

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Held via Zoom webinar

Present: Joan Jacobs (Vice Chair), Rosalie Preston (Secretary), Nita Stonehocker (District 2), Dave Trejo (District 3), Arvie Powell (District 4), Eva Cooper Pace (District 5), Marvin Bell (District 6), Barbara Tyson-Frazier (District 7), Oscar Ruiz (District 8), Frankie Mays (Community Organization), Jackie Jackson (Youth Advocate), Finesse Simmons (Youth Representative), and Craig Kusunoki (At-Large Representative)

Absent: Majenni Nixon (Treasurer), Laivern Frerichs (District 1)

1) Welcome/call to order/Board roll call: Vice Chairperson Joan Jacobs called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. The roll call determined that a quorum was present.

2) General public comment on non-agenda items that are within the Neighborhood Council's subject matter jurisdiction: There was none.

3) Reports

a) LAPD: Senior Lead Officer Tyson Hamaoka said that he patrols the area from Imperial Highway to 120th Street and from Figueroa to Central Avenue in Basic Car 18A63. He said that there has been a spike in crime in the Figueroa Street/117th Street area near the Metro station. He believes that the crimes are related to those living in the nearby homeless encampments.

(Finesse Simmons entered the meeting at 7:10 p.m.)

There are also some RVs parked near the Metro station. There was an officer-involved shooting at 118th and Wadsworth related to a domestic violence situation, with the suspect in fair condition. An incident debrief can be found on the LAPD Critical Incident Review website. He also reported that he is working on issues related to 11878 S. Main Street, which was a vacant commercial building taken over by transients. There was then a fire and it is now a pile of rubble. Children walking to the 118th Street School have to walk through the rubble. He has made a complaint to the Building and Safety department online. He suggested that the HGNNC could write a letter to the owner requesting that he speed up the debris removal. Affordable housing is planned to be constructed on the site.

b) Council District 15: Harbor Gateway Field Deputy Rudy Martinez said that in relation to 11878 S. Main Street, he has had a team out cleaning off the sidewalk. He has been working on getting the owner's contact information. He weekly drives the Harbor Gateway area to check on key locations for illegal dumping, abandoned vehicles, and lighting outages, including Figueroa Street, Athens Way, Hoover Street, 120th Street, Laconia, Gardena Blvd., and Estrella. LADWP has trimmed palm trees that could impact their power lines in the Athens on the Hill area and the neighborhood north of Alondra Blvd.

(Oscar Ruiz entered the meeting)

27 street lights are still out along Figueroa Street and he is working with Bureau of Street Lighting on this issue. Due to the proposed budget cuts of 10-25%, there may be a need to organize more volunteer clean up days. District 2 Representative Nita Stonehocker pointed out that Alondra Blvd. is also a chronic dumping site and there are also homeless encampments near the 110 freeway. Rudy said that he is aware of the situation. The recent clean up of that area in coordination with Caltrans was three weeks ago.

c) Other elected officials: Kasie Hervey, Constituent Services for 2nd District Supervisor Holly Mitchell, said that the next Racial Justice Learning Exchange will be held on May 15 from 4-6:30 p.m. at the Roosevelt Park gymnasium in Willowbrook. The Los Angeles County Office of Violence Prevention will lead a discussion on effective community-based public safety approaches. The Los Angeles County Fair is offering free admission on May 15 and May 22 with a donation of five canned goods.

Jocelyn Dominguez, Mayor Bass' Community Engagement Manager for Watts and the Harbor area, said that in regards to the City budget, they are still hoping to avoid layoffs but that there is a very large budget deficit. The Mayor has proposed maintaining LAPD positions. The Coliseum will host the opening and closing ceremonies of the 2028 Olympics, which will be for the third time. Part of the opening and closing ceremonies will also be held at So-Fi Stadium in Inglewood. Mayor Bass inherited

the Mayor's Fund from Eric Garcetti and Mayor Bass has used the fund to keep people housed. There was a 10% drop in street homelessness for the second year in a row. To date, we have completed nearly 100 Inside Safe Operations, with the clean up at Hoover Street and 116th Place being one of the first. In spite of rain, a Shine LA clean up day was held on April 26 at Imperial Courts in Watts and Rancho San Pedro, among other sites. There will be another one scheduled for May 17 in Sherman Oaks and then at multiple locations on May 31 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., including at the Korean Bell in San Pedro, in honor of AAPI communities.

District 7 stakeholder Cliff McClain said that there was a smoldering fire at 117th Street and Spring Street and 911 was called. He said that Union Pacific needs to take more responsibility for keeping the area near their railroad tracks cleaned up. A clean up took place along 117th Street and Broadway, but it was not thorough and there is still trash on the other side of the Caltrans fencing. He knows of a group, 28 and Beyond, who could possibly help with clean ups. Jocelyn said she would like to meet with Cliff on these issues.

(Barbara Tyson-Frazier entered the meeting at 7:40 p.m.)

District 5 stakeholder Kenyatta said that 127th Street west of Figueroa gets no street cleaning or parking enforcement so the illegal dumping is never cleaned up. Rudy Martinez said he would investigate.

Jose Ochoa, Field Deputy for State Senator Laura Richardson, said that he has direct contact with Caltrans, so let him know of issues, including the need for clean up on their properties along the freeways, including the on and off ramps: jose.ochoa@sen.ca.gov District 4 representative Arvie Powell said that there is a lot of graffiti on the freeway sound walls and on signs over the freeway. District 5 stakeholder Luetta Watson asked how many calls and emails has Laura Richardson been receiving on opposition to SB 79 which would allow multi-family housing in single-family residential within a half mile of public transit. Jose said 15 to 20 were received at the local office. He also said that all local cities within Senate District 35 have gone on record as opposed to the bill. The next hearing date is May 19.

d) Department of Neighborhood Empowerment: Helena Doub, Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate for Harbor Gateway North, said that the current Department focus is on the City budget. The Governor is issuing a revised State budget on May 15, which might include some assistance for Los Angeles. She encourages Neighborhood Councils to submit Community Impact Statements on behalf of their Boards and also for individual stakeholders to comment. On June 21 the Budget Advocates will hold their annual Budget Day at City Hall to review the City's budget process. Breakfast will be provided. Mayor Karen Bass will speak and also the Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee Katy Yaroslavsky. Regional breakout sessions will be held. A registration link will be sent out soon. May 20 is the last day to submit event approvals for this fiscal year. June 1 is the last day to write checks for payment, and June 20 is the last day to use the Neighborhood Council Bank Card. Newly elected Board members will be receiving information on the July swearing in.

e) Updates on 2024-2025 Board goals/priorities: No updates, except that the Juneteenth event in Athens on the Hill has still not been determined by CD 15. If a date is set, then Youth Representative Finesse Simmons is ready to provide a program on black hair care and history.

(Finesse Simmons left the meeting at 8:18 p.m.)

4) Council Files

a) Approval of support for Council File 25-0002-S13 AB 467 (Fong) to extend use of virtual meetings for Neighborhood Councils for five more years: It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Marvin Bell, and passed 11 (Bell, Cooper-Pace, Jackson, Jacobs, Kusunoki, Mays, Powell, Preston, Ruiz, Stonehocker, Tyson-Frazier)-1(Trejo)-0 to support this Council File.

b) Approval of support for Council File 25-0002-S19 (opposition to SB 79 (Wiener), to allow multi-family buildings in single-family housing zones): The Los Angeles City Council has already taken a position of opposition to SB 79 which would allow multi-family apartments to be built up to half a mile away from train stations and major bus stops. Since the HGNNC is composed of narrow strips, this would apply to all existing single-family and R2-1 residential neighborhoods. It was moved by Nita Stonehocker, seconded by Rosalie Preston, and passed 12 (Bell, Cooper-Pace, Jackson, Jacobs, Kusunoki, Mays, Powell, Preston, Ruiz, Stonehocker, Trejo, Tyson-Frazier)-0-0 to support this Council File.

c) Approval of a revised filing for 25-0600 (2025-2026 LA city budget) regarding reduced annual funding for Neighborhood Councils: The current base amount allocated to each Neighborhood Council is \$32,000. Under the current budget proposal for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, this would be reduced to \$25,000. The HGNNC spends about \$21,000 a year just on administrative costs, including the office rent, copy machine rent, office telephone, office internet and wi fi, updating of the HGNNC website, cost to use an LAUSD facility for the quarterly General Membership meetings, translation services, etc. So having a reduced budget would greatly reduce the amount available for outreach events and supplies as well as Neighborhood Purposes Grants. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Marvin Bell, and passed 12 (Bell, Cooper-Pace, Jackson, Jacobs, Kusunoki, Mays, Powell, Preston, Ruiz, Stonehocker, Trejo, Tyson-Frazier)-0-0 to approve a revised filing for this Council File; he Neighborhood Council already filed a Community Impact Statement with their budget priorities letter.

5) Administrative motions

a) Approval of the April 8, 2025, Board minutes: It was moved by Eva Cooper-Pace, seconded by Arvie Powell, and passed 12(Bell, Cooper-Pace, Jackson, Jacobs, Kusunoki, Mays, Powell, Preston, Ruiz, Stonehocker, Trejo, Tyson-Frazier)-0-0 to approve the minutes as submitted.

b) Approval of the April 22, 2025, General Membership minutes: It was moved by Eva Cooper-Pace, seconded by Arvie Powell, and passed 11(Bell, Cooper-Pace, Jackson, Jacobs, Kusunoki, Mays, Powell, Preston, Stonehocker, Trejo, Tyson-Frazier)-0-1(Ruiz) to approve the minutes as corrected.

c) Approval of the April 2025 Monthly Expenditure Report: In the absence of Treasurer Majenni Nixon, secretary Rosalie Preston screen-shared and reviewed the report. Remaining funds are \$12,631.84. It was moved by Eva Cooper-Pace, seconded by Rosalie Preston, and passed 11 (Bell, Cooper-Pace, Jackson, Kusunoki, Mays, Powell, Preston, Ruiz, Stonehocker, Trejo, Tyson-Frazier)-0-0, with Joan Jacobs ineligible, to approve to the Monthly Expenditure Report.

d) Approval of up to \$2,750 as a Neighborhood Purposes Grant to PESA for support of 11 families: Seymour Amster, Executor Director of PESA, explained that he had identified 11 families who live within the HGNNC boundaries and who would benefit from the grant support for food, necessities of life, and rental support. The Finance Committee at their April 28 meeting had voted to recommend this NPG. It was moved by Nita Stonehocker, seconded by Arvie Powell, and passed 11 (Bell, Cooper-Pace, Jackson, Kusunoki, Mays, Powell, Preston, Ruiz, Stonehocker, Trejo, Tyson-Frazier)-0-0, with Joan Jacobs ineligible, to approve the expenditure.

e) Approval of \$2,080 as a Neighborhood Purposes Grant to the LA Parks Foundation for support of a June 18 field trip to Knotts Berry Farm, as part of Rosecrans Recreation Center's Summer Day Camp: Wesley King, Director of the Rosecrans Recreation Center, explained that the annual Summer Day Camp is a nine-week program, which operates Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. , with daily activities and a weekly field trip, including pier fishing, surfing, and a bus trip to Raging Waters. Due to City budget cuts, the Recreation Center is seeking support for the June 18 field trip to Knotts Berry Farm. The funds will cover the entrance fee for 45 children and 7 adults will accompany them. This NPG had also been recommended by the Finance Committee at their April 28 meeting. It was moved by Eva Cooper-Pace, seconded by Frankie Mays, and passed 11(Bell, Cooper-Pace, Jackson, Kusunoki, Mays, Powell, Preston, Ruiz, Stonehocker, Trejo, Tyson-Frazier)-0-0, with Joan Jacobs ineligible, to approve the expenditure.

5) Board business/announcements

a) Reports from Committees: Planning and Land Use Committee: The City Planning Commission held their hearing on the proposed Prologis warehouse on May 8 and voted to approve the Environmental Impact Report and recommendation to accept that from the Department of City Planning. The HGNNC Planning and Land Use Committee met on May 6 and heard from the applicant of a proposed 111 unit six-story apartment building that would be located along the 105 freeway exit ramp at Vermont Avenue. The project is currently on hold as the applicant has not yet submitted some of the required documents to the Department of City Planning.

b) Brief announcements from Board members: There were none.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Secretary

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