

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

**Monday, February 12, 2024  
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 6:02 P.M.

**2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Blau led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3) ROLL CALL**

**Commissioners Present:**

Commissioner Blau  
Commissioner Eramian  
Commissioner Freiberg  
Commissioner Nickle  
Vice Chair Saltzman  
Chair Hallman

**Commissioners Absent:**

Commissioner Harrison

**Others Present:**

Danny Rivas, City Director of Community Safety; Anita Shandi, City Public Safety Manager; Jessica Anukam, City Public Safety Specialist; Assistant Fire Chief Drew Smith, Los Angeles County Fire Department; Lieutenant Fanny Lapkin, Sergeant Jason Duron, Sergeant Matt Davis, and representatives from Contract Law Enforcement Bureau, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Erica Leon, General Manager, Block by Block.

#### 4) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**ACTION:** Approve the agenda of February 12, 2024. **Motion by Vice Chair Saltzman, seconded by Commissioner Nickle and approved by the Commission.**

#### 5) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**ACTION:** Approve the minutes of January 8, 2024. **Motion by Vice Chair Saltzman, seconded by Commissioner Blau and approved by the Commission.**

#### 6) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Nicholas Roybal, West Hollywood, thanked the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and expressed his safety concerns with vacant lots in the City. He also inquired about how public safety information can be better distributed to the City's Eastside residents.

Michael Wojtkielewicz, West Hollywood, expressed his discontent with decisions made by the West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation (WHCHC) and the City.

Jason Batish, West Hollywood, shared his personal experience and concerns about safety at his residence.

#### 7) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

#### 8) NEW BUSINESS

##### **8A. REPORT FROM LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT**

Chief Smith reported on fire activity for December and January, including the number of total fires reported, emergency medical service runs, hazardous materials calls, regular service calls, and good intent calls. Chief Smith also detailed some notable fire incidents and briefly spoke about rubbish and arson fires.

Commissioner Blau inquired about a recent electrical fire and asked other questions about electrical and housefires.

Commissioner Nickle inquired about the recent fire on Genesee Avenue and asked other questions about rubbish fires.

Commissioner Eramian asked about dumpster locks and the status of the fire signal outside Fire Station # 8.

Commissioner Freiberg asked if there have been City policy changes regarding vacant properties.

Michael Wojtkielewicz, West Hollywood, read an article from WeHo Times to point out some concerns with prior building code violations with WHCHC buildings.

Chief Smith and Director Rivas responded to all the Commission's questions and comments.

## **8B. REPORT FROM BLOCK BY BLOCK SECURITY AMBASSADOR PROGRAM – MONTHLY REPORT**

Erica Leon, General Manager of Block by Block, provided January 2024 reports regarding business contacts, unhoused contacts, and calls for service the program addressed when compared to 2023. She noted various areas in the City that saw a rise in unhoused community member related issues due to the colder weather. Erica also spoke about their recent collaboration with the Be Alive organization that provided Narcan training to the ambassadors. She shared the skills learned from that training which were used two weeks later by ambassadors who administered two doses of Narcan that saved the lives of community members. Erica concluded by mentioning their focus on social service referrals, upcoming sensitivity LGBTQ+ training, assistance with vacant properties, and an update on the ambassadors that will be hired and assigned to the restrooms at Plummer Park and West Hollywood Park 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Commissioner Blau suggested reporting on some specific data for the monthly reports and inquired about the data presented in the January report.

Vice Chair Saltzman requested the ambassadors be reminded to obey traffic related rules when operating vehicles and bicycles.

Commissioner Eramian inquired about the data presented in the January report and requested specific data for future reports.

Chair Hallman asked about the foot patrols for the area South of Santa Monica Boulevard.

Michael Wojtkielewicz, West Hollywood, expressed his displeasure with Block by Block.

Nicholas Roybal, West Hollywood, thanked Chair Hallman for inquiring about patrols South of Santa Monica Boulevard. He also requested Block by Block provide a map of the ambassador patrols in the City.

Erica Leon and Director Rivas responded to all the Commission's questions and comments.

### **8C. REPORT FROM LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT**

Sergeant Duron reported on the January crime stats, including calls for service, number of arrests, response times, stats for Part 1 crimes, theft, and traffic-related incidents. Sergeant Duron also highlighted notable incidents that occurred in the City last month.

Commissioner Nickle inquired about a recent scooter related accident, burglaries near Rangely Avenue and Dorrington Avenue, and the status of the recruitment of the Public Information Officer at the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station.

Sergeant Davis provided information related to traffic incidents and answered the Commission's questions about scooters.

Vice Chair Saltzman thanked the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department for their service and asked questions about the monthly reports and an audit report conducted on body cameras.

Chair Hallman asked about scooter rider requirements and a recent incident on Formosa Avenue.

Commissioner Freiberg asked questions about the deputy recruitment process.

Commissioner Eramian responded to a previous question about scooter requirements and asked about the recent incident at Bank of America.

Sergeant Duron, Sergeant Davis, Lieutenant Lapkin, and Director Rivas responded to all the Commission's questions and comments.

### **8D. LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT CONTRACT**

Director Rivas thanked and introduced representatives from the Contract Law Enforcement Bureau who spoke about the current law enforcement contract with the City and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

Acting Captain Andrew Cruise, Lieutenant Eric Martinez, Sergeant Mina Chow, and Sergeant Keith Ho gave a presentation regarding the Sheriff's Department contract with the City.

The Commission asked questions about the data shared from the presentation.

Director Rivas provided additional data from the Sheriff's Department contract.

The Commission had a lengthy discussion about the Sheriff's Department contract, focusing on the number of deputies currently servicing the City. There was discussion amongst the Commission about whether suggesting to the City Council to request more deputies would be ideal. Some Commissioners wanted more time and information before providing their recommendations. The Commission requested some follow-up data for further review and asked if the item could be placed on the agenda for discussion next month.

The Contract Law Enforcement Bureau representatives and Director Rivas responded to all the Commission's questions and comments.

## **8E. DISCUSS THE JUNE AND NOVEMBER 2024 COMMISSION MEETING DATES**

Director Rivas informed the Commission that their June and November meetings would have to be canceled or rescheduled due to a schedule conflict.

The Commission agreed that staff should look for alternative dates to reschedule these meetings.

## **9) ITEMS FROM STAFF**

Manager Shandi provided updates to the Commission which included an upcoming Public Safety Appreciation event, the City's code enforcement pilot multi-family inspection program, test strips for nightlife venues, and details on other City events occurring in the coming months.

## **10) PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

## **11) COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Blau inquired about the City's upcoming code enforcement pilot inspection program.

Chair Hallman provided some more information about the intent of the code enforcement pilot inspection program and shared some community engagements he participated in.

Commissioner Nickle shared some community engagements he participated in.

Commissioner Eramian expressed his disappointment that there were no public attendees at the Public Safety Commission meeting.

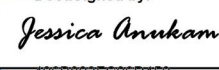
Manager Shandi and Director Rivas responded to all the Commissioner's questions and comments.

## 12) ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 9:53 P.M. to its next regular meeting on March 11, 2024.

DocuSigned by:  


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Public Safety Commission Chair

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Public Safety Commission Secretary

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<https://www.weho.org/city-government/wehotv>**

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