

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

**Monday, January 27, 2025
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 Blau led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3) ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present:

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

Commissioners Absent:

None

Others Present:

Danny Rivas, City Community Safety Director; Anita Shandi, City Public Safety Manager; Jessica Anukam, City Public Safety Specialist; Christine Safriet, City Assistant to the City Manager and Acting Human Services Manager; Michelle Liberman, City Social Services Program Administrator; Erica Leon, General Manager,

Block by Block; Lieutenant Fanny Lapkin, Sergeant Jason Duron, Jamie Araki, Law Enforcement Technician, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

4) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION: Approve the agenda of January 27, 2025.

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

5) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Approve the minutes of December 9, 2024.

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

6) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Yola Dore, West Hollywood resident, spoke about the importance of emergency preparedness and the challenges of navigating an emergency situation for those who are disabled.

Mikie Friedman, West Hollywood resident, expressed her concerns about the City's communication efforts during the recent fires and the challenges of navigating an emergency situation for older adults and disabled community members.

Wendy Goldman, West Hollywood resident, provided suggestions and spoke about initiatives that involve the importance of green spaces, investment in community parks in the northwest area of the City, and the need for more community programming.

Louise Smith, West Hollywood resident, spoke on behalf of the Disability Advisory Board about collaborating with other Commissions and Boards to discuss emergency preparedness for older adults and disabled community members.

Mike Nuttall, West Hollywood resident, thanked the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and spoke about his experience helping clean up trash around the community and finding ways to clean up other areas of the City that tend to have more trash. He also talked about allowing accessibility to trash bins that are locked.

Steve Martin, West Hollywood resident, spoke about the importance of emergency preparedness and thanked the first responders for their efforts during the recent fires.

Stephanie Harker, West Hollywood resident, spoke about the importance of emergency preparedness and expressed her concerns about the City's

communication efforts during the recent fires. She also provided suggestions for future emergency communication methods.

Kevin Burton, West Hollywood resident, spoke about the City's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training and the RE-CERT organization that he co-founded to highlight the importance of these groups for emergency preparedness.

Cathy Blaivas, West Hollywood resident, spoke about the importance of emergency preparedness and provided suggestions for other emergency readiness methods. She also thanked all the first responders for their help during the recent fires.

Nik Roybal, West Hollywood resident, shared his experience in the City with the recent fires and expressed his concerns about the City's communication efforts during that time.

7) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

8) NEW BUSINESS

8A. SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAMS PRIORITIES FOR 2025-2028

Christine Safriet and Michelle Liberman from the City's Human Services Division provided a brief overview of the proposed Social Services program priorities for the 2025-2028 contract cycle. The Commission reviewed and provided feedback for these contracts' upcoming Request For Proposal (RFP) process.

Commissioner Nickle asked about the available resources for community members experiencing homelessness who do not have mental health or substance abuse issues and have pets.

Vice Chair Harrison agreed on prioritizing the need to finding solutions for the housing and homeless crisis.

Chair Eramian spoke about improved community outreach and the challenges of communication, such as language barriers or difficulty navigating technology devices for members of the community.

Commissioner Post suggested attentive resources for help and prevention of substance abuse.

Commissioner Hallman suggested a centralized call center for easier communication and access for individuals to seek resources.

Commissioner Freiberg spoke about the importance of communication in making the community aware of the available social services programs.

Commissioner Blau suggested using a communication device similar to what the organization, Healthcare In Action, offers to stay in communication with the individuals they are working with.

The Commission continued to discuss the priorities of the Social Services Programs and provided feedback.

Christine and Michelle responded to all the Commission's questions and comments.

8B. 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 other assignments. Based on the reports submitted to the City by the Fire Department, she provided a brief fire report for December 2024.

Steve Martin, West Hollywood resident, shared his experience during the recent fires, spoke about fire preparedness, and provided recommendations in case of emergency situations in West Hollywood.

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

Erica Leon, General Manager of Block by Block, provided the December 2024 reports, including the number of calls for service, business contacts, and unhoused contacts. She also discussed the increased activity due to the busy holiday season and thanked Healthcare In Action and WeHo Cares for their partnership in serving the community.

Commissioner Nickle asked about the incident involving an unhoused individual near an encampment. He also requested more residential patrols on the east side near the alleyway behind The Charlie Hotel and the Ambassador's protocols during emergency evacuations.

Commissioner Freiberg asked about the Ambassador's role and responsibilities during emergency situations.

Commissioner Hallman asked about the progress of the Senior Safety Officer program.

Edd H, West Hollywood resident, spoke about an unhoused individual near his neighborhood and asked for the best way to request assistance. He also asked for some clarification from the data provided in the monthly reports.

Stephanie Harker, West Hollywood resident, spoke about a recent fire that was started near Plummer Park and asked for more surveillance on similar incidents.

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

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

Seargent Duron reported crime stats for December 2024, including the number of total arrests, the number of part 1 and part 2 crimes, and their percentages amongst the different City regions. He also reported on the number of pickpocket thefts and provided information on the Sheriff's Online Reporting Tracking System (SORTS) and Mental Evaluation Team (MET). He talked about the NIXLE application for emergency notifications and provided updates on the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station involvement in responding to the recent emergency and fire situations throughout Los Angeles County. Seargent Duron wrapped up the report by highlighting the Community Safety Updates provided at the previous City Council Meeting.

Vice Chair Harrison thanked the Sheriff's Department for their service during the recent fire emergencies.

Lieutenant Lapkin spoke about her deployment at the Eaton Fires and provided an explanation for communication and decisions determining when to evacuate during an emergency.

Chair Eramian asked for an update on an incident that occurred on Santa Monica Boulevard and Hilldale Avenue. He also asked about a group of dirt bikes driving on San Vicente and Santa Monica Boulevard.

Commissioner Nickle thanked all first responders during the fires and for the overall recent reduction in crime. He also asked if the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station needed any other additional resources to help them and any tips to members of the public they could provide. He also inquired about an update on recent mail theft and break-ins near the 911 N. Kings Road Building, a request for more attention to the alleyway behind The Charlie Hotel, and updates of a burglary that took place at the Urbn Leaf Cannabis Dispensary business.

Commissioner Hallman thanked Lieutenant Lapkin for explaining communication practices during emergencies, the necessary evacuation plans, how to relay this information to the community, and how to utilize the City's Commissions and Advisory Boards to help share information. He also inquired about utilizing WeHoTV as an alternate communication method.

Commissioner Post inquired about legislative guidance on enforcement of Proposition 36, the start date of the drone program, and the start date of the City's Community Safety Officer program. He also asked about the effects of enforcement due to the changes in the federal administration.

Commissioner Nickle asked about the City's Communication decisions during the recent fires.

Commissioner Freiberg thanked the Sheriff's Department for their continued service, asked various questions about the process and protocols during the recent fires, and provided some recommendations.

Seargent Duron thanked the community for their support and for providing the Sheriff's Station food and supplies during the recent fires.

Louise Smith, West Hollywood resident, expressed her gratitude to the first responders and supported all the ideas and information shared on emergency preparedness.

Stephanie Harker, West Hollywood resident, thanked the first responders, offered suggestions for improving communication for emergency alert notifications, and asked for contact information to receive future emergency notifications.

Edd Holman, West Hollywood resident, thanked the first responders and offered suggestions for additional mass communication methods, such as emergency alerts placed on City signage and billboards.

Seargent Duron, Lieutenant Lapkin, Jamie Araki, Manager Shandi, and Director Rivas responded to all the Commission's questions and comments.

9) ITEMS FROM STAFF

Manager Shandi provided updates for the Public Safety Division, including the announcement for the upcoming Public Safety Appreciation luncheon and awards event, the recent Semi-Annual Community Safety update presented at the recent City Council meeting, expressed gratitude to all the first responders and the City's public safety partners for all their work during the recent wildfires, and provided information for the community to sign up to receive emergency alerts.

10) PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

11) COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Blau spoke about concerns regarding the recent federal administration changes and the possible negative impact it may have against the community related to the data collected from technology.

Commissioner Hallman thanked Assembly Member Rick Zbur for being selected as the Man of the Year at the Assembly District 51 Community Excellence Awards.

Commissioner Post discussed an accident at the intersection of Fairfax Avenue and Santa Monica Boulevard and the importance of the focus on traffic safety.. He also expressed thanks to all the first responders for their service, including the incarcerated individuals who were deployed to help during the recent fires. He also talked about supporting Assembly Bill 247, which aims to increase the wages of incarcerated firefighters.

Commissioner Freiberg thanked the public for speaking and sharing great ideas about emergency preparedness and spoke about the importance of the community working together.

Commissioner Nickle shared a website of household tips he received from the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to share with the community.

Vice Chair Harrison spoke about the importance of the community coming together during an emergency or crisis and the need for everyone to be better prepared in such situations.

Chair Eramian thanked all the first responders and the City's public safety partners for their hard work handling the wildfires. He also agreed with Vice Chair Harrison that more work is needed to prepare for emergencies and thanked the members of the public for speaking and sharing their ideas and concerns.

12) ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 8:53 P.M. to the next Adjourned Regular Meeting on February 10, 2025.

DocuSigned by:
Adam Eramian
EB7B2D8779834CA...

Public Safety Commission Chair

DocuSigned by:
Jessica Anukam
496B893FC06D459...

Public Safety Commission Secretary

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

(Disclaimer: Staff records the meetings for the sole purpose of composing the official meeting minutes; therefore, the recordings are not of commercial quality.)