

## Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, January 26, 2016

135<sup>th</sup> Street School Auditorium, 801 W. 135<sup>th</sup> Street

Present: Pamela Thornton (Acting Chairperson), 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), Shirley Johnson (District 8), Deborah Lee (Community Organization Representative), Richard Lee (Youth Representative), and Charlene Marshall (At-Large Representative)

The meeting was called to order at 7:14 p.m. by Acting Chair Pamela Thornton. She then reviewed safety procedures to follow in the event of an emergency. Llewyn Fowlkes led the salute to the flag, followed by a moment of silence. Pamela Thornton introduced herself and pointed out the Code of Civility printed on the back of the agendas. The other thirteen Board members present then introduced themselves.

**1) Public Comment:** District 4 stakeholder Karen Johnson asked whether it is illegal for other people to take recyclables from the containers when they are put out on the curb. Senior Lead Officer Stewart said that it is.

District 4 stakeholder Darren Jones, who owns property on 130<sup>th</sup> Street, said that he would like to work on permit parking in that area. He said that he is the owner of the child care facility Rising Stars which is located at 131<sup>st</sup> Street and Menlo Avenue. He was referred to Council District 15 Field Deputy John Jones III and District 4 Representative Betty Hawkins.

District 4 stakeholder Darlene Blakemore said that those living along 129<sup>th</sup> Street have a lot of problems with those living in the apartments along El Segundo Blvd. with limited parking then parking their vehicles on 129<sup>th</sup> Street for a week at a time. She was referred to Senior Lead Officer Carmen Gutierrez.

Cassandra Black, Recruiter from California Mentor, said that their organization is seeking people with an extra room in their homes to provide housing for adults with special needs. California Mentor provides a monthly stipend to the host and ongoing support services.

District 3 stakeholder Karla Hernandez reported that she has lived in her home for 14 years and was burglarized twice in her first two years there and yesterday morning had been burglarized again. She lives to the west of the DWP easement that is used for a community garden. Her block wall is only 4' high and the ground in the garden is high, making it easy for a burglar to go over her wall and into the house by a back window. She would like to see the garden closed or the wall made higher. There is also a lot of trash in front of her home along Estrella. She was referred to John Jones III, who said she had already called him and he has visited the site and made a call to the DWP, who said they will work on the issue.

**2) Los Angeles Police Department report:** Senior Lead Officer Angelo Stewart said that he covers the Districts 7 and 8 areas. His cell phone number is (213) 793-0726. He discussed what to do when faced with a situation with a shooter, as happened in San Bernardino and so many other places recently. If you can, leave the area. Otherwise rely on your previous training and preparation ahead of time and know where the exits are. Know the hiding places. As a last resort, plan to fight to injure and disable the assailant. The LAPD has training simulators which the public can arrange to try out. He gave out the brochure "Run, Hide, Fight", which summarizes the plan to follow.

Senior Lead Officer Carmen Gutierrez, who covers Districts 1,2,3,4, 5 and 6, gave out her cell phone number (213) 793-0727. She said that in regards to the homeless encampment at 117<sup>th</sup> and Figueroa Street in District 6, she is working with the City Attorney, South Bureau Homicide, and Narcotics on abatement of the issues. She is working with the Department of Transportation about the multiple cars parked along Redondo Beach Blvd. with "for sale" signs in District 2. Cars have recently been impounded. She is aware of the G13 activity at the intersection of Ainsworth and 165<sup>th</sup> Place in District 1. Apartment buildings at 819 and 825 W. 165<sup>th</sup> Place, which has been a site of G13 activity, has been sold and she is working with the new owners. She is also working with the owner of the Laundromat at

832 W. Gardena Blvd. due to G13 hanging out in front on the sidewalk. There is currently a lot of gang graffiti in the area and that is also being addressed.

**3) Council District 15 report:** John Jones III, Council District 15 Field Deputy for Councilman Joe Buscaino for the Harbor Gateway and Watts areas, said that he has doing a lot focusing on our area and knows that a lot more still needs to be done. He cleaned up the alley to the south of 130<sup>th</sup> Street in District 4 where Darren Jones owns property using private crews which the Councilman pays for. When stakeholders call for alley clean up through the City of Los Angeles, the response usually takes a month. The Councilman has created Clean Harbor Gateway which sends out the private cleaning group every other week to clean an alley or street. However, Harbor Gateway includes Harbor Gateway North and Harbor Gateway South, so the cleaning crew is in the Harbor Gateway North area about once a month. This service has been in effect about two to three months. Let him know the problem locations. He was given a list of all of the alleys in District 4 and all of them should have been cleaned. CD 15 utilized the Conservation Corps to clean up one bad alley. It is best to e-mail him at [john.jonesiii@lacity.org](mailto:john.jonesiii@lacity.org) as he is in the field so much. Or leave a message at (213) 473-5128. You can also always call 311 or use the 311 app on your smartphone, which submits a photo of the problem and location and results in a record which can be forwarded to Mr. Jones if you don't get resolution in a timely manner.

District 1 Representative Ramon Montoya said there are a lot of motor homes parked on streets more than three days in the Merit Tract area. Acting Chair Pamela Thornton said that Athens Blvd, in District 5 worked with CD 15 to have signs posted so that enforcement can take place. Otherwise, if the vehicles are currently licensed, then it is legal for them to park on residential streets.

District 4 stakeholder Arvie Kenan said that the alley south of 131<sup>st</sup> was recently cleaned but has been dumped in again.

There are a lot of mobile homes parked along Figueroa from Rosecrans to 135<sup>th</sup> Street and a lot of trash thrown out around them, so that is another area where signage is needed. When the vehicles are not currently licensed, then the residents of those vehicles can be evicted.

District 4 Representative Betty Hawkins asked whether when the alleys are cleaned, is it just that the bulky items are removed or are the weeds also removed? John Jones III said that both should be done. She also asked why the special machine used to clean out alleys can't be used on the District 4 alleys as it was done in Watts. John Jones III said that the machine is leased from a non-profit and was paid for by the Watts Neighborhood Council, which is something the Harbor Gateway North could consider.

At-Large Representative Charlene Marshall pointed out that there are large trees in the sidewalks along Figueroa Street and Gardena Blvd. in front of her condominium complex and that the trees have badly lifted the sidewalks, especially in front of a bus stop for the Gardena Transit and Torrance Transit. The large trees also provide a place for gang members to hang out. John Jones III said that he has asked for the trees to be trimmed. Charlene said that the residents would like to see them removed.

District 4 stakeholder Darren Jones recommended that each resident take responsibility for their part of their alley and he also offered the assistance of his staff from the Rising Stars Academy. John Jones III said that the City could help provide large dumpsters for such clean ups.

District 4 stakeholder Michelle Nelson said that the apartment residents from El Segundo Blvd. park along 129<sup>th</sup> Street, resulting in her family and guests having to park far from her home. Acting Chair Pamela Thornton said that the issue of permit parking had already been mentioned as a possible solution.

**4) Emergency Preparedness 101, with special recommendations for preventing flood damage from El Nino rains storms:** Community Organization Representative Deborah Lee said that it is important to be prepared for El Nino, especially as two inches of rain are predicted for Sunday February 1. She pointed out the handouts which were put out for stakeholders: checklist for household preparedness, information for cell phone alerts of emergencies, FEMA advice (don't drive through deep puddles of water), and the 5 Steps for Preparedness from the Emergency Management Department.

To prepare for El Nino, contact either Fire Station 64 or Fire Station 79 for sand bags. It is much better to prevent flooding in a home as water damage can be very costly to repair. Keep your lists of valuable documents inside plastic to protect them.

CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) classes help you prepare for any type of emergency and are offered frequently. Check [www.cert-la.com](http://www.cert-la.com) for the class schedule. Stakeholders who complete

their CERT training or a first aid class can receive a red HGNNC emergency preparedness bag with a flashlight and first aid kit inside.

(Ramon Montoya and Marvin Bell left the meeting at 8:25 p.m.)

Another Ham radio review class and FCC test will be given on Sat. February 26 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Sheriff's Youth Foundation, 11911 S. Vermont Avenue. The HGNNC will provide the study booklet to interested stakeholders. The trained Ham radio operators will form the backbone of the City's emergency communications during a major emergency.

A District 6 stakeholder asked how an older person could get assistance with picking up filled sandbags, which are very heavy.

**5) Board election – Sat. June 11; Shred It Day; online voter registration:** Kristina Smith, Independent Election Administrator for the HGNNC and Nancy Trojan, Ad Hoc Election Chair, discussed the online voter registration which 35 Neighborhood Councils are trying out for the first time this year. There will also be in-person voting on Sat. June 11 from 10 am to 4 p.m. at the 135<sup>th</sup> Street School. Nancy Trojan said that the Shred Day would most likely be Sat. March 26 so save up your papers with personal information which need to be shredded. Kristina will be present and can assist stakeholders to register via a paper form, as well. Kristina pointed out that Mayor Garcetti wants to see Neighborhood Councils have more participation in government. Increasing the number of Neighborhood Council voters will make an impression on the elected officials. Nancy said that candidates for the 17 Board seats will also be needed and that candidate filing will begin February 27 and end April 12 and will be online, also.

**6) Approval of the October 27 Membership meeting minutes:** It was moved by Rey Paduani, seconded by Joan Jacobs, and passed 11-0-0 to approve the minutes as submitted.

**7) Treasurer's report: expenditures to date:** Treasurer Joan Jacobs reviewed the summary of expenditures from July 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015. \$11,197.22 has been spent of the \$42,000 allocated. There will be a Finance Committee meeting on Sat. January 30 at 10 a.m. at the Harbor Gateway Community Center, 801 W. Gardena Blvd. to revise the budget to most likely reflect an increase in the amount budgeted for election outreach..

**8) Update on planning and land use issues, Ham radio training – Sat. Feb. 27:** Planning and Land Use Chair Pamela Thornton discussed the progress on reducing the dust impact from California Waste Services, 621 W. 152<sup>nd</sup> Street. At the October 27 General Membership meeting, the South Coast Air Quality Management District said that they would visit the homes of several stakeholders living along 149<sup>th</sup> Street who believe they have been impacted by the dust created from the construction debris recycling of California Waste Services. However, those visits have not yet taken place. Meanwhile, stakeholders need to call in to the AQMD on their toll-free number 1-800-STOP-SMOG when they see dust in the air or on the asphalt of Orchard Avenue. A flyer with the number was given out. Pamela said that other agencies are being contacted. The next Planning and Land Use Committee meeting will be Saturday February 6 at 10 a.m. at the Harbor Gateway Community Center.

**9) Announcements:** Acting Chair Pamela Thornton has begun holding office hours from 6 to 8 p.m. on the second and fourth Mondays of each month to discuss issues or concerns in more detail than is possible in the General Membership or Committee meetings. Call the HGNNC office number (310) 768-3853 when you arrive at the front door.

Los Angeles County is holding a series of open houses to receive input from the public on where new parks are needed and which need repair or expansion. Those living in the City of Los Angeles can attend, with one session scheduled for Sat. January 30 at 10 a.m. at Harbor UCLA Hospital-Assembly Room. A future bond measure may be issued to help fund the new parks.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Recording Secretary