

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Held via Zoom webinar

Present: David Matthews (Chairperson), Joan Jacobs (Vice Chairperson), Rosalie Preston (Secretary), Piers Fairclough (Treasurer), Keith Pitts (District 1), Arvie Powell (District 4), Joycelyn Montgomery (District 7), William Yates (District 8), Jackie Jackson (Community Organization Representative), Richard Lee (Youth Advocate), Angela Springs (Outreach/Communications Representative), and Craig Kusunoki (At Large Representative)

1) Welcome/introductions/roll call of Board members: Chair David Matthews called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m. This was followed by the roll call of Board members which established that a quorum was present.

2) General public comment on non-agenda items that are within the Board's jurisdiction:

District 1 stakeholder Thahn Nguyen said that he and his wife had only lived in their home for four months when they were burglarized. He is having trouble being able to follow up with the LAPD Detective assigned to the case.

A District 6 stakeholder said that she must constantly call 311 about trash pick up and bulky item pick up and wondered why Sanitation cannot have automatic follow up to make sure that everything reported is picked up.

A District 6 stakeholder living in 600 W. block of 115th Street said that there are still problems with the RVs parked along the south side of the street. They have called 311 and Abandoned Vehicles and been advised to have the curbs painted red. However, the residents need the parking spaces.

3) Reports

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

b) Council District 15: Field Deputy Caitlin Muldoon said that residents should use 311 to have bulky items picked up or when street lights are out. For bulky items, Sanitation sends out a special truck to pick up the bulky items that have been reported. Electronic waste is picked up separately. She can follow up on 311 requests that are not taken care of. CARE and CARE Plus, special clean ups of homeless encampments, resumed taking place in September on a rotating basis throughout Council District 15. The next clean up in Harbor Gateway North will be the first week of November. There will be a free movie night at Normandale Recreation Center on November 12, "The Nightmare before Christmas." The second Winter Wonderland will take place on Gardena Blvd. on December 10 from 4-8 p.m. Council District 15 is co-sponsoring this event with the North Harbor Gateway Chamber of Commerce. She suggested permit parking as one possible solution to RVs parking on residential streets. However, six blocks at one time must be requested. There was a question about getting a blue curb request. Caitlin said that the process is slow as there is only one City staff member working on the blue curb requests throughout the City.

(Jackie Jackson entered the meeting at 7:02 p.m.)

District 6 stakeholder Marvin Bell asked about putting up "No parking of vehicles over 6' signs on streets to discourage RVs, but Caitlin said that this takes a vote of all of the City Council and most of the City Council members will not vote for this in CD 15.

District 2 stakeholder Oliver Duru said there have been a lot of vehicle thefts near where he lives at 157th Street and Vermont Avenue.

District 6 stakeholder Janine Mendoza would like to start a Neighborhood Watch group for 115th Street near Hoover. She was advised to contact her Senior Lead Officer. She is also interested in speed humps for the street to discourage speeding. Speed hump applications will re-open in January.

District 7 stakeholder M. Gonzalez said that the alley behind her home at 118th and Broadway is just dirt and unpaved and attracts a lot of illegal dumping and trash. Caitlin can follow up on stakeholder issues. Her email is caitlin.muldoon@lacity.org and her telephone is 323-568-2083.

c) Los Angeles Police Department: Captain Laura Curtin introduced herself. She has been at LAPD Southeast Division since July. This is her third time being assigned to Southeast Division. Her first was as a patrol officer and she now has worked for LAPD 24 years. She is the commanding officer for the station overseeing patrols. Her email address is 34325@lapd.online.

Senior Lead Officer Robert Martinez said that his area of responsibility is from Artesia to Imperial Highway and from Vermont Avenue to Figueroa Street. The RVs of the homeless are a big issue right now. LAPD can impound for expired registration or if they are parked blocking a driveway. However, if people are living in them, they cannot remove the RV. LAHSA is contacted to offer housing options. For 115th Street east of Hoover, he has been working on removing the last three RVs and finding housing for those living in them. For the many RVs parked on the lot at Figueroa Street and Laconia. LAPD has been working with the City Attorney and the property owner since last year. The City Attorney is also working on the issues at the Edge O' Town Motel, 12286 S. Figueroa Street. The LAPD has a task force on abandoned vehicles, which focuses on different areas of the Southeast Division on a rotating basis. Kias and Hondas are currently being targeted for vehicle theft.

Senior Lead Officer Angelo Stewart is responsible for the District 7 and 8 areas. He spends a lot of time on Broadway, Main Street, and San Pedro Street near the 105 freeway. There have been lot of stolen cars—fifteen in the last month alone—with most being Hondas, Kias, GMCs, and Suburbans. Half of the stolen cars had their catalytic converters stolen. For thefts under \$5,000, residents can now file a lot of their police reports online at lapdonline.org/file-a-police-report/

District 7 stakeholder Clifford McClain said that he thought it would help with illegal dumping under the freeways if the City would put in cameras, but Officer Stewart said the issue was who would monitor the cameras, pay for them, and get them repaired.

District 2 stakeholder Martha Hurtado raised the issue of illegal donuts on Alondra Blvd. west of the 110 freeway happening from midnight to 1:30 a.m. and creating a lot of noise.

District 7 stakeholder Janet Mitchell said there is a big issue with all the street lights being out along 116th Place west of San Pedro Street because the homeless have tapped into the electricity and shorted them out. The issue has been reported to Caltrans but repair will take 45 days.

District 7 stakeholder M. Gonzalez said that a portable camera unit could be set up near 118th and Broadway for illegal dumping, as are used in supermarket parking lots to deter crime. However, Officer Stewart said that there would be a problem with supervising the equipment.

District 7 stakeholder Dr. Princess Sykes said there are a lot of RVs parked along Broadway and 118th Place.

District 7 stakeholder Jessye Stafford said that it is difficult for children to walk to the 118th Street School along San Pedro Street because of the illegal dumping and homeless.

4) Speaker: Caltrans will explain how to report the homeless living along the freeways, how to get graffiti removed from freeway walls and signs, the new initiative to keep trash removed from the freeways, and more: Roberto Rubalcaba, Homelessness Liaison, District 7, Caltrans, and Allison Queen, Public Information Officer, District 7, Caltrans, explained their roles with Caltrans. They urged stakeholders to file online Customer Service Requests via csr.dot.ca.gov and then follow up with one of them after two to four weeks, if no response. However if there is an emergency on a freeway, then call 911. Service requests can be made regarding homeless camping along the freeways, graffiti on soundwalls, road litter, landscaping issues, fencing along the freeways, potholes on the freeway, and ramp signals which are burned out. Caltrans can be contacted about rodent issues along the freeways as they work with Vector Control. In regard to landscaping and trash pick up issues, the new funding for Clean California will see a lot more staff working on these issues. For issues under the freeway overpasses, such as broken sidewalks or roads needing paving, the local city is responsible. The on and off ramps and sides of the freeway are Caltrans' responsibility.

(Richard Lee entered the meeting at 8:10 p.m)

Roberto Rubalcaba is the Homeless Liaison for District 7 of Caltrans and he works with LAHSA, HOPICS, and Harbor Interfaith when homeless encampments are reported to Caltrans for his area. An encampment supervisor inspects the site and assigns it a priority and then coordinates outreach. If the

situation is not an emergency, then Caltrans provides regular monitoring of the encampments on Caltrans right-of-ways. A Level 1 (highest priority request) would be if the homeless are tapping into electricity along the freeway, because of the danger of fire or electrocution, and open fires within 30 feet of a freeway. For follow up on non-homeless issues, email allison.queen@dot.ca.gov

5) Speaker: Cool Blocks program-how to make your neighborhood safer to walk in, prepare for disasters, save money, and lighten your environmental impact: Andy Shrader, Director of Environmental Affairs, Water Policy and Sustainability for Council District 5, Paul Koretz, explained that there was a pilot program in 2016-2018 involving thirty City blocks. Now the City of Los Angeles is applying for grant funds from the Cool Blocks City Challenge to implement Cool Blocks on 200 additional blocks. The applicants can be either all of the homes on a block or one apartment building. One person per block or apartment building takes the lead and sets up a series of meetings to encourage neighbors to prepare for major emergencies and to reduce their carbon footprint as part of the City's push to be carbon neutral by 2030. Each Neighborhood Council is encouraged to select two leaders by the end of December. Los Angeles is one of three cities competing to win the grant which would provide 1 million to support the program. There will be weekly meetings starting November 1 from 7-8 pm. www.ncsa.la/cool_blocks_la Clifford McClain of District 7 and Joan Jacobs of District 2 expressed interest in this.

(William Yates left the meeting at 8:55 p.m.)

6) Speaker: Los Angeles City Redistricting—is part of District 6 still in the 8th council District? No representative from the Los Angeles City Council Redistricting Commission was present so Secretary Rosalie Preston and District 5 stakeholder Lu Watson explained that after the 2010 Census, the part of District 6 north of the 105 Freeway had been placed in Council District 8. The current draft map of the Council District boundary lines after the 2020 Census still shows that area in Council District 8, but there is still time to file a Community Impact Statement to request that the HGNNC be placed solely within Council District 15. The issue will be going before the City Council soon.

7) Consideration of a letter of support for Betty Hawkins Square at 135th Street and Hoover Avenue: Council District 15 Field Deputy Caitlin Muldoon said that late Board member Betty Hawkins was a beloved and dedicated stakeholder of the HGNNC who worked for the safety of the community. Councilmember Joe Buscaino thought that dedication of the intersection of 135th Street and Hoover Avenue would be a good way to honor her. A sign will be posted at the intersection saying "Betty Hawkins Square." Council District 15 has done this a number of times for others who have passed away throughout the District. A letter of support is needed and when other letters have been received, there will be a motion in City Council to approve the designation. The Board expressed interest in also having some traffic calming measures installed in the intersection and flashing lights at the crosswalk in front of the 135th Street School as Betty Hawkins had worked hard to try to implement these before her death. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Joan Jacobs, and passed 11-0-0 to approve sending a letter of support. Betty Hawkins' daughter Regina Hawkins said that on behalf of the Hawkins family they wanted to thank the HGNNC Board for their support of the Square and also of their family over the past year.

8) Announcements: Chair David Matthews said there would be a Safety Town Hall set up with the LAPD on Thurs. November 4 at 6 p.m.

9) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Secretary