Councilmembers for their work over the years.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9A. REPORT FROM CODE COMPLIANCE DIVISION

Danny Rivas, Code Compliance Division, spoke regarding code enforcement operations and priorities. Calls for service increased 33% and included noise, vacant properties, construction, gatherings in violation of the health order, and other nuisance issues.

Commissioner Balbone asked for clarification regarding gatherings inside hotels and restaurants.

Mr. Rivas said that gatherings are not allowed, and that he and his staff are working closely with the business community to monitor activities.

Commissioner Balbone asked if code officers have had to cite Airbnb locations.

Mr. Rivas said that there has been an increase in residential parties, but that generally it has been the tenant who is hosting the party.

Commissioner Williams asked for an update on a code issue at Ralph's and said that some of their vendors are arriving without masks.

Mr. Rivas said that he will follow-up with Ralph's and spoke regarding meetings with the City's grocery stores and health order compliance.

Commissioner Waack asked for clarification regarding how many people constitute a large gathering.

Mr. Rivas said that the health order was recently revised to allow for up to three households.

Commissioner Norton spoke in support of having Mr. Rivas attend future Public Safety Commission meetings on a monthly basis.

Mr. Rivas said that he is able to attend quarterly to start and encouraged all to attend future Business License Commission meetings.

9B. REPORT FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT

Assistant Chief Drew Smith reviewed the Fire Department statistics for October 2020, including suppression, rescue, and fire prevention activities. Chief Smith spoke regarding Election related deployment and said that there were no issues to report.

9C. SHERIFF'S REPORT: MONTHLY REPORT; REIMAGINING POLICING REFORM

Lieutenant Bill Moulder reviewed the crime statistics for October, including calls for service and said that there has been an uptick in burglaries. Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding face covering enforcement.

Sergeant Fanny Lapkin reviewed traffic collisions and DUI statistics for October.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding the need for traffic enforcement on the east side of the City, including on Lexington. Commissioner Williams spoke in support of using the decoy car per the request from the Norton Neighborhood Watch group and mentioned their thanks to Lieutenant Moulder for the extra patrols at night.

Chair Laflen expressed concern for speeding on Fountain.

Commissioner Waack expressed concern for speeding and traffic violations in the City. Commissioner Waack asked for a report on Halloween activities.

Lieutenant Moulder said that the City and the Sheriff's Station worked together to remind people that there would not be an official Halloween event this year due to COVID-19 and said that the volume of visitors was similar to a regular Saturday evening.

Commissioner Norton asked if there were any Election related activities to report.

Lieutenant Moulder said that while there were multiple people out celebrating and occasionally blocking traffic, it was peaceful.

Commissioner Norton asked for more information regarding the vagrancy category in crime statistics.

Lieutenant Moulder said that he would research those citations more thoroughly and report back to the Commission.

Vice-Chair Berger asked if Sheriff's personnel received a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration booklet on law enforcement and its role in pedestrian and bicycle safety.

Lieutenant Moulder said that he did receive the booklet.

Vice-Chair Berger asked for an update on Cookies.

Lieutenant Moulder gave background information on the various measures the City of West Hollywood and Sheriff's personnel have taken to address the nuisance and criminal activity in the area of Cookies, including an upcoming hearing and work with Councilmember Koretz' office.

Commissioner Balbone asked for more information on when an assembly is considered to be unlawful.

Lieutenant Moulder said that when things become dangerous and people are being assaulted, that is a trigger to give a dispersal order because the main objective is to keep everyone safe.

Vice-Chair Berger spoke regarding an incident in Los Angeles involving Henry Scott during a protest. Vice-Chair Berger asked for more information regarding vehicle burglaries.

Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding multiple vehicle burglaries which happened in a short period of time which could have been related.

Vice-Chair Berger asked if the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station coordinates with other cities on crimes, such as recent mail thefts.

Lieutenant Moulder said that they actively coordinate with neighboring police agencies and beyond.

Vice-Chair Berger asked if the withdrawal of Deputies from County parks affects the City.

Lieutenant Moulder said that it does not impact the City.

As directed by the City Council, Commissioners discussed reimagining policing questions and asked West Hollywood Sheriff's Station representatives to return to the Commission with information regarding use of force policies for a more substantive discussion.

Commissioner Sol asked if these questions are in place of the Commission's recommendations on community engagement.

Staff said that these questions are in addition to the Commissioners' recommendations.

Commissioner Williams spoke against making any cuts to Sheriff's personnel and reminded all that West Hollywood's population triples in the daytime as well at night time, residents are continually requesting additional Deputies, and unfortunately many are not aware of the programs that the City and the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station partner on presently.

Commissioner Balbone spoke in support of getting more information on training and re-training on use of force incidents and what discussions happen after use of force incidents.

Lieutenant Moulder said that training information can be included in the report back to the Commission.

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

Mr. Gibson reviewed the monthly reports from October 2020, including pedestrian assistance, crosswalk assistance, homeless issues, and park patrols.

Commissioner Williams asked for more information regarding Plummer Park and said that many residents heading to the park are not wearing masks. Commissioner Williams thanked Block by Block for the work they are doing as unarmed security ambassadors and acknowledged that there are no reports of being accosted considering the thousands of contacts they make. Commissioner Williams spoke in support of more traffic enforcement on the east side.

Commissioner Balbone asked if the Security Ambassadors have cold weather uniforms.

Mr. Gibson said that they do have cold weather uniforms.

10. ITEMS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES

None.

11. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Commissioners agreed to begin the December meeting at 6:00 PM. Staff reminded Commissioners that while the Don't Drink and Drive event will not be held in person this year, the Communications Department will be assisting with

community messaging. Staff reminded everyone that the AB1234 training will be held tomorrow.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

13. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioners wished all a Happy Thanksgiving.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 7:33 PM in the memory of Martin Strudler and the 16 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the October meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for December 14, 2020 at 6:00 PM via teleconference.

DocuSigned by:

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Public Safety Commission Chair

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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.)