

Minutes from the meeting of Oct 14, 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 Zoom.

- II. Though not expressly acknowledged in the meeting, we thank the following officials for their presence and participation:
Councilwoman Sallie Alcorn – Houston City Council, At-Large Pos. 5
Claudia Morales – Office of Rep. Lizzie Fletcher, US Congress, TX District 7
Deanna Harrington – office of Rep. Jim Murphy, State House, District 133
Charrell Duncan – Chief of Staff for Councilwoman Tiffany Thomas, City of Houston, District F
Kathleen Shelton – Chief of Staff for Councilman Greg Travis, City of Houston, District G
Long Nguyen – Director Constituent Services for Councilwoman Tiffany Thomas
Na’Shon Edwards – Director Constituent Services for Councilwoman Tiffany Thomas
Rene Ruiz – Mayor’s Citizens Assistance Office, Department of Neighborhoods
Margarita Dunlap – Houston METRO
Cpt. Baimbridge – HPD
Ofc. Whitaker – HPD West Side

- III. For Community Safety **Ofc. Whitaker from HPD** discussed crime statistics. He mentioned the sexual assault, related to an incident at a massage parlor. While violent and non-violent crime is down, burglary of buildings is up. Asked about advice for the holidays, he recommends specifically against displaying boxes from high value items with trash. HPD continues to see burglaries from motor vehicles over items such as a gym bag. Another major concern are weapons thefts connected to those burglaries.

Asked about mail theft, HPD is aware that mail carriers are being targeted for their master keys. While it is a federal offense with responsibility at the federal level HPD assured the council that they will investigate further to assist in elevating issues where needed.

Murders and aggravated assaults are up, however over half are family violence related. The so-called revolving door at jails continue to be an issue, especially due to Harvey and COVID issues.

Ofc. Whitaker advertised the PIP (Positive Intervention Program) the 3rd Thursday, every month, at HPD’s Westside Station. And, NEVER HESITATE to call the police. When asked about cameras, he indicated they are helpful “a lot.” When asked about the West Oaks Mall homeless situation, he indicated that it will be a topic at the PIP meeting and that the mall is in bad shape, more so with COVID restrictions in place.

IV. Community Leaders

- a. **Charrelle Duncan, with Long Nguyen and Na'Shon Edwards, Office of Councilwoman Tiffany Thomas, City of Houston, District F** – First mentioned the Rental Relief Program still ongoing, even if landlords are not participating. Any questions or concerns can be sent to districtf@houstontx.gov email. The General Land Office has taken control of Houston's Harvey fund, with a lot of projects contingent on these funds. A Solid Waste Management survey is in progress. Visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Houston2040> for more. A youth conference is also in development with information on the district f page <https://houstontx.gov/district/f>. Due to COVID the city and county have set up a 24 hour day of voting at Tracy Gee on 29-Oct. The Westpark Dr CIP is preparing to move to the next stage. Westpark Dr will be reopened near West Houston Center Dr, which will remain at two lanes. Dairy Ashford will be reduced to two lanes soon.
- b. **Katie Shelton, Chief of Staff for Councilman Greg Travis, City of Houston, District G** – Kirkwood construction is on pace at 18% for phase I from Buffalo Bayou to Briar Forrest. Meetings for phase II from Briar Forest to Westheimer will begin soon. The Buffalo Bayou resiliency study is in public comment. They are working to extend the comment period.
- c. **Rene Ruiz - Department of Neighborhoods, City of Houston** – reiterated that if nobody reports an issue to 3-1-1, the city may not know about it. Rene may be reached at 832-393-0939 or Rene.Ruiz@houstontx.gov
- d. **Margaret Dunlap - METRO** – is working to provide free rides to the polls on select days (17, 24, 26-29 Oct -AND- 3 Nov, on election day itself). See ridemetro.org or harrisvotes.com for more details or call the access line 713-635-4000. METRO continues to adjust busses to accommodate social distancing and has opened the Addicks Park & Ride site for a COVID testing center. See houstonhealth.org for more detail.
- e. **Sallie Alcorn – Houston City Council, At-Large Pos. 5** – Also mentioned the Buffalo Bayou resiliency study. She emphasized that she continues to press to look at ALL solutions and proceeded to further discuss the study. She commented that USACE's first slide has reservoir excavation and the tunnel project discounted as too expensive. The Cypress Reservoir is being targeted as the main solution, but with no incremental benefits to be seen in Harris County until possible completion 20 years from today. She reminded the council that none of these projects are currently funded, that these are only studies at present. The city has requested a 60 day extension to the public comment period so please take advantage of that opportunity.

The SN17 Flooding Committee also mentioned that any channel improvements will

likely be terraced landscaped without significant concreting of the waterway.

- f. **Deanna Harrington – office of Rep. Jim Murphy, State House, District 133** – wants to remind everyone that the census impacts federal funding of state projects, as well as the city and county. With the G.L.O. taking over Houston’s Harvey funds, find more information at recovery.tx.gov/ . Rep. Jim Murphy now has Ben Williams as his new chief of staff, as well as a new scheduler.

 - g. **Claudia Morales – Office of Rep. Lizzie Fletcher, US Congress, TX District 7** – her office has also requested an extension to the USACE Buffalo Bayou Resiliency Study public comment period. She also continues to answer constituent requests contact 713 353 8680, fletcher.house.gov/ or email Claudia at claudia.morales@mail.house.gov.
- V. Committee Reports
- a. **Nick Kornuta, Chair of Flooding and Drainage**. Asked everyone to look at the summary report. He also mentioned that the main downstream flooding suit has been dismissed. Others are coming, but their fate is uncertain.
- VI. There being no quorum, no business was conducted, and the meeting adjourned.

NEXT MEETING: Nov 11, 7:00 PM, via ZOOM