

Minutes from the meeting of Apr 13, 2022 of Super Neighborhood 17 – Eldridge/West Oaks

- I. Call to order at 7:15 p.m. President Baker opened the meeting at Eagles Trace
- II. A quorum was established.
- III. Though not expressly acknowledged in the meeting, we thank the following officials for their presence and participation:
 - Mary Nan Huffman – Houston City Council, District G
 - Kim Brode – Office of Commissioner Jack Cagle, Harris County, Pct. 4
 - Rene Ruiz – City of Houston, Department of Neighborhoods
 - Cherrelle Duncan – Office of Councilwoman Tiffany Thomas, City of Houston, District F
 - Rachel Maxcy – Office of Councilwoman Mary Nan Huffman
 - Hannah Cobb – Office of Councilwoman Sally Alcorn, City of Houston, At-Large Pos. 5
 - Margaret Dunlap – METRO
 - Fredy Gomez – Harris County Tax Office
 - Debra Slider – Harris County Tax Office
 - Ariane Cathey – Harris County Tax Office
 - Lt. Lui – HPD

- IV. For Community Safety **Lt. Lui of HPD** discussed crime statistics in the area. He noted a 91% increase in burglary of habitations. The most common entry method being a door pry for which he suggested strike plates and long screws for door hardware. He also announced a new high risk domestic violence squad.

Asked about an incident on SH6, he noted the incident was in the old motel parking lot. This was a case of suspects searching for the specific victim.

Asked about how statistics were calculated, he noted as an example of catalytic converter thefts. It is a count of each complainant (person or business), regardless of the treatment in court. Asked about the status of mail thefts, he will get back to the supernighborhood.

Asked if thieves would still target a vehicle with a catalytic converter cage, he noted that thieves would usually go after the easier target. Asked about approaching suspicious persons, he noted that most criminals are usually armed. Even if you carry, it may be more prudent and helpful to be a good witness.

- V. **Mary Nan Huffman – Houston City Council, District G** – Jeff introduced Ms. Huffman noting that district G covers areas of the Super Neighborhood north of Westheimer. She introduced herself and her background as a prosecutor and attorney and the issues of crime, public safety, and flooding. She thanked the staff of her predecessor for staying onboard.
First she discussed the discretionary fund and using Flock Cameras. She discussed their use

as well as benefits seen in other local jurisdictions and city districts. Her office is offering to help HOAs to locate and initially install these cameras.

Asked where they should be placed she noted that in general common entrances are good, but her office will help co-ordinate with HPD to find the best placement. Requests should be sent to DistrictG@houstontx.gov

She then recapped a proposed city bond ordinance, that changes had been made by the bail bond board which was a better route than using city ordinance. She also noted changes to the ordinance for minimum lighting and cameras at certain businesses. In response to a question she noted that it is a fine with a two week grace period before coming into force.

She briefly discussed the Kirkwood and Kendall Library, noting the library was one of the busiest locations. It is currently scheduled to open mid-summer. She also mentioned street rehabilitation of Memorial west to SH6 and Briar Forest new BW8.

She also noted 3-1-1, not just for individual needs, but for its importance in analytics.

Finally she noted upcoming meetings of the Felony Court Judges, Redistricting, and CIP.

Asked what areas would likely move, she noted that G has grown the most and the council members are pushing to move eastern parts of G (near the Galleria and South) into district J.

VI. Community Leaders

- a. **Cherrelle Duncan – Office of Councilwoman Tiffany Thomas** – Made note of the HTX Collects App for City Solid Waste Management announcements. She asked anyone submitting requests to Ms Thomas's office to first submit a request to 3-1-1 and include the request number in that email. To commercial vehicle parking, they are working on an improved city ordinance, that she herself has been personally impacted by this issue.

She noted that Ms. Thomas has allocated \$100K for Flock cameras in District F, but the cameras are hard to get as they are in high demand. She noted upcoming townhalls with HPD, redistricting, and a tree give-a-way in coordination with Ms Alcorn's office (Houston City Council, At-Large Pos. 5).

Asked about the Flock cameras, if they are permanent or moveable, she will get a response from HPD.

- b. **Kim Brode – Office of Comm. Jack Cagle** – Discussed the bail bond board meeting. She noted the original request was voted down, but the commissioner's court resubmitted the request which has now passed. Money that has been requested by the District Attorney's office has now been granted. She announced an upcoming memorial

ceremony for fallen officers.

Asked about the court backlog, she only has the prior months report, but noted that the up-to-date information is posted in commissioner's court highlights. They have added visiting judges and night courts, but expect the backlog to run at least two years. A delegate commented that this is a combination issue of judges, prosecutors, and facilities.

- c. **Rene Ruiz – City of Houston, Department of Neighborhoods** – Noted that Department of Neighborhood updates can be received by signing up on the 3-1-1. He commented on the Complete Community University, Legal Workshops, Neighborhood Matching Grant (up to \$5K), the Mayor Youth Council, the Citizenship Forum, and the Volunteer Initiative Program.

Asked about the 3-1-1 app, he noted that yes, sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't. It is a user interface issue, the core itself is working. Even for operators, he noted the tree system is confusing at times. Sometimes the issue is users don't complete the submission process, stopping too soon. He recommended using a laptop over a cell phone.

Asked about grass parking, he noted call 3-1-1, though someone noted that Park Houston is the slowest of all city services to respond.

- d. **Margaret Dunlap – METRO** – Commented on the METRO NEXT project and plans to add a BRT line out to the Westchase District, ultimately connecting out to Tidwell to the north. She also commented on the improvement of bus shelters system-wide.
- e. **Hannah Cobb – Office of Councilwoman Sally Alcorn** – Noted that her office is working with HOAs and businesses on ways to strengthen the city noise ordinance. In addition to the tree give-a-ways she noted the Pet Pantry service for at-need families to also provide for their pets.
- f. **Freddy Gomez – Harris County Tax Office** – Noted the availability of tax relief programs, the possibility of an increase in the homestead exemption, and the availability of workshops.

VII. Candidate Forum

The following candidates briefly spoke before the Super Neighborhood council

- a. Kyle Scott (R), Harris County Treasurer, November Candidate
- b. Shelly Barineau (R), TX House District 133, Primary Runoff Candidate

VIII. Committee Reports.

none

IX. Old Business

None

X. New Business

The April minutes were approved

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

NEXT MEETING – May 11, 7:00 PM, Eagle's Trace