

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, October 25, 2016

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

Present: Tim Richardson (Vice Chairperson), Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), Hannah Woods (Corresponding Secretary), Joan Jacobs (Treasurer), Adrian Valenzuela (District 2), Rey Paduani (District 3), Betty Hawkins (District 4), Marvin Bell (District 6), Larry Morrison (District 8), Deborah Lee (Community Organization Representative), Richard Lee (Youth Representative), Theo Fowles (Outreach Representative), and Eva Cooper-Pace (At-Large Representative)

1) **Welcome/introductions:** In the absence of Chair Pamela Thornton, the meeting was called to order at 7:11 p.m. by Vice Chair Tim Richardson. This was followed by the salute to the flag.

2) **Public Comment:** District 4 stakeholder Doug Foster discussed the need for getting a left turn-signal at the intersection of 135th Street and Vermont Avenue where there have been many traffic accidents.

Maurell Taylor, community interest stakeholder, presented a list of needed actions, including for removal of sidewalk sales at 1132-1140 E. Imperial Highway, removal of the 18-wheeler tire on Imperial Highway between Central Avenue and Clovis, improvement of the uneven surface/bumps across all six lanes of Imperial Highway in the 200 block (nothing has been done about this for two years), and replacement of the dim bulb at Clovis and Imperial Highway.

3) **Councilmember Joe Buscaino reports on his initiatives and answers questions:**

Councilmember Buscaino thanked the Neighborhood Council for taking him out of order due to his plans to read a bedtime story to his daughter. He introduced his staff who were present: Jacob Haik, John Jones III, and Aksel Palacios. He complimented the Neighborhood Council Board for being so hard-working on behalf of the stakeholders. He stressed the importance of using 311, something that he is stressing to all of the Neighborhood Councils as he visits each in turn. His staff member Nicole Deering will follow up on issues, if the call to 311 does not result in action. The comprehensive City **sidewalk repair program** which he championed as the Chair of the Public Works Committee was approved by the full City Council. The City committed to repair of sidewalks in 1973 when there were a lot of extra Federal dollars. Now, as a result of a lawsuit, the City will be repairing and replacing all damaged sidewalks. Once that is accomplished, property owners will be responsible for future repairs. For those who don't want to wait a few years, the City offers a 50-50 program (the property owners pays 50% and the City pays 50%.) Businesses can receive up to \$6,000 and homeowners up to \$2,000. If you need to have a **tree removed**, the City will require you to replace it with two trees, not necessarily at the same location. There is a list of approved trees that will not re-crack the sidewalk. **Homelessness** is a big issue throughout the country and here at home. There are two reasons why the homeless won't accept the offer of housing: mental health issues and drug and alcohol issues. His outreach team has gotten 80 homeless people housed and made referrals to another 4,000. The ordinance which he championed allows the homeless to sleep on the sidewalk from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. only. He noted that permanent supported housing, such as the Vermont Villas at 16304 S. Vermont Avenue, is the ideal solution and is an award-winning facility. Measure HHH on the November 8 ballot would provide bond funding to build 10,000 more permanent, supported housing units throughout the City. In regards to the **intersection of 135th Street and Vermont Avenue**, a number of citations have been issued to speeding cars since school began on August 18. The City of Gardena has said that they will install the needed left-turn signal. Vision Zero is the Department of Transportation's initiative to reduce traffic fatalities to zero. Tivoli lights have been installed along Gardena Blvd. and the plan is to have more programs and activities take place there. His office is working with the local Chamber of Commerce on this. He considers **Gardena Blvd. an unofficial "Great Street"** and plans to bring improvements to it as to other community streets in other parts of Council District 15. In regards to Public Works projects, over 2,500 trees have been trimmed throughout CD 15 and eight new trash cans placed along Gardena Blvd. A bus pad was created at Imperial Highway and Avalon. There have been a number of arrests for illegal street vending. His office has been using Beacon House workers to help clean up illegal dumping and trash along Gardena Blvd. He

thanks the Athens Block Club for sponsoring the “Coffee with Joe” on August 27. A new skate park is being created in Normandale Park. He supported the file which allows Neighborhood Councils to now speak at City Council for more than two minutes if they have filed a **Community Impact Statement** on an issue, so he would like to see Neighborhood Councils filing more CIS’s. For hot issues, he looks at the CIS filings from his Neighborhood Councils to help determine his position on key issues.

Some of the questions asked of Councilmember Buscaino were will the bond funds from HHH be allowed to be used for rehabilitating closed facilities or just new construction. The answer is just for new construction.

Have you given up on improvements at the California Waste Services, 621 W. 152nd Street, such as the amount of dust blowing over the residences or the violations of their permitted hours of operation? No—I was the one who saw the dust from the facility blowing onto the 110 Harbor Freeway and I am on the Board of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD). CWS has made some improvements. Jacob Haik will come back to the November Board meeting with a report.

Speed humps on Orchard Avenue, as requested many times? This might have stopped the car of the woman who crashed into the home killing the leader of the prayer meeting. In this last fiscal cycle, some money for speed humps has been put into the budget.

A petition to have street sweeping along Imperial Highway from Broadway to Main Street has been submitted to John Jones III. Residents have been sweeping in front of their residences themselves. Nicole Deering in the San Pedro office is working on getting signs posted.

If one takes advantage of the 50-50 sidewalk repair program, how long will it take to be reimbursed? The program starts later this year and the timeline has not been worked out yet. Residents must use licensed contractors. However, the permit fee will be waived.

The City removed a street tree but the stump has still not been ground out. John Jones III will follow up on that.

Where are homeless encampments allowed? In commercial districts and along the freeway.

A District 1 stakeholder asked about enforcement of illegal marijuana clinics near schools. LAPD and the City Attorney are working to shut them down. There is a State ballot measure on this issue, Proposition 64, and Councilmember Buscaino urges a “no” vote.

Gardena Blvd. is very dirty. Call 311.

A District 1 stakeholder asked why City ordinances are not enforced. When he calls 311, he often just gets a message and can’t talk with anyone. The homeless man living on the sidewalk on 168th street under the 110 freeway has a sign saying that he is allowed to live there. Also, the El Antojito taco place at 168th Street and Figueroa has many issues, including parking. Councilmember Buscaino said to call his office and he will come out to view all of the issues personally.

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

District 4 Representative Betty Hawkins said that a crossing guard is needed in front of the 135th Street School because of the cars that speed past. Councilmember Buscaino said that he is working to bring them back. He said that he realizes that money needs to be in place to enforce the ordinances that are on the books.

3) LAPD report: Officer Stewart mentioned two recent hit and runs where people were crossing major streets not at crosswalks. He advised caution when crossing any street and also when making left-hand turns. Many 1990’s and early 2000 Hondas are being stolen. He urged that no valuables be left visible in your car to create a temptation for burglars. In regards to the medical marijuana locations, LAPD checks them all out to see if their security guards are licensed. The marijuana clinic at 112th and Broadway makes \$50,000 a day and the owner owns ten other clinics. The one at Imperial Highway and Wilmington brings in \$40,000 a day. The fines for the illegal dispensaries are so low that the owners

5) Announcements: There were no announcements.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Recording Secretary