

Harbor Gateway North General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, October 22, 2024

135th Street School, 801 W. 135th Street

Present: Joan Jacobs (Vice Chair), Rosalie Preston (Secretary), Majenni Nixon (Treasurer), Laivern Frerichs (District 1), Dave Trejo (District 3), Frankie Mays (Community Organization Representative), and Jackie Jackson (Youth Advocate)

1) Welcome/call to order/Board roll call: In the absence of Chair Miguel Vazquez and Vice Chair Joan Jacobs, Treasurer Majenni Nixon called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. Roll call determined that a quorum was not present. However, the meeting then proceeded with General Public Comment, reports and speakers.

2) General public comment on non-agenda items that are within the Neighborhood Council's subject matter jurisdiction: Austin Young, District 5 stakeholder, discussed the homeless encampment, thefts from vehicles, and prostitution happening near his home. He has contacted Caltrans and the LAPD about the issues. Weed abatement is needed and removal of a 20' RV.

District 6 stakeholder Charles Doakes said that homes are being lost to reverse mortgages and corporate ownership/hedge funds. How will the homeless issue ever be resolved under these circumstances? He also noted that State law now allows additional homes on R1 lots without requiring adequate parking spaces.

District 4 stakeholder Kevin Green said that his mother lives in District 5 and he has previously reported the street lights out along Hoover Street from 120th to 124th. In his own neighborhood it took seven months to get a street light repaired on 133rd Street.

A District 5 stakeholder noted that when one of the RVs that were parked on Figueroa near the Edge O' Town Motel was burned, it impacted the AT&T communication wires, so since September 24 landline service has been out in the District 5 area.

(Joan Jacobs entered the meeting at 7:31 p.m. and took over chairing the meeting)

3) Reports

a) Los Angeles Police Department: Senior Lead Officer Robert Martinez, representing basic car 18A97, said that rape was up by 9%, aggravated assault was down by 9%, homicides are down, burglaries are up by 5%, thefts are down by 12%; these numbers are for the whole of the Southeast Division area. He noted that six different City agencies were involved in removing the twelve RVs from 12201 S. Figueroa Street near the Edge O'Town Motel. Now CD 15 and LAPD are working with the City Attorney on next steps with the motel, which is empty and due to many violations of its conditional use permit, cannot be used as a motel. There is some discussion of having apartments constructed on the property in the future. There is a vacant warehouse/building, 13222 Estrella, which was being used by the homeless, who also removed copper wiring there. Four were arrested two weeks ago, but the District Attorney rejected the case. He will be addressing the RV issue in District 5 which Austin Young raised and also in the cul de sacs in the industrial area west of Figueroa Street. He referred to issues with flower and taco vendors who have set up in front of the AT&T building at 17200 S. Vermont Avenue, including blocking of the sidewalk. There have been 15 reported stolen vehicles in the area from Gardena Blvd. to Imperial Highway in the last month. Further north, Senior Lead Officer Carmen Gutierrez worked with City departments to get the Broadway motel demolished. It had long been a nuisance location and now an apartment building may be built there. There will be a Coffee with a Cop event coming up at Superior Grocers, 10211 S. Avalon, from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. A Zoom meeting to explain how LAPD uses military equipment per AB 481 will be held on October 24 from 3-4 p.m.

Senior Lead Officer Tyson Hamaoka of basic car 18A63 there has been an increase in grand theft auto in the past two to four weeks, with a number dumped in alleys. Illegal dumping continues to be a problem under the 105 freeway on Broadway, Main, and San Pedro, and along 117th Street from Figueroa Street to Broadway, but Council District 15 has been very helpful in providing services for clean up. If you see something suspicious, let your Senior Lead Officer know. A stakeholder tip recently led to the arrest of a drug dealer. Report buildings that are vacant and abandoned.

b) Council District 15: Field Deputy Nicholas Chavez explained that Council District 15 covers the L.A. City area from Watts to the waterfront. He noted that abandoned properties can present issues that are difficult to resolve. The RVs parked on 115th Street are inhabited by two sisters and the City is working on finding them housing. For illegal dumping issues on 116th and the Union Pacific railroad tracks, he has been working on a clean up plan but Union Pacific has a lot of other similar projects ahead of this one. The City of Los Angeles is working on a contract so that the City can more quickly handle the clean ups and then bill Union Pacific for the costs. He noted that the AT&T landline outage is something that has impacted a lot of Los Angeles County. It involves copper wire theft and is taking a long time to complete the repairs. Be sure to call AT&T to ask for credit on your telephone bill due to lack of service. Caltrans has been cleaning up all of its areas along the 105 freeway from Stanford to Hoover on a monthly or twice monthly basis. He noted that the RV clean up on Figueroa near the Edge O'Town Motel took months of planning. Regarding the many streetlights that are out in the Harbor Gateway North area, it is a massive problem all over the City and the repairs take months to complete. However, once the repairs are made, it will be very difficult to steal the copper wire again. There are pilot programs to use solar power for streetlights. On Monday October 28 from 4-6 p.m. there will be a meeting at the 116th Street School on a proposal to install modular housing on the unused Park and Ride lot north of the 105 Freeway at Stanford. For unarmed response for Southeast LAPD area issues, call the non-emergency number 1-877-275-5273 and ask for the Exodus team to come out. For all Los Angeles City services, use 311. Councilmember Tim McOsker also has a Clean Team to help with alley clean ups and weed abatement, plus clean up under the freeway overpasses. A presentation on the City of Los Angeles Reparations study will be made on Sat. November 2 at 11 a.m. in Watts. Rosecrans Recreation Center will host a Trunk or Treat on Sat. October 26 from 2-6 p.m.

c) Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors-District 2: Kacie Hervey, Deputy for Constituent Engagement, introduced herself as the representative for Supervisor Holly Mitchell covering the area of Harbor Gateway and other parts of the 2nd District. She noted that the Small Business Interruption Fund application period will be closing on November 7.

4) Speaker: Metro – update on the Vermont Transit Corridor Project dedicated bus lane on Vermont Avenue north from 120th Street, including dedicated bike lanes, bus shelters at the C Line station, and redesign of 120th Street at Vermont Avenue: Heidi Jackson and Rashonda Davis presented an overview of Metro's proposals for the Vermont Avenue Corridor, which runs from Hollywood to 120th Street. Three in-person meetings will be held during December as well as two virtual meetings to gather further public input. By spring 2025, the implementation process will begin for the first segment, which is Sunset/Vermont Avenue to Wilshire/Vermont Avenue. Since Vermont Avenue between Gage to 120th Street is a much wider street (three lanes on each side), dedicated bus lanes with coordinated signals will be used as part of Phase 2. For Phase 3, light rail may be considered, including underground rail for the northern section of the route. The dedicated bus lane will be the right-side lane. Parking will still be permitted next to the curb and vehicles can make right turns into driveways. There will be 26 stations along the route.

5) Speaker: LAHSA – how to report homeless encampments and RVs, what services are provided to those who are housed, and how stakeholders can support the effort to end homelessness and those who are homeless: Erik Vargas, SPA 8 Community Relations Coordinator, and Darick

Blackshere, LAHSA Innovator, projected a PowerPoint which summarized data from the January 2024 Homeless Count, which the County of Los Angeles conducts every year. There was a slight decrease in the number of homeless and a decrease in the number of makeshift shelters, such as tents. 135 homeless people in cars, vans, RVs, tents, or makeshift shelters were noted in the Harbor Gateway North area, which realistically translates to 207 to 242 individuals. In SPA 8, most of the homeless are males. 25% have mental health or substance abuse issues. 42% are chronically homeless. 43% of those who are homeless are also victims of domestic violence. 54% reported that economic hardship is the reason why they are homeless. To be able to afford the rent for a typical two-bedroom apartment, a person or family would need to earn \$100,000 a year. Meanwhile, a higher percentage of those that LAHSA contacts are going into shelters and placements in permanent housing are increasing. Derek said that LAHSA outreach staff will go out to an encampment three to four times to establish a relationship with individuals. Brochures on homeless services are available for handout. For fires started by the homeless, call 911 but also report to LAHSA via la-hop (<https://www.lahsa.org/portal/apps/la-hop/>) so that LAHSA is aware of key areas of homeless encampments. Volunteers for the homeless count in January are needed.

6) Administrative motions

a) Approval of \$712.96 to Minuteman Press for October 22 General Membership meeting flyers: Tabled to the November 12 Board meeting due to lack of a quorum.

b) Approval of \$1,575 to Walking Man for delivery of October 22 General Membership meeting flyers: Tabled to the November 12 Board meeting due to lack of a quorum.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Secretary