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Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council Special Board/Town Hall Meeting

Monday, December 14, 2020

Held via Zoom webinar

Present: David Matthews (Chair), Franz Rodriguez (Vice Chairperson), La Juana Mitchell (Treasurer), John Ward (District 1), Rey Paduani (District 3), Arvie Powell (District 4) Janet Mitchell (Outreach/Communications Representative)

1) Welcome/introductions/roll call of Board members: Chair David Matthews called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. The rollcall of Board Members was conducted.

2) Reports – CD 15, LAPD, Parking Enforcement

Speakers present: Caitlin Muldoon – CD 15 Harbor City/Harbor Gateway Field Deputy

Email Contact info: Caitlin.muldoon@lacity.org

Officer Robert Martinez – LAPD Southeast Division Senior Lead Officer

covering HGNNC Districts 1 through part of District 6. Email Contact info

32384@LAPD.lacity.org

Representative, Los Angeles Parking Enforcement - not present.

After introductions from each speaker, the meeting proceeded with questions from the stakeholder in attendance. No formal reports were presented.

3) Open Discussion of issues related to abandoned vehicles, parking enforcement, street sweeping and police patrols.

Abandoned cars and parking enforcement issues:

- Response time to stakeholders' calls to remove cars that have been parked/abandoned for more than 72 hours has been historically slow. Some cars have been reported multiple times over months and still have not been removed. The slow response time existed prior to the COVID-19 moratorium which ended October 15, 2020. Currently, Harbor Gateway North has over 400 abandoned cars on the streets that should be towed away.

CD-15: the Los Angeles Parking Enforcement Department has limited resources, including staff, and a citywide backlog of requests for car removals. The most effective course of action is for residents to contact Caitlin Muldoon with unanswered requests so that she can follow up with the Department and exert pressure from her end to get the vehicle removed eventually.

- What can residents do about people sleeping in their cars in front of their home and individuals parking in the neighborhood to smoke weed or drink? Does Parking Enforcement handle this problem?

CD-15: Legally, because the City of Los Angeles doesn't have sufficient housing for homeless individuals, the City can't stop people for sleeping in their cars. As far as individuals "hanging out" in the neighborhood, Officer Martinez suggested starting a Neighborhood Watch with posted signage and to contact him for investigation and additional police patrols.

- Parked cars blocking driveways - CD-15: report vehicle information directly to 818-374-4823
- Resident selling cars and using the street parking available for neighborhood residents
CD-15: Sellor must have a permit to sell the cars. Contact Dept. of Building & Safety to report locations. Contact Caitlin to help find the right Department to help address the problem.

Street Sweeping: Some areas in HGNNC either don't have regular street sweeping or none at all.

CD-15: L.A. Bureau for Street Services is not accepting any new routes for street sweeping. However, she can request a periodic sweeping approximately every 6 months.

Neighborhood Police Patrols: Level of neighborhood police patrols is not sufficient in District 1 as well as in other HGNNC areas.

LAPD: Officer Martinez explained that LAPD doesn't have enough officers to adequately patrol all neighborhoods. Deployment of patrol officers is based on the level of crime reported in a particular area. District 1 is at the southernmost portion of the LAPD Southeast division with the most crime located in the northern districts. Therefore, it takes more time to respond to police calls in District 1 and get regular patrols.

Other topics discussed:

- Illegal dumping – Dept. of Sanitation won't clean up refuse if there's an individual living in the same area. Difficult to prosecute dumpers unless they are caught in the act of illegally dumping
- Drivers doing donuts at the intersection of Hoover St and Athens Blvd
- Individuals in the mobile homes on Figueroa St may be the source of increased crime in the adjacent neighborhood
- Explosive booms or fireworks in neighborhoods

4) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Minutes taken by La Juana Mitchell, Treasurer