

**Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council
General Membership Meeting of January 27, 2009**

Present: Adrian White (Chair), Delores Allmond (Vice Chair), Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), Joan Jacobs (Corresponding Secretary), Gloria Christmas (Treasurer), Adrian Valenzuela (District 2), Rey Paduani (District 3), Betty Hawkins (District 4), Llewyn Fowlkes (District 5), Mattie Menser (District 7), Neodros Bridgeforth (Faith-Based Representative), and Eva Cooper (Youth Representative)

Chair Adrian White called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

1) Public Comment: Chris Salabaj, candidate for City Council District 15, summarized his background and said that he would be attending three candidate forums in the 15th District – Watts, Harbor Gateway North and South, and one in San Pedro.

Rey Paduani, District 3 Representative, said that he is making a survey of District 3 lighting needs and referred to the Department of Water and Power “Outdoor Area Lighting” program which can help residents and businesses improve their outdoor lighting. Contact 1-800-342-5397 for more information.

Richard Mull, Assistant Principal at 118th Street School, introduced himself.

Rose Ibanez, DONE Project Coordinator, reminded HGNNC stakeholders of DONE’s Saturday, February 14 Regional Town Hall meeting for the South, Harbor, and Western areas of the City. The Department of Transportation will be present to discuss the proposed MOU with their department and Neighborhood Councils and the new Neighborhood Purposes Grant will be explained. She also reminded stakeholders that the next HGNNC Board member election will take place in early 2010 and that the election will be conducted by the City Clerk. City budget surveys are due by January 31. There will be a special meeting of budget representatives from each Neighborhood Council on Sat. February 21 to help determine priorities for City funding in 2009-2010.

6) Speaker: Toll charges for the carpool lane and other measures to reduce congestion on the 110 Harbor Freeway: Stephanie Wiggins, Executive Officer for the Congestion Reduction Initiative of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, and Conan Cheung, Deputy Executive Officer of Service Planning for the MTA, discussed the 110 Harbor Freeway and Harbor Transitway at Artesia. The MTA is proposing that single drivers be able to use the carpool lane of the 110 Harbor Freeway if they pay a toll. Federal funding is only available to fund such projects. Vanpools, buses, and qualified hybrid cars would still be able to use the lane at no charge. The program would begin Dec. 31, 2010, and the MTA is seeking input from those who will be affected. They need to assess the impact of this proposal on low-income commuters. Those riding buses would receive transponder credits for when they need to use the toll lane in a car. Improved bus service is planned for the 110 Freeway, with the addition of 41 more buses. These measures should help relieve freeway congestion and the overflow onto nearby surface streets. The next advisory group meeting will be held on Thurs. Feb. 5 from 6-8 p.m. in Gardena.

4) Speaker: Evaluation of Residential Food Scrap Collection pilot program: Rowena Romano from the Bureau of Sanitation reported that the small green buckets for collection of food scraps in the kitchen have been in place in District 8 since the summer of 2008. The program has been quite successful, with 1,252 residents of the area participating by dumping the food scraps into their green yard waste bins for pick up. This is an 81% participation rate. She asked for specific feedback from District 8 residents and one reported a problem with fly maggots developing in the food scrap residue. The program will eventually be expanded to other areas of the City.

5) Speaker: Rev. Jeff Carr, Mayor’s Gang Czar on “Gangs and what the City of Los Angeles can do about them”: Reverend Carr explained that he is often called the “Gang Czar” but that his official title

is actually “Deputy Mayor for Gang Reduction and Youth Development.” He has been on the job for about eight months now. In the past, the approach to gangs was focused on law enforcement only, but as LAPD Chief Bratton says, the City cannot arrest its way out of the gang problem. There are many intervention programs available now but in the past there had not been adequate accountability. There fore he was appointed to oversee a comprehensive approach, with prevention and re-entry components in addition to law enforcement. Gangs commit 65-70% of crimes in the City. Twelve areas of the City have most of the gang problems. In L.A. City and County there are 500,000 incarcerated youth. 70% of those who are released return to prison and often those youth are then even more violent after their prison experience. The City’s approach is to take the worst offenders off the streets, prevent gang affiliation, intervention in potentially violent situations, and to provide re-entry support after incarceration, such as counseling and jobs. For more details, view the vision statement on gangs on the Mayor’s web site under public safety. Neighborhood Councils are part of the solution.

LAPD Report: Senior Lead Officer Armando Ramirez noted an increase of burglaries during the month of December. Southeast Division experienced 44 homicides during 2008, which is an increase over the previous year. However, overall, crime was down by 9%. LAPD officers are now checking on vacant homes in our area.

Officer Ramirez thanked Tom and Betty Anderson from District 3 for their long-term support of youth sports at Rosecrans Recreation Center.

Council District 15 Report: Community Advocate Reginald Zachery mentioned the murder/suicide in Wilmington and reported that Councilwoman Hahn is meeting with local residents and former co-workers at Kaiser Permanente who were psychologically affected.

2) The minutes of the August 26, 2008, General Membership meeting were approved as corrected Bridgeforth (motion), Jacobs (second) 11-0

3) Treasurer’s Report: Printed copies of the January 1, 2009, monthly funding status report from DONE were available showing a balance of \$111,235.12 and detailing three demand warrant expenditures and fourteen via the VISA card in December. The summary of HGNNC expenditures from July 1, 2008 to present shows a total of \$32,266.87. The treasurer’s report was approved on a motion by Neodros Bridgeforth, second by Joan Jacobs, and vote of 11-0.

A vote on support of an improvement project for the 118th Street School was tabled as DONE will not allow funding for the school’s Career Day and details of a playground beautification proposal were not yet available.

7) Announcements: Lu Watson, District 5 stakeholder, is unable to represent the HGNNC at the Feb. 21 Budget Day and requests that an alternate representative be appointed at the Feb. 10 Board meeting.

Stakeholders were encouraged to attend the Harbor Gateway South and Harbor Gateway North Candidates’ Forum on Tues. Feb. 3 at 186th Street School. Seven out of ten invited candidates will be present.

Joan Jacobs mentioned the upcoming Breathe L.A. Salon

Mark Ridley-Thomas, newly elected County Supervisor for the Second District, will host a Budget Summit meeting on Sat. January 31 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the Hawthorne Memorial Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston