

## Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, July 28, 2015

135<sup>th</sup> Street School Auditorium, 801 W. 135<sup>th</sup> Street

Present: Delores Allmond (Chair), Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), Adrian Valenzuela (District 2), Betty Hawkins (District 4), Llewyn Fowlkes (District 5), Marvin Bell (District 6), Janet Mitchell (District 7), Shirley Johnson (District 8), Deborah Lee (Community Organization Representative), and Richard Lee (Youth Representative)

Chair Delores Allmond called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m., followed by the salute to the flag and a moment of silence.

**1) Public Comment:** District 4 stakeholder Tracie Green said that a speed hump is needed in front of the 135<sup>th</sup> Street School to slow down speeding vehicles. She also said that the alley south of 133<sup>rd</sup> Street is in very poor condition. Prostitution takes place in the alley as there is no lighting. Also when her husband drives to and from work, there is poor lighting at 116<sup>th</sup> Place and Vermont as most of the street lights are out, on both sides of Vermont. This also impacts those using the Green Line station and those waiting for the bus there.

Murry Taylor reported that the left-turn lanes on Central Avenue turning onto Imperial Highway and the 105 Freeway have uneven surfaces. He has reported this over the past three years and nothing has been done. He also noted the many illegal sales from people's front yards along Imperial Highway between Central Avenue and Avalon.

District 4 stakeholder Leonora Finch noted that her neighbor's tree branches are touching the power lines and impacting a DWP transformer.

District 6 stakeholder Twyller Weary reported that there is an RV parked along Southwest Blvd. near Vermont Avenue which is using power from a City light pole. She also noted that there is a tree in front of her home which badly needs trimming. She also reported that a car is performing "donuts" on Southwest Blvd. every day after work.

Assemblymember Mike Gipson representing the 64<sup>th</sup> Assembly District noted that he was elected last year and sworn in on December 1. He was formerly a Carson City Councilmember for ten years and previously worked as a staff member for many elected officials. He also is a reserve police officer in Maywood. Until the Assembly resumes work on August 17, he is visiting groups to give personal attention to his District. In the last session, he introduced nineteen pieces of legislation, more than any other member of the Assembly. One of his bills would increase the personal upkeep allow of seniors in care facilities from \$35 to \$109 per month. Another bill, 1228, would provide campus housing for homeless and foster youth attending California State Universities during their school breaks. He said that his office is always open for constituents to visit and discuss issues with him or his staff. He encouraged signing up on his website to learn more about 64<sup>th</sup> AD activities and initiatives.

**3) Neighborhood Prosecutor Sonja Dawson reports on nuisance issues:** Sonja Dawson explained that she is an attorney working out of the City Attorney's Office but assigned to handle the nuisance and low-level criminal matters for the Southeast LAPD service area. She works closely with the Senior Lead Officers. She said that CD 15 staff member John Jones III would give the report on perennial illegal dumping sites that have been reported to her. She noted that the three marijuana clinics on and near Gardena Blvd. have been investigated and all are illegal. She also noted that Southeast LAPD Captain Al Pasos has made prostitution his priority for the Neighborhood Prosecutor.

**Council District 15 report:** John Jones III said to use 311 or the Department of Sanitation website to report illegal dumping. 1-800-773-2049 can also be used to report illegal dumping or for bulky item pick up. He recommends using 311 so that a request number is created which makes follow up easier. When asked why cameras cannot be placed to discourage illegal dumping at 117<sup>th</sup> near the Metro station, he said that the City Attorney's Office is working on this with the LAPD but that the needed camera system is expensive and they need to find the funds. They also try to educate the public about calling 311 for bulky item pick up. He and Sonja Dawson have organized a meeting for the businesses along Main Street and 117<sup>th</sup> Street which they hope will become the first of a series. In regards to the illegal homeless

encampment just north of Denver Avenue at 117<sup>th</sup> Street, it is on Caltrans property and Caltrans is working to disperse the encampment. The City is not allowed to get involved with the charitable donation bins that are being placed on private property, but let CD 15 know of problem ones that attract illegal dumping or loitering and they will call the number on the box for removal. None of them are approved, but the private property owner is supposed to give their permission before they are placed on the property. For the trees on power lines, CD 15 can generate an emergency call and fund the trimming from the CD 15 budget. He can be reached at (213) 473-5128 at the CD 15 office in Watts or e-mail him at [john.jonesiii@lacity.org](mailto:john.jonesiii@lacity.org).

**4) LA Police Department report:** Senior Lead Officers Carmen Gutierrez and Angelo Stewart reported that six patrol officers have been assigned to cover the Figueroa Corridor where prostitution activity takes place. They are aware of the three new marijuana clinics on and near Gardena Blvd. The City Attorney's office sent a letter to the clinic at 16400 S. Vermont Avenue on July 23. The "clinic" at 844 W. Gardena Blvd. was closed July 9, 2013, and the property owner was cited and paid the fine. The City Attorney's office is working on the third location and will send a letter soon to the business owner. In regard to the illegal car sales along Redondo Beach Blvd. and Vermont Avenue, the LAPD is working on that issue. National Night Out will be observed at Southeast LAPD on Tues. August 4 from 3-8 p.m.

In response to questions, a stakeholder noted that the marijuana clinic at 115<sup>th</sup> and Vermont may be reopening after the fire shut down the previous operation. The Officers said that the City Attorney's office is aware of the situation. A stakeholder noted that the new gate at 121<sup>st</sup> Street and Figueroa has caused prostitution to move to other locations along Figueroa. SLO Gutierrez thanked those stakeholders who participated in the LAPD roll call in front of Gardena Elementary School on June 25.

SLO Stewart explained that he covers the patrol areas of Districts 7 and 8. He noted that motor homes parked along public streets are a big problem everywhere. He handles requests for pick up of illegally dumped items every day. For those with smartphones, he suggests using My LA311 which also creates a record. There is a flyer about bulky item pick up which can be handed out. He reminded stakeholders that the non-emergency LAPD number is 1-877-ASK-LAPD. In response to stakeholders concerned about Facebook postings that police officers will be targeted during August, he said there have been eleven shootings in the last week but that is not higher than usual. He also noted that parking cars on front lawns is illegal.

(Marvin Bell left the meeting at 8:25 p.m.)

**5) L.A. Fire Department report:** No firefighters were present.

**6) L.A. Department of Water and Power discusses where our water comes from, ways to save on your water use, how to reduce your DWP bill, rain barrels, and the reasons for the proposed rate increase:** Robert Estrada, Water Conservation Specialist from LADWP, showed a Powerpoint and explained that 85% of Los Angeles' water comes from miles away, such as the Colorado River, Owens Valley Aqueduct (which is gravity-fed), and the State Water Project via the Metropolitan Water District. Therefore this water is very expensive. Los Angeles does have groundwater resources but it will take years to clean up so that it can be used. The drought has created a state-wide emergency in regards to water. The LADWP has been implementing water conservation measures since the early 1990's and therefore 32% of water use has been reduced in that time. Even with a higher population, Los Angeles uses less water than in the past. Therefore, when Governor Brown announced that every jurisdiction would have to reduce water use by 25%, Los Angeles was able to explain its previous savings and now only has to reduce 16% over the whole City, not per individual household. However, Mayor Garcetti would like to see an overall 20% decrease over last year's usage. In regards to the need for rate increases, he said that over half of the City's water pipes are long past their lifespan and need to be replaced. Every day there are three water main breaks. The base rate per 100 cubic feet of water used is \$1.32 and this pays for infrastructure and DWP salaries. There are also charges for water quality, security, and the low income subsidy. The proposed rate increases will be minimal for Tier 1 and Tier 2 customers, which would include most HGNNC stakeholders. It will be the really high water users who will pay a lot more.

**7) Greywater Action discusses an easy way to use your laundry rinse water for your garden:** Cris Sarabia from Greywater Action presented a PowerPoint which explained that in the United States,

the average per person daily use of water is 150 gallons, which is much higher than in other parts of the world. If greywater (water from the washer, sink, or shower) were used to water landscapes, it could reduce 16-40% of a household's water bill. The greywater potential is 1 billion gallons every day. It is legal to use greywater if Chapter 16 of the California Plumbing Code guidelines are followed. Valves and other greywater supplies are available at Aqua-Flo Supply in Torrance. Fruit trees particularly thrive with greywater; grass does not. It can be used for vegetables as long as they are not root vegetables.

**2) Days of Dialogue on the Future of Policing – remembering the Watts Riots 50 years later and possible HGNNC sponsorship of one of the Dialogue sessions:** Ray Regalado from the L.A. County Human Relations Commission, explained that beginning August 11 and continuing throughout the rest of the year, in observance of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Watts Riots, there will be a number of Dialogue sessions held around the county to discuss the same issue—how can law enforcement work with the community. Each session will have 8-10 participants with a trained facilitator. The sessions may result in solutions to improve police-community relations. The Watts Riots began after a police stop of a young African American man at 116<sup>th</sup> Street and Avalon within the now HGNNC District 8. If the HGNNC decides to be one of the hosting organizations, then the responsibility would be to secure a location, find participants, provide refreshments, and advertise the event. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Richard Lee and passed 9-0-0 (with Chair Delores Allmond voting) to approve spending up to \$500 to sponsor one or two Dialogue sessions within the HGNNC boundaries.

**8) Approval of the April 28 Membership meeting minutes:** It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Janet Mitchell, and passed 9-0-0 to approve the minutes as presented, with Chair Delores Allmond voting

**9) Treasurer's report: expenditures to date:** Interim Treasurer Rosalie Preston reviewed the HGNNC Expenditures to Date from July 1, 2015, to present, which shows a total of \$3,255.91 spent and expended of the \$37,000 allocated for 2015-2016.

**9) Announcements:** The California Endowment website has a 5-year plan for the greater Los Angeles area which gives an idea of key areas which decision makers are targeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Recording Secretary