

Minutes from the meeting of Nov 11, 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
Cherrelle Duncan – Chief of Staff for Councilwoman Tiffany Thomas, City of Houston, District F
James Rains- Deputy Chief of Staff for Councilman Greg Travis, City of Houston, District G
Long Nguyen – Director Constituent Services for Councilwoman Tiffany Thomas, District F
Margarita Dunlap – Houston METRO
Commander Wendy Baimbridge – HPD
Ofc. Timothy Whitaker – HPD West Side

- III. For Community Safety **Ofc. Whitaker from HPD** opened with a brief comment on the recent HPD shootings, 4 year to date and 2 in last 3 weeks. He then discussed a recent body found. Of the 2 sexual assaults, one was a drunk individual who could only recall recently riding in a car for hire. Of the 25 aggravated assaults, 12 were domestic, and 5 have been arrested. There has been a dramatic upswing in burglary of buildings at almost 50%. Most are in the area of Eldridge, SH6, and Shadow Briar. Included are 9 storage units, 2 garages, and 2 carports. Burglary of habitation is up over 70%.

One specific concern of HPD is the display of boxes. Criminals will assume wrapped or sealed boxes are of value. They are targeting apartment complexes. In one case burglars hit 6 adjacent doors. While burglary of motor vehicles is down, they continue to be active in the area in the evening and at night. In the day they are usually working the Katy Freeway area, primarily restaurant parking lots.

Of the 28 auto thefts, police have made 24 arrests, including one felony with a car chase further South on S. Dairy Ashford. Police have also made an arrest for the murder of a young girl in 2019. Additionally, though HPD has no stats on the mailbox robberies as they were all referred to the USPS, an arrest has been made for the hijacking of a postal employee.

Asked about any further thoughts on package theft, beyond locker or office delivery, HPD has found value in doorbell cameras. Run through your own footage as any suspicious detail, no matter how small, may be the detail that breaks a case. He also added, that when taking walks keep your head out of your phone. Pay attention to your surroundings. Additionally, once you get that package home, don't advertise the empty boxes next to your

trash or recycling.

Jeff Baker, Chair of security, announced that Al Green's office has committed to replacing the USPS master keys in Shadowlake, which has been hit numerous times.

IV. Community Leaders

- a. **James Rains, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of Councilman Greg Travis, City of Houston, District G** – commented that Kirkwood construction is ahead of schedule, though subsequent phases are not necessarily starting earlier, yet. The USACE Buffalo Bayou study is available, and residents should submit their thoughts via the link <https://www.swg.usace.army.mil/Missions/Projects/BBTRS/Interim-Report/> The USACE wants comments from citizens and not just politicians.

The plan for Kendall Library is for design phase to be complete by December and construction completing December 2021. Code enforcement has been visiting the Hookah Bar and is also looking into noise and parking complaints at Xhale. A phone number was provided for those needing assistance with those establishments.

- b. **Sallie Alcorn, Houston City Council, At-Large Position 5** – as Chair of Neighborhood Affairs receives complaints on bars, especially for noise, DWI, parking, and loitering. She recently held a meeting with the city, the legal department, the county, community members, TABC, and business owners/operators. The city is evaluating adjustments to the city noise ordinance. If we have any concerns, we have been invited to contact her office. Additionally, TABC will work to step up enforcement where needed. She also reminded us not to overlook the other at-large council members, where we can have 6 helping on our issues and not just our one district council member. She expressed concern that a lot of issues may get overlooked. Mrs. Alcorn is also working to find economies of scale with shared services between the city and county. She also recommended that we look at Steve Robinson's Houston Stronger presentation on flooding at <https://www.barkerfloodprevention.org/blog/2020-10-19-houston-stronger-presentation/>
- c. **Claudia Morales – Office of Rep. Lizzie Fletcher, US Congress, TX District 7** – announced a recent press release for a town hall with the USACE. Audio will be available soon with over 1000 listeners. She has asked for comments by Nov-20. Once the draft is finalized it will proceed to the chief of the USACE and then to congress. She reminded the delegates of the USACE link [above] and that comments need to be postmarked by Nov 20. On feedback already received, the Corp is reconsidering excavation, tunneling, and diffuse storage options in Cypress Creek. Improvements North of Addicks may provide incremental improvements sooner, but (1) the 3rd reservoir option will take some time and (2) the Corp has expressed an unwillingness to operate it.

- d. **Cherrelle Duncan, with Long Nguyen, Office of Councilwoman Tiffany Thomas, City of Houston, District F** – Reiterated the City announcement of the positivity rate at 7.9% and reminded everyone of free testing available at Crump stadium through the end of the year. \$800K has been made available for low-income students to purchase laptops at computeraccessprogram.org (or 888-469-8365). Tiffany Thomas’s office is working on 88 sidewalks and ramps in area neighborhoods. More information can be found at houstontx.gov/disabilities/sidewalksafety.html. Lane closures will be coming to S. Dairy Ashford at Westpark Dr and should last 4-6 months. Finally, District F will be hosting a townhall via Teams on Dec 3. Call 832 393 3002 for more information.

- V. Attendees were reminded that the next meeting is the date for the annual meeting, with elections planned for vice president, treasurer, and secretary. There being no quorum, no business was conducted.

NEXT MEETING: Jan 13, 7:00 PM, via ZOOM

ANNUAL MEETING

POSITIONS OPEN: Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary