

Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council
 Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes
 10 February 2021 7:00 pm
 Location: Zoom

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Call to Order/Roll Call -

Time: 7:08

Committee Member	Present	Not Present
Caroline Aguirre		x
Duncan Gregory	x	
Mary Allison	x	
Boo Caban		x
Brendan Cronshaw	x	
Steve Crouch	x	
Emily Spokes	x	
MaryLeigh Roohan	x	
Total:	6	

2. Discussion and motion to approve agenda

Public Comment:

Emily moves to approve the agenda. Mary 2nd

7:10 Caroline Arrives

	For	Against	Abstain	Recused	Ineligible	Absent
Caroline Aguirre	x					

Duncan Gregory	x					
Mary Allison	x					
Boo Caban						x
Brendan Cronshaw	x					
Steve Crouch	x					
Emily Spokes	x					
MaryLeigh Roohan	x					
Total:	7					

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

Public Comment: none.

Mary moves to approve the minutes. Duncan 2nd

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

MaryLeigh Roohan	x					
Total:	6					

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:

MONICA: who can i talk to about a town hall

RICK: dense community - market rate for real estate is very high. Huge tax base in highland park reflects what we deserve - policing, fire safety, parks and rec. Fire department has not been upgraded, things are degraded and obsolete. We deserve more with this tax base. Especially with first responders, emergency crews. We’re looking for services.

Boo arrive 7:18

BRIAN: My area is a hot bed for crime. Police department change their tactics.

5. Report and discussion about increase in neighborhood violence with Bill Cody CD1 Field Deputy, Sarah Flaherty CD14 Field Deputy, SLO Mark Allen (NELA - Highland Park), SLO Lloyd Chang (NELA - Highland Park), SLO Camacho (Monterey Hills, Lincoln Heights, and Hermon), Captain Arturo Sandoval (Northeast Division Commanding Officer), Lieutenant John Cook (Officer In Charge of Northeast Gang Unit), and Neighborhood Prosecutor Gabrielle Taylor. (45 min)

EMILY: Offers resources for community involvement

MARK ALLEN: Since January 8 shootings - two resulted in homicide

ROSE: some of the recent victims have been unhoused people. Our unhoused community is very vulnerable. Easy targets for exploitation. What can we do to make sure the unhoused community has better protection?

Sarah CD14: Rose, you’re right. People who experience homelessness are much more likely to be victims of crime. Bridge housing on two sites was

motioned on Eagle Rock and Arroyo Drive. Working with Monica Alvarez, SELAH and doing our due diligence in housing these folks. What's happening on our streets is very real and urgent

TODD: Crime's always been an issue, but we've seen an increase in crime. What's the best way to effectively respond to crime and unhoused people?

Sarah: CD14 welcomes calls regarding unhoused people. Sleeping in public places is not inherently a crime. We want to get that person housed. Lean on your representatives.

Bill Cody: CD1 For crime get in touch with Northeast Police. 311 App is great if someone is sleeping on our property. Or you can contact me. SLO Mark Allen or SLO Lloyd Chang . Lots of ways to get in touch with us. This recent uptick has been scary but crime in Highland Park has gone down almost every year for twenty years.

Emily: LA Public Library has a homeless resource page. Social Services first.

Brian: Father lives in Garvanza. Problem is that these are kids and they are known to the police. I've seen beat cops chase kids into my building. Where are we going to be able to notify somebody that activity is happening? What is the plan for the police to do their job?

Felipe: One of the problems is not LAPD but the laws. Kids are getting arrested for gun violations and are letting them go right away. LAPD is frustrated but because of the laws are required to release them.

Gabrielle Taylor: If you're seeing an area that has gang activity, tell your SLO or myself. Attorneys take action against the buildings owners. If things aren't reported, we won't know. If it's not a crime, you can't call 911 but you can email us with a concern. You can report things online. The problem is a lot of things are unreported.

Tina Padilla: Breaking through Barriers to Success - gang intervention program. We work with youth and young adults who might fit our program. If anyone here is interested in learning about the services we offer. We'd be happy to do a presentation and work with your community.

Diane: Language about how scary it is to go into other areas of our community and the way we're talking about our children can be offensive. Alternatives to police and public safety.

Gemma: Still have yet to hear of some sort of plan. What is the viable plan? Bring the social services.

Captain Sandoval: Things are bad in Highland Park and the entire city right now. There's been a reduction in our budget but that has not affected our response to this crime. Northeast Officers are out there. Recovered fourteen guns total year to date. We support youth programs. We have an

issue with our criminal justice system. We are arresting individuals and they are being released in a day. Gang members are being released and returning to their neighborhoods. We as a community need to educate ourselves on the cost of change. Highland Park has accounted for a third of our shootings (NE). Everything we do is with public safety in mind.

Emily: Thank you for your service. Gun legislation is a part of this as well. Community policing. All of these parts work together. Educate yourself.

Justin: Occidental Weekly. Any statistical evidence regarding the uptick in crime? What do stakeholders think this is the reason for the uptick?

Sarah Flaherty : reach out to me or anyone on this call. Happy to pass along the data to you.

Karen: spouse was murdered on the 110 Freeway North and the Avenue 60 exit. Now there have been three murders in that location. Can someone put a camera in that area?

Sarah: We're reaching out to our partners and recs and parks to see how we can make this area safer.

Rick Stabile: Captain at Hollenbeck Division - in the community there are no borders. My sympathies to you. Ongoing investigations and I have to be very careful. Many of these crimes have been categorized as gang related. We reached out to CD1 and GRID - we asked them to clean up the memorial mitigate the risk of another murder. The plan: every single day we look at every single crime report. We have a finite number of resources and we move resources daily to address crime areas. Come to the police station and let me take you to some homeless encampments. What's driving the crime in your community is gang violence and narcotics. As a community we need to ask ourselves the question, "is there consequences for that?"

Emily: Moms Demand Action

Boo: Neighborhood council can vote to get a camera.

Bill: Talked to Cpt. Stabile - camera is a good idea. Lighting might be better than a camera. These are things we think about every day. Trying to get liquor stores to have different hours. Our hearts go out to you and I know both Captains are working in that area.

Monica: If you want to talk to me about previous things done on the board. I also know about the unhoused. Yes we are seeing a rise in homelessness and crime because people are losing their jobs and are getting desperate. Kids need something to do. I feel safe in Highland Park. I will be there to help you guys.

Rick: We have a drug house that LAPD is aware of and they're controlled by the Highland Park gang. These gangs have turf wars. Drugs are huge in Highland Park. There is a night time economy.

Caroline: Capt Sandoval was correct. By the time arrest reports are signed and reviewed, these people are out of custody. Arnold Aguirre murdered at South Ave 60. LAPD needs to find the relationship between all the murders at Ave 60. Glendale PD was involved in a pursuit. Can it be related to any of these crimes? There's been an increase in crime. This was predictable. California Penal Code: 667.5. Look at the laws we need to change them. LAPD you need to get smart.

Joey: Came to this meeting because the uptick in crime. Decrease in crime has been appreciated and we've noticed it going up this year. I came to hear about how we can get involved. Appreciate the outreach.

Brooke: Two and half weeks ago my car was stolen from in front of my house. I have video and made a call to the police department trying to offer that, and I left a message and I never got a call back. It was very disheartening. I'm trying to give what I have, so how would I go about getting that video to the police?

Sandoval: stolen cars are through the roof. Send an email to Mark Allen.

Tatiana: I'm hearing the community coming together. What I'm not hearing from the police officers is what are we doing differently than we were a year ago?

Sandoval: Officers are not doing anything differently. People are being arrested and released. There's not accountability for criminal behavior.

Stabile: I hear the frustration. Come to my station to see what we are doing. It's a much bigger picture. We arrested a gang member with an AK47 and he was released. 9 people murdered this year. 0 at this time last year. "What are you doing about this?" Is a very simple way of looking at this.

Scott: Board - you're here to hear our voices. How do we as a community appropriately communicate the crimes we're seeing? Been on hold for 45 minutes for a non-emergency number. How can we do to get information to the police?

Sandoval: Senior Lead Officers will hear your information.

Amanda: SLO Chang and SLO Allen are amazing and the Captain is very responsive. LAPD is not their fault. Laws have to change.

Clara: Strong community and neighbors help. Drugs are a big problem. Pandemic makes sense there is more crime. Coming together helps problems.

SLO Allen: Now we're in the world of social media - most neighbors are communicating via nextdoor so we rarely get groups who actually meet for neighborhood watches. Those neighborhood watches are still meeting and communicating with us, which is very helpful.

Sarah cd14: Building community is how we keep our neighborhoods safe.

Felipe: As an ex-drug addict and gang leader, we can all make a difference in our community. Don't be afraid to breathe hope into our community.

Emily: It could take a lifetime to unpack this work and so many of these issues. I'm hoping you're serious Officer Stabile on coming to your office. How can we do that?

Stabile: 26260@lapd.online - I would love to go over the data with everyone on what crimes are occurring and a deep dive into what's happening at these homeless encampments. Zoom meetings are not reality and I want everyone to talk with the folks. Email me and we can talk about how many police cars I'm running. How many calls for service. What do we want to do as a community?

Bill Cody: CD1 Great hearing from the community tonight. Who do I contact? Get the 311 App for Graffiti, bulky items. Reach out to LAPD - the information is available on HPNC's website. We have amazing SLOs. They know what's going on in the neighborhood and they know the community.

Alice Roth: Thank you for having this meeting. Area Director for Kevin De Leon CD14 - staff is available via email and phone. We'd love to work more with NCs. Communicating is key.

Sandoval: 27250@lapd.online

6. Presentation from Sasha Rappaport on ways to support our unhoused neighbors (10 min)

Sasha: Council passed an NPG that provides funds for SELAH. This organization does direct outreach to the unhoused. That money will be used for weekly food and hygiene kits to the unhoused across Highland Park. Main purpose is to establish relationships and create a longterm program that will connect unhoused community members with service providers and permanent housing. If you're interested in participating, there is a rigorous training program but you can volunteer to do this work. We just restarted the Ad-Hoc committee for renters, unhoused and WHAT?! To work to bring the voices of the unhoused into the neighborhood council. We will also be determining which legislation supports our unhoused and housing insecure is supportive of these stakeholders. We're looking to collaborate and support the most vulnerable in our community. SELAHNHC.ORG - for training and volunteering

Monica: Someone from the neighborhood council reached out to me about the unhoused community and I am happy to help. I can send an email to our volunteers to support your efforts.

Rosa: do you accept donations for SELAH? Especially clothing?

Sasha: SELAH does have an items and money donation on their website. In conjunction with that, that's some of the effort we would want to start - how do we set up donations for Highland Park? We're taking ideas. Unfortunately, it's complicated to find storage but we've been reaching out to churches and they have been supportive.

Duncan: This is so awesome and necessary. We're coming up on an election year. Let's keep this going and not skip a beat.

7. Presentation and possible motion to approve CIS to oppose of Council File #20-0190. (5 min)

Sasha: Motion put forward almost a year ago to arm Park Rangers to "deal with" the unhoused living in parks. The solution is not more firearms in those places. It makes it dangerous for everyone.

Scott: I support the motion. Maybe change the letter to emphasize how there are better solutions. Turn the temperature down on that.

Brian: I echo what the other community members say about the language. Law enforcement need protection.

Rick: Whenever you do a CIS, you have the opportunity to voice your concern. We should stress that our parks are in disrepair. Instead of making it a penitentiary with armed guards, we should ask for improvements. NC needs to voice up. Parks are the first step in getting kids out of gangs and into something else. Advocate for resources.

Monica: I don't think it's the right thing to give Park Rangers guns. Being homeless is not a crime. They are vulnerable to gang members and crime

Duncan: What is the timeline for this? How long do we have to amend this letter? Is it worth having a Park Ranger come to the meeting?

Sasha: Motion was put forward a year ago almost to the day and it's been sitting. No date to vote at this point. Still looking into it.

Mary: I support the letter as it is. I think it's important to oppose this because our unhoused neighbors are our stakeholders too. Being approached with force escalates the situation for mental illness. This is not the right approach for this type of situation.

Emily moves to vote. Mary 2nd

	For	Against	Abstain	Recused	Ineligible	Absent
Caroline Aguirre						x
Duncan Gregory	x					
Mary Allison	x					
Boo Caban						x
Brendan Cronshaw	x					
Steve Crouch	x					x
Emily Spokes	x					
MaryLeigh Roohan	x					
Total:	5					

8. New Business

Public Comment:

Stakeholder...

Emily Spokes: Invite other folks to do a town hall without the police as well. Anti-racism work - let's attack it from every way we know. Let's approach tonight's conversation from a programs and resource approach. Maybe a workshop or a presentation.

Mary Allison : Address COVID 19 in our community. Vaccination site. Getting a vaccine is difficult.

Rosa: Thank you!

9. Adjournment

Emily moves to adjourn the Public Safety meeting. Mary 2nd at 9:36

	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						
Emily	x					
MaryLeigh Roohan	x					
Total:	5					