

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, October 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), Ramon Montoya (District 1), Adrian Valenzuela (District 2), Rey Paduani (District 3), Betty Hawkins (District 4), Llewyn Fowlkes (District 5), Marvin Bell (District 6), Janet Mitchell (District 7),

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 p.m. by Chair Delores Allmond, followed by the salute to the flag and a moment of silence.

1) Public Comment: District 4 stakeholder Karen Klamek reported that cars doing donuts at Menlo and 138th Street killed a German shepherd dog. The LAPD were called but never came and she is very upset about the lack of response.

A District 6 stakeholder told how transients steal the trash bins from people's homes and then use them to put stolen items in. She has asked Officer Stewart for extra patrol for the area. Prostitutes are parking cars in people's driveways and then carrying out their business. There is a lot of illegal dumping in the area and transients living in the alleys. "No dumping" signs are needed. There is a need for the City to paint the white lines for parking spaces along Grand Avenue south of 113th Street, as they have done from 110th to 113th Street, which helps guide the traffic exiting the 110 Freeway at Imperial Highway not to hit the cars parked in front of residences along the west side of Grand Avenue when they are preparing to turn right (west) onto Imperial Highway.

District 6 stakeholder Helen Jackson said that for over a year she has been seeking a solution to the gopher problem in her backyard which abuts the 105 freeway. She has been referred to various agencies but still has the gophers.

District 6 stakeholder LuShun Woods-Segura said that traffic-calming measures are needed for 117th Street between Figueroa to Vermont Avenue as cars use the street as a cut-through and travel over the speed limit.

District 3 stakeholder Erica Payne said that transient pot smokers use the southeast corner of Rosecrans Recreation Center's grounds on a regular basis and the smoke blows into her home. There are also homeless men who drink until they pass out in that same area.

District 4 stakeholder Benilda Galbreath reported that she had received a letter from Phillips 66 about their pipeline and also dig alert notices, which makes her wonder if fracking will soon take place under their property.

2) Appointment of Lu Watson to the Ad Hoc Election Committee: District 5 stakeholder Lu Watson had asked to be appointed to the Ad Hoc Election Committee. It was moved by Rey Paduani, seconded by Llewyn Fowlkes, and passed 10-0-0 to approve the appointment of Lu Watson to the Committee.

3) LA Police Department report: Senior Lead Officer Carmen Gutierrez explained that she patrols the area between Vermont Avenue and Figueroa Street from Imperial Highway to Artesia. Her telephone number is (213) 793-0727. She advised calling 911 whenever there is an emergency or to use 1-877-ASK-LAPD for non-emergencies. She has helped to obtain, with the assistance of Council District 15, posted signs along Vermont Avenue from 135th Street to 140th Street which prohibit vehicle sales, thus allowing the LAPD to remove such vehicles. A District 6 stakeholder reported that the homeless camp out along the south side of the 105 Freeway and have even hooked up to the electricity of a resident's home so that they could watch TV. Officer Gutierrez said she is aware of the issue and working on it, though it will require some time. District 2 stakeholder DeWayne Lacy reported that there is a homeless encampment visible from the 110 Freeway off-ramp traveling north onto Redondo Beach Blvd., behind the body shop and Dae Hueng Presbyterian Church. He said that some of the nearby residents believe that those living in the encampment are responsible for home burglaries.

Officer Angelo Stewart introduced himself and said that he is responsible for the areas of Districts 7 and 8 (Imperial Highway to 120th Street, from Figueroa Street to Central Avenue). He commented that

there are a lot of legal issues involved in working on the homeless problem and that it takes time to handle those issues. He has given a lot of tickets along 117th Street for illegally parked vehicles. He also highlighted a handout on the issues that the Building and Safety Department can handle, such as illegal building construction or illegal auto repair taking place on residential properties. Contacting them via their online website is the most effective method. It is illegal to do car repair on the street and you can receive a \$48 ticket for that. In Southeast Division there have been 26 homicides so far this year (31 total for 2014). There is an increase in violent crime, nearly 1,000 grand theft auto cases, and an increase in robberies. He commented that for those who have concerns about 7-Eleven opening a 24-hour operation at 600 E. Imperial Highway in District 8, they should attend the Tues. November 17 second part of the appeal hearing to express their opinion. It will be held at the Constituent Center, 8475 S. Vermont Avenue, at approximately 4:30 p.m. Officer Stewart gave testimony at the first part of the appeal hearing on October 6 about the nature of that particular intersection and how it is one of the locations with the highest rate of crime within the Southeast Division. Officer Stewart's telephone number is (213) 793-0726.

4) Council District 15 report: Watts and Harbor Gateway Field Deputy John Jones III reported that Councilmember Joe Buscaino has funded non-profits, including GAP, the Gang Alternative Project, to clean up streets and alleys in the Harbor Gateway every other week. The 127th and Figueroa cul-de-sac is one of the locations. Gardena Blvd. will be cleaned up on Friday November 6. He is aware of the illegal dumping issues at San Pedro and 116th Street and CD 15 is seeking funding for a camera at that area. The alley to the south of 12603 S. Ainsworth will be cleaned up soon, with the assistance of various City services. In regard to illegal car sales along Vermont Avenue from 135th to 140th Street, CD 15 has gotten the street signs authorized by the City Council. They will be working on other problem locations for such sales. He will remind the Sanitation Department that residents can call for bulky item pick up more than a few times a year.

5) Dept. of Transportation Parking Enforcement explains their role and answers questions: Officer Norwood, Lead Traffic Officer for the South Area,

6) The AQMD (Air Quality Management District) discusses the dust issues related to construction recycling at California Waste Services, 621 W. 152nd Street:

7) Approval of the July 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.

8) Treasurer's report: expenditures to date: Treasurer Joan Jacobs reviewed the major categories of spending from July 1, 2015 to September 30, 2015. \$6,350.72 of the \$42,000 allocated has been spent.

9) Update on 2016-2017 budget survey, planning and land use issues, June 11 Board election, and Ham radio training:

10) Announcements:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Recording Secretary