

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

**Monday, June 16, 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

Vice Chair Harrison called the meeting to order at 6:05 P.M.

2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Pilarski led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3) OATH OF OFFICE

The Oath of Office was administered to Stephen Post by Councilmember Lauren Meister.

4) ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present:

Commissioner Blau
Commissioner Eng
Commissioner Hallman
Commissioner Nickle
Commissioner Pilarski
Commissioner Post
Vice Chair Harrison

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 Acting Human Services and Rent Stabilization Director; Francisco Gomez, City Acting Strategic Initiatives Supervisor; 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.

5) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION: Approve the agenda of June 16, 2025.

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

6) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Approve the minutes of May 12, 2025.

Commissioner Blau requested a correction to one of the Commissioner's comments under Item 8C in the May 12th meeting minutes. However, after reviewing the video recording, it was confirmed that the minutes are accurate and will remain unchanged.

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

7) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Peter Brack, a resident of West Hollywood, spoke on behalf of several neighbors to express concerns about crime in their area and expressed interest in working with the Sheriff's Department to address the issue.

Anita Goswami, a resident of West Hollywood, shared her experiences living in the community and expressed concerns about crime in her neighborhood. She also voiced interest in working with the Sheriff's Department to help address the issue.

8) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

9) NEW BUSINESS

9A. OVERVIEW OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD'S SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAMS REGARDING HOMELESSNESS

Acting Director Safriet and Acting Supervisor Gomez provided an overview of West Hollywood's approach to addressing homelessness. They highlighted key trends and

outcomes, discussed ongoing challenges, and outlined the broader social services programs and the City Council's direction in addressing homelessness.

Commissioner Blau inquired about the strategic legal tools presented in the overview.

Commissioner Hallman inquired about upcoming community updates on the Holloway Interim Housing Program, the accessibility of outreach phone lines and how frequently the various City partnered agencies meet to discuss addressing homelessness.

Commissioner Pilarski inquired about the goals and metrics of the social service programs, the structure in place to achieve these objectives, and how accountability is ensured. She also asked about volunteer opportunities related to the Holloway Interim Housing Program and guidance on when and under what circumstances to use the provided contact numbers.

Commissioner Post emphasized the importance of coordination among all City-partnered agencies in responding to social service requests. He also highlighted the need for clarity on which phone lines to call and how those calls are routed and reported.

Commissioner Nickle inquired about the City's current homeless count and whether it represents an increase or decrease compared to previous years. He also referred to a specific case involving an unhoused individual with domestic animals, asking whether pets are allowed in local shelters. Additionally, he emphasized the importance of peer support with lived experience. He also asked if there is a participant list for the Holloway Interim Housing Program.

Commissioner Eng expressed her appreciation to the City for its continued efforts and commitment to supporting social service programs.

Vice Chair Harrison asked whether community members should use the contact numbers provided in the presentation or if they should continue reaching out to the Security Ambassadors for homelessness-related concerns.

Anita Goswami, a West Hollywood resident, inquired if social services programs are staffed 24/7 and what the standard office hours are for the available support programs.

Acting Director Safriet and Acting Supervisor Gomez responded to all the Commission's questions and comments

9B. REPORT FROM LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT

Chief Smith presented the monthly fire activity report for May 2025, noting that the number of fires remained within the average range of 7 to 15 for the month. He noted that medical-related calls tend to increase during the summer months due to heightened activity, as well as more frequent nighttime and traffic-related incidents. A

few dumpster fires were reported, but no major fire events occurred. Chief Smith also raised growing concerns about the rise in incidents involving lithium-ion batteries, particularly those linked to third-party charging devices and the mass charging, or “farming,” of electric devices which pose safety risks due to potential charging overload. He concluded with an update on the recent West Hollywood Pride events, highlighting their overall success from a Fire and Public Safety standpoint.

Commissioner Blau inquired about the lithium-ion battery concerns.

Commissioner Eng inquired about the number of calls received related to the “farming” of electric devices. She also expressed her gratitude and appreciation to the City and its public safety partners for their efforts in maintaining safety during the West Hollywood Pride events and the recent protest.

Commissioner Nickle requested more information about the data related to the reported arson fires.

Chief Smith responded to all the Commission's questions and comments.

9C. REPORT FROM BLOCK BY BLOCK SECURITY AMBASSADOR PROGRAM – MONTHLY REPORT

Erica Leon, General Manager of Block by Block, presented the May 2025 report, highlighting business contacts, interactions with unhoused individuals, calls for service, and safety escort requests. She provided an update on the West Hollywood Pride events, emphasizing collaboration with the City and public safety partners, including 42 fixed Security Ambassador posts throughout the event. Erica also spoke about ongoing participation in homelessness-related focus groups and the positive rapport established with the unhoused community. She concluded by noting Block by Block’s assistance in helping provide security during the recent protest.

Commissioner Eng inquired about the trauma support and post-care services provided to the Security Ambassadors who encounter difficult situations.

Commissioner Hallman thanked Block by Block for their excellent work over the weekend during the Pride events, particularly in managing the barricades.

Commissioner Pilarski echoed Commissioner Hallman’s appreciation for Block by Block’s outstanding work during the West Hollywood Pride events and their ongoing efforts throughout the City. She also inquired about their protocols for responding to calls related to unhoused individuals.

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

9D. REPORT FROM LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT

Sergeant Duron presented the May 2025 report, providing an overview of calls for service, emergency responses, total arrests, and a percentage breakdown of Part 1 and Part 2 crimes across various areas of the City. He shared data on pickpocket thefts, Mental Evaluation Team (MET) responses, and the number of volunteer hours contributed at the West Hollywood Station. He also mentioned that the data for submissions to the Sheriff's Online Reporting Tracking System (SORTS) was unavailable at the time this report was due, but the data will be included in the next Commission meeting. Additionally, Sergeant Duron provided updates on the successful West Hollywood Pride events as well as on the First Amendment Rally that occurred over the past weekend.

Vice Chair Harrison expressed appreciation to the Sheriff's Department for their efforts in ensuring the safety of the West Hollywood Pride celebrations and the First Amendment protests.

Acting Captain Lapkin highlighted the strong collaboration between the City and its public safety partners in ensuring the safety and success of recent public events.

Commissioner Post reflected on his attendance at the recent weekend events and praised the overall sense of safety. He inquired about a recent smash-and-grab at a nearby business and a separate incident involving a loud noise asking about possible activity related to the noise and how community members can report similar incidents. He also requested an update on the status of the drone program.

Commissioner Nickle shared concerns from residents in the West Hollywood West neighborhood regarding recent break-ins and inquired about any updates, including information on suspects or arrests. He also asked about the recent arson incidents noted in the Fire Department report and whether any suspects have been identified.

Commissioner Pilarski commended the Sheriff's Department for their efforts in citation enforcement along Fountain Avenue in response to high traffic activity. She also expressed appreciation for their presence and support during the recent Pride events, including the assistance of Deputies from various parts of Los Angeles County.

Commissioner Eng addressed her remarks to the earlier public commenters who shared safety concerns in their neighborhood. She commended their community involvement and proactive communication and recognized their efforts as valuable contributions to crime prevention and neighborhood safety.

Commissioner Post inquired about the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station's involvement in recent protests related to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and any mutual aid efforts provided to support the community. He also emphasized the importance of a visible Sheriff's presence in anticipation of such demonstrations and asked about the department's standard protocols in these situations.

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, including the upcoming Commission Chair and Vice Chair elections. She also announced a presentation from Athens Services scheduled for the July meeting, followed by an August presentation from the Neighborhood Watch and Association Captains offering an overview of the Neighborhood Watch program. She also shared a recap of the recent CERT alumni meeting and issued a save-the-date reminder for the City's annual National Night Out in August. Additionally, she provided an update on the successful Pride events and extended her appreciation to all City staff and public safety agencies for their hard work and efforts in ensuring a safe and well-coordinated celebration.

Director Rivas echoed the appreciation for the successful execution of the recent West Hollywood Pride events, commending the hard work of City staff and the dedicated safety efforts of the City's public safety partner agencies. He also highlighted the coordinated efforts during the past weekend's First Amendment rally, which concluded without incident. Additionally, he referenced the City's press release issued in response to the event and recent activity involving U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), which provides resources and support for the local immigrant community.

10) PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

11) COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Eng referenced a recent incident in which U.S. Senator Alex Padilla was forcibly removed from a press conference. She expressed her strong disapproval of the actions taken and read a statement outlining her stance on the matter.

Commissioner Pilarski shared her experience attending the peaceful First Amendment Rally and thanked all those involved for their efforts in ensuring the event remained safe and orderly. She also highlighted the Los Angeles County Emergency Survival Guide manual and described it as a valuable resource for all community members.

Commissioner Post thanked the City and City Council Members for their statements and support in response to the recent ICE-related activity, recognizing their commitment to advocating for the community. He also spoke about the importance of liaison efforts across different Commissions to strengthen collaboration and information sharing.

Director Rivas responded to the Commission's questions and comments, including an update on the regional wildfire debrief, which is scheduled to be presented at the City Council meeting on June 23. He also noted that the Semi-Annual Community Safety Report will be presented later in the year.

Commissioner Nickle thanked former Commission Chair Adam Eramian for his dedication and contributions to both the Commission and the broader community, as well as for his continued involvement as Co-Captain of the Eastside Neighborhood Watch group. He expressed his support for having representatives from Neighborhood Watch groups speak at an upcoming Commission meeting. He concluded by commending the successful efforts of the City and its partner agencies during the recent weekend events.

Vice Chair Harrison echoed the sentiments of appreciation and thanked the City and its partner agencies for their successful efforts in ensuring a peaceful and safe weekend of events.

12) ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 7:57 P.M. to the next Adjourned Regular Meeting on July 28, 2025.

DocuSigned by:
Bill Harrison
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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>

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