

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, October 25, 2022

Held via Zoom webinar

Present: Miguel Vazquez (Chairperson), Rosalie Preston (Secretary), Piers Fairclough (Treasurer), Keith Pitts (District 1), Julia Esqueda-Arteaga (District 2), Arvie Powell (District 4), Jodette Spann (District 5), Elijah Thomas (Youth Representative), Angela Springs (Outreach/Communications Representative), and Craig Kusunoki (At-Large Representative)

1) Call to order and roll call of Board members: Chair Miguel Vazquez called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. However a quorum of Board members was not yet present.

3) Reports

3.1 Council District 15: Field Deputy Caitlin Muldoon said that she is now working out of the San Pedro office. As of December 11, Councilmember Joe Buscaino will no longer be in office. Council File 21-1472 proposed a ballot measure for the November 2023 ballot to amend the City Charter to create an Independent Redistricting Commission for the City of Los Angeles. Council File 22-4118-S1 designates locations in CD15 for enforcement against sitting, lying, sleeping, or storing, using, maintaining or placing personal property, per (LAMC) Section 41.18. Council Files 22-1193 & 22-1192 pertain to the election to fill the Office of Council President. The new Council President is Paul Krekorian on a 10-0-0 vote. Council File 21-0533 prohibits the building and permitting of any new gas, diesel, or other fossil fuel pumps in the City of Los Angeles, and for any expansions of current gas stations to be limited to serving zero-emissions vehicles and providing non fuel related facilities. Council File 17-0447-S2 prohibits new oil and gas extraction and makes existing extraction activities a nonconforming use in all zones. A four-way stop sign at Gardena Blvd. and Ainsworth has been approved. CD 15 will not be organizing Winter Wonderland this year because of the timing of the election. If anyone wants to organize it, CD 15 can provide vendor contacts to them. District 4 Representative Arvie Powell asked if records of constituent issues would be kept and provided to the new Councilmember and Caitlin said that will be done.

3.2 Mayor's Office: Jocelyn Dominguez, Harbor and Watts Areas, said that this is United Against Hate Week and that hate crimes can be reported via 211. LADWP has a Blue cities Pilot Program, with at-home water monitoring devices. The LA Civil Rights Department is conducting a survey on reparations for harm done from the trans-Atlantic slave trade. There will be a virtual workshop on November 14 for street vendors on how to get their permits. For those whose speed hump applications were accepted, they now must get the necessary signatures from their neighbors. The application will open again in nine to twelve more months.

3.3 Office of Supervisor Holly Mitchell, 2nd District: No representative was present.

3.4 Department of Neighborhood Empowerment: No representative was present.

3.5 Office of the City Clerk: Lanee Basulto, the Election Administrator for the Harbor Area, said that this year's Board election will be a hybrid, with both vote-by-mail and in-person voting on April 1. Candidate filing starts on December 2 and ends January 17. Candidates can file using the online portal or via paper registration. Ballots can be requested from January 31 to March 13. Ballots can be received until April 11. City Clerk staff will be working the polling locations and there will be a list of those who have already voted by mail. There will be no drop boxes this time. Depending on the situation by April 1, COVID requirements may be in place, or not. The ballot tally will be streamed live or stakeholders can attend in person to watch the counting.

4) 1st Guest Speaker: A representative from the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Street Racing Task Force will be addressing your concerns on the increasing number of street takeovers: Senior Lead Officer Angelo Stewart spoke, as the South Bureau Street Racing Task Force coordinator was unable to attend. He said that street racing does not unfold like on television; there are always accidents, hit and runs, damage to nearby property, robberies, shootings, stabbings, and break ins to the cars of spectators. The events, announced via social media, are becoming more violent. The South Bureau Street Racing Task Force is working on Saturdays and Sundays to help control the takeovers at known locations and have arrested a number of people.

Officer Stewart also gave an update on the area which Senior Lead Officer Robert Martinez covers, 18A97. At 118th and Denver, 16 stolen cars were recovered—all Hyundais and Kias with punched keyholes and ignitions and stolen catalytic converters. There has also been a shooting at that location. At 130th and Figueroa a clean up of the motor homes parked on the street was conducted. On November 15 at 3 p.m., the Southeast LAPD and Harbor Gateway Chamber of Commerce will be presenting a workshop on how to prevent retail theft at 555 W. Redondo Beach Blvd., Suite 131.

Officer Stewart's patrol area is 18A63. In the San Pedro and 119th Street area there is a 16-year-old who has been arrested four times for driving stolen vehicles, but he cannot be kept in jail due to his age. There have been robberies at the 7-Eleven at Avalon and Imperial Highway twice a week. There is also a card scammer installed on the ATM at that location.

(Julia Esqueda-Arteaga arrived at 7:15 p.m.)

District 5 stakeholder Alex Jimenez asked where the South Bureau Street Racing Task Force was on September 25 when he called 911 eight times for a takeover of Hoover Street and 120th that lasted forty minutes. He would like access to the 911 logs for that date (from 2 a.m.) so he could understand why there was no response. Officer Stewart said there is an issue with inadequate staffing and suggested contacting the Watch Commander or head of South Bureau Traffic. Alex said he'd like to see cone circles or street bumps placed in the street at that location to deter future takeovers. He would also like to see those arrested for participating in street takeovers have their vehicles suspended for a longer period of time or their licenses taken away, to discourage future participation.

District 1 Representative Keith Pitts said that Denver between Gardena Blvd. and 168th Street needs some LAPD attention due to the double-parked vehicles.

District 3 stakeholder Sandra Cristobel said that the homeless camp along the railroad track area south of Rosecrans Recreation Center needs cleaning up again.

District 2 stakeholder Jose said that regular traffic check points or monitoring by the LAPD are needed along Redondo Beach Blvd. at Orchard Avenue is needed for those who are speeding. He thinks such measures would discourage street takeovers if people knew that the LAPD has a more active presence. He has noticed that for big sporting events in Los Angeles, there are lots of LAPD cars present and those resources need to be allocated to community needs. It can take fifteen minutes to get a response when calling 911. Also, when he reports obviously stolen vehicles parked on the street, it can take Parking Enforcement a long time to remove them.

District 7 stakeholder Pablo Saucedo commented on the street takeovers and dangerous driving that happen along San Pedro Street between 118th Street and 120th Street which impacts children coming from the 118th Street School between 2 to 3 p.m. At night, there are three loud

motorcycles at night and a lot of vehicles in that area with loud mufflers. SLO Stewart said LAPD is outnumbered, but can issue citations for the violations.

District 5 stakeholder Eva Pace asked if the early releases are due to the new District Attorney. SLO Stewart said it is due to laws on the books, due to Proposition 47 and Proposition 57, some other state laws, and COVID, which required that the jails not be so crowded.

Outreach/Communications Representative and District 8 stakeholder Angela Springs asked if there is a number to contact the Street Racing Task Force. SLO Stewart said he would have Sgt. Sanchez' contact her. She said there have been street takeovers at San Pedro and 118th early in the morning. Also, the lights are out under the 105 freeway overpass at San Pedro. SLO Stewart said it has been difficult to get either Caltrans or City of Los Angeles to take responsibility for the repair and he will follow up. There seems to be a business operating out of the duplexes at E. 118th Street resulting in vehicles parking on the sidewalk. SLO Stewart said to text his work cell phone with the details so he can follow up.

5) 2nd Guest Speaker: Quan Tran from the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT), Southern Bureau, will give a 15-minute presentation on the following topics: traffic lights, stop signs, parking enforcement, speed humps, etc.: Quan Tran introduced himself as the Transportation Engineer for the Southern Bureau, which covers Council Districts 8 and 15. If you think that a location needs stop signs, email LADOT to request a study: ladot.southerndistrict@lacity.org You will then be notified if the location meets the guidelines for installation. If approved, it will take about one to two months to create a four-way stop. For traffic signals, use the same process, though traffic signal installation has to meet Federal traffic guidelines. A traffic signal warrant study will be conducted and if a signal is warranted, it can take three to seven years until it is constructed. The speed hump application opened on October 6 and in just nine minutes the maximum number of applications for each Council District was reached. A new cycle for application will begin in 2023. For abandoned vehicles call 1-800-222-6366. If it is afterhours, leave a voice mail or report online. An LADOT traffic officer will respond.

District 8 stakeholder Rosalind Lee said that there is a need for speed humps on 115th Street between San Pedro and Towne. There are issues with traffic near the Alliance/Jack Skirball Middle School on 115th Street, east of San Pedro Street. Mr. Tran suggested asking that LAPD patrol the area during the after school hours.

A District 5 caller said that there is a need for bollards at Hoover and Athens Blvd. to calm traffic.

District 4 stakeholder Sheena Robinson pointed out that when traveling south on Vermont Avenue and turning left onto 135th Street, the tree roots have raised the asphalt. That area is under the jurisdiction of the City of Gardena, so contact Kevin Qwak 310-217-9643.

District 4 Representative Arvie Powell asked about traffic calming measures around the 135th Street School, such as signs and flashing lights to slow drivers. Mr. Quan said to use the Southern District email to request. Arvie also asked about a traffic signal for the north side of Rosecrans at Menlo Avenue so that people could turn left onto Rosecrans. Mr. Quan said that a study had been done some years ago and he could send her the result.

District 1 Representative and Chair of the Planning and Land Use Committee Keith Pitts asked about traffic studies when new developments are proposed and whether mitigations are required and whether developers can be required to pay for new traffic signals, etc. Mr. Quan said that is part of the City's review and consideration for new developments.

District 6 stakeholder Andre Meyers said that he lives on 111th Street but his front door faces onto Hoover Street. A stop sign is needed at the location or a round-about to slow traffic as his

car and others of neighbors have been damaged at this intersection. A stop sign was recently installed at 110th Street.

District 7 stakeholder Pablo Saucedo Jr. said that at San Pedro and Imperial Highway the timing of the traffic signal causes traffic back ups in the afternoon. There are also big trucks parked under the 105 freeway at 116th Place.

Chair Miguel Vazquez said that there is a Safe Routes to School program which is proposing pop up events to demonstrate street safety measures near schools for one day. He has been trying to contact Margo so that the program could be tried out at 135th Street and Hoover, near the 135th Street School. Mr. Tran said he would contact her to follow up.

(At 8:15 p.m. it was determined that a quorum of the Board was present)

6) Financial Administrative Motions

6.1 Accept the payment for Minuteman Press in the amount of \$529.51 for printing 10,000 flyers for the October 25 General Membership meeting: It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Keith Pitts, and passed 8-0-0 to approve the expenditure.

6.2 Accept the payment for Walking Man in the amount of \$1,575 for the distribution of 10,000 flyers for the October 25 General Membership meeting: It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Jodette Spann, and passed 8-0-0 to approve the expenditure.

2) General public comment on non-agenda items that are within the Board's jurisdiction:
There was none.

7) Announcements: District 4 Representative Arvie Powell urged stakeholders to inform themselves as voters on the various ballot measures and be sure to vote.

District 1 Representative Keith Pitts said that the raised sidewalk at 17217 S. Hoover Street where Mrs. Cooper tripped and hit her head on the nearby block wall has been filled in with asphalt. He and At-Large Representative Craig Kusunoki will be walking the area to note and report other lifted sidewalks.

8) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Secretary