

Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council  
 Public Safety Committee Special Meeting Minutes  
 21 December 2020 7:00 pm  
 Location: Zoom

**MINUTES**

1. Call to Order/Roll Call - 7:03

**Time:**

<b>Committee Member</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Not Present</b>
<b>Caroline Aguirre</b>		<b>x</b>
<b>Duncan Gregory</b>	<b>x</b>	
<b>Mary Allison</b>	<b>x</b>	
<b>Boo Caban</b>		<b>x</b>
<b>Brendan Cronshaw</b>	<b>x</b>	
<b>Steve Crouch</b>	<b>x</b>	
<b>Gemma Marquez</b>		<b>x</b>
<b>Rick Marquez</b>	<b>x</b>	
<b>MaryLeigh Roohan</b>	<b>x</b>	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>6</b>	

2. Discussion and motion to approve agenda

**Public Comment: Stakeholder Tim.**

**Rick: SLO report as floating report**

**Mary moves to approve the agenda with floating SLO item. Duncan 2nd**

	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Recused</b>	<b>Ineligible</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Caroline Aguirre</b>						<b>x</b>

Duncan Gregory	x					
Mary Allison	x					
Boo Caban						x
Brendan Cronshaw	x					
Steve Crouch	x					
Gemma Marquez	x					
Rick Marquez	x					
MaryLeigh Roohan	x					
<b>Total:</b>	<b>7</b>					

7:06 - Gemma Marquez joins meeting

- Discussion and motion to approve minutes from Public Safety's Special Meeting on 11/11/2020 (2 min)

**Public Comment: none.**

**Rick - minutes are fine but some items didn't make it to this meeting's agenda.**

**Rick moves to approve the minutes. Mary 2nd**

	For	Against	Abstain	Recused	Ineligible	Absent
Caroline Aguirre						x
Duncan Gregory	x					
Mary Allison	x					
Boo Caban						x
Brendan Cronshaw	x					

<b>Steve Crouch</b>	<b>x</b>					
<b>Gemma Marquez</b>			<b>x</b>			
<b>Rick Marquez</b>	<b>x</b>					
<b>MaryLeigh Roohan</b>	<b>x</b>					
<b>Total:</b>	<b>6</b>		<b>1</b>			

4. General Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items—Comments from the public on non-agenda items within the Board’s jurisdiction (Limited to 10 min, max 2 min per speaker)

**Public Comment:**

**Stakeholder Tim - new MTA metro buses. No way to open the windows on the buses is a safety issue with COVID. What are the legal ramifications of this? Can the MTA do that? Is there a legal way to address this issue? What are options?**

**gemma marquez getting our community to be more responsive. Illegal dumped items, graffiti removal, more proactive on every social repeatedly**

**Rosa - echoing Gemma. More involvement. Graffiti is out of hand. More involved and proactive from Public Safety. Community Liaison might be a good resource for (Division 3 in Cypress Park) for MTA issue**

5. Report: Northeast Division’s Neighborhood Prosecutor Gabrielle Taylor (5 min)

**Not in attendance.**

6. Report: Senior Lead Officer Allen and Senior Lead Officer Chang from LAPD Northeast (5 min)

**33603@lapd.online**

**Violent crime 4.3% decrease**

**Property crime 4.2% decrease**

**Large increase in vehicle theft over the years. Many of the same people who commit this crime get caught twice in a day because of how the system is set up currently.**

**Guns November: confiscate 8 guns.**

December 6 gun related arrests.

Recent shootings: homicide 12.9 around 11pm Aldama and Ave 57 - suspect has been arrested (same day).

Three other shootings: early November York between Aldama and Mesa - car shooting - victim stabilized medically but was uncooperative in getting the suspect. Arrested for tagging incident shortly after

12.13 - shooting victim leaving 711 Fig + Ave 52 - confronted by gang member. Still outstanding

St Alban - leaving Highland Market victim of drive by (not hit). Still outstanding.

**Gemma: we need to be proactive. Counting on you to still take care of us.**

Gang tagging: MyLA311 App - graffiti removal.

Safety Tips for the Holiday: Maintain vigilance for your own personal items. Remember where you put your things (phone, purse, etc). Wear a mask and wipe down things that you frequently touch.

**Rick: verify HLP and The Avenues are the gangs that are most active?**

SLO Chang: Yes. When you see a lot of tagging, something is about to go down.

Stakeholder Rosa: What happened with the fire and the homeless at the good shepherd? Another fire Avenue 64 by the freeway?

SLO Chang: Incident is being investigated by the fire department. Good Shepherd is putting up a fence for security. Tough to monitor the homeless in the area - hoping to get in touch with the Fire Department.

**Gemma: Gang Unit - is it still complete and active in our community?**

SLO Chang: Yes. Majority of gun arrests are with the gang unit. COVID hit them but they are all back.

**Mary: How to stay safe if someone confronts you? If you're being followed, etc?**

SLO Chang: If you feel uncomfortable, it's always okay to make the phone call to the police. Description of the person, vehicle or license plate is always helpful. If you feel your safety is being jeopardized please call.

Tim: Pretend you're talking on your cell phone if you are walking alone at night.

SLO Chang: Walking at night wearing a headlamp is always helpful too. If you don't feel comfortable if someone's walking toward you, walk across the street or take a different route.

**Duncan: proactive communication. Are there local initiatives around preventative measures? Would love to hear about this.**

**SLO Chang: Social media that you can follow to watch for crime trends. NextDoor. We try to do everything that's possible to keep current for the community.**

**Mary: Gang Reduction?**

**SLO Chang: GRYT - Organization we work in conjunction with. Whenever there's a shooting we use them for outreach resources.**

7. Discuss uptick in local gang crime: multiple shootings, car chase, etc. (5 min)

**Covered in the previous item.**

8. Discuss what criminal charges George Gascon will no longer file cases on (5 min)

**Steve Crouch: Gascon tends to bend to public opinion when he restored some of the enhancements. 90 days before you can have a recall petition.**

**Duncan: It looks like we don't have all the information yet. We can keep up to date and listen for how that will affect the local police department. Let's keep up the communication.**

**Rick: Stabbing ten minutes ago - Citizen App reports 70% accurate crime in our area. We have to treat crime statistically.**

**Public Comment:**

**SLO Chang: everything is still evolving, so until then we don't know a whole lot. Transitional time where we don't know what's going to happen.**

9. Discuss planned cuts to police, animal services, & bureau of engineering (5 min)

**Public Comment:**

**Rosa: When will the budget cuts take effect?**

**SLO Chang: No idea right now.**

**Rosa: As of now, everything is the same for Northeast?**

**SLO Chang: We're still all here. From a divisional level nothing has changed.**

**Rosa: Gang Unit, Narcotics, Everyone is still there?**

**SLO Chang: We've shuffled things around to adjust patrol. As of now, that's the only shift. Units are still there: Probation, compliance, gang unit, vice unit are still in place.**

10. Discussion and possible motion to bring NPG in collaboration with Bob Baker Puppet Theater regarding Educational Firework Skit to the next Neighborhood Council Meeting for approval. (5 min)

**Mary - based in Highland Park for two years. Fifty years of Los Angeles history. They're struggling with COVID circumstances and hurting to keep their doors open in Highland Park. Cool PSA about Highland Park as well as supporting an Non-Profit organization in our community. Share Video PSA (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-a8sA82YzEA>)**

**Spoke with Alex the Executive Director - for the video it would be \$15k. He said he could work with us financially. Hoping to ask for \$5k - this would go to Finance Committee and then to the General Board for more input. Hoping to ask other neighborhood councils to pitch in as well.**

**Rick: Great place to iron this out. This could be played in schools and serve a purpose. Don't hesitate to go to CD1 and CD14 and ask for help - have them put their name on it. Accomplishing something is a plus. This is a step forward. This is a great idea. Call everybody possible.**

**Gemma: Everything I wanted to say. This is an amazing benefit to this business. I know the benefits of their work. Take to all CDs - not just a highland park issue. Great to keep them going and address the fireworks. Hopefully educators can access it and use it as a tool. Win. Win. LA Unified. Fantastic! Get those figures and get people behind it.**

**Duncan: They both said it best. Thinking like a naysayer is going to help move to iron this out. Amazing idea. Sharing this resource with anyone who wants it. I love those sorts of initiatives. Making sure the schools are involved. Letter of support from a school would be very strong. Let's talk to people who would benefit. Only question, What's the timeline for something like this? Can we pay them before the fiscal period ends?**

**Steve: Deal with the problem from both ends - kids and people who are using fireworks. Fireworks are becoming a year round thing.**

**Public Comment:**

**Stakeholder Rosa: I like this. It looks like fun and children like to see fun things. Education is very important. Starting with the children is a great idea. We have tried everything - flyers, etc. It seems nothing is working. Maybe this might work. Thumbs up. I like the idea.**

**Duncan motions move forward on an NPG to present to the general board... Gemma 2nd**

<b>Committee Member</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Not Present</b>
<b>Caroline Aguirre</b>		<b>x</b>

<b>Duncan Gregory</b>	<b>x</b>	
<b>Mary Allison</b>	<b>x</b>	
<b>Boo Caban</b>		<b>x</b>
<b>Brendan Cronshaw</b>	<b>x</b>	
<b>Steve Crouch</b>	<b>x</b>	
<b>Gemma Marquez</b>	<b>x</b>	
<b>Rick Marquez</b>	<b>x</b>	
<b>MaryLeigh Roohan</b>	<b>x</b>	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>7</b>	

11. Discussion and possible motion to request funding for firework lawn sign campaign. (5 min)

QTY 50 18"x12" yard signs **with H Stick \$7.50 X 50 = \$375.00 + tax**

QTY 100 18"x12" yard signs **with H Stick \$6.50 X 100 = \$650.00 + tax**

**From Quick'R Print'R - in Highland Park**

<https://www.mysafela.org/fireworks-sign/> - Design.

**MaryLeigh emailed about a Spanish version, still no response. MaryLeigh will follow up**

**Gemma - good idea to attack from multiple angles. Patriotic color available? Red, white and blue. Please put it on the next agenda with signage choices.**

**Mary - i think this is a good idea and having the phone number handy is helpful.**

**Rick - attack from all angles. Another way of trying to curb this issue**

**Duncan - I could make the graphic. Think from how people combat lawn signs. Agree! Community messaging - either this is illegal and please respect us are two different approaches.**

**Steve Crouch - let's get the kids involved. Signs saying fireworks are illegal isn't going to play in this area - think of the effects and message around that.**

**Public Comment:**

**Stakeholder Tim:** I like the idea. Much more effective on the everyday basis. Printing in Spanish and English - have one sign with both English and Spanish. Get students involved.

**Rosa:** With the city attorney - what are the consequences when someone gets caught lighting off fireworks? Is this something to take to Mike Fuher? What do we do here?

**Gemma moves to bring multiple considering tonight's feedback to present at the next meeting Mary 2nd**

	For	Against	Abstain	Recused	Ineligible	Absent
<b>Caroline Aguirre</b>						<b>x</b>
<b>Duncan Gregory</b>	<b>x</b>					
<b>Mary Allison</b>	<b>x</b>					
<b>Boo Caban</b>						<b>x</b>
<b>Brendan Cronshaw</b>	<b>x</b>					
<b>Steve Crouch</b>	<b>x</b>					
<b>Gemma Marquez</b>	<b>x</b>					
<b>Rick Marquez</b>	<b>x</b>					
<b>MaryLeigh Roohan</b>	<b>x</b>					
<b>Total:</b>	<b>7</b>					

12. Update regarding Educational Firework EZine and collaboration with Avenue 50 Studio. (5 min)

**Public Comment:**

**Stakeholder...**

**MaryLeigh: brainstorming session with Joan Potter and Kathy of Avenue 50 Studio about different options for community involvement regarding**

firework prevention. We came up with a few ideas that include a wide range of community involvement

1. **Poster Contest:** Contest for High Schoolers make an anti-firework PSA poster - could have a cash prize, could showcase or print them to post around the neighborhood, online gallery, etc.
2. **Comic Book Workshop:** Middle Schoolers create their own anti-firework comic books. We could provide supplies and host a Zoom workshop taught by a local artist. We could post their work online or distribute physically.
3. **Coloring Book:** Commission artists in Highland Park to create pages for a coloring book for elementary school children to color - we could post their work or simply provide it for them as an activity.

Invests in arts, provides activities and channel for creativity for our neighborhood youth and sends a message to our stakeholders “we’re listening”

**Duncan:** What are the rules of contest hosting? Something to look into. Bookmark illustration contest - give them to the library?

**Rick:** When you do have these discussions and are narrowing the project down, the perpetrators do not fit the “idea.” They set them off because they know they get a reaction from people. Let’s not focus on just one group. Different demographics are important.

**Gemma:** Not just the old timers of our community. Some people assume it’s “certain types of people” and that is completely erroneous. I’m glad we’re tackling this from more angles

**Mary:** I like the comic book idea. Educational value and great pair to Bob Baker piece.

13. Discuss and brainstorm ways to support our unhoused neighbors. (10 min)

**Public Comment:**

**Stakeholder...**

**MaryLeigh:** Last meeting we discussed safe places to park and a mask drive. I started putting together a resource guide for folks and invited our homelessness liaison Sasha Rappaport and hoping to continue dialogue with him

**Gemma:** Within the last week - one of our former HHPNC board members brought a lot of attention to the homeless matter. It would be an advantage to us to bring her back to discuss and impart some knowledge. She’s

amazing. We need someone like her to help us. We can no longer ignore it. We have to be a part of the dialogue. Rose Serna.

Duncan: Was Rose Serna representing a group or non profit or was she just there as an individual?

Gemma: Just someone who knows.

Steve: Involved with LA Tenants Union (monthly meeting at Ave 50 studio)

Rick: Rose is a great resource. We need multiple solutions. Safe overnight parking. Our housing problem is not being solved and it is not going away. We need cheap and fast housing.

Duncan: Elections Committee - there will be a role for "Homelessness Director" in the future

Mary: Such a large issue - with Public Safety it might be helpful to find out more about how the police interact with our unhoused neighbors so we can better support those interactions from both sides.

Rosa: LASA - come into the community and are supposed to give unhoused people resources. Has called LASA and haven't shown up to help. Start a dialogue with LASHA and see what they do. The people who are supposed to be helping don't seem to be doing that. Rose was very good.

#### 14. New Business

**Public Comment:**

**Stakeholder...**

**MaryLeigh:** I'm in talks with Outreach committee about social media graphics that can be posted about how to report fireworks as well as how to report graffiti to get it removed.

**Rick:** Great format. As neighbors we can resolve things. Encourage the board members on this committee to share the positive results of this format.

**Gemma:** Air Traffic - happy to look into it. I want to be proactive. The goal is to put this on the agenda and begin contacting the folks who may know if this has changed.

**Duncan:** Elections Ad Hoc Committee - hoping to make this election feel different. How do we get more people involved? Something seems broken and it's nobody's fault except for the inaction of trying to fix it. Trying to

have town halls before every board meeting where people have time to speak.

Steve: Safety issue - five years reaching out. Eucalyptus trees branches are snapping off in the parks. Reach out to the city about this.

15. Adjournment

Gemma moves to adjourn the Public Safety meeting. Mary 2nd at 9:26

	For	Against	Abstain	Recused	Ineligible	Absent
Caroline Aguirre						x
Duncan Gregory	x					
Mary Allison	x					
Boo Caban						x
Brendan Cronshaw	x					
Steve Crouch	x					
Gemma Marquez	x					
Rick Marquez	x					
MaryLeigh Roohan	x					
Total:	7					