

# HARBOR ALLIANCE OF NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS

## NOTES

SEPTEMBER 4 2013

CHAIR: DAVE BEHAR, COASTAL SAN PEDRO

ATTENDANCE: Central San Pedro: Allyson Vought, Carrie Scoville; Coastal San Pedro: Dave Behar, Bob Gelfand; Harbor City: Greg Donnan; Harbor Gateway North: Rosalie Preston, Delores Allmond, Lu Watson, Kreston Jordan; Harbor Gateway South: Miguel Cordova, Katy Carlson; Northwest San Pedro: Diana Nave; Wilmington: Socorro Fimbres; Other: Adreeiane Roy (Nextdoor), Konstantin Hatcher (Nextdoor), Doug Epperhart, Stephen Box (Empower LA), Jose Galdamez (Empower LA), Joseph Martinez (LAUSD District 7), Gary Goelitz (Matrix Consulting), Tyler Munhall (CAO's Office); Adrienne O'Niell; Jacob Haik (CD 15), Bill Loiterman (LA Harbor College)

### **PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

**Tyler Munhall, CAO, (213-978-3028) [tyler.munhall@lacity.org](mailto:tyler.munhall@lacity.org)**

**Gary Goelitz, Matrix Consulting, (650-868-2218) [ggoelitz@matrixcq.net](mailto:ggoelitz@matrixcq.net)**

City Council approved the creation of a new department to be effective January 1, 2014 that would incorporate all of the current Planning and Building and Safety Departments and the Plan Check Sections of Transportation, Fire, and Engineering. The CAO's Office was charged with the logistics of creating this new Department. They in turn contracted with Matrix Consulting (Gary Goelitz) to get community feedback.

Gary has been meeting with developers, architects, etc and now has begun meeting with Neighborhood Councils including doing a workshop at the Congress of NCs. By the end of the week they anticipate an on-line survey will be available. A link to the survey and an update on actions will be in Friday's e-blast from DONE. They also circulated sign up sheets for folks who want to be notified as various steps occur.

The merger would involve approximately 1100 staff currently scattered at a number of sites. Matrix's charge it to look at how the new department should be organized and to analyze and recommend improvement in the myriad of current development related processes and technology. Their draft proposal is due Sept 20 with a final due to Council on Oct 4. Gary pointed out that the order to create the new department came from the prior Mayor and a very different Council than now exists.

## FEEDBACK WITH RESPONSES FROM GARY

- Development Department is a poor choice of names - sounds pro development and does not reflect the need for planning (Response - Long Beach calls their similar Dept - Planning, Building, and Code Enforcement)
- Request that Council slow down the process - this is too important and complex to rush by Jan 1
- Suggest geographic based teams (Response: this is intent)
- Need adequate time for community input on significant developments
- City should not mandate codes stricter than those required by state
- Staff at public counters don't always have needed expertise (Response DBS staff receive State Mandated Training and are actually better at public service than many of the other City Dept staff)
- Need to shorten time to get approval for minor changes (R- this is one of the goals;)
- Inspectors don't always agree & different inspectors see different problems - suggest each project have only one inspector from beginning to end
- How will this new Dept work with the new Dept of Economic Development especially as relates to former CRA initiatives - (R- Consultant is recommending that the CRA projects be transferred to the new "Development/Planning" Dept along with the funding for that function)
- Need Stricter Code Enforcement (R - due to City budget, staff has been cut by 50% so with the exception of CSBG areas, the only enforcement is in response to complaints; current response time is an unacceptably high 20 days, however without increased staff it is not realistic to expect a change)
- Concern about corruption & bribes (Response - DBS now has a investigator focused on this and it seems to have cleaned up considerably)
- LA previously charged less for permits for homeowners wh were doing their own work - this should be restored (R- unfortunately Prop 13 and City Budget shortfall make this no longer viable)

### Other Comments from Gary

Many permits are now available online saving trips to city hall  
LA has largest DBS in the country with over 800 employees  
Need to balance quality with quantity in DBS

### NEXT STEPS

- Survey out Friday
- Budget & Finance Committee Monday
- PLUM - TBD
- City Council - TBD
- Status reports available on CAO website under Development Services along with FAQ and place to provide feedback, ask questions, subscribe to notifications

## **PROPOSED FORUMS WITH CITY ATTORNEY, CITY CONTROLLER, AND COUNCILMAN**

The City Attorney selected Oct 3 for the Forum. Location TBD although talks are underway with Harbor College. Will most likely not be combined with City Controller and Councilman. One suggestion was that HANC consider sponsoring forums with public officials on a regular basis e.g. every 2 months. Referred back to Committee for further planning and action.

## **NOTIFICATION MOTION**

Doug suggested that the NCS consider supporting a motion similar to the one passed by BONC asking the Mayor and City Council to look at establishing criteria for actions that are significant enough that NCs should be given at least 60 days notice. He will draft something to send out to members along with the motion from BONC - Place on Next Months Agenda

## **DONE UPDATE - STEPHEN BOX**

- Congress of NCs is Sept 28; there will be 36 workshops
- Empower LA Newsletter comes out every Friday and includes a Council File Hot Sheet; last week it included information on how to sign up for Council Referral
- Elections are rapidly approaching; there will be a workshop at the Congress
- Outreach, important to elections, will be topic at workshop
- Stephen Shared handout, Road to empowerment, commented that NCs should all have liasons to DWP, City Attorney, Planning, and a designated person for Outreach and Community Impact Statements
- Introduces Nextdoor, a company that DONE is working with to support NCs
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## **NEXTDOOR - Konstantin Hatcher 424-258-0886**

www.nextdoor.com is a hyperlocal community network designed to be created at a very local level where neighbors can communicate with each other. Neighborhoods define themselves. DONE is working with Nextdoor to superimpose the NC boundary lines and the LAPD districts with the Senior Lead Officers. Field organizers hwlp determine the boundaries with about 1,000 households being an ideal size. Neighborhood Watch groups could be a consideration in developing boundaries. The company is a private company with financing from a number of places. Currently they are not looking to produce revenue and do not sell ads. Neighbors could, however, create a local classified ads section. Each neighborhood needs to populate its own data base. This could be done by sending postcards to everyone in

your neighborhood. None of the info shared on nextdoor is available on search engines or with advertisers. Similar models may already be in use by some NCs.

### **NC Supported Public Safety/Neighborhood Watch Initiatives**

In one area in Coastal San Pedro, Neighbors got together, had a big block party, and purchased and installed security cameras; ncs may want to encourage other areas to follow this approach

Other NCs have looked at purchasing security cameras for public uses; technology and use is greatly improved (and cheaper than the old QSTAR cameras).

There is a lot of pre-existing safety structure that NCs should be aware of when they undertake public safety projects - eg look to see where Block Captains and Community Watch programs already exist and seek to fill the gaps.

Suggest notifying residents of the availability of the crime maps

Suggest sharing list of committees and chairs of all HANC members

### **SHARING, ETC**

- DONE mentor at Central was disruptive to the meeting and "blew it up" (Carrie) This may not reflect feeling of entire board (Allyson) - Stephen will follow up
- Patty Castellanos has been named to the Harbor Commission to replace Robin Kramer
- BONC - Q regarding conflict of interest for Victor - how is this different DC that what happened with Doug (Carrie), Doug resigned due to the number of votes from which he would need to recuse himself; Conflicts are determined by the City Attorney's office
- Some of the funding guidelines don't make sense - Stephen indicated that some NCs may be interpreting them stricter than intended - Stephen will follow up
- Adrienne will be on the DWP NC Committee and offered to provide reports at the HANC Mtg - group said yes
- Sept 21 - Heal the Bay Event at Harbor Regional Park - food, games, etc, 10-1
- Mural Ordinance on Sept 12 City Council agenda - should to be changed to have an opt in clause rather than opt out (Lu)
- Oct. 17 LA Harbor College will dedicate their new Science Bldg; Councilman is speaker 9:30-10:30 am
- Councilman was appointed by Mayor to AQMD so send him your concerns

- If you want the Councilmember to speak at an NC Mtg just submit a request (Jacob)
- NC President's Mtg with Councilman - Sept 30
- Councilman is still looking for input on Street Bond Issue - expect to be on ballon Nov 2014
- State legislation lowered threshold on bond measures from 65% to 55%
- Bob Gelfend and others will conduct a workshop on Thinking Outside of the Box: Gaining real political power at the Congress
- Let the Congresswoman & US Senators know how you feel about Syria (Doug)
- New Field Deputy for Dr Vladavic: Joseph Martinez (323) 868-7994 joseph.j.martinez@lausd.net

**NEXT MEETING - OCTOBER 2, HARBOR CITY TO CHAIR, HARBOR GATEWAY NORTH TO TAKE NOTES**

DRAFT