

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

**MONDAY, JULY 12, 2021
7:00 P.M.**

VIA TELECONFERENCE

1. **CALL TO ORDER** at 7:00 PM
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** led by Chair Laflen
3. **OATH OF OFFICE**

The Oath of Office was administered to Danny Roman by Councilmember D'Amico.

4. **ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present: Balbone, Berger, Hallman, Laflen, Oliver, Roman, Roshay

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; Battalion Chief Leland Delaney, Los Angeles County Fire Department; Megan Currier, Community Services Representative, 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**

None.

6. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Roshay to approve the July 12, 2021 agenda, seconded by Commissioner Balbone and approved.

POSTING OF THE AGENDA

The agenda for the July 12, 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 Balbone to approve the May 10, 2021 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Roshay, and approved.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lesa Slaughter, a representative from Cookies Melrose, spoke regarding the various mitigation measures that the business has taken to reduce impacts to the neighborhood.

9. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS

Commissioner Balbone spoke regarding her attendance at the Social Justice Taskforce and a Melrose Action Committee meeting. Commissioner Balbone spoke regarding the work of the Office of the Inspector General and the lack of responsiveness from the Sheriff regarding OIG requests. Commissioner Balbone spoke regarding the Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission meetings where family impact statements are heard and suggested that West Hollywood consider allowing victims of crime speak at Public Safety Commission. Commissioner Balbone spoke regarding recent recommendations made at the Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board regarding domestic violence and recommended supporting those efforts. Commissioner Balbone congratulated Commissioner Roman on his appointment to the Public Safety Commission.

Commissioner Roshay thanked Commissioner Hallman for facilitating the conversation with Connie Rice and welcomed Commissioner Roman. Commissioner Roshay volunteered to be a liaison to the Social Justice Taskforce. Commissioner Roshay reminded all of the upcoming racial justice conversation with Dr. Robin Diangelo on July 28th. Commissioner Roshay spoke regarding her attendance at the City Council sub-committee meetings on homelessness and the recent joint meeting with the Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission.

Vice-Chair Berger thanked Lesa Slaughter for her attendance. Vice-Chair Berger spoke regarding his recent attendance at the City Council sub-committee meetings on homelessness as well as at recent Chamber meetings.

Commissioner Hallman welcomed Commissioner Roman and thanked Commissioner Roshay. Commissioner Hallman spoke regarding comments posted to his Facebook page and said that he is happy to meet with residents on any public safety issue.

Commissioner Oliver thanked Commissioner Hallman and welcomed Commissioner Roman.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

10A. HOMELESS INITIATIVE UPDATE

Commissioners received an update on the City's Homeless Initiative from Elizabeth Anderson, Katie Egan, and Corri Planck with the Strategic Initiatives Division.

Commissioner Roshay spoke regarding state law and third party checks and asked if staff knew if the law would be ongoing. Commissioner Roshay asked whether the current emergency order that allows the acceptance of third party checks for rent would be a long term benefit to renters post the pandemic.

Ms. Planck advised that currently there are advocacy efforts to continue such benefits beyond the pandemic.

Ms. Egan said that the law should remain in place while the eviction moratorium is in place. Ms. Planck said that there are advocacy efforts to extend the law beyond the pandemic.

Commissioner Oliver asked for additional information on positive outcomes and on potential sites for resources.

Ms. Planck spoke regarding the consultants, Abby Arnold and team, who have experience with financing affordable housing, architecture, and community engagement around selecting sites.

Commissioner Balbone asked if the reduction in substance use treatment and residential placements is due to something specific.

Ms. Egan said that she would follow-up and let the Commission know.

Commissioner Roshay asked for additional information regarding the Lease Up LA program by PATH.

Ms. Egan spoke regarding the Lease Up LA program and how it helps to connect clients with available housing and said that more information can be found at leaseupla.org.

Vice-Chair Berger asked if there is a way to increase ways to help clients accept services, for example a hand up instead of a handout. Vice-Chair Berger spoke regarding the importance reaching people in shelters regarding long term housing. Vice Chair Berger asked if there is a correlation between MET's work and the decrease in people experiencing homelessness.

Ms. Egan spoke regarding the ongoing case management services, even after housing. Ms. Egan spoke about how shelter is a pathway to housing and said that a continuum of services is available.

Ms. Planck said that MET is a significant resource for the City and has been able to have tremendous impact on both residents who are housed and people experiencing homelessness. Ms. Planck said that the “in flow” of people into homelessness is significant which is why it is so vital to keep people from falling into homelessness in the first place.

10B. REPORT FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT

Assistant Chief Drew Smith said that his fire personnel are doing well. Chief Smith spoke regarding wildland firefighting and how the Fire Department sends personnel throughout the state and country to assist other agencies. Chief Smith thanked Megan Currier for her work.

Commissioner Roshay asked if there was an increase in calls for service this past 4th of July.

Chief Smith said that he will follow-up and have the information for the Commission next month, but that this July 4th was likely similar to previous years. Chief Smith thanked the community for their support of the Fire Department.

Commissioner Balbone asked if there is a reason for an increase in “unconscious” EMS calls.

Chief Smith spoke regarding the active entertainment districts and the increase in people in the City after the health order restrictions were lifted.

Vice-Chair Berger spoke regarding the recent change by the County to allow for patient transports to certain urgent care locations.

Chief Smith spoke regarding the approved receiving centers.

Commissioner Roshay asked for additional information on the “person sick” category.

Chief Smith said that the “person sick” category refers to an overall complaint of feeling unwell but said that the paramedics do an assessment for the individual to perform clinical intervention in the field when possible.

10C. REPORT FROM BLOCK BY BLOCK SECURITY AMBASSADORS –

Mr. Gibson provided a report on Block by Block Security Ambassador activity for the month of June 2021.

Commissioner Roshay asked for a more geographic breakdown of statistics in the future. Commissioner Roshay asked for additional information on how the Security Ambassadors work with people experiencing homelessness and how everyone stays safe.

Mr. Gibson spoke regarding the wellness checks that the Security Ambassadors perform and how the Security Ambassadors works with the Sheriff's Department.

Vice-Chair Berger asked for additional information regarding the individual who threatened Security Ambassadors with scissors. Vice-Chair Berger asked for additional information on the team's deployment.

Mr. Gibson gave an overview on the deployment.

Chair Laflen spoke in support of improving the deployment of MET when appropriate.

Commissioner Roman thanked Mr. Gibson for the visibility of the bike patrols. Commissioner Roman spoke regarding an incident from the previous week where a dispatcher was unfamiliar with Block by Block and spoke in support of training for dispatchers regarding the various services.

Chair Laflen spoke regarding customer service issues with dispatchers and recommended that people report issues to Lieutenant Moulder.

Commissioner Hallman asked if the teams ride separately more often.

Mr. Gibson said that spreading the teams a little gives more visibility and increases the responsibility among the Security Ambassadors.

10D. SHERIFF'S REPORT – MONTHLY REPORT

Lieutenant Moulder congratulated Commissioner Roman on his appointment.

Lieutenant Moulder said that overall crime in June 2021 is -14% lower than June 2020. While most categories were significantly down, Lieutenant Moulder said that robberies were higher as were grand thefts. Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding a successful Pride weekend. Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding mitigation efforts and coordination with the City of Los Angeles to address nuisance impacts and said that they are still getting

complaints from the neighbors. Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding the data study with the Center for Policing Equity.

Commissioner Balbone asked if there is a reason for the increase in vehicle burglaries in May which then went back down in June.

Lieutenant Moulder said that there is not a specific pattern currently, but that it will continue to be monitored.

Commissioner Balbone spoke regarding higher pedestrian versus vehicle accidents and asked if there is anything that can be done.

Lieutenant Moulder said that with the health order restrictions loosening, more people are out circulating.

Commissioner Balbone spoke regarding an incident with a naked person who was performing lewd acts. Based on her experience calling this issue into the department, Commissioner Balbone asked for additional information on what types of crimes require a citizen to support an arrest vs. when sheriffs can respond independently. Lieutenant Moulder explained that in situations like this, arrests for public indecency and other misdemeanors require a victim by law. He further explained that sheriffs would still respond and address the issue whether the caller remained in the area or not. He also offered to review the details of this situation.

Chair Laflen asked if the dispatcher could take the reporting person's name and phone number and contact them later.

Lieutenant Moulder said that he would follow-up with the dispatchers and speak with them about customer service. Lieutenant Moulder outlined the reasons for dispatchers asking questions when someone calls and said that Deputies respond to many situations that could be life threatening to someone so the more information that they have the better the outcome could be.

Commissioner Hallman spoke regarding a history of complaints with dispatchers and asked Lieutenant Moulder for his assistance to address the issues.

Lieutenant Moulder spoke in support of training new employees properly and the importance of improving customer service at the desk.

Commissioner Roman expressed concern with rotating Sheriff's personnel and asked how long most are assigned to West Hollywood Station.

Lieutenant Moulder said that it is a mixture of Deputies with longer tenure and new Deputies who are training.

Chair Laflen offered to assist Commissioner Roman with learning more about public safety resources available in West Hollywood.

Vice-Chair Berger spoke regarding the importance of MET coordinating with both dispatchers and general patrol. Vice-Chair Berger spoke regarding mail thefts and thanked City staff for sending out tips. Vice-Chair Berger asked if the tips could be shared with the Neighborhood Watch Captains.

Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding mail thefts and how MET monitors the radio for calls where they can assist or be the lead responders.

10E. UPDATE ON IMPACTS FROM COOKIES

Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding mitigation efforts and coordination with the City of Los Angeles to address nuisance impacts and said that they are still getting complaints from the neighbors.

Commissioner Oliver asked if the Los Angeles City Attorney has taken any action and spoke regarding complaints from the neighbors.

Lieutenant Moulder said that the Los Angeles City Attorney's office is aware of the various issues.

10F. REIMAGINING POLICING, PROMOTING EQUITY, MEASURE J, AND COLLABORATION WITH THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

Commissioners received a written update on efforts to address equity in policing. Staff spoke regarding the recent court decision on the constitutionality of Measure J and the Resolution by the City Council to ask the Board of Supervisors to conduct a county wide audit of contracts.

Commissioner Balbone spoke regarding the difficulties between the Office of the Inspector General and Sheriff Villanueva.

Commissioner Roshay asked how long the study from CPE would take.

Staff said that CPE informed the City that it would be at least six months and could be twelve months.

Vice-Chair Berger asked for additional information on why multiple Deputies respond to calls.

Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding why multiple Deputies respond to calls. Staff said that the number of Deputies responding to calls does not affect the billing.

11. NEW BUSINESS

11A. NAMING REQUEST TO RENAME THE WEST HOLLYWOOD LIBRARY IN HONOR OF SUPREME COURT JUSTICE RUTH BADER GINSBERG

Staff spoke regarding the ability to provide comments via an online survey as individuals or as a Commission.

Chair Laflen said that she would respond as an individual via the online survey.

Commissioner Oliver suggested that Commissioners provide comments via the online survey as individuals.

Commissioners agreed to submit any thoughts via the survey as individuals.

11B. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Chair Laflen spoke regarding her time as Chair and the challenges ahead, and she thanked her fellow Commissioners.

ACTION: Motion by Chair Laflen to elect Commissioner Hallman as Chair, seconded by Commissioner Oliver, and the motion failed with Chair Laflen, Commissioner Oliver, and Commissioner Roman voting yes; Commissioner Balbone and Vice-Chair Berger voting no; and Commissioner Hallman and Commissioner Roshay abstaining.

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Roshay to elect Vice-Chair Berger as Chair, seconded by Commissioner Balbone, and the motion was approved with Commissioner Balbone, Vice-Chair Berger, Commissioner Hallman, and Commissioner Roshay voting yes; Chair Laflen voting no; and Commissioner Oliver and Commissioner Roman abstaining.

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Balbone to elect Commissioner Roshay as Vice-Chair, seconded by Commissioner Hallman, and the motion was approved with Commissioner Balbone, Commissioner Hallman, Chair Laflen, and Commissioner Oliver voting yes; Vice-Chair Berger voting no; and Commissioner Roman and Commissioner Roshay abstaining.

Vice-Chair Berger expressed concern for not selecting positions by seniority.

Chair Laflen spoke regarding the importance of diversity and said that it is not a slight on seniority.

Commissioner Oliver agreed with Chair Laflen.

Commissioner Balbone expressed concern about the process and lack of open dialogue among the commissioners before the chair made a motion but said that the results put the Commission in a good spot.

Commissioner Hallman acknowledged that people of color have always been underrepresented across the boards. Commissioner Hallman thanked Chair Laflen for the nomination and said he appreciated the echo of support from his fellow Commissioners.

12. ITEMS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES

None.

13. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff spoke regarding upcoming meeting schedule, including August 9, 2021, September 13, 2021, October 11, 2021, November 8, 2021, and December 13, 2021.

Staff spoke regarding the upcoming racial justice conversation with Dr. Robin Diangelo on July 28th.

14. PUBLIC COMMENTS

West Seegmiller, Sex Workers Outreach Project, thanked the Commissioners and asked to adjourn in memory of Gemmel Moore and Timothy Dean considering the Ed Buck trial beginning.

15. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Balbone requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of Gemmel Moore and Timothy Dean.

Commissioner Roshay thanked her fellow Commissioners for the nomination of Vice-Chair.

Commissioner Oliver spoke in support of keeping Cookies as a standing item on the agenda.

Vice-Chair Berger thanked Mr. Seegmiller for attending the Public Safety Commission and said that he is honored to be serving as the next Chair.

16. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 10:06 PM in the memory of Gemmel Moore and Timothy Dean. The next meeting is scheduled for August 9, 2021 at 6:00 PM via teleconference.

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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.)