

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Held via Zoom webinar

Present: Miguel Vazquez (Chairperson), Joan Jacobs (Vice Chairperson), Rosalie Preston (Secretary), Piers Fairclough (Treasurer), Keith Pitts (District 1), Julia Esqueda-Arteaga (District 2), Arvie Powell (District 4), Jodette Spann (District 5), Lorenzo Johnson (District 6), Jackie Jackson, Community Organization), Richard Lee (Youth Advocate), Angela Springs (Outreach/Communication), and Craig Kusunoki (At Large Representative)

1) Call to order and roll call of Board members: Chair Miguel Vazquez called the Board meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Roll call determined that a quorum of Board members was present.

2) General public comment on non-agenda items that are within the Board's jurisdiction: Lamar Lyons said that he is a candidate for the Council District 15 seat. He has a 25-year history in South Los Angeles and has lived in San Pedro for 26 years. He has a public service background working for a U.S. Senator, a Congressman, and City Councilmember and has also worked for a non-profit and as an investment banker. He considers the major issues of CD 15 as homelessness, crime and safety, and the environment.

3) Reports

a) Council District 8: There was no representative present.

b) Council District 15: Field Deputy Caitlin Muldoon said that she covers the areas of Harbor Gateway North, Harbor Gateway South, and Harbor City. Email her or call and she will send out her Council District 15 report: caitlin.muldoon@lacity.org or (323) 568-2083
Council File 21-0002-S195 is a resolution to support State funding to allow the County of Los Angeles to meet the number of beds recommended by mental health experts: 50 public beds per 100,000 residents. Councilmember Buscaino has introduced a motion (21-1115) to prohibit assembly, disassembly, sale, offer of sale, etc. of bicycles or bicycle parts on public property or within the public right-of-way. CARE and CARE+ clean ups took place along 116th Place west of San Pedro Street today. One RV dweller refused to move. CARE will be servicing Alondra Blvd. under the 110 freeway every other week. The State of California has mandated the recycling or organic waste into green waste bins or composting. More information will be sent out to residents. For the latest updates on COVID-19 regulations, contact the Mayor's Harbor Representative Johanna Rodriguez. For homes that have hoarded materials outside, report to Building and Safety. For service requests not completed, such as illegal dumping, take photos and have Caitlin follow up. For removal of human waste, call 1-800-974-9794. For planning and land use issues now that Aksel Palacios has transferred to working for the new Youth Development Department, contact Alison Becker, Senior Advisor, and Amy Gebert, Communications Deputy.

District 7 stakeholder Barbara Tyson pointed out that the illegal dumping under the 105 freeway and homeless encampments along 116th Place cause an increase in the rat population. Caitlin said that she is working on getting cameras installed under the freeway overpasses at Main Street, San Pedro Street, and Stanford. After a question from Board member Angela Springs, Caitlin said that tiny homes for temporary housing of the homeless with supportive services and 24/7 security on site has been proposed by Council District 15 for the park and ride

lot on the north side of the 105 freeway at Avalon Blvd. Angela Springs expressed concern that the site would be too close to the 116th Street School and will generate more crime in the area from an increase in the homeless population there. District 1 Representative Keith Pitts said that 168th under the 110 Freeway and also Denver Avenue between Gardena Blvd. and 128th Street are frequent sites of illegal dumping.

(Jackie Jackson entered the meeting at 7:06 p.m.)

District Representative Lorenzo Johnson pointed that there are many alleys in District 6 which need to be gated. Caitlin said that that requires a City Council motion for a street vacation and then the residents have to keep up the alley themselves and pay for the annual permit.

c) Mayor's Office: Johanna Rodriguez, Harbor Area Representative for Mayor Garcetti, **said** that Los Angeles County will keep the indoor mask mandate in place until hospitalizations drop below 2,000 for seven days. 30,000 have been vaccinated in Harbor Gateway North and Harbor Gateway South for a rate of 74% of the population. The vaccination rate in the City of Gardena is 81% and in Torrance it is 86%. The new minimum wage rate for those working within the City of Los Angeles will be \$16.04 per hour as of July 1, 2022. Harbor Gateway South is sponsoring a blood drive. She can help set up a COVID-19 vaccination van as well.

d) Los Angeles County Supervisor, 2nd District: There was no representative present.

e) Department of Neighborhood Empowerment: Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate Freddy Cupen-Ames reminded the Board that any Bylaws changes are due April 1. He will resend the application and DONE Bylaws template. There are four upcoming training dates for the Financial Officers. The City Clerk is also offering training on how to review and approve Neighborhood Purposes Grants. Only \$10,000 of any remaining funds can be rolled over to the next fiscal year. Of those on the Planning and Land Use Committee, only three are listed as having taken the required Planning 101 training. Keith Pitts, as the Planning and Land Use Committee Chair, can submit an updated PLU Committee roster to Freddy to get the proper contact information updated by Rosters. Board members can also take this training through their Cornerstone account. The soon-to-be finalized Digital Media Policy will help Board communicate to their stakeholders per policy guidelines.

f) Harbor Alliance of Neighborhood Councils: Secretary Rosalie Preston attended and gave the report. The new LADWP liaison for Harbor area Neighborhood Councils is Crystal Williams. The City of Los Angeles has a Student success program which pays sibling to tutor others in their same household. Council District 1 Chief of Staff Jacob Haik explained that the Planning and Land Use Deputy Aksel Palacios has moved to the new Youth Development Department and so now contact Alison Becker and Amy Gebert regarding planning and land use issues. With Aksel gone and Gabriela Medina on leave until June, staffing is short but no one additional will be hired as the Councilmember's term is ending. Buscaino left the South Coast AQMD Board as of February 4. A Task Force has been created to deal with the trucks and containers on Wilmington streets. Report chassis parked on your streets via 311 and also notify CD 15. LADWP turf replacement program now has free design services and a list of contractors to carry out the work. The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment has a pilot program to test out hybrid meetings. HANC plans to sponsor a Council District 15 Candidate Forum on a Saturday in late April/early May. Rosalie Preston will help to organize it via Zoom. Richard Lee, Keith Pitts, and Miguel Vazquez volunteered to help out.

4) Appointment of a representative to the Harbor Alliance of Neighborhood Councils: Due to other commitments, Keith Pitts, the HGNNC HANC representative has had to resign from that position. There can be two or even three official representatives. No one else expressed interest,

so Rosalie Preston said she would be willing to attend the quarterly meetings until another volunteer steps forward. It was moved by Keith Pitts, seconded by Richard Lee, and passed 13-0-0 to appoint Rosalie Preston as the HGNNC representative to HANC.

5) Committee appointments

a) Homeless Issues: The only known candidate, Dr. Mello Desire, was present and gave some background on her interest in serving on the Homeless Issues Committee. She has a non-profit, the Kingdom Warriors Foundation. She has worked to support the creation of the Skid Row Neighborhood Council. She sees a need for housing in the community and has been working to support housing and services for the homeless. She may ask the HGNNC for a grant of \$4,000 for outreach and engagement to those who are homeless. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Angela Springs, and passed 10-1(Fairclough)-2(Johnson, Lee) to appoint Dr. Mello Desire (to be known as Kridikel Desire) to the Homeless Issues Committee.

b) Planning and Land Use: Two candidates for appointment had emailed their interest. The statement of District 1 stakeholder Maj Nixon was read out but she had indicated that she had a conflict and was unable to attend the Board meeting. District 5 stakeholder Nakiesha Scott was also not present. It was moved by Joan Jacobs, seconded by Richard Lee, and passed 13-0-0 to table this appointment until the March 8 Board meeting and to inform the two candidates of this action.

6) Consideration of adding Standing Rule 15 to the November 12, 2019, Standing Rules to cover language for a Code of Civility in regards to behavior of Board members, Committee members, and stakeholders during HGNNC meeting: Chair Miguel Vazquez read out the proposed new Standing Rule, which comprises a Code of Civility for Board members, Committee members, and stakeholders to follow during HGNNC meetings. Secretary Rosalie Preston explained that with previous Boards, there had been a vote to adopt the Code and abide by it. Blown up copies of the Code were present in physical meetings. The language of the Code was developed from a longer version which the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment had prepared many years ago before there was a mandated Code of Conduct training for Board members to take. Neighborhood Empowerment Advocated Freddy Cupen-Ames said that the hierarchy of meeting rules starting with the Brown Act, the HGNNC Bylaws, and the HGNNC Standing Rules. If adopted, this would become part of the Standing Rules. In regards to enforcement, the Board would have to consult with the City Attorney. The goal is to have the Board and Committees operate in a respectful manner and for stakeholders to do the same. The Code of Civility can be referred to by the Board Chair and Committee Chairs at the beginning of meetings. Also the Code of Civility can be posted on the website and linked to the agenda notices. In discussion, it was observed that “stakeholders” should be left out as enforcement of their speech might infringe on their first Amendment rights and be difficult to enforce. Therefore, it was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Richard Lee, and passed 13-0-0 to adopt the proposed language with the omission of the Code of Civility applying to stakeholders.

(In order to hold the Special Board meeting on time, the Board meeting was recessed at 8:30 p.m. It resumed at 8:52 p.m.)

7) Outreach events

a) Report on turnout for January 25 General Membership meeting held via Zoom: There were 68 attendees of the meeting, including 14 Board members, the largest attendance at any HGNNC meeting since the pandemic began. This was partly due to the flyer distribution by Walking Man to 10,000 HGNNC households and also the main topic of the meeting which was

the possible taking by eminent domain of properties along the 105 freeway to expand it to allow for two toll-lanes in each direction.

b) Homeless count – postponed to February 23 for SPA 8; January 24 for SPA 6: The HGNNC is sponsoring the February 23 deployment site for the Census tracts covering District 1 through 5 and also those for Harbor Gateway South.

c) Black History Month event on Sat. February 19 at Temple of Believers Community Church, 11721 S. Avalon Blvd.: Outreach/Communications Representative Angela Springs outlined the entertainment and COVID-19 vaccination van planned for the event.

d) Approval of participating in the Neighborhood Team Program – Chin Thammasaengsri, South Bureau CERT Coordinator, explains what is involved: Chin Thammasaengsri was not present. It was moved by Keith Pitts, seconded by Angela Springs, and passed 12-0-1(Johnson) to table the vote on this program until the March 8 Board meeting.

8) Administrative motions

a) January 11, 2022 Board minutes: It was moved by Richard Lee, seconded by Joan Jacobs, and passed 10-0-3(Johnson, Kusunoki, Pitts) to approve the minutes.

b) January 25, 2022, General Membership minutes: It was moved by Keith Pitts, seconded by Richard Lee, and passed 12-0-1(Johnson) to approve the minutes.

c) January 2022 Monthly Expenditure Report: Treasurer Piers Fairclough reported that there is \$17, 273.85 left in the 2021-2022 fiscal year budget. He reviewed the expenditures for the month and noted that website provider Wendy Moore has raised her hourly rate as of January 1. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Joan Jacobs, and passed 12-0-0 to approve the January 2022 Monthly Expenditure Report.

9) Board business/announcements:

a) Reports from Committee Chairs: Youth Issues Committee Chair Richard Lee said that the February 15 Youth Issues Committee would feature Aksel Palacios discussing the new Youth Development Department. Planning and Land Use Chair Keith Pitts said that Salvimex110 Restaurant was not able to present at the January 27 Committee meeting but was expected at the February 24 Committee meeting. There will also be an update on the Harbor Gateway Community Plan and preparation for the HGNNC to submit a new letter. The Committee is also working on a list of vacant properties suitable for apartment development. Outreach/Communications Committee Chair Angela Springs reviewed the entertainment and vaccination van for the Feb. 19 Black History Month event and said she would leaving flyers for each of the District Representatives to distribute. There will be a banner put up on the Avalon Blvd. side of the church property. Volunteers are also needed for set up at 8 a.m. on Saturday morning.

b) Brief announcements from Board members: There were none.

10) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Secretary