

## Super Neighborhood 17 – Eldridge/West Oaks Meeting Minutes from April 12, 2023, 7:00 PM

- I. **Call to Order** President, Jeff Baker called the meeting to order without a quorum.
- II. **Public Safety** Officer Katherine Martinez provided a summary of SN-17 crimes for the month of March as compared to February. Notably, both violent and non-violent crime was up, 87.5% and 12.6%, respectively. The violent crime category was driven by sexual assaults (minor on minor) and aggravated assaults (apartment complex incidences). The non-violent category was primarily driven by an increase in thefts (*see crime stats- page 4*).
- III. **Guest Speaker – Lesley Briones – Harris County Commissioner, Precinct 4**  
Briones opened her remarks by expressing gratitude to Commissioner Jack Cagle for his help during the transition period. She then presented her vision in terms of her top priorities: *Public Safety, Infrastructure and Public Health*.

**Bio:** Briones grew up on the U.S.-Mexico border. Both parents were teachers with a passion for community service. Briones adopted their sense of service. She graduated from Harvard, after which she returned to South Texas to teach 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade. She attended Yale law school, after which she worked at Vinson and Elkins, then for the Laura & John Arnold Foundation as General Counsel and Chief Operating Officer. She subsequently served as Judge of Harris County Civil Court at Law No. 4 and was elected Commissioner of Harris Co Precinct 4 in November, 2022.

### **Precinct 4 Demography:**

- serves 1.2 million people in both rural and densely populated urban areas,
- geographically bigger than the state of Rhode Island,
- is the most international Harris Co precinct, and home to
- four economic districts – Greenway Plaza, Energy Corridor, Westchase and the Galleria.

Briones highlighted meetings/partnerships with fellow representatives at the federal, state, city, and county level – Fletcher, DeAyala, Huffman and DA, Ogg – in keeping with her “the whole is greater than the sum of its parts” approach. She has initiated “listening tours”, an “open call for partnerships” on issues of concern. Listening tours have been held at Baker-Ripley Gulfton and were to be held at Sharpstown and Tracy Gee Community Centers on April 15th.

**Priority 1: Public Safety:** Addressing all aspects of the public safety and criminal justice systems, the following efforts were highlighted:

- Addition of flock cameras
- Incorporation of a *holistic assistance response system* for the deployment of mental health workers to free up police officers to focus on crime
- Funding of retention bonuses for detention officers to address deaths at the county jail
- Funding for the DA’s office to address case backlog
- Advocating for six additional courts; there has only been one new criminal court since 1985
- Working with the “*safe schools commission*” to create a safety framework for school facilities to adopt to reduce deaths from mass shootings
- Inauguration of the new *Women’s Empowerment Center* prison facility with a focus on re-entry programs [Harris County Sheriff's Office Inaugurated the New Women's Empowerment Center - Bing video](#)

## **Priority 2: Infrastructure**

### *Flooding*

- The state is still working on 2018 flood bond projects, with a focus on completion within tight federal deadlines.
- With the US Army Corps of Engineers, the county is assessing the need for additional capacity for Addicks and Barker reservoirs.
- With Harris Co Flood Control District, the county is assessing both short and long term projects. Short-term projects include ditch management and detention basin parks. Long term, the deep tunnel project is still under study (Phase 2 study complete).
- Harris County commissioners unanimously voted for the design and construction of a \$7M *high water rescue training facility*, funded by the county's \$100M public safety bond that was approved in the Nov 2022 election. <https://communityimpact.com/houston/spring-klein/weather/2023/04/05/harris-county-commissioners-ok-7m-high-water-rescue-training-facility/>

### *Roads/Traffic*

- Intersections at which crashes, serious injuries and deaths occur are a priority.
- Feasibility study for the expansion of Westpark tollway was mentioned.

## **Priority 3: Public Health**

- Spending priorities will be directed towards disparities in health care, where “doctor deserts” exist in the midst of the world-class Houston Medical Center.

## **IV. Community Leaders**

- **State Representative Mano DeAyala (Deanna Harrington, District Director)**

Harrington highlighted two bills introduced by DeAyala:

*HB 4697* - Relating to the audit of an election in certain counties, left pending in the Elections committee.

*HB 4057* - Relating to the amendment of the designation of cultural or historic districts in certain municipalities, left pending in the Land and Resource Management committee.

Follow bills by bill number, author, key work search, etc. at <https://www.house.texas.gov> under the *Research* tab.

- **District G: Office of Councilwoman Mary Nan Huffman (Rachel Maxcy, Deputy COS)**

*Kirkwood Phase I Project update:* Houston Public Works will replace trees damaged during Phase I construction between Buffalo Bayou and Briarforest, as they are still under warranty.

*COH water rate increases:* An ordinance adopted in 2022 allows for new annual rates over a five-year period. New rates are based on population growth and inflationary costs associated with the combined water and wastewater utility system. The rate increases, effective April 1, are 8.2% (inflation) and 1% (population growth) for a combined rate increase of 9.2%. This price increase will be added to the increase approved by the Houston City Council in June 2021, for a total increase (as compared to April 2022) of between 14.5% to 16%, depending on water usage.

- **Precinct 4: Commissioner Lesley Briones (Victoria Calvillo, Community Engagement)**

HCP4 will present *Summer Movie Nights at Ray Miller Park*. The first in the series, *The Secret Life of Pets* is on Friday, June 16 at 6:30-9:30 pm

- **Mayor's Office- Department of Neighborhoods, DON (Rene Ruiz)**

Ruiz highlighted DON's *Inspectors Division*, in keeping with the city's newly announced *One Clean Houston* initiative, aimed at combatting illegal dumping with an \$18M investment. Illegal dumping is a pervasive problem, negatively impacting the health, safety, and quality of life throughout the city. [One Clean Houston \(houstontx.gov\)](http://houstontx.gov)

- **Houston Metro (Margaret Dunlap)**

*Homeless CARES initiative:* is a collaboration with the city. A team of METRO officers patrols downtown and the Medical Center daily, with a specific focus on helping the homeless population that often congregates around METRO's facilities.

*Students ride free during the summer:* Metro will resume its offer of unlimited free trips on all of Metro's local buses and trains.

- **Houston Public Library (Ivy Bao, Kendall Branch)**

Program Offerings: *These free classes that require registration* [www.houstonlibrary.org](http://www.houstonlibrary.org)

1. Computer classes will begin on Tuesday, 4/18/2023, from 2 pm to 3 pm every other week.
2. Organic/Container Gardening classes on Thursday, July 20, 2023, at 6:00 pm

## V. New Business

- SN17 failed to hold an Election for Vice President at the January 2023 Meeting. To make up for this, an election will be held at the May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. Nick Kornuta will be running for re-election, there was no interest in running among the other attendees.
- Approval of the February and March Meeting minutes did not take place due to the lack of a quorum.

**Next Meeting is Wednesday, May 10, 2023  
7:00 PM at Eagle's Trace  
Guest Speakers: Houston Metro – Upcoming Projects**

## 2023 March Crime Stats

SN17	Feb	Mar	TREND
MURDER	0	0	0.00%
SEXUAL ASSAULT	0	5	500.00%
ROBBERY	7	8	14.29%
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	17	32	88.24%
<b>Violent Crimes</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>87.50%</b>
BURGLARY HABITATION	26	19	-26.92%
BURGLARY BUILDING	21	10	-52.38%
BURGLARY MOTOR VEHICLE	50	54	8.00%
THEFT	32	60	87.50%
AUTO THEFT	30	36	20.00%
<b>Non-Violent Crimes</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>12.58%</b>
<b>CRIMES TOTAL</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>22.40%</b>

SN17	2022	2023	TREND
MURDER	3	2	-33.33%
SEXUAL ASSAULT	6	1	-83.33%
ROBBERY	17	20	17.65%
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	58	41	-29.31%
<b>Violent Crimes</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>-23.81%</b>
BURGLARY HABITATION	46	61	32.61%
BURGLARY BUILDING	39	32	-17.95%
BURGLARY MOTOR VEHICLE	168	136	-19.05%
THEFT	82	75	-8.54%
AUTO THEFT	42	59	40.48%
<b>Non-Violent Crimes</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>-3.71%</b>
<b>CRIMES TOTAL</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>-7.38%</b>

Current Month Arrests			
Aggravated Assault	6	Murder	0
Assault	15	Narcotics	3
Auto Theft	0	Prostitution	0
Burglary Habitation	0	Off Against Family	0
Criminal Mischief	0	Robbery	1
Disorderly Conduct	2	Sexual Assault	0
Drunkenness	0	Theft	4
DWI	9	Weapons Violation	2
Forgery	0	All Other Crimes	8
<b>Total People Arrested</b>	<b>50</b>		