

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

**Monday, September 29, 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 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 Eng
Commissioner Hallman
Commissioner Nickle
Commissioner Pilarski
Commissioner Post
Chair Harrison

Commissioners Absent:

Vice Chair Blau

Others Present:

Danny Rivas, City Community Safety Director; Jessica Anukam, City Public Safety Specialist; Battalion Chief Kevin Price, Los Angeles County Fire Department; Erica Leon, General Manager, Block by Block; Sergeant Jason Duron, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; General Manager, Valerie Chavez; West Los Angeles Regional Manager, Alan Gonzales; and Director of Operations, Matthew Prokopowicz, Allied

Universal Security Services. Representatives from the City's Neighborhood Watch and Resident Association Groups;

4) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION: Approve the agenda of September 29, 2025.

Motion was made by Commissioner Post, seconded by Commissioner Hallman, and approved by the Commission.

5) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Approve the minutes of August 25, 2025.

The minutes were approved unanimously by the Commission.

6) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Stephanie Harker, a West Hollywood resident, expressed her thoughts on the Land Acknowledgement at each meeting. She also raised concerns regarding an individual expected to be released from prison soon.

Rick Watts, a West Hollywood resident, addressed safety concerns related to electric scooters on public walkways and shared comments regarding the Fountain Avenue Street project.

David Eckert, a West Hollywood resident, spoke regarding the Fountain Avenue Street project.

Adam Eramian, a West Hollywood resident, spoke about concerns regarding unpermitted street vendors.

Helen Krieger, Commissioner with the City's Transportation and Mobility Commission, introduced herself as the liaison to the Public Safety Commission.

7) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business.

8) NEW BUSINESS

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

Battalion Chief Price presented the monthly fire activity report for August 2025, which included totals for fire incidents, emergency medical calls, service calls, and good

intent calls. He highlighted the number of structure fires and reminded the community that the brush fire season is approaching.

Commissioner Post inquired about key highlights from the after-action fire report from the January 2025 wildfires as they pertain to the West Hollywood community.

Battalion Chief Price 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 August 2025 report, highlighting the number of business contacts, interactions with unhoused individuals, calls for service, and safety escort requests. She also thanked the City of West Hollywood, public safety partners, and the community.

David Eckert, a West Hollywood resident, thanked Block by Block for their service and inquired about changes associated with the transition to the new security ambassador services provider.

Stephanie Harker, a West Hollywood resident, shared her views on the transition to the new security ambassador services provider.

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 August 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 updates on pickpocket thefts, Mental Evaluation Team (MET) responses, submissions to the Sheriff's Online Reporting Tracking System (SORTS), and total volunteer hours contributed to the Sheriff's Station. In addition, he discussed preparations for the upcoming AIDS Walk LA and Halloween events and provided an update on a notable crime incident.

The Commission inquired about several public safety matters and recent incidents. The Commission also requested updates on the drone program, more special traffic enforcement, and related grant funding, as well as increased enforcement for e-bikes and e-scooters.

Stephanie Harker, a West Hollywood resident, thanked the Sheriff's Deputies for a recent arrest and noted her neighbor's submission of camera footage and interviews with several individuals that assisted in the apprehension of the suspect.

David Eckert, a West Hollywood resident, suggested implementing license plates for e-bikes and e-scooters to support improved enforcement.

Jonathan Finestone, a West Hollywood resident, thanked the Sheriff's and Fire Departments for their prompt response to a recent fire in his neighborhood.

Michael Cautillo, a West Hollywood resident, shared his thoughts on e-bikes and e-scooters. He also thanked the Sheriff's Department for their service to the community.

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

8D. A PRESENTATION ON THE CITY'S NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

Public Safety Specialist Jessica Anukam gave a presentation and brief overview of the City's Neighborhood Watch and Resident Association Program and introduced several active Neighborhood Watch Captains and a Resident Association leader, who shared information about their respective groups and experiences.

Wendy Goldman, Block Captain for the Cynthia-Sunset Neighborhood Watch Group, discussed the group's boundaries, goals, and recruitment efforts. She highlighted priorities focused on Sunset Strip concerns and noted the group's strong partnership with the City and public safety agencies.

Michael Cautillo, Co-Captain for the Tri-West Neighborhood Watch Resident Association, described the group's objectives, area makeup, and collaboration with the City and public safety partners. He outlined challenges, concerns, and shared a statement reflecting the group's role.

Steve Martin, Co-Captain for the Eastside Neighborhood Watch, emphasized grassroots connections and community involvement. He described the group's history, boundaries, meetings, National Night Out participation, and highlighted public safety concerns in his neighborhood.

Mike Carter, Co-Captain for the Owls Neighborhood Watch Group, presented the group's mascot and spoke about its history, boundaries, and community meetings. He also addressed concerns related to public safety in his neighborhood.

Daniel Sackler, Co-Captain for the North Sweetzer–North Harper Neighborhood Watch Group, reviewed the group's boundaries and recent crime issues. He shared his concerns related to public safety in his neighborhood and interest in participating in future National Night Out events.

Edd Holman, Captain for the Gelson Heights Neighborhood Watch Group, described the group's boundaries and his liaison role with the City and neighbors. He identified priorities for his neighborhood and shared concerns related to public safety.

Jonathan Finestone, President of the West Hollywood West Residents Association, spoke about the neighborhood's size, participation in National Night Out, and proximity to neighboring cities. He also highlighted concerns related to public safety in his neighborhood.

A discussion took place in which the Commission asked questions of the groups, with Director Rivas and representatives providing responses. Topics included group priorities, distinctions between Neighborhood Watch Groups and Residents Associations, National Night Out funding, potential neighborhood overlaps, and accessibility of block captain contact information. Commissioners also encouraged participation in the City's Civic Leadership Academy, expressed interest in neighborhood walkthroughs, and discussed appreciation for National Night Out events.

Director Rivas provided additional information and clarification in response to the Commission's questions and comments regarding the Neighborhood Watch Program, as well as inquiries and requests from the watch groups.

David Eckert, a West Hollywood resident, thanked the Neighborhood Watch groups that presented and suggested utilizing the City's WeHo TV platform to highlight their presence in the community. He also encouraged more collaboration with the City's youth.

Anita Goswami, a West Hollywood resident, spoke about her past experience serving as a Neighborhood Block Captain and emphasized the importance of neighbors coming together to support public safety overall in West Hollywood.

Cathy Blaivas, a West Hollywood resident, spoke about the overlap among some Neighborhood Watch areas on the east side.

Jonathan Finestone, a West Hollywood resident, invited the Commission and neighborhood block captains to attend an upcoming West Hollywood West Residents Association meeting.

Larry Block, a West Hollywood resident, clarified the differences between a Residents Association and a Neighborhood Watch group.

Michael Cautillo, a West Hollywood resident, discussed public safety and community issues and noted the value of sharing duties with a co-captain in larger neighborhoods.

9) ITEMS FROM STAFF

Director Rivas thanked the Neighborhood Watch groups for their participation and acknowledged the dedication required to lead a group and organize major events such as National Night Out, as well as the efforts of City staff. He provided updates on upcoming events, including the Holloway Interim Housing Program Community Open

House, AIDS Walk, and Halloween Carnival. He concluded by introducing the management team from Allied Universal Security Services, noting that their contract began on October 1st, with further public communications and outreach to follow regarding updates and contact information.

Alan Gonzales, West Los Angeles Branch Manager; Valerie Chavez, General Manager; and Matthew Prokopowicz, Director of Operations for Allied Universal Security Services, provided brief introductions and outlined the continued Security Ambassador services and roles their team will provide to the City of West Hollywood.

10) PUBLIC COMMENTS

La La Khamian, a West Hollywood resident, thanked the Neighborhood Block Captains and spoke about her involvement in the community. She also reflected on her time living in West Hollywood and expressed her thoughts regarding the Fountain Avenue Street Project.

Helen Krieger, a West Hollywood resident, shared neighbor feedback on a recent traffic study with the Sheriff's Station and provided an update on the City's new pickup transportation service.

Edd Holman, a West Hollywood resident, expressed traffic concerns near Fountain Avenue.

Cathy Blaivas, a West Hollywood resident, thanked all Neighborhood Watch Captains for their hard work and recognized Commissioner Hallman for his previous service as a Block Captain. She also expressed appreciation to City staff and the Commission.

Jonathan Finestone, a West Hollywood resident, commended the Block by Block security services for their accessibility and responsiveness via text messaging.

David Eckert, a West Hollywood resident, thanked the Commission and Director Danny Rivas for their hard work and dedication to public safety in the City.

11) COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Post discussed attending Allied Universal Security community meetings, inquired about marketing for the new security services, invited the community to the Holloway Housing grand opening, and shared updates from recent community meetings.

Commissioner Eng provided clarification on questions she asked related to the Neighborhood Watch Groups. She also thanked Block by Block Security and expressed support for the transition to Allied Universal Security Services.

Commissioner Pilarski emphasized the importance of shared pride and dedication to public safety in West Hollywood, thanked the City and its public safety partners for their hard work, and provided updates on the City's accessibility program and upcoming community meetings.

Commissioner Nickle thanked Block by Block Security for their service and welcomed Allied Universal Security. He shared updates from recent community meetings, mentioned robbery prevention stickers from the District Attorney's Office, and expressed appreciation for the hard work and dedication of Neighborhood Watch and Residents Associations.

Chair Harrison thanked Block by Block Security for their service and welcomed Allied Universal Security. He also expressed appreciation to all Neighborhood Watch and Residents Association groups for their continued commitment to the community.

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

12) ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 8:52 P.M. to the next Adjourned Regular Meeting on October 13, 2025.

DocuSigned by:
Bill Harrison

Public Safety Commission Chair

DocuSigned by:
Jessica Anukam

Public Safety Commission Secretary

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