

Harbor Gateway North General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

135th Street School Auditorium, 801 W. 135th Street

Present: Pamela Thornton (Chair), Hannah Woods (Corresponding Secretary), Joan Jacobs (Treasurer), Clyde Noguchi (District 2), Rey Paduani (District 3), Betty Hawkins (District 4), Llewyn Fowlkes (District 5), Marvin Bell (District 6), Janet Mitchell (District 7), Richard Lee (Youth Representative), and Eva Cooper-Pace (At-Large Representative)

- 1) **Welcome/Introductions:** Chair Pamela Thornton called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.
- 2) **Updates from LAPD Southeast Station:** Senior Lead Officer Carmen Gutierrez gave updates on recent incidents in the HGNNC area. At about 4:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 24, the LAFD received a radio call of a fire on 154th and Orchard. While putting out the fire, they heard gunshots and requested backup; units from the LAPD and the LA Sheriff's office responded. After the suspect killed his mother and tried to shoot himself, SWAT was called. The suspect eventually decided to come out and is currently in critical condition at the hospital. Officer Gutierrez also summarized an incident of a young man who confronted Gardena Police at the intersection of Vermont Avenue and Redondo Beach Blvd. with a knife and asked them to shoot him. He was shot in the hand, also hit with a nonlethal beanbag round, and transported to the hospital.

Officer Gutierrez also talked about receiving emails about homeless encampments on the railroad tracks, summarizing the efforts to clean up track-adjacent homeless encampments between Hoover and Imperial. She fielded questions from stakeholders on this subject as well as the issue of illegal dumping in the area. When a stakeholder raised the issue of homeless parking motor homes in the area, Gutierrez explained that if they aren't committing a crime and have current registration, the police/city are limited in their ability to address it. Chair Pamela Thornton encouraged stakeholders to petition the city for no-parking signs as a deterrent until the issue can be addressed through new policies.

- 3) **Presentation by Cynthia Dorantes, Victim Service Coordinator, Los Angeles City Attorney – Victim Assistance Program (VAP):** Cynthia Dorantes introduced herself, representing the LA City Attorney's office and their Victim Assistance Program. The program is grant-funded and has been around since 1980 providing state-mandated services to victims and witnesses of all crime. She explained that their goal is to help victims through the recovery process by reimbursing medical expenses, relocation expenses, counseling and providing court support. She explained how the program classifies victims and the qualifications necessary to apply (there must be a police report filed and there is a 3-year filing deadline). She also detailed what the program does not cover, including pain and suffering, lost property, or things that occur when a person is on felony probation or parole.

- 4) **Presentation by Tressa Thompson, Senior Driver Ombudsman, Senior Ombudsman Program, Department of Motor Vehicles:** Tressa Thompson introduced herself and explained that the Driver Ombudsman program was created after an incident in 2003 when a senior driver drove through the Santa Monica Farmers' Market killing many people. Now, through the DO program, seniors have a direct connection with the DMV. Thompson's contact information is available through official websites and the official driver's manual. She personally helps seniors prepare for renewal examinations and special tests, both the written and driving tests.

She also discussed the Real ID Act, a federal mandate by the Department of Homeland Security that compels states to make their licenses or ID's federally compliant. California is just now coming into compliance with this mandate. Citizens of California will be required to have a federally compliant Real ID (driver's license or ID card) by October 2020 in order to use it when traveling and will need to bring an identification document such as a birth certificate, Social Security card, or verification of address to obtain it. If someone has the old type of license or ID card, they will have to use a passport or other alternate ID accepted by the TSA to travel. The cost

will be \$35 to obtain a Real ID, they remain valid for 5 years, and it is not mandatory to obtain one. Seniors can get a Real ID-compliant senior ID card for free.

She then fielded Board and stakeholder questions, and explained some of the things affecting seniors at the DMV, including the changeover to touchscreen technology. She said that paper testing was still an option, but must be requested. In addition, she talked about programs which provide rides for seniors to places for shopping and doctors appointments, including Access, Dial-A-Drive, and Google Grandparent. She also clarified that by October 2020, a Real ID-compliant license or ID card will be necessary to enter a federal building or military base.

5) **Harbor Gateway North Area – Office of the Elected Offices Within HGNNC**

a) **Field Rep Victor Ibarra, Office of Assemblymember Mike Gipson, 64th Assembly District:**

Victor Ibarra introduced himself and began addressing issues that stakeholders had brought up over the course of the meeting. Regarding the issue of federal/state/local/city jurisdiction in terms of addressing train track and homeless encampment cleanup, he explained that if it is a State issue, they can call his office (anything behind the fence on a freeway is state property). His office is working with the Senior Lead Officer in Wilmington on the issue of RV's parking under overpasses, but that it is a city jurisdiction.

He discussed Prop HHH, which was passed by voters in 2016, and which provides funding for the building of 222 units in every City Council district every two years. This measure funds not just housing but also provides services to integrate the homeless back into society. Assemblymember Gipson has urged Governor Brown to allocate \$1 billion from the general fund for more services for the homeless.

In response to a stakeholder question about new census questions regarding race, he said he would get more information and acknowledged that the census was dividing people more which dilutes the money that is funding a lot of community programs. Sensitive questions such as these will discourage people from participating, which leads to a lack of funding and disproportionately affects minorities.

He also elaborated on Measure H and Measure HHH and how the measures provide for the construction of Permanent Supportive Housing, which not only provides low-income housing but also social services to the poor and homeless. However, the problem is that many stakeholders adopt the attitude of "Not In My Backyard." To combat this, the City of Los Angeles is working with the United Way of Greater Los Angeles on a massive outreach initiative.

Ibarra explained that the Assemblymember's office is also working on green initiatives, including the GRID program, which installs solar panels free on homes if they qualify. They will be having an event at the 135th Street School in June to present information about GRID as well as Green Loans and Green Mortgages for those purchasing new homes. Participants who stay through the meeting will get a free purifying air filter courtesy of SoCal Gas.

Finally, he announced that Assemblymember Gipson is having an African-American Leaders of Tomorrow event where students come from throughout the state to stay overnight in Camp Dominguez Hills to take leadership classes and listen to guest speakers.

b) **Office of Councilmember Joe Buscaino, 15th Council District:** There was no representative from the office of Councilmember Buscaino present.

6) **Octaviano Rios, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) – Updates on 2019**

Elections and Outreach: Neighborhood Council Advocate Octaviano Rios introduced himself and talked about the role of DONE in supporting the elections for Neighborhood Councils. Harbor Gateway North and the other 96 NC's will be holding their elections between January 2019 and June 2019. He summarized the role of Neighborhood Councils in addressing local issues directly and communicating their community's needs to

decision-makers at various levels of government: city, county, state, federal, and with agencies between local and federal government such as the Department of Public Works, Housing, etc.

The other big objective that Neighborhood Councils have is promoting civic engagement, both getting stakeholders to attend meetings and engage with local issues and bringing agencies to the table to engage with local problems. In preparation for the 2019 elections, the Board should activate their Outreach Committee and have them formulate an outreach plan and engage volunteers who will help get stakeholders out to vote. The Outreach Committee should tell the story of their Neighborhood Council, and DONE and stakeholders should be a big part of that as well.

An outreach strategy should be about vision, mission, and goals. The vision shouldn't change too much, since stakeholders always want cleaner air, safer streets, and a better life. The goals should change yearly, depending on what goals the Board decides on at their annual retreat. Rios also emphasized the tools of engagement: the website, social media, direct mailing, etc., which are good tools to use for engagement beyond the scope of face-to-face Board meetings.

Another big pillar of outreach is developing community collaborations, such as developing or leveraging community contacts with local block captains, bankers, librarians, HOA's, PTA's, cultural and religious organizations, and so on. The other big pillar is media, which can help get information out. The Board should be developing local media contacts and press release templates. Rios also acknowledged that there is a huge Latino community in Harbor Gateway North, a kind of silent majority, so it is important for the Board to address their needs as far as translation and interpretation, since they're also stakeholders with an investment in their community.

He also said that an alternative from walking door-to-door to meet and engage citizens is that the Board could set up booths at public events or in front of local businesses with permission. They can also host meets and greets. The important thing is to ensure that all of the 17 seats on the Board are being competed for.

All of this information is on empowerLA.org/elections and in a few weeks, it will be updated from 2016 info to 2019 info. The Congress of Neighborhoods will be held on Sat. September 22 and is a huge convening of Neighborhood Councils with informational workshops at City Hall from 8 AM to 3PM. Breakfast and lunch will be provided for free. The elections will be run by the City Clerk's office with DONE coordinating election outreach with them.

7) **Public Comment:** Before the agenda was moved, Chair Pamela Thornton announced that there are two upcoming cleanups proposed and planned by their District representatives: a District 5 community cleanup on May 19 and a District 7 community cleanup on Sat. April 28th from 10 am to 2 pm.

District 8 stakeholder Robert Campbell wanted to speak about a section of Towne Avenue between 116th and 116th Place. He had submitted a form about it last meeting and emphasized that it is a very blighted area in District 8 that is repeatedly passed over by cleaning details. He has emailed the District 8 Representative about a possible program for cleaning up the area because of all the illegal dumping. Lastly, Campbell requested that the Board consider traffic and safety precautions for crossing Avalon Blvd. underneath the 105 Freeway between 116th and 118th. He has seen so many people nearly get hit there.

Emily Spear introduced herself and explained that she is running for Lost Angeles Superior Court judge Office 146 on June 5. She summarized her experience as a Deputy District Attorney working in the Special Victims field, including sex crimes and homicides involving women and children. She asked the Board and stakeholders to take a look at her website.

8) **Consent Calendar (Items 8a-8c)**

a) **Approval of the January 23, 2018 General Membership Minutes**

b) **Approval of up to \$2,000 for the Saturday, June 9th Board Retreat at the Holiday Inn Harbor Gateway-Torrance**

c) **Approval of \$34.10 to City of LA Publishing Services (box of business cards for Richard Lee)**

It was moved by Eva Cooper-Pace, seconded by Llewyn Fowlkes, and passed 11-0-0 to approve Consent Calendar items 8a, 8b, and 8c.

9) **Announcements:** Pamela Thornton announced that there would be a Free Prom Dress Party on May 5th at 301 N Tamarind Ave in Compton from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. They are requesting donations for new or gently used prom dresses, jewelry, makeup, etc. If interested, see District 7 Representative Janet Mitchell. Janet Mitchell reminded those present to help support the District 7 cleanup on April 28 with sign ups at the 200th block of East 116 Place, scheduled from 10 am to 2 pm.

A stakeholder announced that registration has begun at the Booker T Anderson Learning Center. It ends May 27 and serves children who need extra credit for school. They are offering core subjects and a summer program. Information can be found at Unitychurchla.org.

10) **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Minutes taken by John Parton, AppleOne