

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

**Monday, August 19, 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 Eramian called the meeting to order at 6:04 P.M.

**2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Hallman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3) ROLL CALL**

**Commissioners Present:**

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

**Commissioners Absent:**

Commissioner Freiberg

**Others Present:**

Danny Rivas, City Director of Community Safety; Anita Shandi, City Public Safety Manager; Jessica Anukam, City Public Safety Specialist; David Fenn, City Senior Long-Range Planner; Assistant Fire Chief Drew Smith and Battalion Chief Kevin Price, Los Angeles County Fire Department; Lieutenant Fanny Lapkin, Sergeant Jason Duron, Detective Manny Cortez, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Erica Leon, General Manager, Block by Block.

#### **4) APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**ACTION:** Approve the agenda of August 19, 2024.

Manager Shandi requested that item 8D, LA Metro K Line Extension Update, be moved up the agenda to start the New Business reports. She also requested that item 8B, Report From the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, be moved down the agenda to be followed by item 8E, Hate Crimes Presentation.

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

#### **5) APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**ACTION:** Approve the minutes of July 22, 2024.

**The motion was made by Vice Chair Harrison, seconded by Commissioner Nickle, and approved by the Commission.**

#### **6) PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Louise E. Smith, West Hollywood, introduced herself as the liaison from the City's Disability Advisory Board. She spoke about the recent National Night Out events, inquired about community earthquake safety training, thanked the Fire Department for assistance during a fall, and talked about pedestrian sidewalk safety.

Steve Martin, West Hollywood, gave thanks and spoke well of the recent National Night Out events. He also spoke about the importance of earthquake preparedness and his sentiments about the upcoming changes that will take place on Fountain Avenue regarding public safety.

Nik Roybal, West Hollywood, thanked Steve Martin and spoke well of the recent National Night Out events. He also shared his concerns about delivery robots and their impact on public safety.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

#### **8) NEW BUSINESS**

##### **8A. LA METRO K LINE EXTENSION UPDATE**

David Fenn, a Senior Planner from the City's Long-Range Planning Division, provided a brief update on the status of the extension plans, including the submission deadline for public comment on the proposed project.

Commissioner Nickle inquired about the optional extension route for the project.

Commissioner Hallman asked if it would be an underground extension and the tentative start date of the project.

David Fenn responded to all the Commission's questions and comments.

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

Assistant Chief Smith introduced Battalion Chief Kevin Price to the Commission and reported on the July 2024 fire report, which includes updates on the local Fire Department's assistance with various wildfire calls, the number of total fires, medical calls, hazardous condition calls, service calls, and good intent calls. He also spoke about a recent structure fire, earthquake preparedness, and updates from National Night Out.

Commissioner Blau inquired about details on the upcoming CERT training and if the Fire Department has been involved with the City's Fountain Avenue project.

Manager Shandi provided information on the upcoming CERT training.

Commissioner Nickle also asked if the Fire Department was aware of the Fountain Avenue project.

Steve Martin, West Hollywood, spoke about overall traffic concerns with the Fountain Avenue project that may impact emergency responders and Fire Department vehicles.

Nic Roybal, West Hollywood, spoke about the concern of no cameras outside Fire Stations 7 and 8. He also asked about the Fire Department's involvement with the delivery robots.

Chair Eramian asked about a gas-related incident on La Cienega Boulevard.

Assistant Chief Smith and Battalion Chief Price responded to all the Commission's and public's questions and comments.

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

Erica Leon, General Manager of Block by Block, provided the July 2024 reports, including the number of business contacts, unhoused contacts, and calls for service.

She also mentioned the increased activity related to the recent National Night Out and CicLAvia events and the increased calls for security escorts. Manager Leon recognized the work of individual Security Ambassadors who greatly handled the response to emergency incidents.

Commissioner Blau inquired about the assessment of the 24/7 access to bathrooms at West Hollywood Park and the Security Ambassador's utilization of the City application to place calls and reports.

Vice Chair Harrison asked what practices are in place after a Security Ambassador deals with a traumatic situation.

Cesar Barrios, West Hollywood, spoke about his concerns of the Security Ambassadors data.

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

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

Sergeant Duron reported on July 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 mentioned that the new Sheriff Online Reporting and Tracking System (SORTS) and Mental Evaluation Team (MET) data had been added to the monthly reports and provided brief details on July's data. He also spoke about the West Hollywood Station volunteers, the recent CicLAvia and National Night Out events, and some notable City incidents.

Commissioner Hallman asked about the Sheriff's Department protocol for dealing with individuals who may have ingested a tampered drink and the customer service provided to members of the public who make reports to the Sheriff's Station.

Chair Eramian asked additional questions regarding the protocol for tampered drinks.

Commissioner Nickle asked about the Deputy involved shooting that occurred on Gardner Street. He also asked about the next Community Academy training.

Commissioner Post agreed with the idea of a victim advocate program within the Sheriff's Station. He also asked additional questions regarding the recent Deputy involved shooting.

Vice Chair Harrison asked about the increased scooter data provided in the monthly report.

Commissioner Blau suggested creating a post on how members of the public can file a report with the Sheriff's Station.

Nik Roybal, West Hollywood, agreed with Commissioner Hallman's comments and suggested including Security Ambassadors to help navigate the process of seeking help and filing a report. He also asked if delivery robots could be cited and if there would be consequences if the robots did not follow lawful orders.

Louise E. Smith, West Hollywood, inquired about specific citation data regarding the scooters.

Commissioner Nickle asked for detailed information regarding scooter riders from the citation data.

Sergeant Duron and Lieutenant Lapkin responded to all the Commission's questions and comments.

## **8E. HATE CRIMES PRESENTATION**

Lieutenant Lapkin introduced Detective Manny Cortez, who works for the Major Crimes Bureau on the Hate Crimes Task Force for the Sheriff's Department. He provided a brief presentation about hate crimes and hate incidents and how the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department deals with them.

Commissioner Hallman asked for clarification on the definition between a hate crime and a hate incident.

Commissioner Blau asked if hate incidents are included on an individual's background record.

Commissioner Nickle asked about the number of hate crimes in Los Angeles County.

Chair Eramian inquired about the data that was provided about hate crime statistics.

Steve Martin, West Hollywood, expressed his contentment with the presentation and shared his sentiments about public demonstrations as it relates to hate crimes.

Detective Cortez responded to all the Commission's questions and comments.

## **9) ITEMS FROM STAFF**

Manager Shandi provided Public Safety Division updates, including the recent National Night Out event turnout, an upcoming Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training in September, a CERT Alumni meeting, and a community CPR, first aid, and AED training in October. She also spoke about the turnout for the recent CicLAvia event, the upcoming Halloween event, and the Commission's request for various community response organizations to present at a future Commission meeting.

## 10) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Alan Mispagel, West Hollywood, shared his feelings regarding hate crimes and hate incidents from the earlier presentation on the topic.

## 11) COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Post spoke about his attendance at some of the recent community events and thanked the efforts of all the Public Safety and Emergency partners. He also inquired about the possible joint meeting between the Public Safety Commission and the Transportation Commission to discuss intersecting issues and asked about public engagement to discuss the Sheriff's Department drone program.

Commissioner Nickle spoke about his experience attending the National Night Out events. He also encouraged members of the public to sign up for the upcoming CERT training, and he announced a community meeting about the Fountain Avenue project.

Commissioner Hallman wanted to follow up with the public comment regarding the Security Ambassadors and the reported data to ensure that the information is accurate. He also encouraged everyone to sign up for the upcoming CERT training.

Commissioner Blau provided his feedback on comments that were made about the Fountain Avenue project and also expressed his sentiments on the issue as it pertains to public safety and public engagement.

Chair Eramian shared his experience attending and organizing this year's National Night Out. He also encouraged others to attend the upcoming CERT training and agreed with Commissioner Hallman's request to confirm the Security Ambassador data reports. Lastly, he thanked all the City's public safety partners for their continued support and attendance at the meeting.

Commissioner Harrison shared his experience attending the recent CicLAvia event and thanked everyone who helped put it all together.

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

## 12) ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 8:05 P.M. to its regular meeting on September 23, 2024.

DocuSigned by:  
*Adam Eramian*  
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Public Safety Commission Chair

DocuSigned by:  
*Jessica Anukam*  
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Public Safety Commission Secretary

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

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