

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

**Monday, July 28, 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 6:03 P.M.

**2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Nickle led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3) 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; Representatives from Athens Services; Battalion Chief Kevin Price, 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 July 28, 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 June 16, 2025.

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

#### 6) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lynn Hoopingarner, a West Hollywood resident, spoke about the need for action to improve traffic safety on Fountain Avenue.

Yola Dore, a West Hollywood resident, spoke about Disability Pride Month and the City's Engage WeHo program.

Tali Peretz, a Los Angeles resident, spoke about drink-spiking and introduced a product from a local public safety and wellness company to help combat the risk.

Sophie Golshani, a Los Angeles resident, spoke about drink-spiking and further discussed the anti-drink-spiking product mentioned by the previous speaker.

Steve Martin, a West Hollywood resident, invited the community to attend the upcoming National Night Out events.

Kevin Burton, a West Hollywood resident, spoke about an upcoming community meeting to discuss the Fountain Avenue streetscape plans, acknowledged pedestrian Blake Ackerman, who was recently killed in a hit-and-run accident, and suggested the meeting be adjourned in his memory.

Nick Renteria, a West Hollywood resident, shared his experience as a bicyclist in the City and spoke about the importance of traffic safety.

Stephanie Harker, a West Hollywood resident, spoke about the importance of traffic safety on Fountain Avenue.

Cathy Blaivas, a West Hollywood resident, spoke about the importance of traffic safety on Fountain Avenue.

Anita Goswami, a West Hollywood resident, thanked everyone for their support and for holding a Neighborhood Watch meeting in response to the neighborhood's request to address crime in the area, and encouraged continued communication and collaboration.

## **7) UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

## **8) NEW BUSINESS**

### **8A. ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Melissa Crowder, City Clerk, provided an overview of the nomination and election process and opened the nominations for the Chair of the Public Safety Commission.

Commissioner Hallman motioned to nominate Vice Chair Bill Harrison as Chair, seconded by Commissioner Eng.

**Vice Chair Harrison was elected Chair of the Public Safety Commission by a roll call vote of 6-0, with one abstention.**

### **8B. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR**

Melissa Crowder, City Clerk, opened the nominations for the Public Safety Commission Vice Chair.

Commissioner Eng motioned to nominate Commissioner Blau as Vice Chair, seconded by Commissioner Post.

**Commissioner Blau was elected Vice Chair of the Public Safety Commission by a roll call vote of 6-0, with one abstention.**

### **8C. COMMISSION LIAISON APPOINTMENTS TO OTHER COMMISSIONS AND ADVISORY BOARDS.**

Director Rivas provided a brief overview of the appointment process and explained the role of liaisons to the City's other Commissions and Boards.

The Commission proceeded to designate appointments to the other City Commissions and Boards in accordance with the provided schedule list.

### **8D. OVERVIEW OF WASTE AND RECYCLING SERVICES PROVIDED BY ATHENS SERVICES.**

Representatives from Athens Services introduced the West Hollywood Athens team and provided a presentation on the proper disposal of household waste, hazardous materials, and other disposable items.

The Commission asked a range of questions and discussed effective ways for the community to manage household waste.

Representatives from Athens Services outlined their operations and addressed all questions and comments from the Commission and members of the public.

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

Battalion Chief Price presented the monthly fire activity report for June 2025, which included totals for fires, emergency medical calls, hazardous materials incidents, hazardous conditions, service calls, structure fires, and good intent calls. He compared call volumes to the previous year, noted the current brush season, and extended his condolences to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department for the recent loss of three Deputies.

The Commission asked questions about medical calls related to heat stroke and heat exhaustion, the importance of reporting arson fires, and whether the Fire Department has any agreements or enforcement responsibilities for providing aid during U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activities.

Kevin Burton, a West Hollywood resident, spoke about communication between the City and the Fire Department regarding discussions on the Fountain Avenue project.

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

## **8F. REPORT FROM BLOCK BY BLOCK SECURITY AMBASSADOR PROGRAM – MONTHLY REPORT**

Erica Leon, General Manager of Block by Block, presented the June 2025 report with numbers of business contacts, interactions with unhoused individuals, calls for service, and safety escort requests. She also shared notable incidents involving Security Ambassadors. In addition, she reported on an encampment that was removed and concluded by noting that Block by Block will provide additional support during the upcoming National Night Out events.

The Commission inquired about two Ambassador injuries noted in the report, extended their appreciation for the Ambassadors' service, and requested information on their deployment during National Night Out.

Michael Wojtkielewicz, a West Hollywood resident, commented on the Ambassadors' role in providing security for the City's Community Garden at Plummer Park.

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

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

Sergeant Duron presented the June 2025 report, which included an overview of calls for service, emergency responses, total arrests, and a percentage breakdown of Part 1 and Part 2 crimes across the City. He also provided data on pickpocket thefts, Mental Evaluation Team (MET) responses, submissions to the Sheriff's Online Reporting Tracking System (SORTS), and the number of volunteer hours contributed at the West Hollywood Station.

The Commission inquired about July traffic enforcement operations, commended efforts in locating the suspect from the recent hit-and-run accident and asked how community members can follow up on a case. They also inquired about another hit-and-run involving a scooter and vehicle, requested updates from the Transportation and Mobility Commission on previously identified streets of concern, and raised questions regarding federal U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activity. Additional inquiries focused on the drone program, the use of cameras in investigations, and an incident in Beverly Hills. The Commission also offered condolences for the three Deputies killed in a recent explosion.

Kevin Burton, a West Hollywood resident, thanked the Sheriff's Department for their support and presence at the recent rally and memorial for Blake Ackerman.

Sergeant Duron, Acting Captain Lapkin, and Director Rivas 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 National Night Out events, an item on the City's Neighborhood Watch program, and the review of the updated fire hazard severity zone map for West Hollywood that has been established by CAL FIRE, which is being shared with the community for feedback.

## **10) PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Michael Wojtkielewicz, a West Hollywood resident, commented on the consideration of all other pedestrian transportation devices, such as scooters, and the importance of community input regarding the Fountain Avenue project.

## **11) COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Eng spoke about the recent actions taken towards the immigrant community. She also noted that people should consider adopting pets displaced during the immigration enforcement and commented on the immigration detention incident involving individuals who were detained.

Commissioner Hallman congratulated the newly elected Chair and Vice Chair.

Vice Chair Blau thanked all public speakers and acknowledged the community's deep concerns and recent tragedies, particularly on Fountain Avenue and with the recent immigration enforcement. He also thanked the Sheriff's deputies for their continued service and expressed gratitude to his fellow Commissioners for selecting him as Vice Chair.

Commissioner Post congratulated the new Chair and Vice Chair, noted his attendance at the recent bicycle rally and memorial for Blake Ackerman, and recognized the community's support for immigrant communities during the recent ICE enforcements. He suggested agendaizing the WeHo Fire Response Report for the Commission review and emphasized the importance of ongoing public discussions regarding drone technology. He also highlighted upcoming community events.

Commissioner Nickle congratulated the new Chair and Vice Chair and shared that he recently attended another City Commission meeting. He invited the community to attend National Night Out, spoke about a recent west side community meeting, thanked the Sheriff's Department for their attendance and support, and mentioned an upcoming Sheriff's fundraising event.

Commissioner Pilarski congratulated the newly elected Chair and Vice Chair and expressed enthusiasm for her role as liaison to another City Board and Commission. She noted upcoming community meetings, recognized Disability Pride Month, encouraged participation in National Night Out, and thanked the evening's public speakers.

Chair Harrison thanked his fellow Commissioners for his election as Chair and extended condolences to Blake Ackerman's family.

Director Rivas provided additional explanation of the WeHo Fire Response Report and confirmed that it will be brought to the Commission in a future meeting. He also highlighted the City's "Know Your Rights" webpage, which provides helpful information and resources for the community.

## **12) ADJOURNMENT**

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 8:37 P.M. to the next Adjourned Regular Meeting on August 25, 2025.

Signed by:  


Public Safety Commission Vice Chair

DocuSigned by:  
*Jessica Anukam*

Public Safety Commission Secretary

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