

## Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, July 28, 2020

Held via Zoom webinar

Present: David Matthews (Chair), Franz Rodriguez (Vice Chairperson), Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), La Juana Mitchell (Treasurer), John Ward (District 1), Joan Jacobs (District 2), Betty Hawkins (District 4), Llewyn Fowlkes (District 5), Jackie Jackson (District 6), Angela Springs (District 8), Larry Morrison (Community Organization Representative), Richard Lee (Youth Advocate), and Eva Cooper-Pace (At Large Representative)

**1) Welcome/introductions/roll call of Board members:** After determining that a quorum was present, Chair David Matthews called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. The Spanish-language interpreter explained how to request translation. David noted that this marked the one-year anniversary of Board service for the current Board. He also noted that the meeting would be recorded and the link posted to the HGNNC website. He reviewed the Code of Conduct. Richard Lee led the pledge of allegiance and Rosalie Preston called for a moment of silence in memory of John Lewis and his advocacy for voting rights and other civil rights.

### 2) Reports:

**a) LAPD Southeast Division:** Senior Lead Officer Robert Martinez, Basic Car 18A97, explained that he oversees LAPD services within the area of Artesia Blvd. to Imperial Highway and from Vermont Avenue on the west to Figueroa Street on the east. The job losses due to the pandemic and homelessness are contributing to an increase in burglaries. There have been three commercial burglaries and three residential burglaries in the area of El Segundo and Figueroa. And some in the Hoover and 126<sup>th</sup> Street area. There have been thefts from vehicles along Alondra between Vermont Avenue and Figueroa between midnight to six a.m., including purses, laptops, and wallets. Keep these items out of the vehicles or out of sight. There is a homeless encampment with about thirty motor homes on a vacant lot at Figueroa Street north of 127<sup>th</sup> Street. LAPD has talked with the property owner and explained that it is his responsibility to have the motor homes removed. Three are twenty people living in a homeless camp at 115<sup>th</sup> Street near Vermont Avenue. The City of Los Angeles is not displacing homeless encampments currently due to the pandemic. LAPD has expanded the Community Safety Partnership program and made it a new Bureau with former Southeast LAPD Captain Emada Tingirides as head and the new position of Deputy Chief.

A District 7 stakeholder asked Officer Martinez to address the issue of recent homicides. He said there was one on the 500 block of 117<sup>th</sup> Street which was the result of a domestic dispute. There was a shooting of a 14-year-old girl by a 10-year-old boy at 140<sup>th</sup> Street and Vermont Avenue. There was also a shooting of a young girl on Rosecrans near Vermont Avenue.

District 6 stakeholder Thelma Landry said there is a homeless encampment on 111<sup>th</sup> Street and Vermont Avenue, with public urination and defecation and a lot of trash which is impacting the quality of life in the neighborhood. The site is one block from the Washington Primary School.

District 7 stakeholder Ahmad Mallard commented that D.A.R.E. and other similar programs that were offered to youth when he was younger seemed to be effective ways for young people to interact in a positive way with the LAPD and wondered if there are similar programs now. Officer Martinez referred to the Community Safety Partnership program which has been in effect in seven public housing projects and will be expanded under the new Bureau.

District 2 stakeholder Ramon Portugal said that he had just moved to the Harbor Gateway North area on April 2 and wondered why there are no posted street sweeping signs on Menlo Avenue.

District 1 stakeholder Micah Silver said that he is a new resident of the Harbor Gateway North area for the past year. He wondered how the Neighborhood Council can more effectively advocate for needed services. It was suggested he work with the Senior Lead Officer and request City services via 311. He also commented that law enforcement is needed in the community but that perhaps the services could be carried out in a different way. He also said that the LAPD needs to work on communication with the community.

District 6 stakeholder Michael Hughes said that on July 24 between 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. the homeless had set numerous fires to the dry brush along their 115<sup>th</sup> Street encampment with damage to two homes resulting.

District 6 stakeholder Stephanie Rockwell said that the fireworks this year had been really bad and that some set off a fire in a neighbor's backyard. LAPD was called about the fireworks but there was no response.

A District 6 stakeholder said that the fires in the dry brush along the homeless encampment at 115<sup>th</sup> Street had caused the bedroom of one home to be destroyed. The fire also burned the ATT lines so the homes have had no telephone or internet service. The homeless enter the area through a gate on Hoover Street. The homeless play loud music at night but when LAPD is called they do not respond. Officer Martinez said the area is Caltrans property and so the LAPD cannot enter. LAPD will be forming a task force to address the issue with Caltrans and LAHSA.

District 7 stakeholder Clifford McClain said that due to the illegal dumping that happens at 117<sup>th</sup> and Spring Street cameras are needed.

District 6 stakeholder Pamela Reed-Thomas of the 115<sup>th</sup> Street Block Club said that the solution to the homeless encampment should not just rely on the LAPD but also on Council District 15. She has called them weekly for two years. Officer Martinez reminded the group that every week on Thursdays at 1 p.m. LAPD Southeast Captain Lou Pagliolonga holds a one-hour call so that stakeholders can discuss their issues and hear updates. Call in using (701) 802-5428, with an access code of 8441420#

**b) Council District 15:** Constituent Services Representative Ashley Lozada gave the report and said that Field Deputy Caitlin Muldoon was now on maternity leave after her baby girl was born this morning. Ashley and also Gabriela Medina will be filling in for Caitlin. Her report will be posted on the Harbor Gateway North website. The City Council is back from its recess and meeting via Zoom on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The Recreation and Parks Department has been funded for youth summer camp. The speed hump program opens for applications on September 26 at 8 a.m. There is a clean up of RVs and homeless on 140<sup>th</sup> Street at Figueroa on August 6. DOT studies have shown that traffic signals at 169<sup>th</sup> and Vermont Avenue and 117<sup>th</sup> and Figueroa Street are not justified.

Stakeholder Michael Hughes said that it was difficult to drive out to Figueroa from 117<sup>th</sup> Street and a traffic signal is needed there. He also suggested that the City of Los Angeles encourage a street gang summit to work out their issues, as happened after the death of Nipsey Hustle.

District 2 stakeholder Nita Stonehocker said that she would like to thank Senior Lead Officer Robert Martinez for his services. She opposes defunding the LAPD.

District 1 stakeholder Maureen Montoya said that there is a great need for a traffic signal at 168<sup>th</sup> Street and Figueroa Street.

District 7 stakeholder Ivan Cotton wondered how the proposed \$1.5 that the HGNNC will be requesting from the re-allocated LAPD funds would be spent within the HGNNC.

**3) General public comment on non-agenda items that are within the Board's jurisdiction:** District 2 stakeholder Arleen Barrios has issues with a neighbor's beehive.

A District 6 stakeholder said that prostitution is taking place at 112<sup>th</sup> and Figueroa Street and speed humps are needed on her street.

District 2 stakeholder Nita Stonehocker said she would like to be involved with any plan for allocating \$1.5 million that the HGNNC Board may be requesting from the re-allocated LAPD funds.

District 2 stakeholder Donna Cola said that cameras are needed for the 157<sup>th</sup> Street cul de sac on the east side of the 110 freeway where a lot of illegal activity takes place and also "no dumping" signs.

**4) Speaker: Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) explains how to report individual homeless people and encampments so that they can be connected to housing and support services:**

Yesenia Ortega and Elizabeth Heger of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority explained that LAHSA is a joint powers organization between the County of Los Angeles and the City of Los Angeles to coordinate homeless services. There are 180 outreach workers for the County of Los Angeles who go out in teams and work in collaboration with various supportive services. They provide meals, water, and housing resources, both temporary or permanent. It is a process to develop trust with the homeless and

the whole process can take time, with many follow up visits. It is more difficult to do outreach engagement during the pandemic as the staff needs to wear personal protective equipment. Use LA-Hop to report the need for outreach to encampments. The Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) online system allows LAHSA workers to track the homeless person and know what previous outreach has been already made. For each SPA (Service Provider Areas) area, there are two coordinators of the outreach workers. They receive the emailed requests and send them to the outreach teams. The encampment at 115<sup>th</sup> Street and Vermont Avenue is already on their list. The outreach teams also test the homeless for COVID-19. The teams identify who qualifies for Project Room Key, which is temporary housing in motels and hotels that is funded by FEMA. The teams also work to provide replacement IDs, Social Security cards, etc. so that if permanent housing becomes available they are ready to accept it.

District 7 stakeholder Clifford McClain said that a deceased friend used to help the homeless on Skid Row and he wondered if residents could bring meals to the nearby homeless and other services. It is not advisable to do this on your own. LAHSA can organize such events. Contact Council District 15 to coordinate.

District 2 stakeholder Nita Stonehocker asked if you can be cited as an individual for giving food to the homeless? There is no rule about this in Los Angeles County.

Use the la-hop portal to request outreach and services to individuals or homeless in encampments.

**5) Information on the free LADWP program for attic insulation:** Kenneth Nektani from Superhero Contractors said that they are one of the contractors residents can use under the LADWP Save Energy LA program which was created in 2018 with a \$100 million fund for attic insulation rebates. Super Heroes will cover the full cost of the insulation and the 20% which normally the customer would pay. Attic insulation is very effective in helping to cool a house and reduce energy usage used for cooling. Apartment owners are eligible as well. Super Heroes uses a sprayed material that is composed of fiberglass, wool, and polyester blend that is flexible and has a 25-year lifespan. The material is fire resistant and not palatable to rats. Customers need to have access to their attics, no knob and tube wiring in the attic, and less than 9” of old insulation. The area to be sprayed must be at least 650 square feet.

**6) Announcements:** The Homeless Issues Committee is seeking new members to participate actively in Committee work.

COVID-19 resources are linked on the HGNNC website.

Prologis will make a presentation on their proposed warehouse at the northeast corner of Redondo Beach Blvd. and Vermont Avenue on Sat. August 1 at 10 a.m. at the Joint Board/Planning and Land Use Committee meeting.

**7) Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:57 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Recording Secretary