

ELDRIDGE/WEST OAKS SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD

Super Neighborhood 17 (SN17)

Draft Monthly Meeting Minutes - Wednesday March 13th, 2024 @ 7:00 PM

<https://sn17.org/>

President, Jeff Baker; Vice-President, Nick Kornuta; Secretary, Joy Cocchiara; Treasurer, Diane Guillerman

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Vice President, Nick Kornuta at 7:03 pm with a quorum.

Public Safety – Senior Police Officer - Tim Whitaker/ HPD

Monthly crime stats for SN-17 - year-to year and month-to-month – are on Page 3. There were 65 arrest in February, including 19 assaults/aggravated assaults. On average, it takes six hours of an officer's time to process an arrest, including one to three hours to discharge the offender to the Harris County Joint Processing Center (JPC) in downtown Houston. There was a discussion regarding the time officers are removed from patrol while attending to lengthy processing protocols.

Guest Speakers – TX Department of Transportation Houston District (TXDOT) *Ugonna Ughanze*, Director of Transportation Operations; *Hamoon Bahrami*, Area Engineer; *Leo Flores*, Public Information Officer

Speakers addressed a pre-submitted list of questions/concerns regarding travel along Hwy 6, particularly between I-10 and Westheimer. Of primary concern are fatalities and serious injuries associated with a surge of new commercial and residential developments on Hwy 6 without associated new traffic control measures. Here are the TXDOT representatives' responses:

- **Traffic Enforcement:** TXDOT will initiate coordination with law enforcement agencies to increase patrol, including the use of DPS troopers.
- **Lighting:** There is a plan, currently in the design phase, to put street lighting on Hwy 6 from Briar Hills south to Beechnut. This project is not likely to begin until 2026.
- **Crosswalks** are planned for installation at the following intersections along Hwy 6:
 - Briar Hills, Eagle Vista, Briar Forest, Commercial Dr, Parkhollow Dr, Richmond Ave, Beechnut, Old Richmond and Woodbridge.
 - Regarding the crosswalk at Piping Rock Ln, it was noted that there is insufficient time to cross all eight lanes before the walk light changes, forcing pedestrians to run across Hwy 6 at this intersection. In addition, there is no relief median for pedestrians who not able to make it all the way across. It is quite unsafe and unnerving to be caught in the middle of traffic on Hwy 6 with no median. TXDOT recommended that we contact the City of Houston for traffic signal management at this intersection.
- **Sidewalks:** There are no sidewalks for pedestrians traveling north/south between I-10 and Westheimer. Walkers and bikers are forced to walk on the Hwy 6 shoulder along the drainage ditch. Sidewalk installation would require redesigning the drainage system (paving over the open ditch). This would have to be funded as a capital project under the Houston Public Works Department.
- **Buses:** Metro does not have a bus line that runs along Hwy 6. However, with the construction of several new apartments, school buses have been seen letting students off in the far right lane of Hwy 6. TXDOT agreed to put up a School Bus Stops along Hwy 6, but only if the school district requests them.
- **Speed Limit Reduction:** TXDOT was agreeable to conducting a speed limit study.
- **Overhead Exit Sign Replacement on I-10:** replacement of overhead signs on I-10 (east and west bound) between I-45 and the Ft Bend County line is scheduled to begin in April 2025. A timeline for the completion along this long stretch of highway is not possible at this time.

Community Leaders

- **City of Houston, At-Large Position 1 (Julian Ramirez)**
 - Council Member Ramirez has reached out to Mayor Whitmire to call upon DPS troopers to help close the enforcement gap, including those resulting from the delay in booking criminal offenders at the JPC. (see bullet 2 under Public Safety)
 - Council Member Ramirez is also addressing the backlog at the city’s crime lab.
- **District G – Mary Nan Huffman/Brad Mushinski**
 - Mayor Whitmire has replaced 5 of 7 commissioners at the Houston Housing Authority over concerns that the agency is not effectively fulfilling its mission to deliver affordable housing options. The appointments are effective immediately and do not require confirmation by the Houston City Council. See press release at <https://www.houstontx.gov/moc/2024/new-housing-authority-commissioners.html>
- **Harris County Precinct 4 – Lesley Briones/Victoria Calvillo**
 - Harris County Outreach Department is offering Virtual Property Tax Workshops from April - July. These 45 minute workshops provide information on how property taxes are calculated, residence homestead exemptions, property tax payments and payment plan options. Register for one of the virtual workshop at <https://www.hctax.net/Property/Workshops>
 - Commissioner Lesley Briones surprised Bridgeland High School student, Emma Cardenas, the first winner of Harris County Precinct 4’s bus design contest. See her artwork, which depicts the theme, “The History of and Unity in Harris County” at <https://cp4.harriscountytexas.gov/Connect/Newsroom/bus-reveal-bridgeland>
- **Houston Metro – Margaret Dunlap**
 - BOOST: 82 Westheimer – Design work is in progress on *Segment C* of the 82 Westheimer route, 13.2 miles between Loop 610 and Hwy 6 along Westheimer Road. Enhancements will include new bus shelters, lighting and digital signage that will show the time of next-bus arrival. Work on this segment will begin next year.
 - Metro is hiring. There are hiring incentives for the following positions: bus operators and mechanics, facilities maintenance and service drivers. <https://www.ridemetro.org/about/careers>

Old Business

February Meeting Minutes were approved.

New Business

- **Energy Corridor Orchestra Events (ECHOchestra.org) /Sarah McDonner**
 - Free Concert! *ECHOES IN THE PARK* - Saturday, April 13 at 11:00AM – 2:00 PM at Ray Miller Park – 1800 Eldridge Pkwy. This event will feature chamber music, artisan vendors, kids activities and local food vendors.
 - *SPRING CONCERT* – Thursday, May 16 at 7:30 PM at St. John Vianney 625 Nottingham Oaks Trail featuring *Peter and the Wolf* and the 2024 Young Artist Concerto Competition Winner.

NEXT MEETING: April 10th, 2024

**SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD 17
HPD WESTSIDE DIVISION CRIME STATS**

Month-to-Month Trends (Jan/Feb)

SN17	Jan	Feb	TREND
MURDER	1	0	-100.00%
SEXUAL ASSAULT	1	3	200.00%
ROBBERY	15	6	-60.00%
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	24	29	20.83%
Violent Crimes	41	38	-7.32%
BURGLARY HABITATION	15	10	-33.33%
BURGLARY BUILDING	20	13	-35.00%
BURGLARY MOTOR VEHICLE	65	55	-15.38%
THEFT	34	57	67.65%
AUTO THEFT	34	30	-11.76%
Non-Violent Crimes	168	165	-1.79%
CRIMES TOTAL	209	203	-2.87%

Year-to-Date Trends (2023/2024)

SN17	2023	2024	TREND
MURDER	2	1	-50.00%
SEXUAL ASSAULT	1	4	300.00%
ROBBERY	20	21	5.00%
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	45	53	17.78%
Violent Crimes	68	79	16.18%
BURGLARY HABITATION	58	33	-43.10%
BURGLARY BUILDING	37	25	-32.43%
BURGLARY MOTOR VEHICLE	139	120	-13.67%
THEFT	82	91	10.98%
AUTO THEFT	61	64	4.92%
Non-Violent Crimes	377	333	-11.67%
CRIMES TOTAL	445	412	-7.42%

ARRESTS*

Current Month Arrests			
Aggravated Assault	9	Murder	0
Assault	10	Narcotics	2
Burglary Business	1	Prostitution	2
Burglary Habitation	2	Robbery	1
Criminal Mischief	1	Sexual Assault	1
Disorderly Conduct	7	Auto Theft	2
Drunkness	1	BMV	1
DWI	2	Weapons Violation	3
Theft	1	All Other Crimes	19
Total People Arrested	65		

* Arrests made during the course of the offense on the original offense date and location