

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

**Tuesday, November 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 Eramian called the meeting to order at 6:04 P.M.

**2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mikie Freidman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3) ROLL CALL**

**Commissioners Present:**

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

**Commissioners Absent:**

Commissioner Blau

**Others Present:**

Anita Shandi, City Public Safety Manager; Jessica Anukam, City Public Safety Specialist; Battalion Chief Chad Sourbeer, Los Angeles County Fire Department; Erica Leon, General Manager, Block by Block; Sergeant Jason Duron, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**ACTION:** Approve the agenda of November 12, 2024.

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

#### **4) APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**ACTION:** Approve the minutes of October 14, 2024.

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

#### **5) PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Monica Ianessa, West Hollywood, shared updates on ways her neighborhood and HOA members help prevent crime in their area and thanked the City and other community members for assisting in the efforts to combat crime in the City.

Mikie Freidman, West Hollywood, spoke about the importance of various public safety concerns.

Jonathan Wilson, West Hollywood, asked about the monthly agency reports and requested that additional data be included for clarity.

Stephanie Harker, West Hollywood, expressed her thoughts on attending public meetings frequently to have her voice heard on issues. She also spoke about a recent incident regarding a scooter rider and provided some suggestions for the pending project on Fountain Avenue.

Marwan Jabesh, West Hollywood, shared his experience when he was attacked outside of his hair salon. He spoke about individuals on the street experiencing mental health issues that have had an impact on the operations and safety of his business.

Yola Dore, West Hollywood, spoke to support the previous speaker, who was attacked outside his business on Santa Monica Blvd. and the safety concerns in that area.

#### **6) UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

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

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

Battalion Chief Chad Sourbeer reported on the October 2024 fire report, which includes the number of total fires, medical calls, hazardous condition calls, service calls, and good intent calls. Some of the calls include calls from the recent Halloween event.

Commissioner Hallman inquired about a street closure on Sunset Boulevard earlier in the day due to a fire incident.

Chair Eramian followed up with a request by a public commenter about additional data included in the monthly reports.

Battalion Chief Chad Sourbeer 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 the October 2024 reports, including the number of calls for service, business contacts, and unhoused contacts. She mentioned the activities that made October a busy month, including the AIDS Walk Los Angeles, their partnership with the City's Code Enforcement Division to address the unlawful street vendors on Santa Monica Boulevard, and the Halloween event. Erica also mentioned the upcoming LGBTQ+ sensitivity and Narcan training for the Security Ambassadors. Lastly, she introduced the new Senior Safety Officer pilot program to Plummer and West Hollywood Parks.

Vice Chair Harrison inquired about the capabilities and expertise of the new Senior Safety Officers.

Commissioner Hallman asked if the new officers would wear the same uniforms as the existing Security Ambassadors and what their hours of operation would be. He also asked if the security kiosks could be out on Sundays and asked about the kiosk in the parking lot near La Jolla Avenue and Havenhurst Drive.

Commissioner Nickle inquired about the new Senior Safety Officers and the pilot program.. He also asked about a specific incident involving an individual that Block by Block responded to.

Commissioner Post asked if the new Senior Safety Officers would go to other areas outside the designated parks.

Commissioner Freiberg asked about the number of Senior Safety Officers, the duration of the pilot program, their hours of operation, and whether they can assist in areas other than the parks. She also inquired about Ambassadors being provided safety equipment such as pepper spray to protect themselves.

Chair Eramian inquired about the response times from the monthly report.

Commissioner Hallman asked City staff to send calendar dates to the Commission on the upcoming Ambassador training.

Commissioner Post asked about the security kiosk on Fairfax Avenue and Santa Monica Boulevard and its importance due to the increase in businesses opening up in that area.

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

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

Seargent Duron reported on October 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 and calls to the MET Team. He provided updates on the Barney's Beanery incident, the recent Halloween event, and the operation to address the unlawful street vendors on Santa Monica Boulevard.

Vice Chair Harrison inquired about the individual involved in the Barney's Beanery attack.

Commissioner Nickle asked for an update on the fatal October 10 accident on Spaulding and Fountain Avenue, the burglaries on Doheny Drive and Hammond Street, the incident on Norton Avenue involving juveniles in the neighborhood, and a request for follow-up on the attack outside of the hair salon on Santa Monica Boulevard.

Commissioner Hallman asked about trends related to the recent burglaries near Doheny Drive and Cynthia Street and if there have been increased patrols in that area.

Commissioner Post inquired about the "smash and grab" incident that occurred at The Woods West Hollywood cannabis establishment and theft targeting cannabis businesses in general. He also asked about the passing vote on Proposition 36 and how it will affect retail businesses.

Commissioner Freiberg inquired about the Safer Weho mailers she received from the City and asked for a brief overview of the public safety technological enhancements coming to the City. She also asked about the frequency of the Deputy's patrols and if there was any additional support or resources that the Sheriff's needed to provide public safety to the community.

Commissioner Hallman suggested having multiple meetings to discuss the upcoming technological enhancements to the City.

Stephanie Harker, West Hollywood, asked if there were further discussions about increasing the number of sworn Sheriff and traffic enforcement officers. She also thanked the West Hollywood Sheriff Station.

Commissioner Hallman inquired about the status of hiring new Deputies for the West Hollywood Sheriff Station.

Seargent Duron and Manager Shandi responded to all the Commission's questions and comments.

## **9) ITEMS FROM STAFF**

Manager Shandi provided updates for the Public Safety Division, including an upcoming community active shooter training, highlights from the CERT Alumni meeting, and the Halloween event. She also brought attention to the newly wrapped Security Ambassador kiosks, which were detailed with helpful reference information, and a new kiosk placed at La Jolla Avenue and Havenhurst Drive. She lastly pointed out the City's public safety technological enhancements mailer sent out citywide.

## **10) PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Wendy Goldman, West Hollywood, spoke about the importance of public safety and collaboration with the residents, City, and public safety partners. She also announced an upcoming community meeting for the Cynthia-Sunset Neighborhood Watch group.

## **11) COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Freiberg asked for more information on the prospective Community Safety Officer Program that will be presented to the City Council.

Commissioner Post inquired about the Weho Cares alternative response teams presentation to the Commission.

Commissioner Nickle spoke about attending a community meeting on Doheny Drive to discuss the recent burglaries in the area. He also wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Commissioner Frieberg praised the Block Captain of the Cynthia-Sunset Neighborhood Watch group, Wendy Goldman, for her hard work in the community.

Manager Shandi responded to all the Commission's questions and comments.

## **12) ADJOURNMENT**

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 7:30 P.M. to the next Adjourned Regular Meeting on December 9, 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

**Video and audio of this meeting can be obtained by visiting, <https://www.weho.org/City-government/wehotv>**

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