

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

**MONDAY, JUNE 12, 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 6:04 P.M.

**2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Saltzman.

**3) OATH OF OFFICE**

The Oath of Office was administered to Adam Eramian and Brandon Blau by Mayor Pro Tempore John Erickson.

**4) ROLL CALL**

**Commissioners Present:**

Commissioner Blau  
Commissioner Eramian  
Commissioner Freiberg  
Commissioner Harrison  
Commissioner Nickle  
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, Lieutenant Fanny Lapkin and Sergeant Jason Duron, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, and Shea Gibson, Operations Manager, Block by Block.

#### 5) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**ACTION:** Approve the agenda of June 12, 2023. **Motion by Commissioner Saltzman, seconded by Commissioner Harrison, and approved by the Commission.**

#### 6) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**ACTION:** Approve the minutes of May 8, 2023. **Motion by Commissioner Harrison, seconded by Commissioner Saltzman, and approved by the Commission.**

#### 7) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Hallman welcomed Commissioner Blau and Commissioner Eramian to the Public Safety Commission.

Steve Martin, West Hollywood, expressed welcoming remarks to the new Commissioners and spoke about the importance of free speech and safety precautions for community events.

Danny Hang, West Hollywood, congratulated the newly appointed Commissioners.

#### 8) COMMISSIONER COMMENTS / ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS.

Chair Hallman asked for the Commissioner's opinion of the placement of Commissioner Comments/Items From Commissioners section on future agendas.

Commissioner Freiberg provided her opinion of why the Commissioner's section should be placed near the end of the agenda.

Director Rivas reminded the Commissioners to speak closely into their microphones when speaking.

**ACTION:** Move Item 8, Commissioner Comments / Items From Commissioners to be placed after the second Public Comment item and prior to Adjournment on the agenda. **Approved unanimously by the Commission.**

Chair Hallman briefly explained the Commission's meeting practice for questions and comments during the agency report items.

## **9) UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **9A. REPORT FROM LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT**

Chief Smith welcomed the newly appointed Commissioners and provided a brief introduction of himself and the fire stations that serve the West Hollywood community. He reported on the various fire incidents and calls for service in the City for the month of May 2023. He also provided some updates from the recent West Hollywood Pride events.

Commissioner Freiberg inquired about an arson fire that occurred in May and requested if a key sheet for all the fire department's incident terminology could be provided.

Commissioner Nickle spoke about his experience participating in a Fire Department ride along and gave his thanks.

Commissioner Harrison asked about the comparison of Pride events over previous years.

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

### **9B. REPORT FROM LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT**

Sergeant Duron introduced himself to the Commission, welcomed the newly appointed Commissioners, and provided a brief overview of the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station. He reported on the crime stats for the month of May 2023 which included calls for service, number of arrests, and Part 1 Crime comparisons with the prior year. He also spoke about an upcoming catalytic converter etching event and some notable incidents that occurred for the month of May 2023.

Commissioner Eramian gave thanks to the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station for their service. He also inquired about the difference between "Calls for Service" and "Observations" on the monthly Sheriff's report.

Commissioner Blau asked about highlights on the recent Pride events and its comparison to previous years. He also inquired about specific incidents that occurred during the Pride weekend.

Commissioner Freiberg asked some questions regarding standard Sheriff's protocol, volunteer programs, and how notifications get out to the public. She also shared a story involving a friend that needed a Sheriff Deputy or Block by Block escort for assistance.

Commissioner Blau inquired about helicopter services through the Sheriff's contract.

Commissioner Nickle inquired about the recent arrests made at the West Hollywood Pride event and to clarify any misinformation that was provided in the media.

Commissioner Eramian inquired about the status of the recent pet poisoning incidents.

Commissioner Harrison asked about the Sheriff's body camera footage during an incident and when it is made available to the public.

Chair Hallman spoke about his experience with the recent Pride events and thanks to the Sheriff's Department for their work.

Kevin Burton, West Hollywood, welcomed the newly appointed Commissioners and spoke on the behalf of the West Hollywood Bicycle Coalition about their ongoing requests for data reports for bicycle/pedestrian/scooter collisions with vehicles and collisions on sidewalks. He also requested the addition of reporting for data on citations given to bicycle and scooter riders.

Lynn Russell, West Hollywood, provided her thoughts about the experience shared by Commissioner Frieberg and gave feedback to the Sheriff's Department. She also shared her own personal experience involving a call to the Sheriff's Department.

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

### **9C. REPORT FROM BLOCK BY BLOCK SECURITY AMBASSADOR PROGRAM – MONTHLY REPORT**

Shea Gibson, Block by Block Operations Manager, spoke about the recent semi-annual public safety update that was brought to the City Council in May and the walk-along with Commissioner Nickle to answer questions on the Security Ambassador's daily routines. He also mentioned the recent recruitment and training of new hires and provided some highlights from the recent Pride events.

Commissioner Saltzman inquired about the "Response Times" data from the May 2023 reporting that was provided.

Commissioner Nickle thanked Mr. Gibson for their recent Security Ambassador walk-along, shared his experience during that outing, and spoke about some notable responsibilities of Block by Blocks roles.

Commissioner Freiberg inquired about the data reported on unhoused residents and the Ambassador's visits to senior housing facilities. She also revisited a personal story from earlier in the meeting that involved the assistance from the Security Ambassadors and gave thanks for their service.

Lynn Russell, West Hollywood, expressed her opinions about the sense of urgency during calls for service from the Sheriff's Department and Block by Block Security Ambassadors.

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

## **10) ITEMS FROM STAFF**

Director Rivas congratulated and welcomed all the newly appointed Commissioners. He introduced members of staff that support the Public Safety Commission and thanked all the partnered public safety agencies as well as City staff for their assistance during the recent Pride events. He also provided an overview of upcoming items that will be presented in future Public Safety Commission meetings.

Commissioner Blau asked about adding items to the Public Safety Work Plan.

Commissioner Freiberg inquired about the Public Safety Work Plan.

Director Rivas responded to all the Commissioner's questions and comments.

## **11) PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Cesar Barrios, West Hollywood, congratulated the newly appointed Commissioners and provided some suggestions for the Public Safety Commission and the Public Safety agencies to consider regarding information sharing and response times.

## **12) COMMISSIONER COMMENTS / ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS.**

Chair Hallman spoke about his experience during the recent Pride events in West Hollywood and in Los Angeles. He also thanked everyone involved in the work of putting on the Pride events.

Commissioner Harrison expressed his feelings attending the Pride events and thanked everyone for their hard work in putting it all together.

Commissioner Nickle spoke about his Pride weekend experiences and thanked all the hardworking individuals that helped during the events.

Commissioner Saltzman spoke about the great turnout from the Pride weekend festivities and also thanked all people involved that helped. He briefly talked about his meetings with Captain Moulder and other members from the Sheriff's Department; his service with the Public Safety Community Advisory Board at USC; and brought up

some topics to be discussed and possibly added to the agenda for future Public Safety Commission meetings.

Commissioner Blau thanked everyone for the warm welcome onto the Public Safety Commission and thanked all the partnered agencies for all their continued hard work. He inquired about a camera program for resident and commercial business surveillance in the community.

Commissioner Freiberg congratulated the newly appointed Commissioners and made some requests to consider for Block by Block and the Sheriff's Department for escort services during wait times of an emergency call for service. She also thanked everyone for their hard work for the Pride events.

Commissioner Eramian thanked Mayor Pro Tempore Erickson for swearing him into the Commission and expressed his love and gratitude to the City of West Hollywood. He encourages members of the public to continue to speak at the meetings.

Chair Hallman welcomed the full Commission and expressed his excitement of working with everyone.

Director Rivas responded to all the Commissioner's questions and comments.

### 13) ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 7:40 P.M. to its next regular scheduled meeting on July 10, 2023.

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Public Safety Commission Chair

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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.)***