

Minutes from the meeting of January 2018, 2018 – Super Neighborhood 17

I. Call to order at 7:01 p.m. A quorum was established.

II. Guest Speakers

A. HPD – Westside Chief M. J. Faulhaber gave us statistics on HPD staffing. He stated that HPD has approximately 645 square miles of territory with only 5,100 officers. Chicago, Los Angeles, and New York have over twice as many officers. The number of candidates graduating from the academy cannot keep up with those ready to retire. This is being discussed with the Mayor's office. General crime stats were down 27% in this area since HPD captured a crew in the flood zone. This group was working our area and Westpark at Gessner area. They are generally based in a game room in Bellaire. Some were jailed. HPD is working the District Attorney's office to keep these offenders behind bars.

Year to date stats are excellent since we are only in the second week of January. Another area of concern for our vicinity is the Westheimer area and the night club scene. They are working on making all clubs in compliance or shutting them down.

Property crime is down 22%. Last year there was a spike in this crime with the Superbowl in town. This drove criminals farther out into the suburbs. Additionally, storage area facilities are a challenge. HPD has arrested many crews. Crimes in former flooded and rebuilding areas has been a priority. HPD has recommended placards for vehicles for both resident and construction company vehicles, so that local police and residents can recognize who should and should not be in the neighborhood.

Question from audience-Is it valuable to have both constable and HPD presence in a neighborhood. HPD stated categorically yes. As HPD officers are required to leave for a call, constables can just patrol the area.

Question from audience-How is crime in the West Oaks Mall area. The chief stated that it was not bad overall. Most of the crime is at night and often theft of items in cars in parking lots particularly near health clubs.

Chief Faulhaber stated that individuals should NOT sell items (Craig's List) and allow persons to be in their car. Utilize the police station parking lot for transactions. He noted a point-blank-range shooting with such a transaction recently.

Crime in districts [19 and 20](#) are generally down. He was happy to note that with only 237 officers and 68 square miles of jurisdiction, he was proud of his officers. He was sharing the difficulties of the body cameras being used at this time. These were difficult to work effectively and officers had harsh reprimands with any errors in recording. This is a significant matter and all are frustrated to the point he is unable to find a tactical officer to serve in his area due to these problematic bodycams.

B. Candidates seeking election gave brief introductory presentations

A representative for [Lizzie Fletcher](#) stated her intentions for [U.S. House District 7](#). Ms. Fletcher is a fifth generation Houstonian. She lives within the district. She is an attorney. Her representative noted that she is a strong candidate who is focused on women's rights such as Planned Parenthood. She also has a list of important infrastructure concerns that citizens can view on her website. [LizzieFletcher.com](#)

Staff member Thomas Edwards represented Laura Moser for the same congressional seat. A main area of concern for Ms. Moser is natural disasters and preparedness. Her platform is strongly progressive focused on flooding, women's choice and rights. Mr. Edwards likened her to Hillary Clinton. Her website is MoserforCongress.com

Andrew Lang represented Alex Triantaphyllis for congress. The candidate is a fifth generation Houstonian and a first generation Greek. He has been in community service for ten years. He has a daughter. He is a graduate from Rice and Harvard Universities. He has dedicated much time to non-profit groups since returning from Venezuela. His website is AlexTforTexas.com

III. Government Announcements:

District G – No representative

District F – Van Huynh spoke about the drainage area clean up since the storm. He noted that representative Mr. Le had remaining funds and was planning to do a review of his entire area to evaluate the best places to spend the funds cleaning and clearing debris in drainage areas that would hopefully mitigate future flooding to some degree. Please do let him know by email if you know of areas that should be considered for this additional drainage work.

Department of Neighborhoods - Rene Ruiz:

Mr. Ruiz reported that if anyone knows of hurricane victims still with needs to contact one of the recovery centers. For those who have complete FEMA forms but need more assistance, they will be given a personal case worker to facilitate housing, food, etc. Mr. Ruiz noted that the Mayor has a media release page on the city website. (SN17 webmaster: also see HarrisRecovery and PostHarvey websites). All are welcome to sign up for these updates. The updates can be personalized by the individual to only send your requested topics. His contact information is Rene.ruiz@houstontx.gov as well as by phone at 832-393-0939.

He gave a location for the local Recovery Center
1624 Blalock Road Harveyrelief@mamministries.org
713-468-4516 x 105

John Gibbs representative for Michael Kubosh COH councilman at large: Mr. Gibbs introduced himself and his candidate. He wanted to discuss the financial plan related to flood relief. He noted that his Councilman was working on transparency and wanted to further the remarks of actually receiving monies from various sources, State, National, and coordination of the some twenty-eight organizations that can serve our city with these difficult times. He stated that there were 6500 churches in the Houston area that can and should work together to aid our citizenry. There are so many that are still not being served.

He also stressed the need for more police on the streets for a city as large as Houston. Mr. Gibbs also noted the draining clean out as a vital concern. He requested that as many as possible should attend the PIP meetings and voice areas of needs.

Margaret Dunlap - METRO representative:

Ms. Dunlap emphasized the [new regional transit plan](#) MetroNext and noted that Metro has six million in ridership. She thanked our group for inviting her to present at our meetings. She encourages all to the meetings Metro will sponsor to share the goals of the plan. Issues to be discussed will be high speed rail and

providing independence for all citizens by way of bus and train service even for those who cannot drive or have no vehicle.

Question for the Audience- A guest shared difficulties that a handicap friend was having in maintaining status for ridership in the [MetroLift](#) program. Ms. Dunlap noted that there was a third party involved in some of the paperwork. The two will discuss more details after the meeting.

Other Announcements

Michael McKissack – [Eagles Trace](#) representative:

Mr. McKissack welcomed everyone and introduced himself giving a brief biography. He noted that he was from Mississippi and his background was with the State Department and his service record in Afghanistan.

IV. Old Business:

- A. November meeting minutes were approved
- B. Committee Reports: were shortened due to long presentations and upcoming annual election of officers.

Website - Bob Andrew: Bob noted that the phone/email emergency plan to notify residents should be in place soon and to check the [website](#) for valuable information.

Diane Guillerman noted that Republican Candidates would be invited to speak at future meetings.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:57 P.M. Next meeting is February 14, 2018.

Annual Meeting was called to order at 8:08 P.M. to elect officers.

Cindy Yeglin and Sherry Lamb were nominated and elected to serve as Co-secretaries.

Doug Parish is ill and requested that a new president be selected since his term is over.

Jack O'Connor was nominated and elected as the new President. Jack stated that his main areas of concern will be Public Safety, Property Value, Quality of Life issues, Commercial interests, and Police matters. He also stated that he wanted to get more involvement with HOA and POA groups in our area to fully participate. He suggested attending various meetings and personally inviting them to our SN17. More information is needed for becoming a not for profit. Diane Guillerman agreed to research this matter.

It was suggested and agreed upon that the SN17 would send a card and flowers to Doug with his recent hospitalization and recovery issues.

The annual meeting was adjourned at 8:29 P.M.