

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

**Monday, December 9, 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 Post led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3) ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present:

Commissioner Blau
Commissioner Hallman
Commissioner Nickle
Commissioner Post
Chair Eramian

Commissioners Absent:

Commissioner Freiberg
Vice Chair Harrison

Others Present:

Anita Shandi, City Public Safety Manager; Jessica Anukam, City Public Safety Specialist; David Fenn, City Senior Long-Range Planner; Vyto Adomaitis, City Neighborhood and Business Safety Manager; Yessica Benitez and Albert Torres, City Code Enforcement Supervisors; Battalion Chief Sara Rathbun and Fire Captain David Ball, Los Angeles County Fire Department; Erica Leon, General Manager, Block by Block; Lieutenant Fanny Lapkin, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

4) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION: Approve the agenda of December 9, 2024.

Manager Shandi requested that item 8E, Report from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, be moved up the agenda to start the New Business reports.

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

5) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Approve the minutes of November 12, 2024.

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

6) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Adam Darvish, West Hollywood, introduced himself as the Public Safety Commission Liaison from the City's Transportation and Mobility Commission and stated he looked forward to the meeting's agenda.

7) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

8) NEW BUSINESS

8E. REPORT FROM LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT

Lieutenant Lapkin reported crime stats for November 2024, including the number of part 1 and part 2 crimes and their percentages amongst the different City regions. She also discussed adding additional patrols during the holidays and provided safety tips for the community to use especially during the high-peak shopping season. She spoke about the upcoming Public Safety Technology Town Hall Meeting, and provided updates on a recent fatal traffic accident.

Commissioner Nickle asked follow-up questions about the fatal traffic accident and the recent burglaries on the City's west side.

Commissioner Post asked about the approved funding for the technology enhancement programs, the unit orders for the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station, and an update on the report regarding an officer-involved shooting.

Commissioner Blau asked about making a public request to obtain the unit orders for the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station.

Chair Eramian asked if there would be any new changes to the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station protocols regarding arrests as a result of the newly elected District Attorney.

Commissioner Post inquired about changes related to the passing of Proposition 36.

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

8A. WEHO TARGET VISION ZERO – PROPOSED SPEED LIMIT REDUCTIONS

David Fenn, a Senior Planner from the City's Long-Range Planning Division, provided a brief update on the proposed WeHo target vision zero speed limit reductions to gather feedback and recommendations for the City Council in January 2025.

Chair Eramian asked about the determination to categorize and designate street areas as local roads versus business districts. He also expressed his concerns about delayed traffic due to the proposed changes and inquired about the meaning of a "Senior Zone."

Commissioner Blau asked about other traffic calming measures in combination with Target Vision Zero to enhance traffic and public safety. He also inquired about the street designation on some busier traffic routes.

Commissioner Nickle inquired about new signage to inform the public of the speed changes and suggested a review of the data on changes in speed reductions made on Fountain Avenue and improvements.

Commissioner Hallman asked if speed reductions would occur at certain intersections on Fountain Avenue and if there would be other traffic improvements in addition to the speed reduction proposal. He also asked about the street category designation for Fountain Avenue.

Kelly Plarski, West Hollywood resident, spoke in support of the WeHo Target Vision Zero item to propose speed limit reductions in the designated areas.

Jordan Beard, West Hollywood resident, also spoke in support of the WeHo Target Vision Zero item to propose speed limit reductions in the designated areas.

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

8B. NEIGHBORHOOD AND BUSINESS SAFETY DIVISION – CODE ENFORCEMENT OVERVIEW

The City's Neighborhood and Business Safety Manager, Vyto Adomaitis, and Code Enforcement Supervisors, Yessica Benitez and Albert Torres, introduced themselves to the Commission and gave a brief presentation detailing the role of Code Enforcement in the City's Neighborhood and Business Safety Division.

Commissioner Blau spoke about the great work of the City's Code Enforcement team and thanked them for their service to the community.

Commissioner Post inquired about their involvement with business license applications.

Commissioner Hallman asked about staffing numbers of Code Enforcement Officers in the City. He also asked how information is distributed to prospective construction workers in the City to keep them informed about policies such as permit parking.

Commissioner Nickle asked about construction vehicles and the rules for permitted street parking.

Chair Eramian thanked the City's Code Enforcement team for all their hard work.

Manager Adomaitis and Supervisor Benitez responded to all the Commission's questions and comments.

8C. REPORT FROM LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT

Battalion Chief Sara Rathbun introduced Fire Captain David Ball to the Commission and reported on the November 2024 fire report, which includes the number of total fires, medical calls, hazardous condition calls, and service calls. She highlighted the rubbish fire data and notable fire incidents presented in the report and concluded by bringing attention to a red flag warning to the low humidity, high winds, and high probability of wildfires throughout Los Angeles County.

Commissioner Nickle inquired about the fire that occurred at the former IHOP restaurant and the importance of paying attention to vacant properties.

Commissioner Post asked about the incident outside West Hollywood on Highland and Fountain Avenue.

Commissioner Hallman asked if the Fire Department has its own drone program and what guidelines corporations should follow when shutting down and securing operations in a building. He also asked if the City's Communications Department is distributing public communication regarding the warnings of probable wildfires.

Battalion Chief Rathbun, Captain Ball, and Manager Shandi responded to all the Commission's questions and comments.

8D. REPORT FROM BLOCK BY BLOCK SECURITY AMBASSADOR PROGRAM – MONTHLY REPORT

Erica Leon, General Manager of Block by Block, provided the November 2024 reports, including the number of calls for service, business contacts, and unhoused contacts. She spoke about additional patrols to monitor the increase in encampments at Hart Park and the time change of the kiosk at the La Jolla and Hayvenhurst parking lot to provide 24/7 security services. She also mentioned the location change of the Fairfax kiosk, the final LGBTQ+ security training for the year, their partnership with the Be Alive organization for Narcan and harm reduction training, and she praised some of the Security Ambassadors who helped the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station identify the individual responsible for the Barneys Beanery attack and another who called in a report of fire at the former IHOP near the Veterans Memorial Fountain. Erica concluded her presentation with information about the newly implemented Senior Safety Officer Ambassador program that launched at two West Hollywood Parks.

Commissioner Post thanked the Security Ambassadors and commented on the kiosk location change and its effectiveness for the community.

Commissioner Blau inquired about security patrolling areas mentioned in the earlier Fire Department report regarding the red flag warnings for wildfires.

Commissioner Hallman asked if the Security Ambassador highlights of specific incidents could be shared with the community.

Chair Eramian commended the Security Ambassadors who were able to act in the mentioned situations, and he recommended that the City Council recognize the individuals.

Commissioner Nickle suggested that the Security Ambassadors patrol the Veterans Memorial Fountain near the vacant IHOP restaurant.

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

8F. DISCUSS THE FEBRUARY 2025 COMMISSION MEETING DATE

Manager Shandi informed the Commission that the February Commission meeting would need to be canceled or rescheduled due to a joint study session with the City Council and the Planning Commission on the same day.

ACTION: Reschedule the February 24th Commission meeting date to February 10th.

The Commission **unanimously approved** the decision to reschedule the February Commission meeting date.

9) ITEMS FROM STAFF

Manager Shandi provided updates for the Public Safety Division, including the recent community active shooter training, the virtual public safety town hall meeting, and the upcoming in-person town hall meeting regarding the City's Public Safety Technology Enhancements Pilot Program. She also discussed the upcoming Semi-Annual Community Safety Updates that will be presented at the January 21st City Council meeting and the Community Safety Officer Program.

10) PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

11) COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Nickle spoke about his experience attending the recent public safety technology town hall and the active shooter training. He also discussed meeting the new District Attorney and wished everyone happy holidays.

Commissioner Post spoke about the City looking into creating a position as "Director of Nightlife or Night Mayor" to provide additional public safety support during the busy weekend and nighttime hours.

Commissioner Hallman spoke about his experience attending the Cynthia-Sunset Neighborhood Watch meeting. He thanked Wendy Goldman, the Neighborhood Watch Captain, and reminded everyone that public safety is everyone's responsibility and that the community should continue to work together. He also wished everyone happy holidays.

Chair Eramian thanked all the public safety agency partners for all their hard work and wished everyone happy holidays.

12) ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 8:11 P.M. to the next Adjourned Regular Meeting on January 27, 2025.

DocuSigned by:

Adam Eramian

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Public Safety Commission Chair

DocuSigned by:

Jessica Anukam

#96B893FC06D459

Public Safety Commission Secretary

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