

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

**Monday, March 24, 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 6:03 P.M.

**2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Eramian 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 Community Safety Director; Anita Shandi, City Public Safety Manager; Assistant Fire Chief Drew Smith, Los Angeles County Fire Department; Erica Leon, General Manager, Block by Block; Lieutenant Fanny Lapkin and Sergeant Jason Duron, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

**4) APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**ACTION:** Approve the agenda of March 24, 2025.

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

**5) APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**ACTION:** Approve the minutes of February 10, 2025.

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

**6) PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Wendy Goldman, a West Hollywood resident, praised the City's Community Safety Department for addressing safety concerns and expressed concerns regarding the 5-story West Hollywood Park parking structure, vacant businesses in the City, and the need for street improvements on the Sunset Strip.

Agnew Wilson, a West Hollywood resident, addressed traffic concerns at the intersections of Santa Monica and Robertson Boulevard and San Vicente and La Cienega Boulevard. He also discussed concerns with the unhoused and his shared information about his meeting with the City of Beverly Hills.

Mikie Friedman, a West Hollywood resident, raised concerns regarding scooters, bicycle riders, and delivery robots and mentioned an upcoming presentation on the topic at the City's Disabilities Advisory Board meeting. She also discussed the closures of businesses on Sunset and their impact on the community.

Jim Coufal, a West Hollywood resident, expressed concerns about public safety and the unhoused. He also shared his recent experience of being robbed while walking in the City.

**7) UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

**8) NEW BUSINESS**

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

Chief Smith presented an annual comparison report of fire activity from February 2024 to February 2025, covering total fires, emergency medical service (EMS) calls hazardous materials, hazardous conditions, service, and good intent calls. He also

reported on the number of rubbish, cooking, and structure fires and highlighted recent changes at the fire station, including the rotation and relocation of Battalion Chiefs to different stations across Los Angeles County.

Vice Chair Harrison asked what the cause is of majority of reported dumpster fires and followed up on a question from a previous meeting regarding fire hydrants.

Chair Eramian inquired if the bins that were reported for dumpster fires were initially locked.

Commissioner Nickle thanked the Fire Department for their support during the recent wildfires and asked if they needed any additional resources to continue serving the community. He also expressed his best wishes for the outgoing and incoming Battalion Chiefs.

Victor Omelchenko, a West Hollywood resident, expressed gratitude to the Fire Department for their dedication and hard work during the recent wildfires.

Edd Holman, a West Hollywood resident, inquired about the new fire hazard severity zones.

Chief Smith 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, presented the February 2025 reports detailing the number of service calls, interactions with businesses and unhoused community members, safety escorts, and social service referrals. She also highlighted her attendance at recent neighborhood watch meetings and shared notable incidents from February demonstrating the ambassadors' quick response to an emergency.

Vice Chair Harrison asked about current staffing levels and whether the Security Ambassadors are still patrolling the main street routes.

Commissioner Nickle asked follow-up questions on an incident where Narcan was administered.

Victor Omelchenko, a West Hollywood resident, reflected on his recent attendance at a neighborhood watch meeting. He proposed extending the hours of operation for the Security Ambassador kiosks and adding more locations.

Kelly Pilarski, a West Hollywood resident, asked questions about the data presented in February's report and inquired if the Security Ambassadors had all the necessary equipment to support their work.

Chair Eramian asked about the bicycle mileage data from the report.

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

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

Sergeant Duron presented the crime statistics for February 2025, covering calls for service, emergency responses, total arrests, and the breakdown of Part 1 and Part 2 crimes, along with their percentages across various City regions. He also reported on the number of pickpocket thefts and advised the public to remain vigilant during the busier months. Additionally, Sgt. Duron shared data on calls to the Mental Evaluation Team (MET) and the Sheriff Online Reporting Tracking System (SORTS). He concluded by announcing the upcoming Battle of the Badges Blood Drive, held in partnership with the American Red Cross.

Commissioner Blau asked about the traffic citation data from the report.

Vice Chair Harrison inquired about the robbery incident mentioned by a public speaker. He also praised the traffic operations performed on Fountain Avenue, noting its positive impact on addressing traffic issues.

Chair Eramian asked about the report's pickpocket data and the potential measures to help address this type of theft in the community.

Lieutenant Lapkin discussed the traffic operation on Fountain Avenue and other potential future efforts to manage high-traffic intersections. She also provided details on the actions being taken to address pickpocketing thefts.

Commissioner Post requested the data from the MET Team from February and inquired about the process for the collaboration with Health Care In Action.

Commissioner Nickle inquired about a recent outage of the LASD emergency 911 system, asked about a task force focused on investigating stolen devices, and sought more insight into how concerns involving safety and the unhoused are being addressed.

Commissioner Hallman suggested nightlife establishments alert patrons about pickpocketing as they enter the business. He also asked if a visible sign alerting the public about pickpocketing could be placed on the City's LED displays.

Victor Omelchenko, a West Hollywood resident, suggested displaying the data reports at the meeting. He highlighted the upcoming budget planning, recommending consideration of key public safety items.

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

#### **8D. PARTICIPATION IN REVIEW PROCESS OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR UNARMED SECURITY SERVICES**

Manager Shandi provided an overview of the City's upcoming Request for Proposal (RFP) for unarmed security guard services, as the current Block by Block contract is set to expire in June 2025. She requested that the Chair and Vice Chair, or two selected members of the Public Safety Commission, participate in the RFP process by reviewing and interviewing potential unarmed security vendors.

Chair Eramian asked whether the RFP was for selecting additional security services to supplement Block by Block services or for choosing a new vendor.

Commissioner Nickle asked if the item for the RFP would come back to the Commission to review.

Vice Chair Harrison inquired about the estimated timeline for the RFP process and whether virtual meeting participation would be possible.

**ACTION:** Appoint the Chair and Vice Chair of the Public Safety Commission to participate in the RFP process for the unarmed security guard services vendor, unless one cannot do so, in which case another Commissioner will be selected to take their place.

#### **The Commission reached a consensus approval.**

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

#### **9) ITEMS FROM STAFF**

Manager Shandi provided updates on the Public Safety Division, including information about the upcoming Public Safety Awards Ceremony, recent events such as the Los Angeles Marathon and Elton John AIDS Foundation, and an upcoming presentation at June's Public Safety Commission meeting from the City's Human Services Division. She also highlighted upcoming CPR, First Aid, and AED certification training, the CERT alumni meeting, the City's PRIDE events, the swearing-in of new Public Safety Commissioners at the next commission meeting, and how to sign up for emergency text notifications.

Director Rivas informed the Commission about the City staff evacuation drill scheduled for later in the week at City Hall.

#### **10) PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Victor Omelchenko, a West Hollywood resident, urged the Commission to consider recommending seismic retrofitting for certain buildings in the City to improve earthquake preparation. He also spoke about the Melrose Triangle project and its potential impact on traffic. Additionally, he discussed concerns of having only one elevator in certain senior residential buildings.

## **11) COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Hallman requested additional information on City traffic updates and mentioned observing unsafe driving on several streets.

Director Rivas informed the Commission that information relating to traffic engineering and street improvements fall under the purview of the Transportation and Mobility Commission.; however, we would share requests with the City's traffic engineering division if specific intersections were identified for additional information.

Vice Chair Harrison and Chair Eramian shared traffic safety concerns and the need for more traffic enforcement.

Chair Eramian inquired about traffic plans for the Santa Monica and San Vicente Boulevard intersection.

Commissioners inquired about a joint Public Safety and Transportation & Mobility Commission special meeting.

Commissioner Nickle invited the community to attend the Public Safety Awards Ceremony, spoke about his attendance at a recent neighborhood watch meeting, proposed to have Athens Services speak at a future commission meeting, and shared information about his meeting with Senator Adam Schiff's office representatives.

Commissioner Blau thanked all the public speakers for sharing their experiences and thanked the public safety agency partners and City staff for their dedicated work. He also requested a timeline for the implementation of enhanced public safety technology and inquired about the City's process for updating codes.

Commissioner Post inquired about a West Hollywood after action report regarding the recent wildfires and asked how often the City's emergency plan is updated. He also asked about the communication methods used among the City's partner agencies. Finally, he expressed his appreciation for everyone's dedicated work during his time on the Commission.

Vice Chair Harrison and Commissioner Eramian thanked outgoing Commissioner Post and Commissioner Freiberg for their service to the Commission.

Chair Eramian thanked all the public safety partners for their dedication to the City and looked forward to seeing the community attend the upcoming Public Safety Awards Ceremony.

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

## 12) ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 8:04 P.M. to the next Adjourned Regular Meeting on April 28, 2025.

DocuSigned by:

*Adam Eramian*

Public Safety Commission Chair

DocuSigned by:

*Jessica Anukam*

Public Safety Commission Secretary

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