

## Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Board Meeting

Tuesday, July 11, 2023

555 W. Redondo Beach Blvd., Room 185

Present: Miguel Vazquez (Chairperson), Joan Jacobs (Vice Chairperson), Rosalie Preston (Secretary), Keith Pitts (Treasurer), Laivern Frerichs (District 1), Arvie Powell (District 4), Eva Cooper Pace (District 5), Marvin Bell (District 6), Barbara Tyson-Frazier (District 7), Oscar Ruiz (District 8), Frankie Mays (Community Organization Representative), Elijah Thomas (Youth Representative), Will Yates (Outreach/Communications Representative), and Craig Kusunoki (At-large Representative)

**1) Call to order by Freddy Cupen-Ames, Neighborhood Council Advocate – Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, followed by roll call:** The meeting was called to order by Freddy Cupen-Ames. A roll call determined that a quorum of the new Board was present.

**2) Installation of newly elected Board of Directions by Freddy Cupen-Ames:** Freddy Cupen-Ames read out the Oath of Office for the Board members to repeat.

### **3) Appointment of members to Standing Committees**

**a) Bylaws:** It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Arvie Powell, and passed 14-0-0 to appoint Joan Jacobs, Rosalie Preston, Luetta Watson, and Hannah Woods to the Bylaws Committee.

**b) Homeless Issues:** It was Joan Jacobs, seconded by Keith Pitts, and passed 14-0-0 to appoint Marvin Bell, Rene Chombeng, Jackie Jackson, Salim Mhunzi, Janet Mitchell, Dr. Princess Sykes, and Barbara Tyson-Frazier to the Homeless Issues Committee.

**c) Outreach/Communications:** It was moved by Joan Jacobs, seconded by Eva Cooper Pace, and passed 14-0-0 to appoint Salim Mhunzi, Rosalie Preston, Janeshia Robinson, Miguel Vazquez, and William Yates to the Outreach/Communications Committee.

**d) Planning and Land Use:** There were five Board members who were interested in being appointed to the Committee, but after each gave a statement, Joan Jacobs said she would withdraw. There were six stakeholders who had expressed interest in being appointed to the Committee, but after statements were given, including submitted statements for Janeshia Robinson and Micah Silver being read aloud), Lois Saito said that she would withdraw. It was then moved by Keith Pitts, seconded by Eva Cooper Pace, and passed 14-0-0 to appoint Craig Kusunoki, Keith Pitts, Arvie Powell, and Rosalie Preston as the Board members of the Committee and Majenni Nixon, Janeshia Robinson, Micah Silver, Angela Springs, and Luetta Watson as the stakeholder members of the Planning and Land Use Committee.

**e) Public Safety/Emergency Preparedness:** It was moved by Keith Pitts, seconded by Marvin Bell, and passed 14-0-0 to appoint Eric Bailey, Jackie Jackson, Frankie Mays, and Arvie Powell to the Public Safety/Emergency Preparedness Committee.

**f) Youth Issues:** It was moved by Marvin Bell, seconded by Elijah Thomas, and passed 14-0-0 to appoint Marvin Bell, Jackie Jackson, Clifford McClain, Eveleenn Santiago, and Elijah Thomas to the Youth Issues Committee.

### **7) Reports**

**a) Council District 15:** No one was present to make a report.

**b) Mayor's Office:** No one was present to make a report.

**c) LAPD:** Senior Lead Officers Robert Martinez and Tyson Hamaoka were present. Violent crime is currently at a very low level in the Southeast LAPD area, with Southeast being the third lowest of all the 21 reporting Divisions. However Southeast is closer to the top in property

crimes, including an increase in stolen vehicles, especially in the area from Rosecrans Avenue to El Segundo Blvd. Southeast Division is planning another VIN etching event to deter catalytic converter thefts. Officer Martinez is working on the removal of RVs from 135<sup>th</sup> Street west of Figueroa Street.

(Elijah Thomas left the meeting at 8:05 p.m.)

Officer Martinez explained the issues with the tow yards that the RVs are taken to, which need to have room for the RVs brought in. They also have to have the tanks drained of sewage. It is estimated that there are currently 7,000 RVs parked on the streets, with a rent of \$300-500 a month often being charged by those who own them. There are also only six to eight officers who are working on the RV removal issue.

Officer Hamaoka said that last week partnering with Caltrans and with support from HGNNC Chairperson Miguel Vazquez, a homeless encampment and illegal dumping and trash was cleared along the south side of the 105 freeway from San Pedro Street to Stanford Avenue. He praised the Robbery unit at Southeast LAPD which has made arrests and cleared 12 crimes-street robberies. Council District 15 has asked for a list of vacant houses or apartments that are nuisance properties. In answer to a question about the prostitution along Figueroa Street, Officer Hamaoka said that as of January 1, 2023, soliciting for prostitution is no longer a crime. More cameras have been installed along Figueroa Street and the Vice Unit is working on the issue.

**d) Department of Neighborhood Empowerment**

**i) Required Board member trainings:** Freddy Cupen-Ames said that there are four required trainings for the Board (ethics, code of conduct, funding, and anti-bias) and those are offered through Cornerstone. Let him know if you have trouble logging in. Your user name and temporary password should have been sent via email.

**ii) Upcoming Department Onboarding Orientation sessions:** Board members will receive an email of the dates once the details have been finalized.

**iii) Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate contact information:** Freddy Cupen-Ames can be reached via [freddy.cupen-ames@lacity.org](mailto:freddy.cupen-ames@lacity.org)

**6) General public comment on non-agenda items that are within the Neighborhood**

**Council's subject matter jurisdiction:** Ara An, Constituent Engagement Deputy for Holly Mitchell, 2<sup>nd</sup> District Supervisor for Los Angeles County, introduced April Johnson who is covering the Harbor Gateway North area while Robert Jackson is out on medical leave. Ara then summarized some of the recent initiatives of the Supervisor and will send it all in written form to the Board.

**4) Creation of an Ad Hoc Environmental Justice Committee and appointment of members:**

It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Eva Cooper Pace, and passed 13-0-0 to create an Ad Hoc Environmental Justice Committee and appoint Joan Jacobs, Arvie Powell, Nita Stonehocker, Miguel Vazquez, and Luetta Watson to the Committee.

**5) Appointment of Community Impact Statement Filers:** It was moved by Joan Jacobs, seconded by Keith Pitts, and passed 12-0-0 to appoint Arvie Powell, Rosalie Preston, and Miguel Vazquez to be the Community Impact Statement filers for the HGNNC.

**8) Approval of holding a Board Retreat on August 19 or August 26. With expenditure of up to \$1,500 for rental of a facility, morning refreshments, and light lunch:** Chair Miguel Vazquez reviewed the draft budget. Secretary Rosalie Preston explained that the Retreat should probably cost closer to \$1,200, but more money was being proposed in case there were

unexpected costs. The Retreat will be listed as a Special Board meeting and stakeholders welcome to attend. It was moved by Keith Pitts, seconded by Marvin Bell, and passed 10-0-0. Since board members didn't have preferences for one date over the other, Rosalie said the Board would go with Sat. August 26 as the date, to allow for more time for planning.

#### **9) Administrative motions**

**a) Approval of the June 13, 2023, Board minutes:** It was moved by Joan Jacobs, seconded by Keith Pitts, and passed 12-0-0 to approve the minutes.

**b) Approval of the June 2023 Monthly Expenditure Report:** Treasurer Keith Pitts reviewed the June expenses. It was moved by Joan Jacobs, seconded by Frankie Mays, and passed 10-0-0 to approve the June 2023 MER.

**c) Approval of a \$500 Neighborhood Purposes Grant to the LA Police Foundation to support National Night Out at Southeast LAPD on August 1:** It was moved by Barbara Tyson-Frazier, seconded by Will Yates, and passed 10-0-0 to approve the expenditure, which will help support the purchase of backpacks, or if enough backpacks are donated, then bottled water and snacks for attendees. The HGNNC will have a table at the event, which will be held from 2-5 p.m. on August 1 in front of the Southeast Division, 145 W. 108<sup>th</sup> Street.

#### **10) Board business/announcements**

**a) Reports from Committee Chairs:** There were none.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.