

## Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 8, 2024

Held via Zoom webinar

Present: Rosalie Preston (Secretary), Majenni Nixon (Treasurer), Laivern Frerichs (District 1), Nita Stonehocker (District 2), 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), Finesse Simmons (Youth Representative), and Craig Kusunoki (At Large Representative)

**1) Welcome/call to order/Board roll call:** In the absence of Chairperson Miguel Vazquez and Vice Chairperson Joan Jacobs, Treasurer Majenni Nixon called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. The roll call determined that a quorum of nine was present.

**2) General public comment on non-agenda items that are within the Neighborhood Council's subject matter jurisdiction:** Christian Riskey, Principal of Stella High Charter Academy, said that the school is located on the campus of Southwest Community College and has 556 students. Most students are from the West Athens area. The school is part of the Bright Star network of schools and is looking to collaborate with the Neighborhood Council on activities such as community clean ups and other events. He encouraged Board members to visit the school.

Laura Richardson, who is running for the 35<sup>th</sup> Senate District seat, introduced herself and said that she has been listening in to Neighborhood Council meetings to learn about the local issues. If elected, she looks forward to continuing to be involved with the community.

(Jackie Jackson entered the meeting at 7:08 p.m.)

### 3) Reports

**a) LAPD:** Senior Lead Officer Tyson Hamaoka, who represents the 18A63 basic car area, reported that he assisted with removal of homeless encampments along the 105 freeway from Hoover Street to Stanford Avenue and also the Compton Creek area at Imperial Highway/Central Avenue. Officer Robert Martinez worked with Council District 15, Sanitation, and City Tow to coordinate a clearing of eight to nine RVs parked along Figueroa Street, near 12286 S. Figueroa Street. Thanks to Council District 15 and Nicholas Chavez, a traffic barrier at Imperial Highway east of Clovis Avenue was repaired, an issue brought up by the 116<sup>th</sup> Place Block Club. Over the last eight weeks he has been identifying abandoned buildings in the area, which now total six, including 901 E. 116<sup>th</sup> Place at Wadsworth. He has also been working on removing the RVs that were parked along Central Avenue, which at one time numbered seven to eight but now only one remains. The RV inhabitant is an elderly man who is not well, and Officer Hamaoka has been working with LAHSA to get a placement for him.

(Barbara Tyson-Frazier entered the meeting at 7:14 p.m.)

**b) CD 15:** Field Deputy Nicholas Chavez noted that removal of the RVs along Figueroa Street near the Edge O'Town Motel took a lot of coordination from multiple agencies. He has been working with the owner of the property at 1134 E. 120<sup>th</sup> Street at Central Avenue where an apartment building will be built. The owner will put up a stronger metal fence to replace the chain link which is compromised. Demolition of the buildings on the site will not happen until later in December. There have been a number of trash fires along the 105 freeway near 115<sup>th</sup> Street and Hoover. He has been working with Council District 8, Caltrans, and the Office of Mayor Karen Bass on a more permanent resolution of this issue, including possibly more patrols by the California Highway Patrol during evening hours. There have been massive AT&T outages

in Council Districts 8, 11, and 15. The outage has been impacting landline service in the Athens on the Hill area of HGNNC District 5. He encouraged those affected to let AT&T know and to ask for service credits. The cause is due to copper wire theft from AT&T equipment and infrastructure. There will be a job fair held in the Harbor Gateway area on Sat. October 19 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Enclave, 970-990 W. 190<sup>th</sup> Street, with sponsorship by Council District 15, the Port of Los Angeles, and WorkSource.

**c) Mayor's Office:** No one was present.

**d) Los Angeles County Supervisor 2<sup>nd</sup> District:** Deputy for Constituent Engagement Ara An announced that Kasie Hervey is replacing Ray Cruz as the Deputy assigned to the Harbor Gateway area. Kasie formerly worked for Congressmember Nanette Barragan and is familiar with the Harbor Gateway South area. There is a 2<sup>nd</sup> District Business Interruption Fund. Up to \$10,000 is available for those small businesses located within the 2nd District which lost revenue between October 2023 and now due to natural disaster, construction projects, illegal dumping, or other qualifying challenges. The deadline is November 7 at 5 p.m. and the application link is [opportunity.lacounty.gov/second-district-bif](https://opportunity.lacounty.gov/second-district-bif) The 2<sup>nd</sup> District organized a Beautification Project Community Clean Up along El Segundo Blvd. and the Vermont Avenue corridor in the Westmont/West Athens area, with assistance from the L.A. Conservation Corps, UCLA's Volunteer Center, Rising Communities, community volunteers, and Republic Services, with over 600 lbs. of trash being collected. On October 10 at 1 p.m. there will be a workshop for seniors on how to avoid scams relating to finances, property, and personal information at the Willowbrook Senior Center. The Racial Justice Learning Exchange Club has a program every month. On October 25 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. they will be sponsoring a showing of "Tending Nature" at the Gardena Cinema, 14948 Crenshaw Blvd. On October 8 Supervisors Mitchell and Horvarth's motion to expand and preserve trees in unincorporated Los Angeles County was approved.

**e) Department of Neighborhood Empowerment:** Helena Doub, Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate for Harbor Gateway North, commented on the September 28 Congress of Neighborhoods. The City Clerk is holding an election information session on October 12 at 9 a.m. via Zoom, which will cover candidate and voter registration. Council Files 24-0867 which proposes requiring every Neighborhood Council to create a Youth Representative seat and mandate term limits for Board members is still in the research phase. The Board of Neighborhood Commissioners has a committee to review it. This is the time to send in comments. Helena commented that at the in-person Board Retreat on August 24 she saw how inclusive and collaborative the HGNNC Board is. The Youth Development Department met with the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment to discuss collaboration. YDD will help advertise running for Youth Representative seats. They can also help advertise currently vacant Youth Representative seats. In honor of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of Neighborhood Councils, there is an exhibit of photos along the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor City Hall Bridge. Send photos to Helena.

**f) Updates on 2024-2025 Board goals/priorities:** Rosecrans Avenue medians planting with trees (Joan Jacobs and Dave Trejo)-CD 15 Field Deputy Nicholas Chavez has discussed creating a grant with Dan Halden of StreetsLA. Meanwhile, it is possible that California State University Dominguez Hills might obtain an EPA grant for the project. The grant would be part of projects to beautify areas near freeways. Dave Trejo said that ECMS students will help with a clean up around Gardena Elementary School on October 26. Coffee with a Cop--Frankie Mays said that she would discuss with LAPD at the next CPAB meeting. Nita Stonehocker said she had talked with staff in Subway about them hosting the event but was told she needs to contact the franchise owner. Increasing stakeholder engagement via van tour of HGNNC (Jackie Jackson and Dave Trejo)—Jackie Jackson has been talking with residents of her community and what they are interested in seeing.

(Oscar Ruiz entered the meeting at 7:47 p.m.)

Cultural event involving youth—Finesse Simmons said she would work on this with the Outreach/Communications Committee. Table at Venice Family Clinic on Gardena Blvd—Majenni Nixon said that she and Rosalie Preston had attended the October 8 food giveaway at the invitation of Patricia Reyes of Venice Family Clinic. Patricia said that the food giveaways take place at five of the Venice Family clinic locations (Venice, Santa Monica, Culver City, Inglewood, and Gardena) with the fruits and vegetables provided by Food Forward. Food distribution at the Gardena site has taken place for the last 1 ½ years. 60 people showed up for the first session and now 250 people show up on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of each month. Maj and Rosalie gave out 311 flyers and HGNNC brochures. A number of the attendees live nearby and walk over but some come from Compton, Carson, and the City of Gardena. More volunteers are needed to start helping at 8 a.m., with bi-lingual ability very useful. Nita Stonehocker noted that she has been attending the giveaways and has seen how the sidewalk on Menlo Avenue south of Gardena Blvd. is badly lifted from the parkway trees. Those waiting in line have to navigate that section of sidewalk. Also parking for those who drive from a distance is minimal. Majenni said that she and Janeisha also plan to visit other farmers markets/food distribution centers within the HGNNC boundaries. Updating website—Rosalie Preston has been working with Aaron DeVandry on updates to the HGNNC website though no major redesign has been presented yet.

#### **4) Administrative motions**

**a) Approval of the September 10, 2024, Board minutes:** It was moved by Majenni Nixon, seconded by Nita Stonehocker, and passed 13-0-0 to approve the minutes as presented.

**b) Approval of the September 2024 Monthly Expenditure Report:** Treasurer Majenni Nixon screen-shared and reviewed the expenditures for September. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Marvin Bell, and passed 12-0-0 to approve the Monthly Expenditure Report.

**c) Approval of paying \$76.09 for Insight Investments inv. RT00587934 July 2023 from 2024-2025 funds:** Non-payment of this invoice and the one following seems to have been an oversight from when the Treasurer position was changing from Piers Fairclough to Keith Pitts right after the 2023 Board election. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Frankie Mays, and passed 11-0-1 (Trejo) to approve the expenditure.

**d) Approval of paying \$76.09 for Insight Investments inv. RT000596787 August 2023- from 2024-2025 funds:** It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Frankie Mays, and passed 12-0-0 to approve the expenditure.

**e) Approval of paying \$80.13 for 250 Board business cards for Youth Representative Finesse Simmons:** These were already paid for with the HGNNC card as there is a line item for Board business cards under “Office/Operational Expenditures.” However, Funding Representative Laura Williford recommended that a separate vote be made as this purchase was not part of the original order for multiple Board member cards. It was moved by Nita Stonehocker, seconded by Frankie Mays, and passed 12-0-0 to approve the expenditure.

**f) Approval of allocating \$350 for November 2 clean up day in District 7:** The funds will be used for refreshments for the volunteers. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Marvin Bell, and passed 12-0-0 to approve the expenditure.

**g) Approval of an election budget of \$6,500:** The Outreach/Communications Committee met and made some adjustments to the proposed election outreach budget, so that it now totals \$6,500. Most of the funds will be used for printing and mailing the candidate recruitment postcard via the USPS Everydoor Direct Mail service. The rest of the funds will be spent on encouraging stakeholders to register to vote by mail. It was moved by Majenni Nixon, seconded by Nita Stonehocker, and passed 12-0-0 to approve the revised election budget.

**7) Board business/announcements**

**a) Reports from Committee Chairs:** No reports.

**b) Brief announcements from Board members:** The next General Membership meeting will be held on Tues. October 22 at the 135<sup>th</sup> Street School Auditorium. The main speaker will be LAHSA on how to report homeless issues and how to provide support for those who are homeless or homeless agencies.

There will be a community meeting on the 2025 permit review process for California Waste Services on Tuesday October 15 at 6:30 p.m. at Rosecrans Recreation Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Secretary