

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, January 27, 2015

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

Present: Delores Allmond (Chairperson), Pamela Thornton (Vice Chair), Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), Joan Jacobs (Treasurer), Adrian Valenzuela (District 2), Rey Paduani (District 3), Betty Hawkins (District 4), Llewyn Fowlkes (District 5), Marvin Bell (District 6), Rosario Rico (District 7), Shirley Johnson (District 8), Deborah Lee (Community Organization Representative), and Richard Lee (Youth Representative)

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by Chair Delores Allmond, followed by the salute to the flag and a prayer offered by District 7 stakeholder Mattie Menser.

1) Public Comment: District 6 stakeholder Joyce Crass reported that Ralph is using the alley north of their building to store 100 shopping carts which block access to the back gates of the homes on Ainsworth. Also, there is a pothole at Ainsworth and 120th which has been reported many times but still not repaired.

District 1 stakeholder Art Cramer asked for the status of the appeal letter which the HGNNC had written on his behalf to ask that the “No Stopping at Anytime” signs be removed and replaced by “No Large Truck Parking” signs. There is still a problem with the 18-wheelers near his home and he will be going to court on this issue. He also noted that there is a lot of problems with the parking situation at the El Antojito taco truck at 168th and Figueroa Street. Gardena Blvd. always has trash along the street. He asked the Board to have more contact with elected officials, such as Councilman Joe Buscaino to achieve more results for stakeholders.

District 8 stakeholder Louis Harris reported that two cars had been stolen from his neighbor and that then the neighbor had to pay over \$300 to remove the recovered vehicle from impound. He has requested greater LAPD patrol for their neighborhood but hasn't seen any patrol car yet. One incident involved three males on bicycles.

District 7 stakeholder Vanessa Johnson discussed the illegal dumping under the 105 Freeway at Main Street. She has called for two months without results. The amount of dumping there is the worst she has ever seen. Other problem dumping locations are at San Pedro Street and 117th Street. Vanessa also spoke about the proliferation of two-story duplexes along 118th Place between Main and San Pedro. The residents have signed a petition to ask for a moratorium on future duplexes which destroy the privacy of the one-story homes on the block and reduce the air flow around the one-story homes.

District 7 stakeholder Victoria Winge lives on the same block as Vanessa and pointed out that the new two-story duplexes are managed by the same property management company. The new buildings also worsen the street parking on the block.

District 7 stakeholder Darrell Booker also commented on the illegal dumping situation in the neighborhood, including the alleys to the east and west of Main Street. He wondered why there isn't enough funding allocated to clean up the alleys when the residents pay their taxes. He said that the City Attorney needs to do something, such as offer a reward to those who report it and jail time for the perpetrators.

District 2 stakeholder Fernnelia Payne reported on the illegal dumping under the 110 Freeway at Alondra. She wondered why cameras can't be placed there. She also wondered if it's legal for a neighbor's chimney to release so much smoke that she can smell it in her house. And she also reported that her son's covered motorcycle was stolen from their driveway.

District 7 stakeholder Arthur Wilson said there is a family living in a camper on 116th Place. Also, because the street is a cul-de-sac, there is a lot of illegal dumping there. He has also had problems with the Sanitation truck driver who picks up his green waste bin and dumps it all on the street if there is one piece of paper mixed in with the green waste.

2) Introduction of Chris Wilson, Field Deputy for 64th Assemblymember Mike Gipson: Chris introduced himself as the Deputy District Director for newly elected Assemblymember Mike Gipson. Gipson has just been appointed to five Assembly committees: Joint Legislative Audit Committee (audits

state agencies and local governments which receive State funds) and is its chair, Jobs, Economic Development, and the Economy Committee, Revenue and Taxation Committee, Governmental Organization Committee, and Aging and Long Term Care Committee. The Assemblymember's office is located in Compton, at 2200 W. Artesia Blvd. Chris previously worked as a staff member for Bonnie Lowenthal for six years. Chris explained that the State Assembly creates and makes laws. They work closely with Council District 15 staff. He encouraged HGNNC stakeholders to call him at (310) 223-1201 about issues related to State agencies such as Medi-Cal and Caltrans.

3) LA Police Department report: Senior Lead Officer Carmen Gutierrez explained that she was recently assigned to oversee the 18A97 patrol area, which covers the HGNNC from Artesia to Imperial Highway. She has worked at the Southeast Division for over eight years. In October and November there was a great increase in grand theft auto reports for every type of vehicle, not just Hondas and Toyotas. Currently the major crimes being reported are burglaries. She urged residents to keep their doors and windows locked when away from home. Also ask your neighbors to keep an eye out for suspicious activity. Stakeholders expressed concern that the LAPD is called but there is no response or very delayed response. Meanwhile, the Gardena Police Department responds to calls within 8 to 10 minutes.

Officer Gutierrez then introduced the new Captain for the Southeast Division, Al Pasos. Captain Pasos said that he has worked in all of the City's police Bureaus. He has been driving around the SE Division to observe what goes on at different times of the day and night. He noted that stakeholder concerns about slow LAPD response are the same all over the City. The LAPD is known for doing more with less. In the upcoming years there will be a lot of new officers hired and that will bring change to the Department. The average LAPD response time is 32 minutes. He encouraged stakeholders who have evidence for a crime to call and talk to the detectives to help solve the crime. And he pointed out that the HGNNC area is considered a low crime area. One stakeholder expressed concern about prostitution which occurs along Figueroa and 118th Street in District 6, with high incidence on Fridays after payday. She said that they have called the LAPD about this with no response. District 7 stakeholder Dr. Princess Sykes suggested that stakeholders participate in the CPAB meetings which take place on the first Thursday of the month. A District 3 stakeholder said that he had lived in his home for over forty years and has hardly seen any LAPD. He wondered if the LAPD could utilize more volunteers to assist with crime control. A new District 8 stakeholder said that she moved into her home on September 13 and on December 16 her home was burglarized. Officers did come to the house but since then she has tried to talk with a detective with new information but has not been called back.

(Deborah Lee left the meeting at 8:20 p.m.)

4) Council District 15 report: Field Deputy Daisy Ybarra said that she was aware of the illegal dumping issues in District 7. She is continually working to get service on illegal dumping. She recommends calling 311 or using the 311 app on your smart phone when you first notice an illegal dump. If it is still not removed after a week, then call her at (213) 473-5128. 115th Street and Figueroa Street is part of a pilot program to address illegal dumping in alleys.

5) Speaker: Sonja Dawson, Neighborhood Prosecutor for the Southeast Division LAPD, City Attorney's Office: Sonja Dawson introduced herself as the recently assigned Neighborhood Prosecutor for the HGNNC area. She previously served in that role for five years before being reassigned and it was her choice to return to the area. Her telephone number is (213) 978-7878, but the best way to reach her is via e-mail at Sonja.dawson@lacity.org. She also gave out intake forms for those who do not use e-mail; these can be mailed in, faxed, or brought to her in-box at the Southeast Division. She has been in the City Attorney's office for fifteen years and previously worked in another City department. She works with the Senior Lead Officers, Council District 15, the Mayor's Office, and the three Neighborhood Councils served by SE Division (HGNNC, Southeast Empowerment, and Watts) to bring resolution to issues. On Sat. January 31 at 10 a.m. the City Attorney will hold a forum to address immigration legalization scams at Mt. Saint Mary's Doheny campus. She also highlighted the new Neighborhood Justice program which allows citizens to adjudicate low-level crimes that have taken place in their area. It requires a four-hour commitment a month for those 18 and older, and more volunteers are needed. The program will begin in South L.A. in three to six months. Her current issues of focus are illegal dumping and prostitution. The

City Attorney has formed a task force with all City agencies to prioritize City resources for the areas with the biggest problems. The City Attorney provides enforcement and prosecution. The Bureau of Sanitation picks up the dumped items. The Neighborhood Councils help prioritize areas where illegal dumping occurs and help to get evidence for prosecution. There is a \$1,000 reward for an arrest and conviction. The Neighborhood Councils also educate and outreach on how residents can legally dump their unwanted items. For prostitution locations, let her know the worst areas. She will work with the Vice Unit of LAPD to handle the arrests and then she will personally handle the prosecutions. She would like to come back to the April 28 meeting to follow up and report on progress. A stakeholder asked how we can get more cameras to do surveillance. Sonja said that the City is investigating that possibility. Footage from home cameras can be used. A stakeholder suggested using the cameras that Metro has installed on the 105 freeway and she will follow up about that with Metro.

6) Approval of the October 28 Membership meeting minutes: It was moved by Joan Jacobs, seconded by Llewyn Fowlkes, and passed 9-0-0 to approve the minutes as submitted.

7) Treasurer's report: expenditures to date: Treasurer Joan Jacobs reviewed the major categories of spending from July 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014. \$14,273.20 of the \$37,000 allocated has been spent.

8) Update on Ham radio training, upcoming CERT training and small business workshop on Sat. April 18: CERT training within the HGNNC boundaries, probably at the 135th Street School, is being scheduled with the L.A. Fire Department for March or April on Monday evening. The HGNNC is still working on scheduling Ham radio training, probably on two weekday evenings. Richard Lee reported that a small business workshop for both those wanting to start a small business and for small business owners wanting to improve on their businesses will be held on Sat April 18 with speakers from the City of Los Angeles and the IRS. There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the room for each of these activities.

9) Announcements: Joan Jacobs discussed the role of the Budget Advocates on advising the Mayor on the 2015-2016 budget priorities. She is a Budget Advocate for the Harbor Area. A copy of the letter sent to the Mayor by the HGNNC on recommended areas of spending is on the back table.

Rosalie Preston announced the Mayor's new initiative to create Youth Councils for 10th and 11th graders in six areas of the City. Applications are available on the back table or by contacting the HGNNC.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Recording Secretary