

Minutes from the meeting of Jan 13, 2021 of Super Neighborhood 17 – Eldridge/West Oaks

I. Call to order at 7:02 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 Tiffany Thomas – Houston City Council, District F

Claudia Morales – Office of Rep. Lizzie Fletcher, US Congress, TX District 7

Rene Ruiz – City of Houston, Department of Neighborhoods

Cherrelle Duncan – Chief of Staff for Councilwoman Tiffany Thomas, City of Houston, District F

Katie 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

Margarita Dunlap – Houston METRO

Ofc. Tim Whitaker – HPD West Side Command

Lt. Tim Trometer – HPD

Sgt. Tavis Parkerson – HPD

III. For Community Safety **Ofc. Whitaker from HPD** began with a discussion of the 2 sexual assaults in the period. Each were known to the victims. Ofc. Whitaker was asked to provide the crime statistics, which he agreed to send to the council after the meeting.

Lt. Trometer, HPD – then discussed other crimes. He brought up various issues of family violence. He also discussed some of the rivalries and feuding closer to the Beltway. Next, he discussed trends in robberies. In particular he is seeing more issues with the targeting of apartments, ambush style tactics, bank jugging, and check cash store jugging.

Another concern has been road rage. As an example, he cited a couple cases of displaying and using a weapon in the area of SH6 and Westheimer. The lieutenant gave several suggestions when confronted with road rage. Do not voice frustration, call 9-1-1, and if necessary, start driving towards a Police station.

He then discussed burglaries and storage units in particular. While some places are better hardened against burglary, HPD is seeing an issue with criminals renting units attempting to develop a legitimate presence. In addition to storage units, he also discussed catalytic converter thefts. The best help would be to engrave the unit. If one is stolen save the cut ends before the repair is made. It may help if the original cuts can be matched to a turned in scrap. Summary statistics were then discussed. Of the burglaries in the period 40 were apartments, 4 were single residences. 8 were at night. Common comments and of concern to HPD were leaving front doors and car doors unlocked, and windows open.

Finally he discussed a case involving an apartment complex on Eldridge. With good video from a door bell camera police were able to track down a group of suspects and in the process, locate a missing juvenile and recover a gun.

IV. Community Leaders

a. **Tiffany Thomas, Houston City Council, District F** – started by discussing tax credit season where developers seek a tax credit for certain housing projects. There are currently 3 in each of districts F & G, and they are open for public comments. The city has developed a scoring method to prevent the

concentration of these developments. Items evaluated include access to transit and schools. She discussed three priorities: land rehabilitation, land revitalization, and single family residences.

Next Ms. Thomas discussed COVID testing and vaccination. The city is looking at a target of 10k vaccinations per day. Additionally, the city is investigating a mobile units and in-home service for the transit-limited community. She discussed several testing sites which included Alief ISD's Krump Stadium as well as several local business sites.

She also discussed public safety issues she is seeing with group homes. This is mostly seen in developments with no owner's association or civic club. Though the city provides an application and approval process, they are seeing some single-family homes split into 10 units

Finally she discussed issues with trash pickup. One of the common issues seems to involve on street parking and cul-de-sacs. She would encourage off street parking where possible.

- b. **Long Nguyen, Director of Constituent Services, Office of Councilwoman Tiffany Thomas** – Two recent issues are being addressed by the city. First, due to a number of accidents, the city will be changing a traffic signal at Shadowbriar and Richmond so that Richmond receives only a protected left. Second, due to residents' issues crossing Eldridge to access Bishop Fiorenza Park the city is planning to replace the 4-way stop at Westpark [Drive] with a traffic signal.
- c. **Katie Shelton, Chief of Staff for Councilman Greg Travis, Houston City Council, District G** – is currently working on a list of CIPs. The plan is to repave Dairy Ashford. It had been submitted in 2019, but as a transportation project and not a flood project. Mr. Travis is trying to get it refiled as a flood project for funding purposes. A community outreach event is planned for February/March. District G has been allocated funds for panel replacements, of which a number have already been completed. This year for the mayor's street rehab program each district will receive 4 lane miles for major roads and 4 for minor roads. 2 lane miles of each will be at the direction of HPW and the mayor's office. The remainder are at the councilor's discretion. The discretionary funds of this allotment are going towards Briar Forest improvements.

Mr. Travis is also working on a mobile unit for Kendall Library. They are working with Pct. 3 for restroom access. The library itself should see construction start by April and finish by end of year. Asked about improvements to the building, she reiterated that FEMA funding requires replacement like-for-like. They were able to secure some variance for the mitigation of future damage, but otherwise the structure itself will be substantially the same.

For any questions or comments email kathleen.shelton@houstontx.gov

- d. **Rene Ruiz – City of Houston, Department of Neighborhoods** – asked everyone to be patient with both COVID testing and vaccinations. Similar to testing, vaccinations are going to seem slow at the start. It will improve as supply, logistics, and routine develops. For any questions he recommends contacting the health departments at 832-393-4220 or online at houstontx.gov/health -or- houstontx.gov/citizensnet . The city is rolling out a new 3-1-1 system, but we shouldn't see a significant interruption. If there are problems or concerns you can email rene.ruiz@houstontx.gov. He also provided a direct number.

- V. Committee Reports
 - a. **Jeff Baker – Crime** – briefly re-summarized HPD’s comments on road rage and doorbell cameras.
 - b. **Nick Kornuta – Flooding** – was thanked for his reporting on USACE and HCFCF meetings.

- VI. The minutes for the last meeting were approved.

- VII. Election
 - a. Nick Kornuta was elected Vice President unopposed
 - b. John Auman was elected Secretary unopposed
 - c. No nominations were received for Treasurer. The position is now vacant.

NEXT MEETING: Feb 10, 7:00 PM, via ZOOM