

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

116th Street School, 11610 Stanford Avenue

Present: Joan Jacobs (Vice Chairperson), Rosalie Preston (Secretary), Keith Pitts (Treasurer), Laivern Frerichs (District 1), Dave Trejo (District 3), Arvie Powell (District 4), Marvin Bell (District 6), Barbara Tyson-Frazier (District 7), Oscar Ruiz (District 8), 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, Vice Chairperson Joan Jacobs called the meeting to order and welcomed those present at 7:15 p.m. A 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 4 stakeholder asked when the Weingart Willows, 14032 S. Vermont Avenue, Project Homekey supportive housing, would be opening. The Neighborhood Council has been told it will be sometime in July.

3) Reports

a) CD 15: Field Deputy Nicholas Chavez said that he had left some pamphlets for LAHSA, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, on the back table. Whenever you see homeless people, report via the la-hop portal: <https://www.lahsa.org/portal/apps/la-hop/>. The flyer also lists the Safe Parking locations for vehicles to park overnight. He noted that Council file 23-0278 regarding creative solutions to address lighting issues under Harbor Gateway freeway overpasses will be heard before the full City Council on April 26, so public comment in support is needed now. (The HGNNC already filed a Community Impact Statement in support on June 2, 2023). He said that EXODUS, is providing unarmed crisis response 24/7 in partnership with Southeast LAPD. He stressed the importance of using 311 (via telephone, online, or via the smartphone app) to report all needed City services, including street lights that are out or missing manhole covers. Council District 15 also has its own Clean Team to further address illegal dumping issues, such as at 117th Street and Athens Way. The Clean Team comes out to problem locations every three to four weeks, in addition to what the Bureau of Sanitation is doing. The Clean Team has a staff of two people and contracts with the Los Angeles Conservation Corps for the work. For major cases of illegal dumping, also email Nicholas at nicholas.i.chavez@lacity.org. Regarding the 2024-2025 Los Angeles City budget, the Mayor has introduced her proposal. The Budget and Finance Committee will be reviewing it and making some changes before it goes to the full City Council for a vote by June 1. Councilmember Tim McOsker is a member of that Committee. There is an 80-page summary of the City budget and the fully detailed budget is also available online. He noted that the HGNNC submitted their budget letter via Council File 24-0600 on April 14, but individual stakeholders should make their priorities for spending known by submitting comment as well. In regards to 911 operators, Councilmember McOsker asked for refinements in the hiring process to allow for faster hiring and also the use of social media for advertising the vacant positions. Currently it is taking 42 weeks to complete the hiring process. Fifty new 911 operators are being trained currently, with thirty people submitting applications every day.

(Arvie Powell joined the meeting at 7:32 p.m.)

Nicholas said that when vacant lots are not being kept up, the owner or Trust will be notified and if the lot is not cleaned up, then the City Attorney will have to get involved. Council District 15 has given a list of problem vacant lots to the City Attorney already. One stakeholder commented that the bike lane on San Pedro Street limited the amount of vehicles that can drive on that street

and that the bike lane is not well-used. Nicholas said that the Department of Transportation could do a study to evaluate the situation.

b) LAPD: No one was present.

4) Speaker: Emergency Management Department-How to prepare your family and pets for any type of major emergency; sign up to be a block leader: Brenda Rodriguez, Emergency Management Coordinator, explained that the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is a 84,000 square foot facility in downtown Los Angeles. The Center was activated during the COVID-19 pandemic and in service for over 1,000 days, and also during the Summit of the Americas and during times of extreme heat. They serve as the coordinating center during disasters impacting the City, such as earthquakes, tsunamis, and Santa Ana winds. The City of Los Angeles has over 4 million residents, with 6 million people inside City boundaries during the workday. The City covers 471 square miles, with only 9,888 LAPD officers and 3,246 firefighters. So individual residents need to be prepared to take care of themselves and their families during major emergencies. Build your emergency kit now—include copies of important documents (or load them on a USB drive), sturdy boots or shoes, water, and an emergency radio. Organize your block, apartment building, or condominium through the Ready Your Neighborhood program so that during the first 60 minutes after the disaster as many lives as possible can be saved.

(Oscar Ruiz entered the meeting at 7:50 p.m.)

Step 1 - ensure your personal safety

Step 2 - check on your loved ones

Step 3 - follow safety procedures, such as utility shut offs, if needed

Step 4 - fill your bathtub with water

Step 5 - put the Help or OK sign on your front door

Step 6 - put out your fire extinguisher where neighbors can see it

Step 7 – go to your neighborhood’s designated gathering site

Step 8 – form teams to carry out necessary functions to support your neighborhood during the emergency, such as communications, health care, shelter, and utility safety checks

During RYLAN meetings for your block or neighborhood, create a list of skills and equipment that neighbors have, such as nursing, construction, generators, ham radio operator, languages spoken that can be utilized during emergencies to help neighbors. There is also a RYLAN program for businesses.

5) Speaker: Bureau of Sanitation-how to get homeless encampments cleaned up: Nick Fuentes, Superintendent of Livability Services, which oversees illegal dumping and the CARE programs, introduced CARE staff members Juanita Bell, Rosemary Cabrera, and Warren Tan, Senior Inspector. The Bureau currently has 140 vacancies and they are trying to lease a property to handle some of their equipment and supplies. If your illegal dumping request is not picked up by the designated date, email CD 15 Field Deputy Nicholas Chavez with the Service Request number and photos, if possible, so that he can follow up. Be descriptive of the location if there is not an exact address. For encampment clean ups, LASAN’s responsibility is removing personal property, health hazards, and trash and debris. LAPD handles any law enforcement issues at the site, while LAHSA (Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority) staff work with the homeless individuals to find housing and services they may need. LASAN participates in four different types of responses to encampments: Inside Safe (Mayor Karen Bass’s initiative), CARE+ which requires pre-clearance posted notices and includes power washing of the public right of way after a clean up, CARE which are clean ups which do not require posting and focus on removing trash that is publicly visible, and inter-agency support for the removal trash and health hazards such as needles and chemicals when RVs are removed from streets, along with the Department of Transportation, LAPD, and HOPICS, one of the service providers under LAHSA. Clean ups are

scheduled in consultation with Council District staff who determine the order of clean ups within their Districts. Service providers are included to encourage the homeless to accept services and housing. There is documentation of what is cleaned up. LASAN only cleans in the public right of way of the City of Los Angeles and not in parks, Caltrans areas, or on private property. The City Administrative Officer leads the coordination of RV removals. For homeless camping on Caltrans property, use 311 to report. Council Districts will work with Caltrans on this issue and also with homeless issues in the unincorporated L.A. County area. The goal is to help the homeless to find permanent solutions and not just to drive them to another location, as well as to remove trash and health hazards, such as human waste, needles, gasoline, and aerosols. Personal property that is not taken away by the owner is stored and can be returned at a later time. For homeless encampments on Caltrans property, residents can also report directly online via <https://csr.dot.ca.gov/> If there is no response after three weeks, call the office of Assemblymember Mike Gipson or Assemblymember Reggie Jones-Sawyer. Using the NavigateLA website can show the boundaries for Caltrans and private properties within the City of Los Angeles.

(Barbara Tyson-Frazier left the meeting at 8:40 p.m.)

6) Administrative motions

a) Approval of \$712.96 to Minuteman Press for April 23, 2024, General Membership meeting flyers: It was moved by Keith Pitts, seconded by Marvin Bell, and passed 9-0-0 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 April 23, 2024, General Membership meeting flyers: It was moved by Keith Pitts, seconded by Marvin Bell, and passed 9-0-0 to approve the expenditure.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Secretary