

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, October 28, 2014

135th Street School Auditorium, 801 W. 135th Street

Present: Delores Allmond (Chairperson), Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), Neodros Bridgeforth (Corresponding Secretary), Joan Jacobs (Treasurer), Ramon Montoya (District 1 Representative), Adrian Valenzuela (District 2), Rey Paduani (District 3), Betty Hawkins (District 4), Llewyn Fowlkes (District 5), Marvin Bell (District 6), Deborah Lee (Community Organization Representative), and Richard Lee (Youth Representative)

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by Chair Delores Allmond. Ramon Montoya led the group in an opening prayer and the pledge to the flag.

1) Public Comment: District 7 stakeholder Samuel Maynard remarked on the October 13 break-ins of his home and of a neighbor via the alley south of their residences and how slow the LAPD were to respond to take a report. He had to call Southeast Division twice and also went in person. He would like to have the alley gated as a security measure.

District 3 stakeholder Erica Payne reported on the marijuana smoking in the southeast corner of the Rosecrans Recreation Center grounds, the dust and noise from California Waste Services which occurs in the middle of the night, and the dog fights which the homeless people conduct along the railroad tracks south of Rosecrans Recreation Center.

District 6 stakeholder Algje McNeal complained about the illegal dumping that occurs along the 105 Freeway, three attempted break-ins near her home, many transients walking along their street, and also couples performing illegal acts in cars parked in their neighborhood. She asked for more LAPD presence.

Youth Representative Richard Lee announced that the Stop the Pain on Youth Violence and Abuse Teen Summit will take place on the campus of California State University Dominguez Hills on Sat. November 15 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be a 45 minute session presented by Lee on listening skills for youth and timed impromptu speaking. The event and all workshops are free.

District 1 Representative Ramon Montoya showed an example of a “go” bag and its contents to have ready to take with you in a major emergency. It would allow you to survive for two days.

District 8 stakeholder Kevin Collins (ACCE/Oleskool Ministries) said that in regards to illegal trash dumping, he has been working with Council District 15 and the LAPD and that reports need to be made with more details so that the offenders can be apprehended and fined. There is a \$1,000 reward for those who report illegal dumpers, if they are then successfully prosecuted.

3) Council District 15 report: Daisy Ybarra, Heather Anderson, and Jacob Haik from Council District 15 were all present. Daisy Ybarra, Field Deputy for the Harbor Gateway, introduced Heather Anderson who now handles planning and zoning issues. David Roberts is the new Economic Development and Planning Director for CD 15, replacing Alison Becker.

Daisy thanked the HGNNC for its support and sponsorship of the First Harvest Health and Safety Fair at the 135th Street School on Sat. October 25. There were 25 booths, including one for the HGNNC. Two bicycles were donated as prizes for two of the children who attended. She said many parents asked that it be offered again next year. Councilman Joe Buscaino is again offering tickets to the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach on Monday December 1 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The event is free with the donation of a toy. The goal is 1,000 attendees.

Council District 15 has helped obtain a revocable permit for gating the entrance to the Athens on the Hill neighborhood at Figueroa and 121st Street.

Deputy Chief of Staff Jacob Haik introduced himself. He thanked Kevin Collins and ACE for his efforts to combat illegal dumping and emphasized the need to have details for the LAPD in order to obtain prosecutions. The offenders’ names will be publicized. He asked for suggestions on aiding in the prosecutions, such as cameras for areas where dumping is a perennial issue, such as under freeway overpasses, and lighting on the backs of homes facing alleys. Stakeholders suggested contacting Metro so that they could put cameras in the 117th Street area near where their buses park, because that is an isolated

area and a target of dumping. Another suggestion was the posting of warning signs that dumping is illegal.

Haik then discussed the background on the posting of “No Stopping at any Time” signs along Figueroa Street from 168th to 170th Street, which was done in September, and which has resulted in complaints from residents who live to the west in the residential area. He is aware that the underlying issue is the pollution from the large trucks along Figueroa Street. The City of Carson had put up “No Truck Parking” signs on the east side of Figueroa Street sometime ago, so this caused the trucks to park on the west side of Figueroa Street, on the City of Los Angeles side. However, on the City of Los Angeles side, there were also many RV’s parking along Figueroa and complaints from the community about that and the illegal activities, such as drug sales and prostitution, taking place in those RV’s. There were also cars for sale parking on the west side of Figueroa. As a result, CD 15 worked with the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the LAPD to come up with a solution. CD 15 and DOT would have liked to put up signs similar to the ones Carson uses but then they found that the City of Los Angeles would have faced liability issues. Therefore, DOT came up with the “No Stopping” signs. Haik emphasized that the signs are not permanent but are a solution to the current problems. At some point in the future, they will look at a way to loosen the restrictions for residents parking their cars along Figueroa Street on the west side near their homes. CD 15 is also aware of the Auto Club wrecked car auctions which take place on the east side of Figueroa and create excess vehicles on the street. Haik talked with Mayor Jim Dear of Carson, which resulted in Carson investigating and finding that the Auto Club needed a conditional use permit to conduct the auto sales, so that issue has now been resolved.

District 6 stakeholder Betty Booker pointed out the badly lifted sidewalk at 117th and Denver which has been caused by tree roots and also cars parking in the Denver cul de sac north of 117th Street for illegal activities. Haik said that sidewalk repair and street repair is a key issue for Councilman Buscaino. The City Council is working on a solution, possibly a bond. In the meantime, there is the 50-50 program where the Councilman will cover the cost of removing the offending trees if the homeowner pays for the sidewalk replacement. Other stakeholders discussed the problems created when uneven sidewalks are repaired with asphalt, which still results in an uneven surface, and also quality control and oversight of street and sidewalk repairs.

Another stakeholder pointed out the sex trafficking in public and in cars parked along Figueroa Street at 110th Street.

District 4 Representative Betty Hawkins raised the need for a crossing guard at 135th Street for the crosswalk in front of the 135th Street School. She said that other schools have crossing guards. She has been told that because there is a traffic light at that crosswalk, there is no need for a crossing guard. There should also be flashing lights to make the crosswalk more visible. Haik said that there is not enough funding for crossing guards, so the priority is to place them at crosswalks where there are no traffic lights or other controls. There is also an attempt to allocate crossing guards evenly by Council District. He said the solution for that particular crosswalk is enforcement by the LAPD and also the school police. He will contact the LAUSD School Board about that and the flashing lights to alert cars traveling along 135th Street will be considered.

3) LA Police Department report: new Senior Lead Officer Carmen Gutierrez was scheduled off for the day and no other officer was available.

4) LA Fire Department report: no Fire Department personnel were available to attend.

5) Speakers: Joann Troncale, Emergency Management Coordinator for the Emergency Management Department, and Roozy Moabery, Vice Chair of the Public Safety Committee for the Tarzana Neighborhood Council on how to be prepared for any major emergency: Joann Troncale, Emergency Management Coordinator for the Harbor area, explained that the Emergency Management Department coordinates emergency management within the City of Los Angeles for both major events and major disasters. They maintain the emergency operations center (EOC) for operational readiness. Potential disasters include extreme heat, flu pandemics, earthquakes, drought, terrorist attacks, wildfires, and windstorms. She urged that stakeholders prepare themselves, their families, and their neighborhoods. Be sure to have adequate bottled water on hand, one gallon per person per day for seven days. Also

maintain a small kit in your car and make sure that your workplace has emergency supplies in place. Ask your child's school about their preparedness plans. After a major disaster, listen to the radio to learn where your designated shelter is located. Have a back-up plan of where to stay if your home is destroyed. Practice evacuation from your home. Have a "go" bag ready with money, medications, and food for yourself and your pets. In your emergency preparedness bag, have non-perishable food, water, a camping stove to use outside \$100-200 in small bills, and a battery-operated or solar-powered Am/Fm radio. Keep your car's gas tank half-full at all times in case you need to evacuate outside the area. Have your important documents, such as insurance records, scanned and stored on a flash drive in your emergency bag. Have a list of your medical providers and medications, a first aid kit, tools such as batteries, flashlights, wrench, warm clothing, a blanket, rain gear, and a sleeping bag. The power might go off and not be back on for a month. Rotate your canned goods and water every six months. Do not store plastic water bottles on concrete floors in your garage; put cardboard under them so the concrete doesn't interact with the plastic. There will be a shelter for animals located next to the shelter for their owners. Choose an out-of-state person to be the contact point for your family to call after the emergency. Secure breakable items in your home. Know how to turn off your gas supply. The Southern California Gas Company has a map of their pipelines so you can know how close they are to your home. The City of Los Angeles has developed the 5 Steps program which also helps you identify potential hazards near your home. Create a team to secure your neighborhood. Learn more about the 5 Steps via YouTube and the website: www.readyla.com.

(Deborah Lee left the meeting at 8:15 p.m.)

Roozy Moabery, Vice Chair of the Tarzana Neighborhood Council Safety Committee, then introduced himself. He discussed how their Neighborhood Council reached out to local police and firefighters and built a relationship with their Senior Lead Officers and the fire Captains. They arranged talks on how to use fire extinguishers and worked with their local hospital, faith-based organizations, and businesses, including the Chamber of Commerce, and also neighboring Neighborhood Councils and their Council office. You cannot rely on your cell phone during an emergency, so it is important to be able to use available landlines to call out. Ham radios can be used to send a message to your out-of-state contacts. Designate a place for your family members to reunite. Tarzana Neighborhood Council has also set up a low-power AM radio channel, for under \$100, which can be used during an emergency. Hold regular drills in your neighborhood. Encourage stakeholders to take CERT training. Consider having storage containers filled with supplies that the Public Safety Committee can utilize during an emergency; these items can be obtained via donations from local businesses. Incident Command System training is available on-line. There is also the Disaster Awareness Course (DAC). A Ham radio license costs \$15 and is good for 10 years. Moabery offered his assistance with training more HGNNC Ham radio operators.

(a break was taken for the refreshments)

(Marvin Bell left the meeting at 8:55 p.m.)

(Richard Lee left the meeting at 9:00 p.m.)

7) Approval of the July 22 Membership meeting minutes: It was moved by Llewyn Fowlkes, seconded by Rey Paduani, and passed 9-0-0 to approve the minutes as presented, with Chair Delores Allmond voting to maintain quorum.

8) Treasurer's report: Treasurer Joan Jacobs presented the expenditures summary from July 1 to October 28 which totals \$10,204.00 of the \$37,000 allocated by the City.

9) Nomination and authorization of a second signatory for budget expenditure forms to replace Pamela Thornton who has resigned as the second signatory: Treasurer Joan Jacobs explained that as Vice Chair Pamela Thornton has said that due to other commitments she cannot continue performing the duties of the second signatory for the financial requests and reports which the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment now requires, a new second signatory must be authorized. The second signatory will be required to sign the needed forms in a timely manner so that the activities and events of the Neighborhood Council can proceed and be properly funded. It was moved by Rey Paduani and seconded by Llewyn Fowlkes to nominate Chair Delores Allmond for this role. The vote was 4-5-0

(Allmond, Paduani, Hawkins, and Fowlkes voting in favor; Bridgeforth, Preston, Jacobs, Montoya, and Valenzuela voting in opposition). It was then moved by Neodros Bridgeforth, seconded by Rosalie Preston, and passed 5-4-0 to approve Deborah Lee as the second signatory (Bridgeforth, Preston, Jacobs, Montoya, and Valenzuela voting in favor; Allmond, Paduani, Hawkins, and Fowlkes voting in opposition).

10) Announcements: The Halloween Carnival Spooktacular will take place at the Rosecrans Recreation Center on Fri. October 31 from 5-8 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Recording Secretary