

## Minutes from the meeting of June 10, 2020 of Super Neighborhood 17 – Eldridge/West Oaks

- I. Call to order at 7:00 p.m. President Baker opened the meeting. The meeting was held online through MS Teams. President Baker thanked the City of Houston for hosting the meeting.
- II. For Community Safety **Ofc. Whitaker from HPD** introduced the new head Westside division, Cmdr. David Angelo. He transferred from the special victims division and previously served out of the Westside station from 1997-2006. He explained that is current goal is to focus on violent crime, though he noted that about half of all violent crimes are domestic in nature. He then spoke on the recent protests and expressed his gratitude that of all the major cities, Houston was not in the national news. He discussed some pop-up protests, though they were peaceful and most protesters were thankful for the treatment by HPD.

He then discussed crime in the area. He discussed the doubling of sexual assaults, though explained that in the 2 instances, the assailants were known to their victim. Despite COVID, burglary of habitations is up 56%, mostly in apartments. Finally, in non-violent reports there was negligible change 147 to 148.

There were no questions.

- III. Though not expressly acknowledged in the meeting, we thank the following officials for their presence and participation:

Deanna Harrington – office of Rep. Jim Murphy, State House, District 133

Councilwoman Tiffany Thomas – Houston City Council, District F

Cherrelle Duncan – Chief of Staff for Councilwoman Tiffany Thomas

Kathleen Shelton – Chief of Staff for Councilman Greg Travis, City of Houston, District G

Long Nguyen – office of Councilwoman Tiffany Thomas

Rene Ruiz – Mayor’s Citizens Assistance Office, Department of Neighborhoods

Margarita Dunlap – Houston METRO

Cmdr. Angelo – HPD West Side Command

Ofc. Whitaker – HPD West Side

- IV. Community Leaders
  - a. **Councilwoman Tiffany Thomas - City of Houston, District F** – opened with a discussion on the current protests. She wanted to express her appreciation for local students who organized a demonstration. She also thanked HPD for their contribution in managing traffic. She then discussed the recent budget which passed unanimously and a new development impact fee that will help the city better fund improvements required by those developments. She then reiterated the importance of counting all residents for the census. She then discussed a change in announcements. She is working to get roadwork and road closure announcements communicated a week prior to start of

work/closure. SWM has received CARES funding that can be accessed for homeless encampment cleanup. METRO has introduced an Adopt-A-Shelter program to help monitor trash and needs of bus shelters, with some free bus passes available for volunteers. Finally, she briefly discussed a new citizen led police reform taskforce. In response to a question on the census, funding loss is approximately \$1100 per person undercounted. The current estimate statewide is a 30% undercount. The highest underreported group are children 0-5 years (pre -kindergarten). To help, the census form is available in multiple languages and interpreters are available.

In response to a question on anticipated funding impacts due to COVID-19: Prior to the CARES act, the City of Houston was anticipating furloughs. In addition, the city has been taking advantage of CARES paid hours to pay city employees to conduct COVID-19 contact tracing. The city has not exhausted its emergency funds. 76% of city expenses represent personell, then OT, and then debt, with the majority of the funding going to fire, police, water, and trash.

- b. **Kathleen Shelton – Chief of Staff, office of Councilman Greg Travis, City of Houston, District F** – first spoke about Kendall Library. While the original contract was awarded in April of 2019, unexpected additional damage required re-inspection by FEMA. The change in scope has finally been approved and construction should start in Q4 2020 with completion anticipated in Q3 of 2021. The dates are from City General Services and could change. Kirkwood construction groundbreaking is about a month away. Kathleen announced a public meeting June 11.  
Kathleen was asked if the new library will include a meeting room. While it does have a meeting room planned, its size will be comparable to previous construction, though she will get specifics.
- c. **Rene Ruiz - Department of Neighborhoods, City of Houston** – wanted to be clear that ALL city services are active. Services will be available if needed. He then noted that District G is seeing an increase in animal complaints. If there is anything unusual that needs to be reported, do not hesitate to submit a 311 request and follow up with Rene if needed.
- d. **Margaret Dunlap - METRO** – METRO is required to move anyone who needs transportation. METRO is currently taking additional precautions, such as increasing bus frequency. Due to limited demand, park-and-ride service has been reduced. She thanked operators for their work through this unusual time. The ride store should reopen within the next few weeks. The Uptown Silver Line is about to start simulated runs. For the Adopt-a-Shelter program, she requested that vagrants and sleeping individuals be reported to ridemetro.org or the general phone line at 713 635 4000. Usually METRO-PD will respond.  
For graffiti at a specific bus shelter, she requested a direct email. She also provided a phone number for Adopt-a-Shelter requests.
- e. **Deanna Harrington – office of Rep. Jim Murphy, State House, District 133** – discussed Representative Murphy’s post COVID priorities: banking and the adjusted budget required due lower revenues.

- V. Committee Reports  
No Reports
- VI. **Representative Jim Murphy – TX House District 133** – started with a discussion on the state legislature, that every two years they meet over 140 days. He discussed House Bill 3 on education. The moved more state money to education. He discussed underperforming schools, and how to better reward teachers to encourage teachers to take on those schools. He also discussed Senate Bill 2 and how it makes tax rate meetings more accessible to the community.  
Representative Murphy was offered paper sent to the Colorado legislature on improving school discipline. He was then asked about a possible new reservoir. He commented that there is no current uptake from the county government. If the county government did take it up, it would need to work with an evaluation of property values and the topography.
- VII. Old Business  
With a quorum established, the meeting minutes from January were approved.
- VIII. New Business  
None.
- IX. There being no more business, the meeting adjourned.

**SUMMER RECESS: The next scheduled meeting is the second Wednesday of September.**

**NEXT MEETING: Sep 9, 7:00 PM, SITE TO BE DETERMINED**