

ELDRIDGE/WEST OAKS SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD

Super Neighborhood 17 (SN17)

Draft Monthly Meeting Minutes - Wednesday April 10th, 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 President, Jeff Baker at 7:04 pm with a quorum.

Public Safety – Senior Police Officer - Tim Whitaker/HPD

The March 2024 crime stats for SN-17 - year-to year and month-to-month - are on Page 4. There were 57 arrests in March, including 16 for assault/aggravated assault, 10 for narcotics, and 10 for DWI. As compared to February, burglaries (habitation, building and motor vehicle) sexual assaults, and robbery were up in March.

Guest Speakers – Lt. Roy Guinn, Harris County Pct 5, *Fraud, Scams and Identity Theft*

It is incredibly difficult to apprehend criminals associated with electronic fraud because they commit their crimes from anywhere in the world. To fight these kinds of crimes, the first line of defense is education and prevention. Many frauds originate in non-English speaking countries. Fraudsters create elaborate scams, and broadly send them out over a variety of electronic media. Senior citizens were at one time the #1 target, but now *everyone* is a target.

Many frauds are initiated via unsolicited emails, texts and phone calls from seemingly familiar entities, and appear legitimate. In determining whether you are a target of fraud, follow this rule: Do not Trust Anybody (or Anything). If you receive an unsolicited call, verify who they say they are and with whom they are associated. It is prudent in the case of an unsolicited call to hang up and look up the name and entity the party claims to represent. If they are who they say they are and you wish to speak to them, call them back. Also, never make donations to unsolicited calls from non-profit organizations. If you wish to donate to an organization, do it directly.

Regarding Identity Theft, there is *no way* to stop it. You can only make it harder for such thieves to access your accounts. For example, set your notification of spending activity on credit cards and bank cards to as low as \$1.00. Also, set up a fraud alert with the credit bureau agencies to block anyone from opening credit in your name for one year. If your credit card has a credit freeze feature, engage it. This allows you to turn off the use of your credit card when you are not using it.

Community Leaders

- **State Representative District 133 – Mano DeAyala/Deanna Harrington**

Harrington graciously yielded her time to the remaining community leaders, given the full agenda. Currently, the TX State legislature is quiet.

- **District F – Tiffany Thomas/Issaac Eguia**

Council Member Thomas is hosting a Deed Restriction Workshop on Saturday, April 27th, 2024, at 10:00 am at Tracy Gee Community Center. Thomas believes the key to restricting problem properties lies in updating the language in deed restrictions that are often decades old. She is funding a pilot program with neighborhood HOAs to update their deeds, including new language to impose conditions restricting short-term rentals. Mayor Whitmire is committed to enforcing these restrictions.

- **District G – Mary Nan Huffman/Brad Mushinski**

Prop A, which voters approved in November 2023, gives city council members more power to place items on the weekly city council meeting agendas. Mary Nan Huffman was elected to the Prop A committee, formed by Mayor Whitmire *to oversee Prop A items before they are added to the agenda*. According to the terms of Prop A, *committee approval is not required to get council members' items on the agenda*. The rules regarding Prop A are still being worked out. At the April 23rd meeting, two council member-driven items will be discussed:

1. amending the speed bump ordinance to give council members more flexibility when it comes to where speed bumps are installed in their districts.
2. extending paid parking meter hours to 2 a.m. to raise additional revenue for the city. Metered parking is currently enforced from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays and Saturday.

- **Harris County Precinct 4 – Lesley Briones/Victoria Calvillo**

Shape the Future of Katy East on topics of *Transportation, Housing and Green Spaces* on Saturday, April 20, 12:00 – 2:00 pm at Morton Ranch Elementary 2502 N Mason Rd 77449. More information on the Katy East Study Area can be found at: [Katy East Community Plan and Mobility Study \(harriscountytexas.gov\)](https://www.harriscountytexas.gov/katy-east-community-plan-and-mobility-study)

The next Precinct 4 Listening Tour is on Saturday, May 4, from 8:30 – 10:30 am at Nottingham Elementary School 570 Nottingham Oaks Trail 77079. It was noted that this event occurs on the same day as the Harris County Special Elections.

- **City of Houston Department of Neighborhoods – Rene Ruiz**

Rene highlighted the efforts Mayor Whitmire is leading to bring relief to residents experiencing errant water bills. The primary issue causing high water bills is failing remote meter reader devices. The city currently has 125,000 failing devices with the capacity to read only 40,000 meters manually each month. This has necessitated estimated bills, calculated using an outdated algorithm. The city is fast-tracking the replacement of these failed remote read devices, working on several upgrades to the water billing system and improving customer service. Customers may now schedule in-person appointments to ask questions about their bill. Schedule appointments at houstonwaterbills.org or by calling 713.371.1400. You can also call 311 and request to be put in the queue to have a customer agent call you back. See the Customer Experience Road Map to Achieving Reliable Bills.

- **Houston Metro – Margaret Dunlap**

A letter of support for Metro's *FY 2024 Low or No Emissions Grant Application* to the Federal Transit Authority was approved and signed at the meeting. The proposal is to build a new Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) fueling station at the Northwest Bus Operating Facility and transition the bus fleet by adding 100 CNG buses. If awarded, METRO could significantly reduce the city's carbon footprint. and improve air quality.

Committee Reports – Nick Kornuta

To increase jury participation, address disparities in juror representation, and emphasize the vital role that jury service plays in our democratic system, the Harris County District Clerk's Office (HCDCO) announced their new campaign, *"You Complete Justice."* A key component of the initiative is a pay increase for jurors. Since October 1st, compensation for the 1st day of jury service increased from \$6 to \$30, with subsequent days rising from \$40 to \$58. HCDCO will present a Special Resolution on Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at 10:00 am recognizing Jury Appreciation Week. *Encourage your family and friends to respond to their jury summons to help create a fair and diverse justice system that represents YOU.*

Old Business

We neglected to take a vote to approve the March Meeting Minutes. We will take the vote to approve both the March and April draft minutes at the May meeting.

New Business

- **Harris County Clerk' s Office – Uniform and Special Elections – Tania Cora**

Reminder that on **May 4, 2024**, Harris County is holding Uniform and Special Elections for State Senate Seat - District 15 (vacated by Mayor, John Whitmire) and to elect three Harris Central Appraisal District (HCAD) Directors. For the first time, HCAD directors are being elected instead of appointed.

Early voting runs from April 22 through April 30 from 7 a.m. – 7 p.m., except on Sunday, April 28 when the hours of operation are from 12 p.m. – 7 p.m. <https://www.harrisvotes.com/Vote-Centers>

Early Voting locations nearest SN-17 are:

1. Nottingham Park Building 926 Country Place Dr. Houston 77079
2. Steve Radack Community Center 18650 Clay Rd. Houston 77084

- **HCAD Board Candidates – Kyle Scott (Place 2) and Pedlumi Adeleke (Place 3)** briefly introduced themselves as candidates for HCAD directors in the Harris Co Unified and Special Elections on May 4.

NEXT MEETING: May 8th, 2024

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

Month-to-Month Trends (Feb/Mar)

SN17	Feb	Mar	TREND
MURDER	0	0	0.00%
SEXUAL ASSAULT	3	4	33.33%
ROBBERY	6	7	16.67%
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	31	27	-12.90%
Violent Crimes	40	38	-5.00%
BURGLARY HABITATION	10	15	50.00%
BURGLARY BUILDING	14	16	14.29%
BURGLARY MOTOR VEHICLE	55	58	5.45%
THEFT	61	42	-31.15%
AUTO THEFT	30	17	-43.33%
Non-Violent Crimes	170	148	-12.94%
CRIMES TOTAL	210	186	-11.43%

Year-to-Date Trends (2023/2024)

SN17	2023	2024	TREND
MURDER	2	1	-50.00%
SEXUAL ASSAULT	6	8	33.33%
ROBBERY	29	28	-3.45%
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	75	82	9.33%
Violent Crimes	112	119	6.25%
BURGLARY HABITATION	78	40	-48.72%
BURGLARY BUILDING	50	50	0.00%
BURGLARY MOTOR VEHICLE	198	178	-10.10%
THEFT	150	137	-8.67%
AUTO THEFT	100	82	-18.00%
Non-Violent Crimes	576	487	-15.45%
CRIMES TOTAL	688	606	-11.92%

ARRESTS*

Current Month Arrests			
Aggravated Assault	5	Murder	0
Assault	11	Narcotics	10
Burglary Business	0	Prostitution	2
Burglary Habitation	1	Forgery/Fraud	2
Criminal Mischief	1	Sexual Assault	0
Disorderly Conduct	1	Auto Theft	1
Evading	1	Robbery	2
DWI	10	Weapons Violation	3
Theft	1	All Other Crimes	6
Total People Arrested	57		

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