

Minutes from the meeting of Mar 10, 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:
Claudia Morales – Office of Rep. Lizzie Fletcher, US Congress, TX District 7
Rene Ruiz – City of Houston, Department of Neighborhoods
Na'Shon Edwards – Director Constituent Services for Councilwoman Tiffany Thomas, City of Houston, District F
Rachel Maxcy – Director of External Affairs for Councilman Greg Travis, City of Houston, District G
Gareth Morgan – Office of Councilman David Robinson, City of Houston, At-Large Pos. 2
Hannah Cobb – Public Affairs Liaison for Councilwoman Sallie Alcorn, Houston City Council, At-Large Pos. 5
Margarita Dunlap – Houston METRO
Cmdr. David Angelo – HPD West Side Command
Ofc. Tim Whitaker – HPD West Side Command
Lt. Timothy Trometer – HPD
- III. For **Community Safety Ofc. Tim Whitaker from HPD** thanked his officers for their commitment to the city during the recent snow storm. He announced a change in the March PIP meeting from 3/18 to 3/25 with a guest speaker from the gang division. Andy Kahan with Houston Crime Stoppers, originally scheduled for the February PIP meeting has been rescheduled for 4/15.

There has been a noted uptick of murders in the area. One was related to the suspect, one is believed to involve criminal activity, and one involved a cluster in the parking lot of an apartment complex, with no current suspect. Sexual assaults are also up, however many involved family members. One was believed to be between homeless persons. He also reported on burglary of habitations, where 21 burglaries occurred within a single apartment complex. Auto thefts were also noted as being significantly up.

Cmdr. David Angelo reported on changes with the Joint Processing Center (JPC). With COVID, the county was not accepting misdemeanors at the JPC, and at one point only detaining violent felons. With the increase in crime citywide, the mayor has pushed for the JPC to resume processing all levels of offenses. There will need to be some discretion on who to process through the JPC to maintain proper distancing

Cmdr. Angelo also discussed a murder in the area, suspected to involve other criminal activity. None of the victims had a connection to the Houston area, with one having a warrant out of another part of the state.

Lt. Trometer discussed a recent complaint regarding commercial vehicle parking on Oxford Park Dr near Shadowbriar. Officers are targeting the area, writing warnings and citations. They are also reaching out to the companies involved. Few live in the area. Most are making deliveries to areas a bit away from the area, but are waiting on an open slot to make delivery.

He also discussed homeless encampments. He noted how difficult it is to get the homeless to actually accept assistance. While the homeless do show an interest in assistance opportunities, they often refuse the offer when the transition actually arrives.

The officers were asked if the city had plans to open a city jail facility. With the JPC, there will not be a city operation. Everything goes to the JPC.

IV. Community Leaders

- a. **Na'Shon Edwards, Director of Constituent Services for Councilwoman Tiffany Thomas, Houston City Council, District F** – Discussed the Housing and Community Affairs meeting on 3/23. He also discussed how the District F office assisted with a 3-1-1 request where a city crew damaged a property while making water repairs. He also discussed COVID vaccination locations and the Houston Health Department is helping.

In response to comments on the recent blackouts District F reached out to CenterPoint. CenterPoint noted they were following the required regulations, both before the storm in identifying critical circuits and during the storm in executing the blackout. 18% of the service territory is not on load share. [and not subject to normal rolling outages.]

- b. **Rachel Maxcy, Director of External Affairs for Councilman Greg Travis, Houston City Council, District G** – Announced the COVID waitlist is now open to those 50 and over, as well as for educators and licensed childcare providers. Additionally, she noted that there are more pre-existing conditions on the CDC website than those on some lists floating around, that residents should check the CDC's more comprehensive list if necessary.

Plans for a temporary Book Reservation/Pickup have stalled due to Construction Staging. It was determined that the contractor will need all parking at Kendall for the Renovation of the Library. A suitable alternate location is being sought out and it is expected to be announced and opened within 2 weeks. The primary issue for a temporary site for Kendall operations is locating restroom access for library workers.

Continuing discussion from the previous meeting, lane striping on Eldridge near Memorial has been assigned to the Energy Corridor District, working with Public Works.

Asked about traffic backups at Briar Forest and Kirkwood, the intersection has been reduced to one lane in each direction until May 1st. Additionally, the current construction in the northbound lanes is wrapping up. Lane switchover and reconstruction of the southbound lanes should begin by June 1st.

With the numerous water issues following the winter storm, per an emergency ordinance, the Houston Water Department has temporarily suspended late fees. Additionally, the city recommends anyone expecting issues disable auto-pay.

In response to follow up questions, Ms. Maxcy noted that vaccination group 1C will actually open 3/15. Teachers however, are already being accepted for vaccination.

- c. **Rene Ruiz – City of Houston, Department of Neighborhoods** – Pointed out the city's storm survey: <https://houstonrecovers.org/2021-winter-storm-resources/> He has asked all residents to report damage as it helps with FEMA funding allotment. He also followed up on a dumping complaint at an area business. Finally, he noted the Dept. of Neighborhoods inspection hotline 832-394-0600. Make sure to have the 3-1-1 service request number ready.

- d. **Margaret Dunlap – METRO** – began her presentation with a video of METRO's response during the recent winter storm: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GI4M_y31Xvw
Following the video she noted METRO brought a couple hundred individuals to warming centers as well as assisted the Asian Chamber of Commerce in providing meals and water to high need individuals. She thanked METRO employees for working long hours during the storm.

Ms. Dunlap also reminded everyone of the new federal mask order for public transportation. She also noted that METRO is arranging transportation to vaccination sites.

- e. **Claudia Morales – Office of Rep. Lizzie Fletcher, US Congress, TX District 7** – reminded everyone that prior to applying to FEMA for disaster relief, a claim must first be filed with insurance, if coverage is in effect.
- f. **Hannah Cobb – Public Affairs Liaison for Councilwoman Sallie Alcorn, Houston City Council, At-Large Pos. 5** – noted that the city is currently providing 5k to 6k vaccinations daily. Also, for many months, the office has been collecting noise complaint data. Contact the office if you have any noise complaints atlarge5@houstontx.gov
- g. **Gareth Morgan – Office of Councilman David Robinson, Houston City Council, At-Large Pos. 2** – reiterated Mr. Ruiz's comment to make sure to report pipe and house damage to the city. Additionally, Mr. Robinson's office is working with the city's regulatory affairs office to manage the ROW with regard to scooters and other non-essential personal mobility devices, specifically for hire devices.

Asked about communication during the winter storm, the city representatives were asked why there were no emergency radio updates. This was especially important due to the extended widespread power outages. They were asked if the city was aware of the problem. AlertHouston was also discussed.

V. Committee Reports

- a. **Jeff Baker – Communications** – noted that we will be trying to get the minutes out quicker in the future
- b. **Nick Kornuta – Flooding** – Tom Ramsey, newly appointed commissioner of Harris County Pct. 3, met with the USACE. While seeing progress, the tunnel was brought out as a possible solution. Of note, FEMA would rather pay upfront than rebuild again. He also noted that the USACE is building a new office near Eagles Trace and will demolish the old structure.

VI. A quorum was established with 9 delegates present.

VII. The minutes for the last meeting were approved. The usage of a Delegate Document defining their duties and responsibilities was also approved by the Executive Council.

VIII. New Business-There was a brief discussion of a possible Trash Pickup Volunteer project.

IX. Following a motion, the meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Apr 14, 7:00 PM, via ZOOM