

**Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council
General Membership Meeting of July 24, 2012**

135th Street Elementary School Auditorium
801 135th Street, Gardena, CA 90247

Present: Rosalie Preston (Chairperson); Delores Allmond (Vice Chairperson); Neodros Bridgeforth (Corresponding 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); Gloria Christmas (District 8); and Eva Cooper (At-Large Representative).

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Rosalie Preston at 7:16 p.m. Rey Paduani led the Pledge of Allegiance. Gloria Christmas offered the Invocation. (Spanish language audio translation equipment was available for this meeting.)

1) Public Comment: District 1 stakeholder, Art Cramer, remarked that there continues to be a general decline in upkeep and maintenance along Figueroa Street between Gardena Boulevard and Artesia Boulevard. Air pollution and other health concerns also persist as the 18-wheeler truck traffic is dense along the City of Los Angeles and City of Carson borders.

District 3 Representative Rey Paduani stated that portions of Rosecrans Avenue are now covered by the Adopt-A-Highway program.

Quincy O’Neal, Field Deputy for Council District 15 Councilman Joe Buscaino spoke about the current goals and activities of the Councilman’s office. The new fiscal year began on July 1 and their office now has the budget to act on programs important to the District. He addressed various questions from the audience:

- A stakeholder mentioned that L.A. Street Services and GAP (Graffiti Abatement Program) have been less effective in picking up curbside bulky items and in clearing vacant lot of litter and weeds. Mr. O’Neal replied that the current budget shortfalls in the city have delayed work schedules for many service departments. The Councilman’s office is exploring the idea of setting up a 501C3 group similar to Clean San Pedro/Clean Wilmington to respond more quickly to community requests. Labor in such a group would be at-risk youth wanting to develop leadership and clear their records. He stressed that residents should actively report illegal dumping so the City can set up cameras for evidence collection to prosecute. There is still a \$1,000.00 reward for reporting such dumping.
- District 1 Representative Ramon Montoya stated that Figueroa Street between 168th and Gardena Boulevard is having excessive unauthorized parking by motor homes and semi trucks that has resulted in increased litter and waste-dumping which the Department of Sanitation has been slow to handle. Mr. O’Neal said that the only preventive measure for this would be for the Department of Sanitation to post a sign prohibiting illegal dumping. However there is no way to enforce such a ban. A solution is still being sought.
- District 1 stakeholder Richard Higashi had requested tree trimming for palm trees along Gardena Blvd. and there has been no action by the City. Per Mr. O’Neal, tree trimming is now on a 70-year schedule in Los Angeles and delayed service has been a complaint throughout the District. Residents must show eminent danger to life for priority service.
- Treasurer and District 2 stakeholder Joan Jacobs stated that a recent shooting caused concerns about a rise in gang activity and crime in the area. Mr. O’Neal indicated that Councilman Buscaino has direct connections to the L.A.P.D. and is notified about neighborhood trends. He also recommended Senior Lead Officer Hugo Valdez as a resource for targeting police coverage.
- District 4 Representative Betty Hawkins requested that L.A.P.D. officers patrol the residential neighborhoods more regularly. Gardena Police patrols are often seen. Although burglaries have

been on the rise due to economic factors, the Harbor Gateway area is not a high crime-ridden area and police resources are allotted accordingly.

(A fifteen minute break for refreshments was taken at 7:50 p.m.)

2) L.A. Police Department Report: Senior Lead Officer Hugo Valdez was unable to be present.

3) Report on the Saturday, October 20th HGNNC Board Election outreach plans: Vice Chairperson Delores Allmond encouraged all stakeholders who live, work, own property or have a declared stake in the neighborhood to run for election to the Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council Board. Having contested board positions in the election shows that the Neighborhood Council is a viable and effective force in the community and the strength of the Board can impact the type of action and spending the Los Angeles City Council allocates to the community. The Region 12 – Neighborhood Council Election Candidate Filing Form and the HGNNC election awareness flyer, “Your Voice, Your Community” were available at the meeting and are also online at www.harborgatewaynorth.org. Candidates may file the application in person or online until midnight on September 20th. The Outreach Committee needs volunteers to promote the election in the community and to conduct election-day activities on Saturday, October 20th at the 135th Street Elementary School Auditorium from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

4) California Air Resources Board on air quality guidelines: No speaker was available.

5) City of Los Angeles Planning Commission presentation and survey on updating the Mobility Element Plans: Jane Choi of the City Planning Department explained that the City of Los Angeles is updating the Transportation Element of the City’s General Plan, which is now called the Mobility Element to reflect changing aspects of moving around in the city and encompassing walkers, cyclists, wheelchairs, electric vehicles, as well as bus and rail transport. She showed some possibilities for improving neighborhood via a Powerpoint presentation.

The Planning Department is seeking feedback and creative ideas from all 35 planning areas of the City regarding preferences for improving and updating public mobility. The survey, “Great Streets, Great Neighborhoods”, was distributed and asks for one’s priorities, such as pedestrian-only streets, park and plaza areas, pedestrian/retail sections, farmers’ markets, etc. Phases of the Mobility Element Plan are 1.) Create the vision of what L.A. could look like; 2.) Determine priorities in each Council District, and 3.) Map each community’s projects. The survey will be distributed at all neighborhood councils and should be returned to the Planning Commission by September 1st. Results of the survey will be displayed in regional public libraries.

Some stakeholders expressed preference for a focus group format in giving feedback rather than a written survey.

Stakeholders generally expressed priorities of safety and general upkeep and maintenance. Tree-trimming, pot-hole repair, handling alley dumping, etc., were more important than projects that are unsustainable in this neighborhood. They mentioned the previous Project RENEW presentation (about a transit corridor overlay district) as being undesirable for this area. The general preference was to fix basic, ongoing problems rather than emphasizing new development projects – “first things first”.

Ms. Choi responded that there is the opportunity now to plan a better city which can satisfy local needs and vision. Many problems experienced now have been caused by lack of planning in the past.

Some stakeholders indicated that the survey seemed to promote certain conclusions toward more redevelopment that may not be desired by this neighborhood. Ms. Choi stated that personal opinions may be written out in any spaces on the survey. Specific, detailed feedback is desired and encouraged by the Planning Department. Contact: Jane Choi, jane.choi@lacity.org; further information can be found at la2b.org.

6) Approval of April 24, 2012 General Membership Meeting minutes: It was moved by Marvin Bell, seconded by Rey Paduani and passed 11-0 to approve the April 24th, meeting minutes as submitted.

7) Treasurer's report, including the approved budget for 2012-2013: Joan Jacobs noted that the fiscal year 2012—2013 budget totals \$37,000 (reduced from last year's amount of \$45,500). Since July 1st, approximately \$3,000 has been spent. It was moved by Eva Cooper, seconded by Gloria Christmas and passed 11-0 to approve the Treasurer's report as submitted.

8) Report on HGNNC activities and planning issues/updates: All HGNNC Board seats are up for election on October 20. It is important to have challenged seats in the election. Volunteers for the election process are also needed. Martin Outdoor Advertising has offered to donate ads on bus benches if they are not being used for paid advertising and the HGNNC would like to try this on approximately ten bus benches.

The L.A. City Planning Commission ruled against a proposed zoning change in the Merit Tract of District 1 that would have allowed a developer to build 24 two-story homes near the 91 and 110 Freeways on a buffer zone property sold by Cal Trans.

The old Methodist Church property (south of Gardena Boulevard) has been sold to the Environmental Charter Middle School, will be remodeled for middle school use, and is slated to open in January 2013. HGNNC presented traffic and parking concerns to the City Planning Department which ruled that the school must arrange for additional remote parking for special events and must mandate staggered drop-off times for regular school hours.

A traffic signal has been installed on Redondo Beach Boulevard and the northern jog of Orchard Avenue with a crosswalk for the UEI College students who park south of Redondo Beach Blvd. This has helped with the traffic flow on Redondo Beach Blvd. HGNNC members met with La Caze Development (property owner), school officials, District 2 residents, and Alison Becker of Councilman Buscaino's staff on parking and behavioral issues of UEI students.

9) Announcements: Marvin Bell announced a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new classroom and library building at the 135th Street School on Monday, August 13 at 12 noon.

National Night Out (NNO) will be Tuesday, August 7 from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Location is the L.A.P.D. Southeast Division, 145 West 108th Street. The event is free and will feature giveaways, food, games, entertainment and vendors. Contact: Karen Lawrence, (310) 702-3136; or Officer Dawson Hill, (213) 972-7965, for more information.

"Walk for Life," sponsored by the L.A. Sheriff Department, will be Saturday, August 11, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. starting from Helen Keller Park, 1045 W. 126th Street. The walk stops at Athens Park, 12806 S. Broadway, with a health fair and other activities at Earvin "Magic" Johnson Park, 905 E. El Segundo Blvd. Contact: People for Community Improvement, (323) 303-3339.

UEI College, at the Gardena campus, is offering free medical testing services to the community for the following categories: blood pressure, glucose reading, hemoglobin, vision and hearing screenings, spirometry (lung function). The college also offers free computer maintenance checks and basic automotive checkups. Services are offered Mondays through Thursdays, 7:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Fridays, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; and Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Contact: Samantha Bonilla in the Education Department, (424) 246-3036 for further information (see flyer).

Meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Juanita Davis
(Kelly Services)