

## Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Board Meeting

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Held via Zoom webinar

Present: Joan Jacobs (Vice Chair), Rosalie Preston (Secretary), Majenni Nixon (Treasurer), Laivern Frerichs (District 1), Dave Trejo (District 3), 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), Jackie Jackson (Youth Advocate), and Craig Kusunoki (At Large Representative)

Absent (excused): Miguel Vazquez, Nita Stonehocker, Finesse Simmons

Vacant: Outreach/Communications Representative (Will Yates has submitted his resignation)

**1) Welcome/call to order/Board roll call:** In the absence of Chairperson Miguel Vazquez, Vice Chairperson Joan Jacobs called the meeting to order at 7:06 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:** District 5 stakeholder Alex Jimenez commented that it has been one year since he reported that multiple street lights are out on the east side of Vermont Avenue in front of the transit center at the Metro C Line. He has let CD 15 Field Deputy Nicholas Chavez know about the long delay in getting the repairs made and would like advice on how to escalate the issue with the Bureau of Street Lighting.

District 6 stakeholder Janet Sanchez reported that all of the street lights on 115<sup>th</sup> Street between Vermont Avenue and Menlo Avenue are out, as well as the lights on Hoover under the 105 Freeway. It was suggested to call the Bureau of Street Lighting to fine out the status of repairs: (323) 913-4744

(Frankie Mays entered the meeting at 7:20 p.m.)

### **3) Reports**

**a) LAPD:** Senior Lead Officer Robert Martinez of Basic Car 18A97 reported that in the Southeast Division property crimes are down 8% and crimes against persons are down 4%. The biggest issues are homeless encampments and copper wire theft. Many lights are out along the Figueroa Street corridor and the copper wire thefts are impacting the businesses along Figueroa Street as well as on the Estrella Street cul de sac north of 135<sup>th</sup> Street. On Estrella there is a homeless encampment along the Caltrans side above the 110 Harbor Freeway. He has been working with CD 15 Field Deputy Nicholas Chavez on this issue. There is a homeless encampment on Redondo Beach Blvd. east of the 110 freeway and he has been working with Caltrans on that issue. Statistics drive services so be sure to report to LAPD and 311. He is also working to remove the homeless encampments in the alleys north and south of 129<sup>th</sup> Street, with concerns about the open campfires which the homeless use for cooking and heating. There is another homeless encampment which has formed near the exit from the 105 freeway at Vermont Avenue and he is working with the property owner. There are encampments within Athens on the Hill. He has also been working on the street vendor issues in front of the AT&T building at 17200 S. Vermont Avenue, including with the Los Angeles County Health Department. Copper wire theft is happening throughout the Southeast Division and all of the City of Los Angeles and these seem to be related to areas near where the homeless are camped. Additionally, two vehicles were stolen from the 700 block of 129<sup>th</sup> Street. In answer to a question about holding the recycling businesses responsible who are buying the stolen copper wiring, Officer Martinez said that it is difficult to prove that it has been stolen. District 3 Representative Dave Trejo

wondered how the Neighborhood Council can be more effective on common issues, such as the many street lights that are out and the slowness in response when reporting non-emergency issues to LAPD. Those calling or going into the Southeast Division to report to the officer at the desk often get conflicting answers or referrals. The long waits cause stakeholders not to try to report incidents. Secretary Rosalie Preston said she was on hold for 90 minutes with the LAPD non-emergency line trying to report an open fire of the homeless along Estrella and had to hang up. Alex Jimenez was on hold with the LAPD non-emergency for three hours trying to report shots fired near his home. There also needs to be continued patrols for the Gardena Blvd./Ainsworth/165<sup>th</sup> Place area due to graffiti and G13 issues. It was suggested that a 911 or non-emergency dispatcher be invited to the January 28 General Membership meeting to discuss the long waits for reports.

**b) CD 15:** Field Deputy Nicholas Chavez commented that the long wait times for 911 and LAPD non-emergency are common throughout the City of Los Angeles and definitely impact public safety. The City is in the process of hiring more 911 operators but more are needed and then to be trained, which takes a long time. The street lighting outages is a very difficult issue. In making the repairs, the Bureau of Street Lighting is having to concrete up the access doors and bury the electrical boxes deeper in the ground, but the copper thieves are figuring out way to re-take the copper wiring that has been replaced. Copper wire theft is also what has impacted the AT&T landlines which are particularly impacting the Athens on the Hills neighborhood. He has given those residents the link to the Public Utilities Commission to report on the issue of how long residents have been without the use of their landlines. AT&T now says that the repairs will be completed by the end of January. Perhaps a Bureau of Street Lighting representative could attend the January 28 General Membership meeting to explain the repair process. For the homeless encampments in the alleys north and south of 129<sup>th</sup> Street, they have been reported to LAHSA via LA-HOP and the clean ups should happen in late December or early January. November 30 was Small Business Saturday and Councilmember Tim McOsker noted the occasion by visiting the Los Novillos Market, 14114 S. Vermont Avenue, as well as other small businesses throughout Council District 15 to encourage residents to support them. The Clean 15 Team has been very active, especially in cleaning up the freeway underpasses at Main Street, San Pedro Street, Stanford, and along 117<sup>th</sup> Street east of Figueroa Street. Weed abatement for alleys will be scheduled. The RVs parked along Alondra Blvd. and on Estrella have been reported to Parking Enforcement. Councilmember McOsker is Chair of the Budget and Personnel Committee so in regards to the concerns related to LAPD response time and the number of officers, he can address in the upcoming budget sessions. There is a homeless encampment at Main Street and Imperial Highway. CD 15 is working on issues with abandoned buildings with the Building and Safety Department. The empty buildings at 120<sup>th</sup> and Central Avenue will be demolished in January. CD 15 is still working with the owner of the property on the design of the new apartment building that will be built there.

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

Stakeholder Janet Sanchez wondered if there was any plan to offer rewards leading to convictions for copper wire theft. Nicholas said that at this time there are only rewards for information leading to arrest for illegal dumping. District 3 Representative Dave Trejo said the City should have an online listing of which street lights have been reported and when the repairs are made. He also asked for guidance on the most effective ways of escalating repairs. Nicholas said that the 311 app is being updated and possibly the update will include more information on open tickets.

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

**d) Los Angeles County Supervisor 2<sup>nd</sup> District:** No one was present.

**e) Department of Neighborhood Empowerment:** Helena Doub, Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate for Harbor Gateway North, said that the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of

Neighborhood Councils will take place on Friday December 13 from 6 to 9 p.m. at City Hall. Candidate filings are open until 11:59 p.m. on January 6. So far five candidates have filed, with two being certified. Vote by mail applications can be made beginning on January 24. DONE will canvass in each Neighborhood Council. The Youth Conference will be held February 22, with applications due by December 20.

**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 said that California State University Dominguez Hills still has not heard any update on their EPA grant application for the project. Dave Trejo said he would reach out to Tree People. Coffee with a Cop--Frankie Mays said that the event will be scheduled sometime in January and held at 555 W. Redondo Beach Blvd. Increasing stakeholder engagement via van tour of HGNNC (Jackie Jackson and Dave Trejo)—no update. Dave Trejo suggested that with so many other issues facing the HGNNC, this might not be a priority. Cultural event involving youth—no update. Farmers' Markets—Majenni Nixon said that the Venice Family Clinic is still conducting their food giveaways bi-monthly. There are two community gardens within the HGNNC area, though they currently are not selling produce to the public. Rosalie will send Majenni the contact information for the Gardena and Stanford Avenue Gardens. Updating website—Rosalie Preston said that the website is being updated but that no major design changes have been drafted yet.

**4) Revised appointment of Homeless Liaisons:** The four Homeless Liaisons who were voted on at the January 9 Board meeting are Salim Mhunzi, Oscar Ruiz, Victor Williams, and Hannah Woods. Marvin Bell and Barbara Tyson-Frazier would like to be officially appointed liaisons. Helena Doub said that there should be no more than three official liaisons, although originally the HGNNC was told there was no limit on the number of liaisons. As Secretary, Rosalie Preston will contact the existing liaisons to find out their interest in continuing. The responsibility of the Liaisons is to attend the bi-monthly meetings, which are held by Zoom, and to report back to the Board. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Majenni Nixon, and passed 12-0-0 to table the motion until the January 14 Board meeting.

**5) Report from the November 25, 2024, Executive Committee meeting regarding absences of Chairperson and Outreach/Communications Representative:** Chairperson Miguel Vazquez was able to attend the Executive Committee meeting and explained that he had been unable to attend the Board meetings due to his job schedule and another person at the job site going out on sick leave. He apologized for not making this clearer to the Board previously. Outreach/Communications Representative Will Yates also has been unable to attend a number of recent Board meetings due to his working two jobs, but as noted under the roll call, has now resigned. That seat could be filled at the January 14 Board meeting, if any interested stakeholders make themselves available. This would be 60 days before the official date of the Board election, which is March 25. Treasurer Majenni Nixon read out the wording from the Bylaws on Absences and Removal, which NEA Helena Doub had emailed the Board. Majenni said that Miguel had expressed interest in remaining involved with the continuing environmental justice issues facing the Neighborhood Council. His removal could be considered at the January 14 Board meeting but the City Attorney would have to be consulted, which is a time-consuming process. Helena Doub commented that in reviewing the HGNNC minutes, she noted that Miguel has been absent since September 2023. However, there has not been an accurate listing in the Board minutes of the Board members who have officially “excused” absences or unexcused. Also, the Standing Rules have not yet been updated to list the accepted reasons for “excused” absences. The next step would be for the Executive Committee to reach out to the City Attorney for advice on any removal process. Some Board members expressed concern that not addressing long absences by Board members could set a precedent for future Board members.

## **6) Administrative motions**

**a) Approval of the November 12, 2024, Board minutes:** It was moved by Majenni Nixon, seconded by Frankie Mays, and passed 12-0-0 to approve the minutes as presented.

**b) Approval of the November 2024 Monthly Expenditure Report:** Treasurer Majenni Nixon screen-shared and summarized the expenditures for November. \$24,679.20 remains in the HGNNC Funding account. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Eva Cooper Pace, and passed 12-0-0 to approve the Monthly Expenditure Report.

**c) Approval of up to \$500 to support a Coffee with a Cop event:** Others may provide funding for coffee and donuts or other morning pastries, but if the HGNNC supports the full amount, then \$500 should more than cover the costs. It was moved by Eva Cooper Pace, seconded by Barbara Tyson-Frazier, and passed 12-0-0.

## **7) Board business/announcements**

**a) Reports from Committee Chairs:** The Planning and Land Use Committee met for a Special meeting on December 5 and discussed the upcoming release of the Final Environmental Impact Report for the proposed Prologis warehouse at the northeast corner of Vermont Avenue and Redondo Beach Blvd, which is expected in late January/early February, and also the permit review for California Waste Services.

**b) Brief announcements from Board members:** District 4 Representative Arvie Powell said that in relation to the nearby homeless encampments on Estrella and to the east in the Los Angeles County area, there seem to be more suspicious people in the neighborhood checking out homes and vehicles, so stakeholders have been warned to be more vigilant as well as to report the homeless encampments via la-hop.

Secretary Rosalie Preston reminded the Board that the Harbor Gateway Winter Wonderland will take place at the Normandale recreation Center on Friday December 20 from 4 to 7 p.m. The HGNNC will have a table and give out sugar cookies in small paper bags. On Sat. December 21 from 5 to 8 p.m., EECI (Entrepreneur Educational Center Inc.) that has their headquarters at 555 W. Redondo Beach Blvd. will hold their grand opening celebration and all are invited.

Treasurer Majenni Nixon said that a new Ecuadorian restaurant and bakery, Dulcis Fama, has opened at 858 W. Gardena Blvd., with an attractive new mural on the Vermont Avenue side of the restaurant. Stakeholders are encouraged to try it out and support it.

District 3 representative Dave Trejo reminded the Board that Good Water at Gardena Blvd. includes a small coffee shop which can be patronized by stakeholders. The Environmental Charter Middle School, of which he is the Principal, has recently won an award.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:39 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Secretary