

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

**Monday, June 17, 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 6:08 P.M.

2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Eramian led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3) OATH OF OFFICE

The Oath of Office was administered to Stephen Post by Mayor John Erickson.

4) ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present:

Commissioner Blau
Commissioner Eramian
Commissioner Freiberg
Commissioner Harrison
Commissioner Nickle
Commissioner Post
Chair Hallman

Commissioners Absent:

None.

Others Present:

David Wilson, City Manager; Danny Rivas, City Director of Community Safety; Anita Shandi, City Public Safety Manager; Jessica Anukam, City Public Safety Specialist; Captain Bill Moulder, Sergeant Jason Duron, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Erica Leon, General Manager, Block by Block.

5) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION: Approve the agenda of June 17, 2024.

The motion was made by Commissioner Harrison, seconded by Commissioner Blau, and approved by the Commission.

6) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Approve the minutes of May 13, 2024.

The motion was made by Commissioner Blau, seconded by Commissioner Nickle, and approved by the Commission.

7) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mikie Friedman, West Hollywood, shared concerns regarding pedestrian safety.

Daniel Berilla, West Hollywood, spoke about his experience during a robbery in West Hollywood and voiced his concerns about public safety in the City.

Matthew Broughton, West Hollywood, spoke about his experience during a robbery in West Hollywood and voiced his concerns with public safety in the City.

Enrique Quintero, West Hollywood, spoke about his experience during a robbery in West Hollywood and voiced his concerns about public safety in the City.

Nik Roybal, West Hollywood, empathized with the three previous speakers and expressed his concerns about public safety in the City. He also inquired about the placement of cameras at the fire station 7.

8) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

9) NEW BUSINESS

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

Manager Shandi informed the Commission that representatives from the Fire Department could not attend the meeting because they were assisting with the Post fires in Gorman, California. Based on the reports submitted to the City by the Fire Department, she provided a brief fire report for May 2024.

9B. REPORT FROM BLOCK BY BLOCK SECURITY AMBASSADOR PROGRAM – MONTHLY REPORT

Erica Leon, General Manager of Block by Block, provided the May 2024 reports, including the number of business contacts, unhoused contacts, and calls for service. She also mentioned the increase in calls not related to Security Ambassadors. Erica spoke about the recent Pride events, their partnership with the Sheriff's Station Special Team and Health Care in Action organization, and the addition of an additional security kiosk. She provided her sympathies to the victims who spoke about their experience with a recent robbery, and she shared ways that Block by Block can serve the community.

Commissioner Eramian inquired about the Ambassador's assigned deployments along the City's high-traffic areas and the safety escorts.

Commissioner Nickle asked about the Ambassador's protocol during a situation such as a robbery.

Commissioner Blau asked about the estimated amount of time the Ambassadors spend on the various streets.

Commissioner Harrison asked about the size of the designated areas that the Ambassadors oversee on their patrols.

Mikie Friedman, West Hollywood, spoke about her concerns about the visibility of the Security Ambassadors in some areas of the City.

Daniel Berilla, West Hollywood, asked about the protocol of the Security Ambassadors during a dangerous situation and suggested more promotion of Block by Block services. He also expressed his thoughts about the Security Ambassadors.

Enrique Quintero, West Hollywood, expressed his thoughts about the Security Ambassadors and provided suggestions after a recent robbery he was involved in.

Melena Kozlova, West Hollywood, asked about the best process of calling in to report an incident and the expectation for wait times on non-emergency calls.

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

9C. REPORT FROM LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT

Sergeant Duron reported on May 2024 crime stats, including calls for service, emergency responses, and the number of arrests. He also provided stats for Part 1 Crimes, theft, and pickpocketing categorized by City regions. He highlighted activity during the West Hollywood Pride events and other notable crimes in May 2024.

Commissioner Eramian asked about the calls for service data related to connecting with the Mental Evaluation Team, response times, online incident reports, and an alleyway near several businesses that need cleaning.

Commissioner Nickle inquired about the assault and robbery data from the report and a recent incident in the City.

Captain Moulder addressed members of the public who came to speak about their experiences during a robbery so that he could connect with the individuals later.

Nik Roybal, West Hollywood, asked about the increase in crime data from the report.

Steve Martin, West Hollywood, made suggestions to the questions about response times and the alley clean-up. He also thanked the previous commenters who shared their experience during a robbery and spoke about volunteering at the West Hollywood Sheriff Station.

Daniel Berilla, West Hollywood, thanked Captain Moulder and the Sheriff's Department. He also expressed his thoughts regarding the robbery he was involved in and the handling of the incident.

Enrique Quintero, West Hollywood, expressed his feelings regarding the robbery he was involved in and the handling of the incident.

Chair Hallman asked about the Sheriff's Department protocol and etiquette when people call to report an incident.

Sergeant Duron and Captain Moulder responded to all the Commission's questions and comments.

9D. FIVE-YEAR MUNICIPAL LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES AND THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

Director Rivas introduced City Manager David Wilson to provide an update on the five-year municipal law enforcement services agreement.

City Manager Wilson briefly reviewed the current service agreement between the County of Los Angeles and the City of West Hollywood, which expires at the end of June 2024. He also mentioned the changes to the new agreement, which will go to the City Council for review and consideration of approval at the June 24 City Council Meeting.

Commissioner Nickle inquired about the purchases of new vehicles for Sheriff's Deputies who were subsequently hired back to the West Hollywood Station.

9E. PROPOSED POLICIES FOR THE USE OF PUBLIC SAFETY EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY SAFETY

Director Rivas, Captain Moulder, and Sergeant Duron provided a detailed overview and presentation of the proposed draft policies for three technological community safety enhancements: the use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), also known as drones, Real-Time Fixed Camera Systems, and a Real-Time Watch Center to be utilized by the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station.

The Commission had a lengthy discussion with questions and recommendations about the proposed draft policies and technological enhancements.

Steve Martin, West Hollywood, provided feedback and suggestions on the proposed draft policies.

Director Rivas informed the Commission that the proposed draft policies will be presented to the City Council for review, recommendations, and consideration for approval. In addition, Director Rivas informed the Commission that all of their comments and inquiries would be summarized and reflected within the staff report that is presented to the City Council.

Captain Moulder, Sergeant Duron, and Director Rivas responded to all the Commission's questions and comments.

10) ITEMS FROM STAFF

Manager Shandi provided updates, including the upcoming National Night Out event on August 6th, highlights from West Hollywood Pride, the upcoming Commission elections for a new Chair and Vice Chair, forthcoming Commission meeting agenda items, and the Commission meeting schedule update.

11) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Steve Martin, West Hollywood, discussed the expected changes to Fountain Avenue and how they may affect emergency service vehicles.

12) COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

A motion was made by Commissioner Blau to recommend to the City Council to direct staff to provide updates to the Commission bi-monthly to include operational metrics and benefits along with other information.

Director Rivas explained to the Commission that staff will follow up with the City Clerk to get clarification and approval on the feasibility of the motion request to include other information outside of operational metrics and benefits.

The motion was made by Commissioner Blau, seconded by Commissioner Frieberg, and approved by a 4-3 roll call vote.

A motion was made by Commissioner Freiberg to request records covered under Senate Bill 1421, Right To Know Act, be provided to the Public Safety Commission bi-annually.

Director Rivas explained to the Commission that staff will follow up with the City Clerk to get clarification and approval on the feasibility of the motion request to ensure the item falls under the purview of the Commission. He also referred to the Sheriff's Department's website for related information that members of the community have access to.

The motion was made by Commissioner Freiberg, seconded by Commissioner Post, and approved by a 4-3 roll call vote.

Commissioner Eramian thanked all the public speakers who shared their stories.

Chair Hallman asked to review the Commission bylaws.

Director Rivas said that staff can email the Commission a copy of the most recent Commission bylaws.

Commissioner Harrison confirmed with Director Rivas that staff will receive clarification on the two motion requests before moving forward.

Commissioner Freiberg congratulated the newly appointed Commissioner Post on the appointment and thanked all the public safety partners and all the public speakers who shared their experiences.

Chair Hallman thanked the public speakers who shared their stories and welcomed the newly appointed Commissioner Post.

13) ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 9:39 P.M. to its next regular meeting on July 22, 2024.

DocuSigned by:


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Public Safety Commission Chair

DocuSigned by:


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Public Safety Commission Secretary

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

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