

## Minutes from the meeting of Apr 14, 2021 of Super Neighborhood 17 – Eldridge/West Oaks

- I. Call to order at 7:01 p.m. President Baker opened the meeting. The meeting was held online through Zoom.
- II. A quorum was established
- III. 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
  - Deanna Harrington – Office of Representative Jim Murphy, TX House District 133
  - Rene Ruiz – City of Houston, Department of Neighborhoods
  - Na’Shon Edwards – Director Constituent Services for Councilwoman Tiffany Thomas, City of Houston, District F
  - Katie Shelton – Chief of Staff for Councilman Greg Travis, City of Houston, District G
  - Rachel Maxcy – Director of External Affairs for Councilman Greg Travis
  - Margarita Dunlap – Houston METRO
  - Wendy Baimbridge – HPD Asst. Chief
  - Cmdr. David Angelo – HPD West Side Command
  - Ofc. Tim Whitaker – HPD West Side Command
  - Lt. Tim Trometer – HPD
  - Sgt. Tavis Parkerson – HPD
- IV. For Community Safety **Ofc. Whitaker from HPD** began by discussing the new chief of HPD, Troy Finner. He also announced that HPD is now able to attend meetings in person. He also reminded everyone of the Apr-15 PIP meeting with Andy Kahn, originally scheduled for February. Chief Baimbridge will be moving on, to be replaced by Asst. Chief Bashir, the former commander of Midwest Division and with 20 years’ experience.

Officer Whitaker then proceeded to discuss the various categories of crime reported. He discussed murders, which are up year-to-date 200%. Some, a majority, have been attributed to gang activity. For sexual assaults, he noted that some are outcry reports for events long past. Theft, more specifically catalytic converter theft, continues to be a major issue. He also discussed strategies to prevent converter theft. He also discussed various arrests made in the past month. He concluded with a breakdown of burglary activity. Burglary of a habitation is most prevalent between 6am and 4pm when no one is home. 19 were of apartments and 5 residences. Burglary of buildings trends between 10pm and 6am when businesses are closed. Another contributing factor is easy access to a main thoroughfare.

**Lt. Trometer** then continued discussing catalytic converters. Made with Platinum, Paladium, and Rhodium, of which Rhodium is valued at \$2800 per oz. There are current efforts to get

some of those classified as precious metal to take advantage of more legal statutes.

He then discussed loud noise calls. Most calls occur between 10p and 11p. It is near shift change and comes as a lower priority call which can be frustrating. Further complicating this, if the noise came from the vicinity of a club, it may have come from a patron vehicle. While officers carry volume measuring equipment, the volume will typically be turned down on the sight of police. Even if a callback number is listed officers are hesitant to disturb the caller once they arrive, especially if it is quiet. Cars are detailed for noise enforcement, especially along Westheimer.

Asked about reports of a robbery today at Briar Forest and Eldridge, he commented that the report won't be available until tomorrow.

**Asst. Chief Baimbridge** thanked both HPD for their support of the Super Neighborhood as well as the community for inviting the officers and the chance for feedback from the community. This forum helps HPD by bringing to light community concerns and issues that don't show on reports or in the statistics.

V. Community Leaders

- a. **Na'Shon Edwards, Director of Constituent Services for Councilwoman Tiffany Thomas, Houston City Council, District F** – first summarized some of the previous discussion points. He discussed the city homeless coordinator touring district F, seeing especially homeless hot-spots as well as dumping hot-spots. He advised anyone who sees hot-spots to call his office. He also repeated previous discussion on the tree giveaway through Councilwoman Sallie Alcorn's office, At-Large Pos. 5. Email [cherrelle.duncan@houstontx.gov](mailto:cherrelle.duncan@houstontx.gov). He also mentioned hirehoustonyouth.com as a conduit for youth summer employment.
- b. **Rachel Maxcy, Director of External Affairs for Councilman Greg Travis, Houston City Council, District G** – discussed the recent progress meeting with the Kirkwood road work's contractor. Current construction is expected to complete by mid-June. Kendall library is on the Apr-28 agenda with construction expected to start in May. The city is still looking for a location for a book mobile through the end of construction, expecting completion in November. She is also working with SWM to arrange pickup from the litter cleanup scheduled Apr-17.

Mr. Baker took a minute to thank Ms. Maxcy for her support of the coming Super Neighborhood litter pickup event, in helping to get litter pickers and support from SWM in collecting the garbage. Also, thanks to Barb Quatro of the Alief SN for the loan of Safety Vests.

- c. **Rene Ruiz – City of Houston, Department of Neighborhoods** – provided a link for COVID vaccination scheduling. He also reported that a number of people are having problems

getting their second shot. If needed, he is available to assist in overcoming issues. He also reported that SWM is a little behind on waste pickup. The Dept. of Neighborhoods is helping to oversee issues.

<http://www.houstontx.gov/health/NewsReleases/houston-health-department-expands-covid-19-vaccine-waitlist.html>

A community member asked how we can learn more about street racing issues, especially between Eldridge and Hwy 6 Thursday through Saturday. Ms. Maxcy will get information for Jeff to send out.

[The following information was later provided by Ms. Maxcy:

Sergeant Frank Gomez- Houston Police Department, Traffic Crimes Task Force. Their primary mission is to disrupt street takeovers, racing on roadway, and enforce all traffic laws, including modified exhaust on vehicles. Frank Gomez, Sergeant, Traffic Crimes Task Force, Houston Police Department: [Francisco.Gomez@HoustonPolice.Org](mailto:Francisco.Gomez@HoustonPolice.Org)

- d. Another community member advised the council that for overflowing trashcans at METRO stops, as well as bus stop signage, call 7(13) 635-4000. They have programmed the METRO number in their phone and have had a good response from METRO handling bus-stop issues.
  - e. **Claudia Morales – Office of Rep. Lizzie Fletcher, US Congress, TX District 7** – first discussed the recent announcement on library funding from FEMA. Next, she discussed Rep. Fletcher’s recent testimony for the “Ike Dike.” Her office is working to receive the estimated 26BUSD needed for the project. For constituent issues with any federal agency, she concluded with a suggestion to contact her office.
  - f. **Deanna Harrington – Office of Rep. Jim Murphy, TX House District 133** – presented on two house bills of interest. The first is a disaster rescue bridge loan available for short term funding for already approved FEMA projects. The second is for increased criminal penalties for repeat and habitual offenders, working with Senator Huffman, TX Senate District 17. She reminded everyone that today ends the waiver for vehicle registrations and that Rep Murphy is scheduled to speak at the June meeting [June 9] where he will discuss ERCOT and bail reform.
- VI. Committee Reports
- a. **Nick Kornuta – Flooding** – reminded everyone that we have a speaker from Harris County Flood Control scheduled for next month’s meeting [May 12].
- VII. Old Business
- a. The minutes from Mar-10 were approved.
  - b. The council is continuing to monitor road striping, especially on Eldridge near Memorial.

- c. We are reaching out to venues for a meeting location, pending, hoping, for an eventual return to Eagle's Trace.
  - d. Community members were reminded our meeting is normally scheduled for the second Wednesday of the month. Notices are regularly sent via email distribution and the SN17 Facebook page. Email: [superneighborhood17@gmail.com](mailto:superneighborhood17@gmail.com) for a link to the meetings.
- V. Community Leaders (continued)
- f. **Margaret Dunlap – METRO** – revisited the trash and sign comment from earlier in the meeting. METRO continues to add bus stop shelters, planning on a total of 1000 new shelters by end of September.
- Next she discussed METRO NEXT and plans for a 25-mile Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line from the Westchase Park & Ride, connecting with the Silver Line at the Uptown Westpark Transit Center, downtown, and the Tidwell Park & Ride on the Eastex Fwy. She plans to have a presentation available over the summer.
- VIII. New Business
- a. The chair announced a presenter schedule for the next three meetings
    - May-12: Jeremy Phillips, HCFCD
    - June-9: Rep. Jim Murphy, TX House District 133
    - Sep-8: Comm. Tom Ramsey, Harris County Pct. 3[Per the by-laws there will be no meeting over summer break, July and August.]
- IX. The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING: May 12, 7:00 PM, via ZOOM**