

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

**MONDAY, MAY 8, 2023
6:00 P.M.**

**West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room - Council Chambers
625 N. San Vicente Boulevard
West Hollywood, CA 90069**

1) CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hallman called the meeting to order at 6:07 P.M.

2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Steve Martin.

3) OATH OF OFFICE

The Oath of Office was administered to Robert Saltzman by Mayor Pro Tempore John Erickson; Joy Freiberg by Councilmember Chelsea Byers; Bill Harrison by Councilmember John Heilman; and George Nickle by Councilmember Lauren Meister.

4) ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present:

Commissioner Freiberg
Commissioner Harrison
Commissioner Nickle
Commissioner Oliver
Commissioner Saltzman
Chair Hallman

Commissioners Absent:

None

Others Present:

Danny Rivas, City Director of Community Safety and Jessica Anukam, City Public Safety Specialist, Assistant Fire Chief Drew Smith, Los Angeles County Fire Department; Sergeant Jason Duron, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Shea Gibson, Operations Manager, Block by Block.

5) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Staff proposes to consolidate Item 12, Items from Commissioners, with Item 8, Commissioner Comments, on the agenda.

Staff also suggests moving Item 10, Items from Staff, up on the agenda to be presented prior to Item 9, Unfinished Business.

ACTION: Approve the Public Safety Commission meeting agenda of May 8, 2023.
Motion by Commissioner Saltzman, seconded by Commissioner Oliver, and approved by the Commission.

POSTING OF THE AGENDA

The agenda for the May 8, 2023, Public Safety Commission meeting was posted at City Hall, Plummer Park, and the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station.

6) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Approve the Public Safety Commission meeting minutes of March 13, 2023.
Motion by Commissioner Oliver, seconded by Chair Hallman, and approved by the Commission.

7) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Steve Martin, West Hollywood, expressed welcoming remarks to the new Commissioners. He also thanked Chair Hallman and Commissioner Oliver for their leadership on the prior Commission meeting study session. He spoke about some important issues the Commission should focus on including adding more Deputies to the Sheriff's Station.

Yola Dore, West Hollywood, congratulated all the newly appointed Commissioners. She also expressed the importance of public safety in the community.

Genevieve Morrill, West Hollywood, gave thanks to Director Rivas, the Public Safety staff, and the Sheriff's Department. She also congratulated all the newly appointed Commissioners and expressed her feelings about the current state of public safety in the community.

8) COMMISSIONER COMMENTS / ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS.

Chair Hallman welcomed all the newly appointed Commissioners. He also went over some general meeting practices with the Commission and spoke about his experience at recent City training events.

Commissioner Oliver welcomed all the newly appointed Commissioners. He also announced his departure and resignation from the Public Safety Commission and passed along some words of advice to the new Commission.

Chair Hallman gave his well wishes to Commissioner Oliver.

Commissioner Nickle shared his experience about some recent training events in the community.

ACTION: Commissioner Nickle motioned to have an item placed on the agenda at the next Public Safety Commission meeting regarding the number of law enforcement Deputies in the City of West Hollywood but the motion was not seconded.

Director Rivas briefly spoke about the upcoming City Council item that will include the semi-annual community safety update in which the topic of law enforcement and other updates on City public safety agencies will be discussed. He also mentioned bringing forth an item at a future meeting to establish the Commission Work Plan.

9) ITEMS FROM STAFF

Director Rivas welcomed all the newly appointed Commissioners and introduced members of staff support for the Public Safety Commission. He provided an update on the partnered public safety agency reports and spoke about recent notable incidents as well as upcoming events occurring in the City.

10) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

10A. REPORT FROM LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT

Assistant Fire Chief Smith gave thanks and welcomed the newly appointed Commissioners. He also gave well wishes to Commissioner Oliver. He reported on the various fire incidents and calls for service in the City for April 2023. He talked about some upcoming City events and provided a brief explanation of the Fire Department's communication with the City and ways to participate in a ride along.

Commissioner Freiberg inquired about the Fire Department's communication with the Block by Block security ambassadors.

Commissioner Nickle spoke about his experience participating in a Fire Department ride along. He also inquired about the upcoming plans scheduled to retrofit fire station # 8, car break ins near the area, and the number of ambulances accessible.

Assistant Fire Chief Smith responded to all the Commissioner's questions and comments.

10B. REPORT FROM LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT

Sergeant Duron introduced himself to the Commission and welcomed the newly appointed Commissioners. He reported on the crime stats for the month of April 2023 which include Part 1 crimes, and he made comparisons with the prior year's crime stats. He spoke about the Special Teams operations, traffic related incidents, and other notable crimes and City community events.

Chair Hallman inquired about the catalytic converter thefts.

Commissioner Freiberg asked more questions regarding catalytic converter thefts and inquired about the Sheriff's communication with the Block by Block security ambassadors as well as their communication with the public.

Commissioner Harrison inquired about a recent incident involving Block by Block security.

Commissioner Saltzman asked about examples when the Sheriff's utilize the assistance of Block by Block.

Victor Omelczenko, West Hollywood, congratulated the newly appointed Commissioners and gave well wishes to Commissioner Oliver who will be departing from the Commission. He thanked the Sheriff's Department for providing the monthly statistics and made suggestions on ways these statistics could be presented for the convenience of the audience so there is more narrative and follow up.

JD, West Hollywood, inquired about data provided in the Sheriff's reports and procedure for calls of service. He also spoke about his personal experience with the Sheriff's Department.

Commissioner Nickle inquired about information that is distributed to the public from the Sheriff's Department and the utilization of a Public Information Officer.

Sergeant Duron responded to all the Commissioner's and public commentators' questions and comments.

10C. REPORT FROM BLOCK BY BLOCK SECURITY AMBASSADOR PROGRAM – MONTHLY REPORT

Shea Gibson, Block by Block Operations Manager, gave an update on the February through April 2023 monthly reports and their focus on recruitment and training. He spoke about their attendance at recent community meetings and went over some

notable incidents that occurred during the reported months. He gave a brief explanation of Block by Block's role in the community and the services they provide.

Chair Hallman inquired about the Block by Block safety escorts and asked for clarification on the Security Ambassadors' purpose and function in the community.

Commissioner Saltzman inquired about the Security Ambassador trainings and the ordinance related to security riding their bikes on the sidewalks.

Commissioner Nickle asked about a recent public incident that occurred involving Block by Block Security Ambassadors and how it could have been better handled. He also asked about the steps they take with homeless outreach.

Commissioner Harrison asked about how the Security Ambassadors handle scooters found on the sidewalks and scooter riders.

Commissioner Freiberg asked about the trainings for all the newly hired Security Ambassadors. She also inquired about the Ambassadors' efforts to help the community recognize them and their communication with the Sheriff's Department.

Shea Gibson responded to all the Commissioner's questions and comments.

11) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Victor Omelczenko, West Hollywood, expressed his agreement with Commissioner Nickle's earlier attempt and motion to agendaize an item regarding law enforcement Deputies and the Commission's involvement in reviewing public safety budgets.

Danny Hang, West Hollywood, congratulated all the newly appointed Commissioners and spoke about his experience working with Commissioner Freiberg. He also thanked all the public safety agencies for their reports and provided great feedback to Block by Block for their work in the community. He wished everyone a happy AAPI and Senior Month.

JD, West Hollywood, expressed the importance of protection when walking down the street. He also talked about the reported data presented earlier in the evening and the process of which people obtain a police report during a reported incident.

12) ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 8:00 P.M. to its next regular meeting on June 12, 2023.

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Public Safety Commission Chair

DocuSigned by:
Jessica Anukam
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Public Safety Commission Secretary

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.)