

**Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council
General Membership Meeting of April 22, 2008**

Present: Adrian White (Chair), Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), Joan Jacobs (Corresponding Secretary), Gloria Christmas (Treasurer), Ray Johnson (District 1), Adrian Valenzuela (District 2), Rey Paduani (District 3), Betty Hawkins (District 4), Llewyn Fowlkes (District 5), Willie Blackmon (District 6), Mattie Menser (District 7), and Neodros Bridgeforth (Faith Based Representative)

Chair Adrian White called the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m.

1) Public Comment: Betty Anderson, Chair of the Rosecrans Park Neighborhood Watch, announced that their group has found a vendor for aluminum Neighborhood Watch signs, similar to what the LAPD used to provide for residents in the past. She handed out copies of the ordering information. Betty also announced that the opening day for youth baseball at Rosecrans Park will be Saturday at 9 a.m.

Irma Fukumoto, District 2 stakeholder, reported that too many cars are being parked along Bonsallo between 154th and 157th Streets.

Dr. Stella Robinson, District 8, asked for a way to contact CalTrans about the clogged drainage pipes under the 105 freeway between Stanford and Clovis which presents a danger from flooding during the rainy season.

Neodros Bridgeforth, HGNNC representative to the Planning Oversight Committee, reported on the training which she received on April 12 related to land use issues

LAPD Report: Senior Lead Officer Armando Ramirez introduced the officers from Car 18X96, Officer Amarantes, who was formerly a detective, and Officer Romero, who has worked in the Southeast Division for the past year.

DONE Report: Rose Ibanez, Project Coordinator, introduced herself and mentioned that besides the HGNNC, she assists six other Neighborhood Councils.

2) Speaker representing the lobbyist for 7- Eleven store at 700 W. Imperial Highway: Ira Handelman of Handelman Consulting, Inc., explained that his company was representing 7-Eleven Stores, which is the largest convenience store in the world, and plans to open a store at 700 W. Imperial Highway. He said that the request for a liquor license through the State's Dept. of Alcoholic Beverages had been posted too early and this meant there had not been time to meet with the community ahead of time to discuss their concerns. He noted that most of the letters received by the State's Department of Alcoholic Beverages opposed the sale of beer and wine at that location, though some approved having a convenience store at that location. He asked for a show of hands for those who would support a 24-hour store without the beer and wine sales and noted that 99% of 7-Eleven stores are open 24 hours a day. (At this point a stakeholder advised him that it was illegal and inappropriate for him, an invited guest, to usurp the authority of the HGNNC Board and take a vote of the HGNNC Stakeholders.) He pointed out that the City's conditional use permit is what governs whether beer and wine will be served. Stakeholders expressed concern over loitering if the store is open 24-hours a day and asked about security provisions. Mr. Handelman said that the store would use a newer type of interactive security

which connects directly with the LAPD via camera. There is also concern over an increase in littering from those getting coffee and food at the store and inadequate parking in the mini-mall, which does not seem adequate to handle the staff of the various stores and the customers, which will result in customers parking on nearby residential streets. There is already an increase in graffiti on the empty storefront buildings. Another stakeholder thought that a local gang, such as the Denver Lanes, might claim the store as within their territory and this could lead to an increase in violence at that location. Mr. Handelman pointed out that all 7-Eleven stores are franchises and asked for those present to consider purchasing this franchised store or finding someone interested in doing so. He said he would ask that the franchise owner hire locally but that 7-Eleven itself does not control who is hired by the franchise owner. He said that with adequate staffing, good security, and good management, there should not be undue security issues.

Senior Lead Officer Armando Ramirez of the LAPD asked to speak and stated that the LAPD is against liquor sales in additional locations within the area as such sales definitely contribute to crime. He pointed out that there is a distinction between the store providing security, which they would pay for, and a police response, which taxpayers pay for. A 7-Eleven store will attract certain types of crime as is demonstrated by the 7-Eleven store at Rosecrans and Vermont, where there is loitering, the selling of used CD's, occasional robberies, etc. As for the store being open 24 hours a day, the possible benefit to the business versus the possible detriment to the community must be weighed.

Mr. Handelman said that he would like to come back to a future meeting with answers to various questions and concerns of those present. He stated that no beer or wine would be sold from this particular 7-Eleven location. He also pointed out that having the store would bring jobs, the services of the store, including pharmaceuticals, and donations to community organizations.

Announcement: (Taken out of order) State Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas said that he had learned of the meeting and wanted to announce his candidacy for the 2nd Supervisorial District, to replace the out-going Yvonne Brathwaite Burke. He said he would bring his experiences from serving on the Los Angeles City Council and in the state legislature to this new position, if elected, and referred those present to markridleythomas.com for a list of upcoming debates with his major opponent Bernard Parks.

3) The minutes of the March 25, 2008, General Membership meeting, were approved as corrected. Bridgeforth (motion), Christmas (second) 11-0

4) Treasurer's Report: Gloria Christmas presented copies of the April 1, 2008, monthly funding status report from DONE which showed a balance of \$114,694.78 with no demand warrant expenditures during March but twelve transactions via the VISA card. The treasurer's report was approved on a motion by Rosalie Preston, second by Willie Blackmon, and vote of 11-0.

Adrian Valenzuela and Rosalie Preston summarized the proposed entertainment and refreshments for the May 27 Cinco de Mayo program. Joan Jacobs moved, Rosalie Preston seconded, and it passed 11-0 to spend up to \$1000 for both food and entertainment for this event.

The expenses for the mailer on the 7-Eleven meeting which the HGNNC will hold before the City hearing came to \$1016.91 and therefore Gloria Christmas moved, and Llewyn Fowlkes seconded that an additional \$16.91 be approved. This was passed 11-0.

5) Speaker from the Department of Transportation: Yadi Hashemi, South District Engineer for DOT (covering Council Districts 8 and 15) and Lt. Devon Farfan, Senior Traffic Supervisor II for the South Parking Enforcement Area, explained that DOT is responsible for everything that happens on our streets, such as disabled parking, loading zones, traffic signals, stop signs, enforcement of parking violations, and abandoned vehicles. Major improvements are coming to our area via the ATSAC system which will coordinate traffic signals at major intersections and provide left turn lanes. In regards to response to calls about abandoned vehicles, Mr. Hashemi pointed out that 400 complaints are received each month and therefore there will be a time lag before a response is noticed. In response to a question, he pointed out that it is illegal for a truck cab (tractor) to be parked in a residential area. In response to another question, he said he would follow up on why the street sweeping signs do not all state the same day and time along 116th Place between Wadsworth and Clovis in District 8 where unswept trash blocks the storm drain and two homes have been flooded as a result. Another stakeholder asked how often the brushes of the sweepers are cleaned because the streets are still dirty after a sweeper goes by. Mr. Hashemi advised calling 311 about this. Llewyn Folkes said that Athens on the Hill (District 5) has signs for street sweeping and residents receive parking tickets for parking on sweeper days, but then the sweepers do not show up. Someone asked if there is a limit to how many cars may park at one house and suggested that the City of Los Angeles might consider requiring permits for parking in residential neighborhoods, with a limit on the number of permits per household. Another stakeholder asked the procedure for requesting street sweeping signs. Yadi Hashemi can be reached at (310) 732-4599 and Lt. Devon Farfan at (213) 485-6909.

6) Consideration of adding 24-hour operations to HGNNC Board opposition to 7-Eleven store at 700 W. Imperial Highway and letter of support request to Councilwoman Janice Hahn on this issue: Gloria Christmas moved and Neodros Bridgeforth seconded this motion. Under discussion, one stakeholder expressed support for having a 7-Eleven store in the neighborhood and another asked what alternative hours would be proposed. Ira Handelman, lobbyist for 7-Eleven, stated that there could be no project if the store could not be open 24 hours at that location. Rosalie Preston moved, Rey Paduani seconded and it was passed 11-0 to table this motion to a future meeting.

7) Additional appointments to Finance and Emergency Preparedness Committees: Rosalie Preston moved, Llewyn Fowlkes seconded and it was passed 11-0 to add Joan Jacobs to the Finance Committee. Betty Hawkins moved, Mattie Menser seconded and it was approved 11-0 to add Paris Miller and Llewyn Fowlkes to the Emergency Preparedness Committee.

8) Announcements: Stakeholder Richard Higashi thanked the Board, particularly Rey Paduani and Mattie Menser, for the refreshments provided for the meeting tonight.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston