

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

**MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2021
6:00 P.M.**

VIA TELECONFERENCE

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

The Oath of Office was administered to Alana Roshay by Councilmember Shyne.

4. **ROLL CALL**

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

Commissioners Absent: None

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

5. **ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS**

Commissioner Balbone requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of United States Capitol Police Officers Brian D. Sicknick and Howard Liebengood.

Commissioner Sol requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of Tom LaBonge, Tommy Lasorda, and the 23 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the December meeting.

6. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Commissioner Sol suggested postponing the policing equity discussion until after Councilmembers complete their appointments in February.

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Roshay to amend the January 11, 2021 agenda by tabling the discussion of policing equity, seconded by Chair Laflen, and approved with Commissioner Roshay abstaining.

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Sol to approve the January 11, 2021 agenda, seconded by Commissioner Balbone, and approved with Commissioner Roshay abstaining.

POSTING OF THE AGENDA

The agenda for the January 11, 2021 Public Safety Commission meeting was posted at City Hall, Plummer Park, and the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Sol to approve the December 14, 2020 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Balbone, and approved with Commissioner Roshay abstaining.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Councilmember Erickson congratulated Commissioner Roshay and thanked the Commission and public safety personnel for their hard work.

9. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS

Commissioner Balbone requested that the Commission discuss public safety preparations for the inauguration during the Sheriff's report.

Commissioner Sol welcomed Commissioner Roshay and spoke regarding the Los Angeles Overdose Taskforce meeting on January 15th which she will share with the Commission. Commissioner Sol spoke regarding the Rent Stabilization Division's efforts to educate tenants and landlord on fire extinguishers, fire alarms, and smoke detectors.

Vice-Chair Berger spoke regarding National Human Trafficking Awareness Day and Month, a neighborhood resilience training, and other online training resources.

Commissioner Norton welcomed Commissioner Roshay.

Chair Laflen welcomed Commissioner Roshay.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

10A. PRESENTATION FROM THE PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMISSION

Tai Sunnanon and Elain Polachek, Public Facilities Commissioners, and Helen Collins, Facilities and Field Services Division Manager, provided a presentation on the Public Facilities Commission's purview and the many infrastructure improvement projects underway.

Vice-Chair Berger thanked Commissioners Sunnanon and Polachek for their attendance. Vice-Chair Berger thanked Ms. Collins for her work on the Plummer Park restrooms. Vice-Chair Berger asked who maintains park signage in need of repair.

Ms. Collins said that City staff maintains park signage.

Commissioner Sol spoke regarding lack of face covering enforcement and discourteous behavior at the dog parks and asked for more enforcement. Commissioner Sol spoke regarding door handle enhancements that allow for doors to be opened with one's elbow.

Commissioner Balbone thanked Commissioners Sunnanon and Polachek for their attendance and work on the Plummer Park restrooms. Commissioner Balbone spoke regarding damaged trash cans and the lack of the use of the foot pedals on the Big Belly trash cans.

Ms. Collins said that new trash cans were just delivered to replace the existing, damaged trash cans. Ms. Collins also said that the Big Belly trash cans have a new wrap that gives instructions on how to use the foot pedal.

Commissioner Sunnanon spoke regarding the difficulties with education and enforcement.

Chair Laflen spoke regarding trash left by patrons of businesses from the day before. Chair Laflen spoke regarding the use of blue lights in restrooms in Australia to deter narcotics use.

Ms. Collins reviewed the trash schedule and said that the Facilities & Field Services Division plans to install more Big Belly trash cans.

Vice-Chair Berger asked if the City's parks are under the County's care.

Ms. Collins said that they are all City parks, except that Hart Park technically belongs to the City of Los Angeles, but it is also in the City's care.

Vice-Chair Berger spoke regarding a disagreement at the County Board of Supervisors and Sheriff level regarding park enforcement.

10B. REPORT FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT

Assistant Chief Drew Smith said that approximately 75% of firefighters have participated in the COVID-19 vaccination program so far. Due to the surge and the large numbers of hospitalizations, Chief Smith spoke regarding the partnership between the Los Angeles County Fire Department and area hospitals to care for patients in a triage area until the hospitals can accept the transported patients. Chief Smith reviewed the Fire Department statistics for December 2020, including suppression, rescue, and fire prevention activities.

Commissioner Roshay asked if COVID-19 is impacting calls for service.

Chief Smith said that they are seeing an increase in activity with significant impacts throughout the County.

Commissioner Sol spoke regarding Christmas tree recycling and spoke in support of more large item pick-ups from Athens to remove the trees.

Chief Smith spoke regarding recycling trees via wood-chipper.

Commissioner Williams said that Athens will pick up any trees left on the curb right away and does recycle the trees.

Chair Laflen spoke in support of a tree recycling program.

Commissioner Balbone said that many people leave their stands out since Athens only takes the trees.

Chair Laflen spoke regarding the fire at Sunset and Miller and asked if code compliance followed up with the vacant property.

10C. SHERIFF'S REPORT: MONTHLY REPORT; REIMAGINING POLICING REFORM

Lieutenant Bill Moulder reviewed the crime statistics for December, including calls for service. Lieutenant Moulder said that crime is down in many areas and categories. Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding burglary prevention and homeless outreach operations. Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding the impacts caused by Cookies, including the barrier that was replaced after being moved. Lieutenant Moulder said that the next Los Angeles Cannabis Commission meeting is scheduled for January 21st.

Lieutenant Moulder said that based on the events last week in our Nation's Capital, the Sheriff's Department is prepared, through the inauguration, to respond to any demonstrations, protests, or civil unrest. Sheriff and City staff are working closely with our local, state, and federal law enforcement partners to prepare.

Commissioner Balbone spoke regarding an incident involving persons walking without masks and screaming and intimidating those wearing masks. Commissioner Balbone expressed concern for the response from the Sheriff's Station's dispatcher.

Lieutenant Moulder said that he will follow-up with the Station's Deputies and staff.

Commissioner Roshay asked for additional information regarding face covering enforcement.

Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding the City's education program and how the Sheriff's Department is assisting with education, distributing masks, and issuing administrative citations.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding noncompliance in her neighborhood with face coverings. Commissioner Williams spoke regarding speeding and drivers running stop signs on Lexington, Curson, and Norton.

Lieutenant Moulder said that he would have his traffic Deputies follow-up.

Commissioner Williams asked about a recent response at 7533 Lexington.

Lieutenant Moulder said that there was a death at the location.

Commissioner Roshay asked for additional information about warnings for face covering enforcement.

Lieutenant Moulder said that if constituents immediately put on their masks, they are warned; but if they do not comply, they receive a citation.

Commissioner Roshay asked if citations are tracked.

Lieutenant Moulder said that the City does have an administrative citation tracking system.

Chair Laflen asked if Block by Block Security Ambassadors can write citations.

Staff said that at this time code compliance and Sheriff's Deputies are the only ones authorized to write citations.

Vice-Chair Berger spoke regarding burglaries and asked if there is something that the City can do to educate.

Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding ongoing conversations with West Hollywood businesses about taking precautions, lighting, and reporting activity to the Sheriff's Department immediately.

Commissioner Sol spoke regarding recent robberies and a person who let her know that the Sheriff's Station asked the person to email in the information instead of coming in to do a report. Commissioner Sol asked when more Deputies will be on bike patrol.

Lieutenant Moulder said that he will speak with the Station about doing additional bike patrols and that he would follow-up with the victim of the robbery.

Commissioner Sol spoke in support of the need of more follow-up.

Commissioner Norton asked for more information regarding Sheriff's preparations for possible protests.

Lieutenant Moulder said that the Sheriff's Department is prepared, through the inauguration, to respond to any demonstrations, protests, or civil unrest.

Commissioner Balbone asked for clarification regarding making police reports and assisting victims of crime.

Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding how Deputies take reports and conduct investigations and what types of crimes can be reported online or via phone.

Commissioner Balbone spoke in support of a Deputy responding in person to serious crimes to make people feel safe. Commissioner Balbone emphasized the need to be prepared.

Commissioner Williams spoke in support of being prepared.

Commissioner Balbone spoke in support of being prepared.

Staff and Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding the preparations that law enforcement and staff take to ensure safety during protest events and possible threats.

Commissioner Roshay asked for more information regarding the strategy for the enforcement of face covering enforcement during protests.

Staff said that it is difficult to enforce the health order during protests and/or free speech activities regardless of political party or issue.

Chair Laflen and staff gave a summary of policing equity activities.

Commissioner Roshay asked for clarification on the proposal with the Center for Policing Equity (CPE).

Staff gave a summary and said that the City is waiting to hear from the County if they are able to sign a MOU with CPE. Staff also spoke about plans for community conversations.

Chair Laflen thanked the Sheriff's Department for their response over the past few months.

Commissioner Roshay asked about work plan.

Chair Laflen said that the Commission will consider a work plan in March once Commissioners are appointed or re-appointed.

Commissioner Williams mentioned the request from the Council for Commissioners to submit opinions on Policing Reform and said that she had attended meetings via zoom on CPE, COC, the Board of Supervisors, and CAHOOTS. Commissioner Williams researched other sites such as the Obama Foundation and turned in a full report to the Council.

10D. UPDATE ON IMPACTS FROM COOKIES

Lieutenant Moulder gave an update on mitigation efforts and ongoing coordination with the City of Los Angeles to address nuisance impacts from Cookies during the Sheriff's report.

10E. REPORT FROM BLOCK BY BLOCK SECURITY AMBASSADORS – MONTHLY REPORT

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

Commissioner Williams thanked Mr. Gibson for his hard work.

Commissioner Balbone asked about vaccination plans for Block by Block.

Staff said that the City is waiting to hear if they qualify under Phase 1C or another group.

Commissioner Sol spoke regarding the possibility of signing up with Dodgers Stadium for a future vaccination.

Commissioner Berger asked for additional information regarding the Plummer Park restrooms.

Mr. Gibson spoke regarding the work that the Ambassadors do at the park and servicing the restrooms.

11. ITEMS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES

None.

12. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff spoke regarding parking placards and said that they can be ordered when in person activities begin. Staff explained the need for all Commissioners to reapply to be considered for a Commission or Board in the new online system. Commissioners agreed to begin the February meeting at 6:00 PM.

13. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

14. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Williams welcomed Commissioner Roshay.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 8:30 PM in the memory of United States Capitol Police Officers Brian D. Sicknick and Howard Liebengood, Tom LaBonge, Tommy Lasorda, and the 23 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the December meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for February 8, 2021 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.)