

Minutes from the meeting of May 12, 2021 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 Tiffany Thomas – City of Houston, District F
Jeremy Phillips – Harris County Flood Control
Todd Miller – Harris County Flood Control
Herman Sanders – Harris County Flood Control
Rene Ruiz – City of Houston, Department of Neighborhoods
Na’Shon Edwards – Director Constituent Services for Councilwoman Tiffany Thomas
James Rains – Director of External Affairs for Councilman Greg Travis
Margarita Dunlap – Houston METRO
Erika Ramirez – Asst District Attorney, Harris County
Yasar Bashir – HPD Asst. Chief
Cmdr. David Angelo – HPD West Side Command
Ofc. Tim Whitaker – HPD West Side Command
Lt. Tim Trometer – HPD

- III. For Community Safety **Cmdr David Angelo from HPD** introduced recently promoted Assistant Chief Yasar Bashir, replacing Asst. Chief Baimbridge, including his background within the department.

Asst. Chief Bashir thanked and recognized Cmdr. Angelo and Ofc. Whitaker for their long service to the department. He noted that crime is impacting the whole city and discussed a recent meeting with major local retailers to work on ways to address the issue.

Cmdr. Angelo concluded with a remark that Chief Bashir will be featured on ABC13.

Ofc. Whitaker thanked Chief Bashir for his remarks. He remarked on May 15, National Law Enforcement Day, concluding National Police Week. He also reminded everyone of the Westside Command PIP Meeting as regular opportunity to ask questions of HPD. Crime information is also available on the city website at houstontx.gov/police

He commented on murder and violent crime, though the numbers are down it still remains an issue. On sexual assaults he noted that on the three cases, one was juvenile, one was an outcry report, and the third was known. Aggravated robberies were up. The night shift is focusing on hotspots. A concern expressed by HPD is that when complainants move or change their contact information, that information needs to be provided to HPD to prevent issues with follow-up. Areas of concern for HPD are private sales, including phone app

facilitated sales, and road rage. Burglary of motor vehicles continues to be a problem, especially in regard to catalytic converters. For thefts, he strongly encourages residents to record serial numbers as that is usually the best way to prove an items history. This is especially true for fire arms. NRA and pro “police” stickers on a car increase the risk of theft. He concluded with a reminder to the website houstontx.gov/police.

Lt. Trometer then addressed constituent concerns. First was excess traffic running stop signs bypassing the Dairy Ashford lane closure. The next concern raised was for street racing near 6 and Westheimer, especially on weekend evenings as late as 1 am. For street racing he noted that the city has a number of units who co-ordinate saturation enforcement events. He noted that firearm discharge is also a problem, but reporting back to the police is a problem. Postings on neighborhood apps are not monitored in real time. While there may not be an immediate police presence, he still recommends calling police dispatch. The reports are important for crime analysis.

The chair concluded the discussion, thanking the officers for their time. He then introduced our guests.

- IV. **Jeremy Phillips, Todd Miller, & Herman Sanders of Harris County Flood Control**. Mr. Phillips introduce Mr. Sanders from communications and Todd Miller the Pct. 3 Coordinator. He provided a brief update on the bonds.

Mr. Miller then discussed the ongoing feasibility study. He discussed issues following Imelda including erosion and spot repairs. Next he discussed the resiliency study [BBTRS] with the Army Corp of Engineers where HCFCD is providing detailed comments to the USACE. He discussed alternative detention projects, including Upper Cypress Creek. Next he discussed detention enhancement efforts upstream of Addicks and Barker Reservoirs. This includes channel excavations and sediment removal. He then discussed the recently completed linear detention projects along Buffalo Bayou between the reservoirs and the beltway.

Bonds are being recommended to leverage matching funds from the federal government with proposals going to the county commissioners’ court on June 29.

Mr. Phillips updated the council that plans previously set aside by USACE are being reviewed again. He also commented on the flood warning system online at www.harriscountyfws.org

In response to delegate concerns, he will respond to the Flooding Committee concerning trees and vegetation that was to be completed following linear detention project 2. For public communications, both USACE and HCFCD are reviewing comments from the BBTRS. They are also re-reviewing the aforementioned set aside projects. At this point HCFCD is waiting for the report back from USACE. After the report is released, it will again be open to a public comment period. For repair projects and issues with the current infrastructure, a service request system is available on the website at hcfcd.org. Harvey and Imelda have

been adopted as models and are routinely used to analyze flood control in Harris County.

V. Community Leaders

- a. **Councilwoman Tiffany Thomas, City of Houston, District F** – announced that as part of June’s Public Safety Month they are working on organizing a meet & greet event. She also provided a link for Councilwoman Sallie Alcorn’s budget survey. She also commented on the day’s passage of the American Rescue Package which provides funding for various projects over three years and addresses the city’s current budget shortfall. She concluded discussing Na’Shon and Cherrelle’s involvement in identifying and developing strategies for the homeless population city-wide. She asked that we help identify those areas by contacting her office.

Next **Na’Shon Edwards** announced that the city is moving back to in-office at least three times per week. He responded to issues for Ashford Park and reiterated to also report concerns to 3-1-1. SWM is currently about two weeks behind on heavy trash service. The new budget includes funding for SWM staff. He discussed the SN17 trash pickup event scheduled May 22. The Dairy Ashford closure at Westpark Drive is through the end of August. The city will be retiming lights this week. City staff return to the office on June 1, with city council meeting in chambers.

- b. **James Rains, Deputy Chief of Staff for Councilman Greg Travis, Houston City Council, District G** – announced that Kirkwood is about 60% complete with about 4 months remaining. The lane switch to the new pavement should occur in mid-June. Kendall Library construction should finish by November. They are still looking for a bookmobile site, focusing right now near Briar Forest & Eldridge. The Waldemar Park reopening was slightly delayed, with the new date to be announced shortly. Councilman Travis’s office is taking nominations for the Greatness Awards, for neighbors in the community.
- c. **Rene Ruiz – City of Houston, Department of Neighborhoods** – updated the council on the restriping investigation on Eldridge.
- d. **Margaret Dunlap, Houston METRO** – discussed universal accessibility projects currently ongoing city-wide. This includes updating the bus stop area and replacing/adding bus-stop pads and requires temporary lane closures. Line 82 (Westheimer) is going to be updated to a signature line with mixed express and local service.

VI. Committee Reports

- a. **Jeff Baker – Community Safety** – thanked HPD for their time and service.
- b. **Nick Kornuta – Flooding** – no report.

VII. Old Business

- a. The chair discussed the previous trash cleanup event on Apr-17 near Westheimer and Eldridge with 16 volunteers removing 20 bags of trash. Next he discussed the upcoming

event planned for May-22 near Westheimer and 6.

VIII. New Business

- a. The council asked for recommendations for other volunteer activities. Ideas could include, but not limited to, park cleanup, tree planting, trash cleanup. We have labor, but no money.

A delegate asked if the littering is due to a lack of garbage cans. Ms. Dunlap offered advice that even at METRO shelters which all have receptacles, garbage is still an issue. It just does not make it into the receptacle.

Another delegate suggested talking with local scouting groups and youth organizations. The chair noted we had a small group of students at our previous event, and through that we are building connections to local schools which may help in the future.

An attendee asked about funds for sweepers. They were asked to collect addresses and locations, but also to submit 3-1-1 requests as that raises visibility at the city level.

- b. With a quorum established, the minutes for the previous meeting were approved.
- c. The next speaker was announced: Rep. Jim Murphy, Jun-9.

IX. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

NEXT MEETING: June 9, 7:00 PM, via ZOOM