

**Minutes from the meeting of April 10, 2019 of Super Neighborhood 17 – Eldridge/West Oaks**

- I. Call to order at 7:00 p.m. President O’Connor opened the meeting.
- II. Quorum was established by 7 delegates or alternates.
- III. Acknowledge Guests and Visitors  
Council Member Dr. Steve Le – District F  
Torrance Atkins-Lively – representative from District F  
Mark Kirschke - representative from District G  
Rene Ruiz - Mayor’s Citizens Assistance Office, Department of Neighborhoods  
Margarita Dunlap and Linda Trevino – Metro representatives
- IV. Guests Speakers  
**Sargent Stevens, from HPD** spoke on current safety matters. He noted that robberies had increased 100% over a 30 day span from 5 to 10. Aggravated assault had increased 18.2% from 11 to 13. Violent crime over the period from March 9, to April 7, had increased by 43.8%. This includes Burglary Habitation, Burglary of a Building, BMV, Theft and Auto Theft. He reported that most robberies are in apartment complexes. He reminded everyone to not leave items in the car overnight and to close garage doors. He noted the monthly PIP meeting is held the third Thursday of the month at Westside Police Station.  
Crime Statistics in the last 30 days:
  - Aggravated Assault – 18.2% (increased from 11 to 13)
  - Robbery – 100% (increased from 5 to 10)
  - Burglary Habitation – -18.4% (decreased from 38 to 31)
  - Burglary Building – 133.4% (increased from 6 to 14)
  - BMV – 13.2% (increased from 26 to 42)
  - Theft – 61.5% (increased from 26 to 42)
  - Auto Theft – -37.5% (decreased from 16 to 10)

**Council Member Dr. Steve Le – District F** was the next speaker. He first noted that the City has no discretionary funds due to Hurricane Harvey but hopefully reimbursement will be forthcoming from the Federal Government. He then spoke about Proposition B which provided for parity pay for firefighters but did not provide for a way to pay for the proposition. He affirmed his support of the firefighters but if payment must be made within 2 years, the City will be forced to lay off City workers, including firemen. At this time \$70-\$100 million is owed to firefighters since approval of Proposition B. There is also a problem concerning parity pay with HPD as there are training issues, education issues and leadership issues differences. HFD wants parity pay within 3 years, while the City wants parity over 5 years. Due to the inability of HFD and the City leadership to compromise, Council has taken over the negotiations. He noted a cadet class cost \$1,000, 000 and six months of training, but at this point the most recent class will be laid off due to Proposition B.

A question from the audience concerned budget issues and that for several years there had been complaints due to the cap on property taxes. He noted that there had been an increase in property taxes for the past four years and that still has not helped due to spending by the City. Dr. Lee recommended more fiscal conservatives are needed on City Council members and the Mayor.

Dr. Le than discussed flooding issues. He explained the new plan to allocate funds for those in need to repair homes and that as much as \$80,000 per household to as little as \$20,000. To determine how much to be allocated, forms need to be submitted to the City Program.

President O'Connor brought up the issue of crime in the area and that many in SN17 considered that the number one issue. Council Member Le explained that the DA for the County requested funds for another 120 attorneys. The County countered with authorizing a study with the goal to determine how the new bail system was working and how the DA office could operate more efficiently.

Council Member Le announced the Kendal Library will not be open for two years from now.

Next to speak was **Mark Kirschke, representing District G** who announced that Trash Bash volunteers collected over 2600 bags of trash and debris from the bayous during a recent event. Very soon the Corp of Engineers will be holding public meetings on flooding and solutions along the Bayous.

The last speaker was **Margarita Dunlap, the Public Affairs Representative for Metro**. She wished to discuss Metro's proposals for the future of transit in the City of Houston. She noted the Metro Mission is to provide safe, clean, reliable, accessible and friendly public transportation services to our region. Metro has predicted that within in the next 10 years the population of Houston will increase 100%. Ms. Dunlap announced that Metro had concluded Phase 1, Public Involvement concerning connections, speed and reliability, customer experience, and innovation. Suggestions include more places, faster, reliable services, better customer experience, more flexibility, and safety. A map was reviewed showing the new program including the Regional Express Network, Bus Rapid Transit, and Service Enhancements. The plan is projected to cost \$35 billion dollars. In the SN17 area, the Westheimer corridor will include faster buses, and less stops allowing for faster transit. The Memorial City area, Westchase, and Katy will get light rail or buses upgrade.

V. The March minutes were approved with one correction indicating 4000 firemen, not 4000 fire stations.

VI Committee Reports

a) **Jeff Baker, Chair for Public Safety and Crime**, He urged all to keep vehicles locked, nothing in sight inside the car, light things up and park in the garage if possible purchase a camera. The Delegate from Ashford Park, Sec. 6 mentioned an initiative to help neighbors clean out garages.

- b) **Cindy Yeglin, Chair for the Beautification Committee** noted there was no update.
- c) **Rhonda Kelley, Membership Chair**, reported that the committee would be meeting soon with business and HOA's to promote new members.
- d) **Doug Parish, Chair of New Construction** noted there was no update.
- e) **Nancy Scott, Capital Improvements** reported that at the Kroger on Eldridge, the resolution to the traffic issue may be resolved by widening the cut in the esplanade and she is working with the Councilman to get that done.
- f) **Nick Kornuta** - noted a letter from SN17 had been sent to Lina Hidalgo and other county leaders supporting Linear Detention cleaning of Buffalo Bayou.

VII No old business.

VIII No new business

IX Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

**NEXT MEETING: MAY 8, 7:00 PM AT EAGLES TRACE**