

Minutes from the meeting of May 8, 2019 of Super Neighborhood 17 – Eldridge/West Oaks

- I. Call to order at 7:00 p.m. President O’Connor opened the meeting. He established quorum by 7 delegates or alternates.
- II. Acknowledge and Welcome to Guests and Visitors
Rene Ruiz - Mayor’s Citizens Assistance Office, Department of Neighborhoods
Margarita Dunlap– Metro representative
- III. Minutes for April 2019 were approved by all.

IV. Guests Speakers

Sargent Charles Stearns, from HPD and PIP Co-Coordinator spoke on current safety matters. He noted that violent crimes were down but burglary of buildings had increased from 41 to 45. He noted that there two sexual assaults in the past 30 days, vs 0 for previous 30 days. Both incidences occurred in residential areas but the police believe they know the suspect. There were 16 aggravated assaults over the past 30 days compared to 15 last month. He stated that 12 were family violence. A resident was followed from Bank of America and assaulted at her home. He urged everyone to be careful when coming from a bank with a great deal of cash and if any idea being followed go to the police station or a fire station for safety.

Audience members questioned the officer about panhandlers. He stated that if the panhandler stays on the median there is nothing the police can do. The panhandler must be in the middle of the street but police MUST see them before anything can be done. The police cannot take a citizen complaint.

Crime Statistics in the last 30 days:

Aggravated Assault – 6.7% - increased from 16 to 17

Robbery – 11.1% - increased from 9 to 11

Burglary Habitation – -15.8% - decreased from 38 to 32

Burglary Building – -58.8% - decreased from 17 to 7

BMV – -15.4% - decreased from 67 to 56

Theft – -21.7% - decreased from 46 to 36

Auto Theft – -66.6% - increased from 9 to 15)

John Bowser from Eagle Trace announced that the US Census for 2020 will soon start and that jobs are open for census takers.

Ms. Harrington from Rep. Jim Murphy’s office has provided a great explanation of the current bills being passed by the State Legislature. Everyone is urged to get on the site, House.Texas.Gov can learn about what is going in Austin.

V. Committee Reports

- a) **Jeff Baker, Chair for Public Safety and Crime** . In two recent HPD presentations the discussion was centered on the Jugging crimes that are going on in the area. What is jugging? Here are two examples: you pull up in a gas station, get out to put gas in your car. You may even go inside to buy something or to prepay. You put the gas in your car and get back in your vehicle and your purse is gone or you go to the car, suspects follow you home from the bank and rob you when you get out of the car. Watch for people sitting in their car, paying special attention if they are backed into the parking place so that they can watch you and quickly pull out. Do not walk out of the bank with an envelope or cash in your hand. Watch for anyone that might pull out and follow you. If they do, go to the closest Police Station or call 911 and explain the situation.
- b) **Cindy Yeglin, Chair for the Beautification Committee** noted there was no update.
- c) **Jack O'Connor, Membership Chair** reported that the committee would be meeting soon with business and HOA's to promote new members.
- d) **Doug Parish, Chair of New Construction** noted there was no update.
- e) **Nancy Scott, Capital Improvements** not present
- f) **Nick Kornuta, Flooding Committee Chair** – spoke with a City Representative and was informed a contractor for the city of Houston is starting a pipe replacement project near 14218 Briarhills Parkway on Flood Control property, but this is not a Flood Control project. The city of Houston contractor will be installing 84 inch diameter pipe as it runs from a manhole into Buffalo Bayou. The project should take 4 weeks to complete (weather permitting). Large mechanized equipment will be utilized for this effort and some trees and soil will be disturbed in the process.
- g) **Dianne Guillerman** stated she would have an update on the process of obtaining nonprofit status for SN17 by the next meeting

VII No old business.

VIII New Business - Margarita Dunlap, Metro representative, reminded everyone that with the summer coming up, that kids will ride free and to sign up now for the ride. She also announced that there are new changes to the draft plan Metro has presented and there will be more public hearings on the final plan. Next was Rene Ruiz, with the Mayor's Office to use him for any city concerns. A delegate spoke up about the intersection of Westpark Dr. and Shadowbriar with the need for a light. Homeowners cannot get out of their own subdivision. Another concern was the overflow of a trash can at the old Walgreens at the corner of Hwy 6 and Westheimer.

The meeting was recessed and would adjourn to another room to hear Mr. Bill King.

IX **Guest Speaker - Bill King, candidate for Mayor of Houston** - Mr. King first explained the dynamics of the last election with Sylvester Turner. He noted that the election was the closest in City history and he lost by 4000 votes. He received 7% of African American votes, and 52% of Anglos, and the average age was 64. The turnout of eligible votes was 21% and he emphasized that every vote does count. The voter in 2016 was older and wiser than in previous elections.

He then went into the changes taking place in 2019. Fire fighters have changed sides and more African Americans are supporting him now. Other changes are fewer policemen, flooding again and again, even during less amounts of rain, laying off of fire fighters and streets are still crumbling. City Hall is now spending 110% of funds received. There has been no balance budget since 1998. His number one issue is balancing the budget as required by law.

He made several suggestions to help cut costs: 1) City, Federal and County all run health clinics, and he recommends the City get out of the health business, 2) redoing utilities for private property owners for past 20 years in the Galleria area and that needs to stop, and 3) fix the fire department to run more efficient.

He noted that the City takes in \$5.2 billion a year with 75% of it coming from water and sewer and 25% from property taxes. There is enough money but is not being used wisely. Yes, more policemen are needed but only up to about 500.

Mr. King stated that a businessman needs to be Mayor and not a politician.

IX Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

NEXT MEETING: June 12, 7:00 PM AT EAGLES TRACE