

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 23, 2024

118th Street School, 144 E. 118th Street

Present: Joan Jacobs (Vice Chairperson), Rosalie Preston (Secretary), Keith Pitts (Treasurer), Nita Stonehocker (District 2), Dave Trejo (District 3), Marvin Bell (District 6), Barbara Tyson-Frazier (District 7), Frankie Mays (Community Organization), Jackie Jackson (Youth Advocate), and Craig Kusunoki (At-Large)

1) Welcome/call to order/Board roll call: In the absence of Chairperson Miguel Vazquez and Vice Chair Joan Jacobs, Treasurer Keith Pitts called the meeting to order and welcomed those present at 7:08 p.m. The roll call determined that a quorum was present.

2) General public comment on non-agenda items that are within the Neighborhood Council's subject matter jurisdiction: A District 6 stakeholder recommended that there be better signage and other measures to call attention to school zones, including blinking lights near crosswalks. There are many potholes along Figueroa Street and Grand Avenue north of Imperial Highway. When people move out of apartment buildings or are evicted, management dumps the items on the curb rather than calling 311. Caltrans fencing along Grand Avenue north of Imperial Highway is compromised again. It is often called in, repaired, and then cut open again. There should be "no trespassing" signs posted.

District 7 stakeholder Jessye Stafford said that along Spring Street at 118th Street and 118th Pace, the white limit lines where cars should stop need to be repainted and the street light is out at 118th Street and Spring Street. The posted street cleaning signs are now faded and need to be replaced. The east-west alley between 117th Street and 118th Street has homeless living there and illegal dumping.

District 7 stakeholder Dr. Princess Sykes, said that there need to be cameras installed at 117th Street and Athens Way to help address the major illegal dumping issues there.

A District 7 stakeholder said that the intersection of 118th Place and Spring Street is a site for frequent donuts by vehicles and the site needs bollards installed to discourage that from happening. On Spring Street between 119th Street to 118th Street each intersection needs 4-way stop signs.

3) Reports

a) CD 15: Field Deputy Nicholas Chavez gave his contact information: nicholas.i.chavez@lacity.org He encourages the use of 311 to request City services, but contact him for follow up when the issue is not resolved. He noted that the annual homeless count is taking place this week and provides an assessment of how many homeless people there are, which will then indicate how much funding for housing is needed.

(Joan Jacobs entered the meeting at 7:20 p.m.)

For removal of homeless encampments, advance notice needs to be given to the homeless so that they can consider temporary shelter or properly store their belongings. A number of agencies coordinate the removals. For street lights that are out, faded crosswalks, faded street sweeping signs, etc. use 311 to report using the telephone, online website, or through your smartphone app. For Caltrans issues, report online using <https://csr.dot.ca.gov/> If no resolution, contact Nicholas for follow up with the Customer Service Request number. Unfortunately, the online portal does not allow for upload of photos of the issue. LAPD is holding a South Bureau meeting tonight which is requesting input on the qualities of the new Chief of Police to replace outgoing Chief Michel Moore. The Senior Lead Officer for the District 7 and 8 areas is Tyson Hamaoka: 36892@lapd.online (213) 793-0723 cell. Nicholas will be driving the area with Officer

Hamaoka on January 24. District 7 stakeholder Janet Mitchell asked that they especially note the homeless camps situation along the 200 East block of 116th Place, west of San Pedro Street. District 8 stakeholder Angela Springs said that she will send photos of a female who is breaking into homes along the 300-400 East block of 118th Street. Another person asked how often and how quickly are encampments removed as to her it seems that then they just set up in other locations without any real solution. Nicholas said that Council District 15 has an Unhoused Services Coordinator, Kmond Day. Another stakeholder suggested that the City needs a better approach to issues that result in repeated calls for service, to solve the underlying issue. A District 6 stakeholder who recently moved to 117th Street near Hoover said that she is appalled by the amount of illegal dumping along the railroad track area north of her home and also trash issues and homeless near her home. District 7 stakeholder Janet Mitchell said that LAHSA and HOPICS hold a weekly Wednesday meeting at 9:30 a.m. to discuss homeless encampment issues and outreach to them.

b) **LAPD:** No one was present.

4) Speaker: Align Care-How to connect with low-cost pet veterinary care for those living in zip code 90061: Lori Weise, Executive Director of Downtown Dog Rescue, said that since 2022 they are a provider partner of Align Care, which is a non-profit that can cover 80% of veterinary bills to those living in zip code 90061, due to receiving grants funding for the services. Align Care is based in Tennessee and works to provide access to veterinary care for underserved families. Downtown Dog Rescue operates the Pet Support Space, which can provide food for cats and dogs; call 323-880-8259 to access. Gabby Vazquez of Downtown Dog Rescue outreaches to the homeless who have pets to link them up to veterinary services and pet food. They have a mobile unit which provides monthly free vaccine clinics for the pets.

5) Speaker: Council District 15 Clean 15 Team and Sanitation-how to report illegal dumping under the 105 freeway at Main Street, San Pedro Street, and other locations, and how to use 311 to request nearly all LA City services: Nick Fuentes and Emilio Banuelos of the Department of Sanitation said that in October 2023, Council District 15 asked them to start meeting on a regular basis with Neighborhood Councils to explain their services and how to access them using 311. Before promoting, Nick was previously a trash truck operator, as was Emilio, so they understand how the Department is organized. They both now work on getting illegal dumping cleaned up, not homeless encampment issues. Sanitation operates two shifts to keep up with regular trash pick ups from residences (6 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.) and also illegal dumping, which is picked up on the afternoon to night shift, which starts at 3 p.m. There are three yards where the trash and yard waste is taken: Lopez Canyon in Lake View Terrace, Cazador on San Fernando Road in Glassell Park, and Donald Tillman Water Reclamation plant in Van Muys. Mayor Bass receives the statistics on illegal dumping via the 311 report, so that is why it is important to report everything through 311. Always start by calling or reporting via 311 and then if the request is not filled, follow up with Field Deputy Nicholas Chavez (or Field Deputy Laura Garcia for Council District 8, if you live north of the 105 freeway in HGNNC District 6) for follow up with Sanitation. 311 calls are needed to create data for determining Sanitation's pick up priorities. Sanitation has a YouTube which explains how to use 311 and this can be posted to the HGNNC website as well as the data on illegal dumping in the HGNNC area. Enforcement of illegal dumpers is not done by Sanitation but rather by Watershed. If there is a missing manhole cover, report it via 311.

(Marvin Bell left the meeting at 8:10 p.m.)

6) Administrative motions

a) Approval of \$664.79 to Minuteman Press for January 23, 2024, General Membership meeting flyers: It was moved by Keith Pitts, seconded by Frankie Mays, and passed 7-0-0 to approve the expenditure for the printing of 10,000 flyers advertising the General Membership meeting.

b) Approval of \$1,575 to Walking Man for delivery of January 23, 2024, General Membership meeting flyers: It was moved by Keith Pitts, seconded by Jackie Jackson, and passed 7-0-0 to approve the expenditure.

(Keith Pitts left the meeting at 8:20 p.m.)

5) CD 15 Clean 15 Team: George Palazio of Councilmember Tim McOsker's staff introduced himself and said that Yocelyn Barrera also works on the Clean 15 Team. Their office provides additional resources to clean up illegal dumping. The areas of the Council District 15 with the most illegal dumping are Watts, Harbor Gateway, and Wilmington. He presented a PowerPoint of their work to date, with before and after photos. The Clean 15 Team works with the Department of Sanitation, the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, and GAP. The Conservation Corps. takes care of weed abatement, weeds in the medians, and smaller trash pick ups, while GAP handles graffiti removal. When working around homeless encampments with trash, the Clean 15 Team staff ask the homeless to put their trash on the side for easier pick up. From July 2023 to date, 1,845 tons of dumping and trash have been removed via the Clean 15 Team's efforts. Report illegal dumping first to 311, so it gets on the record. If no resolution, then contact Council District 15 for the Clean 15 Team.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Secretary