

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

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2021
6:00 P.M.**

VIA TELECONFERENCE

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

Commissioners Present: Balbone, Berger, Hallman, Oliver, Roman, Roshay, Soon-shiong

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; Megan Currier, Community Services Representative, Los Angeles County Fire Department; Shea Gibson, Block by Block; Kristin Cook, Public Safety Director

4. **ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS**

None

5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

ACTION: Motion by Balbone to approve the November 8, 2021 agenda, seconded by Vice-Chair Roshay and approved.

POSTING OF THE AGENDA

The agenda for the November 8, 2021 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 Vice-Chair Roshay to approve the November 5, 2021 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Hallman, and approved.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Adam Darvish, resident of West Hollywood, thanked the Public Safety Commissioners for their hard work and spoke regarding the need for added attention to social services and behavioral health support services.

Stephanie Harker, resident of West Hollywood, thanked the Sheriff's Station for their prompt emergency response to assist a neighbor.

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Balbone spoke regarding her recent attendance at the Human Services Commission which discussed the end of the eviction moratorium and how it will impact West Hollywood residents.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9A. CODE ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

Commissioners received an update from Danny Rivas, Code Compliance Manager, regarding code enforcement activities in the City of West Hollywood.

Vice-Chair Roshay thanked Mr. Rivas for the ability to report issues via the City's app.

Commissioner Hallman expressed concern for the cleanliness at the Dylan and asked Mr. Rivas to assist.

Mr. Rivas said that he will follow-up with the property management at the Dylan to address the issues.

Commissioner Balbone asked for clarification regarding enforcement related to the Dockless Mobility Pilot Program and scooters blocking the sidewalk.

Mr. Rivas said that code compliance is no longer involved with the citations for the Dockless Mobility Pilot Program and suggested alerting parking enforcement.

Commissioner Balbone expressed concern for how individuals can get help immediately to facilitate safe passage on sidewalks and asked if there is an average response time to complaints.

Commissioner Roman spoke regarding the need for proper bike lanes and striping in some areas, and he added that individuals on scooters and skateboards ride on the sidewalks due to the lack of proper lanes.

Commissioner Roman said that he is not aware of accidents on the sidewalks.

Vice-Chair Roshay asked if Block by Block Security Ambassadors could assist with reporting and moving scooters out of the way.

Chair Berger asked if Security Ambassadors are able to use the City's app.

Mr. Gibson confirmed that the Security Ambassadors utilize the City's app and said that he would expect Security Ambassadors are already assisting when sidewalks are blocked, but that he would confirm.

Vice-Chair Roshay thanked Mr. Rivas for the recent support from code compliance staff who addressed issues with a vacant property.

Chair Berger asked for clarification regarding signs blocking the right of way.

Mr. Rivas said that the signs are typically commercial and real estate signs.

Chair Berger asked for an update regarding the smoke free housing ordinance.

Mr. Rivas said that there have been no citations yet.

9B. REPORT FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT

Assistant Chief Drew Smith said that fire personnel are doing well. Chief Smith spoke regarding preparations for the upcoming fire weather. Chief Smith spoke regarding recent incidents and calls for service, including rubbish fires. Chief Smith spoke regarding deployments for Halloween and the LA Marathon.

Chair Berger asked if the Fire Department could restart training for residents.

Commissioner Balbone asked about the timing of future courses.

Chief Smith said that he will follow-up on future Sidewalk CPR training and other possibilities.

Staff said that outside locations can be provided.

Commissioner Hallman spoke regarding his experience surviving an apartment fire.

Chief Smith spoke regarding the importance of smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, and exit plans.

Commissioner Hallman asked if there are requirements to inspect for proper smoke detectors.

Chief Smith said that all units are required to be in compliance with the Fire Code which requires them.

Staff said that they will follow-up with Mr. Rivas to confirm.

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

Shea Gibson provided a report on Block by Block Security Ambassador activity for the month of October 2021. Mr. Gibson spoke regarding the Security Ambassadors providing assistance on the Pick Up trolleys and preparation for the eastside kiosk. Mr. Gibson spoke regarding an increase in deployment at Plummer Park.

Chair Berger asked for more information regarding attacks on a Security Ambassador.

Mr. Gibson said that while it is rare, it can happen, and that Security Ambassadors are trained to handle volatile situations.

Commissioner Roman asked why Security Ambassadors do not carry pepper spray or other defensive tools.

Mr. Gibson said that it is not the policy to engage in physical situations.

Commissioner Roman thanked the Security Ambassadors for their excellent customer service.

9D. SHERIFF'S REPORT – MONTHLY REPORT AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Richard Best, West Hollywood Sheriff's Station Volunteer, spoke regarding the Station's social media efforts.

Lieutenant Moulder thanked Richard Best and all the volunteers for their support of the West Hollywood Station. Lieutenant Moulder said that Part I crime is up 28% as compared to October of 2020 but said that 2020 had historically low numbers. Lieutenant Moulder said that overall, Part I crime is up 13% as compared to last year. Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding saturation patrols in the entertainment venues, robbery suppression, pick pocketing operations, and the recent homicide. Lieutenant Moulder said that the Community Impact Team is doing more bike patrols. Lieutenant Moulder said that Halloween and LA Marathon went well with no major issues.

Lieutenant Moulder said that the Golf Tournament was a big success. Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding the upcoming Sheriff's Town Hall on November 16th.

Chair Berger asked Lieutenant Moulder to explain the clearance rate.

Commissioner Oliver asked if there were a reason for the increase in crime on the west side.

Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding the increase in pick pocket thefts on the westside.

Commissioner Balbone asked for additional information regarding the sexual assaults and if there was any additional information about the drink spiking incidents.

Lieutenant Moulder gave some additional information regarding the sexual assaults and operations to address drink spiking.

Commissioner Balbone asked if the City's local venues can assist with preventing drink spiking and/or assaults in the future when individuals have consumed to the point where they are no longer safe.

Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding the work of the Entertainment Policing Team and their work with the local venues on security, safety education, and ways to identify issues in advance in order to intervene.

Commissioner Hallman asked if there is any update on including Hate Crime statistics in the monthly reports.

Lieutenant Moulder said that the 6 month report will include Hate Crime statistics going forward as the investigation of the incidents generally takes longer than the monthly cycle to verify them appropriately.

Commissioner Roman asked about the recent bike patrols.

Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding the recent and continuing bike patrols by the Community Impact Team.

Commissioner Roman asked why Deputies do not walk the neighborhoods and spoke regarding his positive experience growing up with officers walking his neighborhood.

Lieutenant Moulder said he is in favor of foot patrols and said that the City could add it to the contract.

Commissioner Roman clarified he is not proposing the hiring of more police officers and suggested that current officers be redeployed from vehicles to foot patrols.

Vice-Chair Roshay asked if the victims' genders could be shared regarding the sexual assaults offline.

Lieutenant Moulder said that he will follow-up with Vice-Chair Roshay.

Commissioner Hallman spoke in support of augmenting the contract to start a permanent foot patrol program

Commissioner Balbone spoke in support of community policing and having specific assignments for Deputies to get to know the residents better. Commissioner Balbone spoke in support of regular interaction between officers and the community.

Staff spoke regarding the impact of the pandemic limiting regular points of interaction such as Coffee with the COPPS and in person Neighborhood Watch meetings.

Commissioner Oliver inquired as to when in person Public Safety Commission meetings will be allowed.

Staff said that after Council and the Planning and Rent Stabilization Commissions move to in person, other Commissions and Boards will be added.

9E. UPDATE ON IMPACTS FROM COOKIES

Lieutenant Moulder said that they continue to monitor activity around Cookies and said that there were no complaints in October.

9F. REIMAGINING POLICING, PROMOTING EQUITY, MEASURE J / ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION, COLLABORATION WITH THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT COMMISSION, AND THE CENTER FOR POLICING EQUITY STUDY

No update at this time.

9G. WORK PLAN DRAFT DEVELOPMENT AND LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS

Commissioners discussed and made edits to work plan projects.

Vice-Chair Roshay spoke regarding adding the Dockless Mobility Pilot Program and efforts to address climate change.

Commissioner Balbone spoke in support of a sub-committee with Women's Advisory Board and said that it is important to gather all the data to get a better understanding on the population affected.

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Oliver to approve a sub-committee with the Women's Advisory Board and to appoint Vice Chair Roshay and Commissioner Balbone as representatives, seconded by Commissioner Hallman, and approved.

Commissioner Oliver spoke in support of assisting the undocumented community with interactions with law enforcement.

Commissioner Balbone spoke in support of including sex workers.

Chair Berger spoke in support of including people experiencing homelessness.

Commissioner Soon-shiong spoke in support of seeking alternative analyses for data to support the fair treatment for all.

10. ITEMS FROM STAFF

10A. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION CALENDAR

Commissioners reviewed the upcoming schedule of agenda items.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Yola Dore, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding an incident where a scooter nearly struck her at a high speed and the need for addressing the safety of people living with disabilities. Ms. Dore spoke regarding the need for more officers on the eastside in the spirit of community policing.

12. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Oliver spoke regarding the need for bike lanes and proper striping.

Commissioner Balbone thanked Chair Berger, Vice-Chair Roshay, and fellow Commissioners for their collaborative and rewarding work.

Commissioner Hallman spoke in support of the Commissioners' collaborative work.

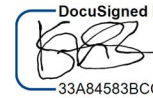
13. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 8:00 PM. The next regular meeting is scheduled for December 13, 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.

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