

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

**Monday, May 12, 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

Vice Chair Harrison led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3) ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present:

Commissioner Blau
Commissioner Eng
Commissioner Nickle
Commissioner Pilarski
Vice Chair Harrison
Chair Eramian

Commissioners Absent:

Commissioner Hallman

Others Present:

Danny Rivas, City Community Safety Director; Anita Shandi, City Public Safety Manager; Jessica Anukam, City Public Safety Specialist; Assistant Fire Chief Drew Smith, Los Angeles County Fire Department; Erica Leon, General Manager, Block by Block; Acting Captain Fanny Lapkin and Sergeant Jason Duron, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

4) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION: Approve the agenda of May 12, 2025.

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

5) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Approve the minutes of April 28, 2025.

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

6) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jonathan Wilson, a resident of West Hollywood, requested an update on the outcomes from the previous Center for Policing Equity (CPE) study. He also recommended implementing new technologies and processes to enhance accessibility and efficiency in filing and recording reports with the Sheriff's Department. Lastly, he extended his congratulations to the latest members of the Commission.

7) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

8) NEW BUSINESS

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

Chief Smith presented the monthly fire activity comparison report for April 2025, which included data on total fires such as dumpster, vehicle, cooking, and outdoor-related incidents. He also provided updates on emergency medical service (EMS) calls, hazardous materials and conditions, service calls, and good intent responses. Additionally, he discussed overall trends, noting increased fire activity in specific categories and a rise in snake bite calls during the spring and early summer months.

Commissioner Eng inquired whether a vaccine or preventive shot for snake bites is available and asked about emerging trends to be aware of in preparation for Pride.

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 April 2025 report, highlighting data on business contacts, interactions with unhoused individuals, calls for service, and safety escort requests. She provided a year-over-year comparison with April 2024, noting key increases and decreases in activity. Erica also shared the positive impact of the Senior Safety Officers (SSOs), contributing to reduced contact and activity in the parks. Additionally, she discussed preparations for Pride, and a recent meeting with WEHO Cares to explore collaboration and the use of social service resources.

Vice Chair Harrison inquired whether the reported bike mileage data reflects underlying factors such as staffing levels or equipment-related issues.

Commissioner Blau requested additional information about the Senior Safety Officer (SSO) program and asked whether the Ambassadors conduct patrols at all West Hollywood parks. He also shared a recent incident he witnessed at Kings Road Park.

Commissioner Pilarski thanked Block by Block for their presentation at the City's Civic Leadership Academy and inquired whether the Security Ambassadors would have kiosks and where they would be deployed during the West Hollywood Pride events. She also invited the Ambassadors to participate in an upcoming bike safety event hosted by the City.

Commissioner Eng asked whether any special accommodations are made for Security Ambassadors during hotter weather conditions.

Commissioner Nickle inquired about a recent incident involving a Security Ambassador, as well as a separate incident in which a deceased individual was found. He also expressed concern about individuals engaging in public urination near the bushes of a local retail establishment after bar closures.

Commissioner Eng asked whether Security Ambassadors can issue citations to individuals observed committing public urination.

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 April 2025 report, which included an overview of calls for service, emergency responses, total arrests, and a breakdown of Part 1 and Part 2 crimes by percentage across different areas of the City. He also provided data on pickpocket thefts, Mental Evaluation Team (MET) calls, and submissions to the Sheriff's Online Reporting Tracking System (SORTS). Sergeant Duron reminded the

public not to leave personal belongings in their vehicles to reduce the risk of burglary. He also highlighted recent incidents, including a hit-and-run, a traffic collision involving parked cars, a crash into a local business resulting in a power outage. Finally, he announced an upcoming free community event hosted by the LAPD West Traffic Division, offering child car seat safety inspections.

Acting Captain Lapkin addressed questions raised by the Commission at the previous meeting, which included year-over-year DUI statistics, the number of medical calls, particularly those involving individuals under the influence, and arrest figures related to unhoused individuals. She also provided information on citations issued for texting while driving, updates on the increased use of bike patrols by Deputies, and details about a recent pedestrian enforcement operation.

Commissioner Blau inquired about the current staffing levels at the Sheriff's Station.

Commissioner Pilarski thanked the Sheriff's Department for providing an update on pedestrian traffic data, their recent City Civic Leadership Academy presentation, and any safety information they can share with the community ahead of Pride. She also inquired about how to file a report during an incident at a crosswalk, spoke on the importance of pedestrian safety, and asked when the next six-month or one-year Public Safety Report would be.

Chair Eramian asked what types of crimes should be reported through the Sheriff's Online Reporting Tracking System (SORTS) and where the system can be accessed. He also inquired about a recent incident that occurred on Larrabee Street.

Commissioner Eng expressed concern about the dangers of pedestrians using phones in crosswalks. She also inquired about how frequently the Sheriff's Online Reporting Tracking System (SORTS) is used and its effectiveness. Additionally, she asked about the most effective way for the public to receive updates on incidents. She further inquired about the circumstances under which a helicopter is deployed.

Kevin Burton, a resident of West Hollywood, thanked the Commission for compiling a list of areas of concern for traffic at the previous meeting. He referenced a recent traffic collision, highlighted the importance of ongoing public awareness regarding traffic safety, and voiced his support for initiatives to improve safety on the proposed streets.

Nik Roybal, a resident of West Hollywood, spoke about a recent DUI-related traffic accident in Manhattan Beach that resulted in the death of a pedestrian. He urged the City and the Sheriffs to take additional measures to prevent such tragedies and enhance street safety.

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

9) ITEMS FROM STAFF

Manager Shandi provided updates from the Public Safety Division, which included an upcoming presentation by the City's Human Services Division scheduled for the June Commission meeting, a presentation from Athens Services at the July meeting, a CERT Alumni gathering later in the month, National Night Out in August, and the upcoming Pride events.

Director Rivas informed the Commission that implementing the Drone as First Responder Program with the Sheriff's Department has been postponed, allowing for further review of the program's drone recording functions. The item is scheduled for discussion at the City Council meeting in June. He also noted an upcoming agenda item addressing the City's unhoused population.

10) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kevin Burton, a West Hollywood resident, spoke about the upcoming CERT Alumni meeting and training, emphasizing the importance of these programs in helping the community stay prepared for fire emergencies.

11) COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Pilarski thanked Mayor Byers for her recent appointment to the Commission and expressed her support for the public speakers' concerns about traffic and pedestrian safety. She commended the City and its public safety agency partners for their presentation at the City's Civic Leadership Academy. She also acknowledged the City's recognition of National Bike Month in May, including the recent pop-up event. She also inquired about the City's Neighborhood Watch Group program and suggested a presentation at a future Commission meeting.

Commissioner Eng supported the idea of inviting Neighborhood Watch Groups to a future meeting. She spoke about promoting safer alternatives to drinking and driving, such as the City's trolley and Metro Micro, a ride service used in other areas. She also suggested allowing drop-in options for CERT classes for those unable to commit to the full program. She concluded by wishing everyone a safe and happy Pride, thanking City staff and public safety partners, and expressing appreciation for the sense of safety during Pride events.

Chair Eramian reminded the community to stay alert, stay safe, and enjoy the Pride season.

12) ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 7:18 P.M. to the next Adjourned Regular Meeting on June 16, 2025.

DocuSigned by:

Bill Harrison

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Public Safety Commission Vice 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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