

Minutes from the meeting of Oct 13, 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. A quorum was established.
- III. Though not expressly acknowledged in the meeting, we thank the following officials for their presence and participation:
Councilman Greg Travis – City of Houston, District G
Claudia Morales – Office of Rep. Lizzie Fletcher, US Congress, TX District 7
Ben Williams – Chief of Staff for Rep. Jim Murphy, TX House, District 133
Lawrence Bell – Office of Comm. Tom Ramsey, Harris Co. Pct 3
Rene Ruiz – City of Houston, Department of Neighborhoods
Katie Shelton – Chief of Staff for Councilman Greg Travis
Rachel Maxcy – Office of Councilman Greg Travis
Julia Seied – Office of Councilwoman Sally Alcorn, City of Houston, At-Large Pos. 5
Yolanda Alvarado – Community Outreach Team, Office of DA Kim Ogg
Cmdr Reece Hardy – HPD West Side Command
Lt. J. Lui – HPD
Sgt. T. Parkerson – HPD
Erika Ramirez – Candidate, Democratic Primary, Harris County Criminal Court #8
- IV. For Community Safety **Sgt. Parkerson from HPD** reviewed crime statistics. Of particular note, aggravated assaults continue to be driven by a combination of road rage and family violence calls. One of the delegates requested specific information about criminal activity in the area. Lt Lui provided his email address to the delegates. A second delegate commented on a recent personal experience of assault . Lt Lui reminded the community to be cognizant of surroundings, observing activity to the rear in the mirrors. Cmdr Hardy noted that even when everything is done right, you can still be victimized. In regards to the first delegate, Cmdr Hardy was asked if we have a right to follow cases and the disposition of suspects. He remarked that court cases are generally a matter of public record. Another delegate was able to locate the arrested individual's name and age. Cmdr Hardy closed the discussion reminding the community that the best course of action with road rage is to de-escalate and get away. If someone does present a danger, do call the police.
- V. **Harris County District Attorney Community Outreach Team**, discussed crime that it is up in all parts of the city and the county. The DA's office is working to reduce the backlog with the COVID delays and the winter storm from February. Though currently out of gun locks, they are working on acquiring more.

Asked about the backlog, the county is getting visiting judges, scheduling people and

locations. Some issue is the need for more prosecutors that has been ongoing for several years, even prior to COVID. While the DA has been able to arrange for 3 additional court rooms, that is not enough. And with COVID in discussion, the all courts are slated to be fully staffed starting in January.

VI. Community Leaders

- a. **Ben Williams – Chief of Staff for Rep. Jim Murphy** – announced the Rep. Murphy is not running for re-election and that Deanna Harrington has taken a position with Paul Bettencourt.
- b. **Julia Seied – Dep. Chief of Staff for Councilwoman Alcorn** – was commended by a delegate for her sidewalk summit, who asked how we can help the state of sidewalks in SN17. Ms. Seied reminded everyone to call in to 3-1-1. Typically sidewalks are the responsibility of the property owner, but the city has set aside funding for certain areas. Asked about curbs, another community member noted that those are not addressed by the city.
- c. **Councilman Greg Travis, City of Houston, District G** – was able to briefly attend. He discussed the Kirkwood repaving work with an expectation that the SB lanes should start shortly with completion slated for April or May. He also discussed planned repaving of Briar Forest near Riverrun.

He expects Kendall Library to be open by April, with interior work scheduled to complete by year-end. Houston Public Library will still need to move back in and the should be complete by the completion of exterior work scheduled for end of March.

He next discussed HPD staffing and the case backlog, noting that just a number of people are repeat offenders and as an example of about 1000 cases, of the outstanding 100,000, they involve only 25 individuals. He also compared Houston's 5000 officers to Chicago's 12000, with a similar population, that the city needs at least 7500 officers.

He also noted that Eldridge, of which portions were underwater for weeks following Harvey, was being looked at, and that he is working with Comm. Ramsey looking into rebuilding Dairy Ashford. Regardless they have been fixing panels on Dairy Ashford near Whittington.

A delegate asked about specifics on extra policing in District G. Councilman Travis noted that he could not name specific intersections. Asked about panhandlers he noted that Dairy Ashford and Briar Forest was a focus.

- d. **Ms. Seied, for Councilwoman Alcorn**, continued discussing sidewalks. Curbs and sidewalks on thoroughfares should be reported to 3-1-1, though it may not be city managed. They may be under county or TxDOT. A delegate noted that though they had

fixed their sidewalks other neighbors neglect them. Ms. Seied recommended reaching out to the HOA, noting that the city engineer is not able or cannot enforce. Injurie suits may be an avenue, under civil litigation, but would not involve the city. The delegate noted that when most of the bylaws were written the sidewalks were city responsibility. Mr Ruiz, Dept. of Neighborhoods made note of the city ordinance (Sec. 40-82).

- e. **Claudia Morales – Office of Rep. Lizzie Fletcher** – noted that next month we will have a outreach manager. She also discussed an upcoming Service Academy recruitment fair in Meyerland. The chair thanked Ms. Morales for her partnership.
- f. **Rene Ruiz – City of Houston, Department of Neighborhoods** – Noted that despite enforcement, commercial trucks continue to park on residential streets. He added that it is for them to pay the ticket.

A delegate asked about a tire store and the possibility of improperly stored tires.

Another delegate suggested a change in ordinance to address commercial vehicle parking.

- g. **Lawrence Bell – Office of Comm. Tom Ramsey, Harris Co. Pct. 3** – discussed an improper trailerhouse on Alief-Clodine and work towards fixing roadside mowing. He noted that Comm. Ramsey’s area covers from Hockley to Sugarland to Meyerland.
- h. **Erika Ramirez – Candidate, Democratic Primary, Harris County Criminal Court, Position 8** – noted that she is running for one of the county misdemeanor courts. She is a current prosecutor; she has experience with financial crimes, identity theft, and has experience on cases from class C to capital murder.

Asked about current impressions of the DA office and repeat offenders, she too has seen a shift in the past few years and has several individuals where one offender is responsible for multiple cases. Asked about the backlog and personal recognizance bonds, she noted that in some the county is declining the case as the attorney legitimately feels they are unable to prosecute.

VII. There were no committee reports.

VIII. Old Business

- a. The September minutes were approved.

IX. New Business

- a. The chair discussed a recent housing project seeking endorsement from SN17. The delegates discussed that project and one from two years prior that was less well

received. Based on delegate feedback, the executive council was asked to reach out to ALL delegates with future projects.

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

NEXT MEETING: Nov. 10, 7:00 PM, via ZOOM