

## Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, January 24, 2012  
135<sup>th</sup> Street Elementary School Auditorium  
801 135<sup>th</sup> Street, Gardena, CA

Present: Rosalie Preston (Chairperson); Delores Allmond (Vice Chairperson); Neodros Bridgeforth (Corresponding Secretary); Joan Jacobs (Treasurer); Ramon Montoya (District 1); Adrian Valenzuela (District 2); Ray Paduani (District 3); Betty Hawkins (District 4); Llewyn Fowlkes (District 5); Marvin Bell (District 6); Renard Harrison (District 7); Gloria Christmas (District 8); Deborah Lee (Community Org. Rep.); Leo Youngblood (At-Large Representative); Eva Cooper (At-Large Representative).

The meeting was called to order at 7:18 p.m. by Rosalie Preston (Chairperson).

1) **Public Comment:** Lu Watson reported on the December meeting in Watts regarding redistricting of City Council boundaries. She brought a flyer which contains the website and a list of hearings. Council District 15 boundaries need to be adjusted and therefore some of the Harbor Gateway North area, including District 5 may become part of Council District 8. Maps with proposed new boundaries will be published online on January 25. The whole process will be completed quickly.

Joan Jacobs spoke about the Mayor's budget survey. Everyone in the city is encouraged to share their ideas for budget adjustment which would bring the City back to fiscal responsibility. The link should be on the City's webpage. Last year 10,000 participated and the Mayor's goal is for more this year. Joan stressed several times throughout the evening the importance of people participating in this survey.

2) **LA Police Department Report:** Carmen Gutierrez, the interim Senior Lead Officer for the LAPD for the 18A97 area (Districts 1-6) reported on recent crime in the area from Imperial to Artesia and from Figueroa to Vermont. She has been with LAPD for 8 years and with the Southeast Division for 5 years she said. She reported one shooting in the 14800 block of Orchard within the past month. There was a question from a stakeholder as to the protocol when police arrive in response to a burglary call. Officer Gutierrez said the house should be inspected when the police arrive.

3) **LA Fire Department Report:** Eric Anderson of the LAFD Firehouse #79 reported the past year's statistics for firefighting in Los Angeles. They had 380,000 calls, taking 500 people a day to the hospital. He says they save lives and save property for less cost than 50% of the country.

Firefighter Jarvis "Bubba" Willis of the LAFD is in charge of the CERT Unit. Hands-On Training in emergency preparedness/CERT will be held Wednesdays on March 7, 14, 21, 28, April 4, 11, and 18 at 10811 S. Main Street at Fire Station #64. from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.. Contact person is Firefighter Butler at (818) 756-9674. The training is free.

5) (Taken out of order) **Reconsideration of Board position on alcohol sales at the restaurant at 12750 S. Figueroa Street, El Antojito Grill, (SA 2011-2120 CUB) in light of new information.** Planning and Land Use Committee Chair Neodros Bridgeforth reported that the Board's original understanding of what the El Antojito restaurant would be like, as a sit-down family-type restaurant turned out to be not the case once the restaurant opened. It is, in fact, a fast food restaurant where customers order at a counter, has no waiter service in the traditional sense, and which offers outside seating. Therefore customers could take alcoholic drinks outside and then off the property. Therefore, the Board is being asked to reconsider its approval of on-site alcohol sales from the restaurant. The opposition to off-site sales of alcohol from the attached market would remain the same.

The applicant spoke with an interpreter and declared that the business is a sit-down restaurant, that staff bring food and beverages to the tables, and that there would be supervision of the outdoor seating. When asked

if his food truck is still parked outside, he answered affirmatively. Lu Watson reminded the Board that the restaurant is located within the Figueroa Street corridor and that this corridor is well-known for its problems with prostitution, gangs, and drug sales. The nearby community objects to the liquor sales as tending to encourage these undesirable activities in that location. Leo Youngblood commented that the Board had already voted on limiting the hours and offsite alcoholic beverage sales for that reason. Rosalie Preston added that now the concern is that there are no waiters/waitresses who can adequately monitor onsite alcoholic beverage sales and consumption, including the outdoor tables. A stakeholder commented that there were other locations selling liquor in the area. Ramon Montoya said that there are six other locations for alcoholic beverages in the area. The applicant questioned why the Board does not see this as a family restaurant. He said the food and drinks are taken to tables inside and he doesn't understand why the idea exists that there are tables and chairs outside because it is not true. He declared that the ABC license would limit service to inside. He said inspectors will fine the restaurant if they are in violation. If there is crime, it affects them (the owners) as much as the community. He said that they want to give service to the community and that the market was placed there to give service to the community. He invited a visit to the market to see that they offer many things for sale for the community's needs. He said he has a lunch truck outside, but it is not used for people to go into and drink alcohol. Leo Youngblood commented that a three-beer limit per customer was agreed to. The applicant read out the HGNNC letter of December 29, 2011, where it was stipulated, and the owner agreed, to provide security guards and cameras. Llewyn Fowlkes from District 5 stated he did not approve of the Board's previous recommendation and said that the applicant's desires are not the desires of the community. Reynard Harrison moved to table further discussion until the next scheduled Board meeting on February 14 as that would be within the five week time limit for further comment as directed by the L.A. City Planning Department. Leo Youngblood seconded the motion and it passed with 9 in favor, 0 against, and 0 abstaining.

4) **Celebration of HGNNC ten-year anniversary – where we've been and where we're going:** Thomas Soong from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment gave a history of the Council and urged stakeholders to get involved by bringing issues to the Board; and/or joining one of the Standing Committees (i.e., Planning or Outreach); or, join the Board itself. He spoke of the Neighborhood Councils' sufficiency; the Board elections for 2012 in the works; the Brown Act by which all Board members are mandated to attend conflict of interest training because of their responsibility for the annual funding which total \$40,500 per year at this time. There are upcoming Neighborhood Council training days: February 11 at Hollywood Constituent Service Center (6501 Fountain Ave. LA); February 25, 2012 at Mark Ridley-Thomas Constituent Service Center (8475 S. Vermont Ave. LA); and March (day tbd) at Marvin Braude Constituent Service Center (6262 Van Nuys Blvd., Van Nuys). There will be a General Manager's Roundtable (rsvp at 213.485.1360). The trainings include ethics training and training related to the services of the Department of Transportation.

A slide show was then presented by Rosalie Preston summarizing some of the notable events and issues of the HGNNC over its first ten years.

6) **Approval of the October 25, 2011 General Membership Meeting Minutes:** Gloria Christmas moved and Marvin Bell seconded the motion to approve the October 25, 2011 General Membership meeting minutes. The motion passed 12-0.

7) **Treasurer's Report; the Finance Committee will meet – project funding ideas are needed:** Joan Jacobs distributed and spoke about the Treasurer's Report. If you have ideas for project funding, please call the HGNNC office in February, or sooner. Rosalie Preston reported on a possible idea for project funding based on a recent contest in another area of the City where the goal was to report the largest pothole within the Neighborhood Council boundaries and then help pay for its repair. In the HGNNC case, it could be the "highest raised sidewalk." If you have any locations or other ideas, please call them in to HGNNC office, as a priority list of areas needing City services will eventually be presented to the new Councilman Joe Buscaino. Rey Paduani moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and Llewyn Fowlkes seconded the motion. It passed 12-0.

8) **Report on HGNNC activities and planning issues updates:** Talks are ongoing with churches in the community about a partnership outreach event – possibly a health fair. One of the Board’s biggest priority items is the Emergency Preparedness Training for the community. One is ongoing at Normandale Park on 223<sup>rd</sup> Street on Mondays; and in the future on Wednesdays, beginning March 7, at 108<sup>th</sup> Street and Main Street. The Board is still working on organizing HAM Radio operator training. HAM Radios are owned by the HGNNC but more people are needed to be trained and practice at using them.

City planning issues: Lu Watson reported on the City Planning Department’s updates of the various Community Plans. She said that the trend in the first plans to be reviewed seems to be increased density which favors the interests of developers rather than community residents. Other planning issues of concern are the defining of what constitutes a boarding houses in the R1 zones and the proposal that murals painted on private property would be approved by the permit process without any formal public hearing. Tanner Blackman of the Dept. of City Planning can be contacted at [tanner.blackman@lacity.org](mailto:tanner.blackman@lacity.org) or (213) 978-1195 for information on the mural issue and the public comment period ends on February 8. Also at issue, Lu reported, is the increase in the number of permits for apartment buildings rather than single-family homes and the fact that Building and Safety Department inspector staff are severely limited. There is now only one code enforcement person per every 50,000 people in the City.

9) **Announcements:** The next General Membership meeting will be held April 24, 2012.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl J. Wendell  
(Kelly Services)