

Harbor Alliance of Neighborhood Councils
Meeting Notes – December 2, 2015
Kaiser Permanente Conference Center
Greg Donnan, Harbor City NC, Chair

Attendees: Central San Pedro – Frank Anderson, Alexander Hall, James Preston Allen, Coastal San Pedro – James Dimon, James Baeza, Harbor City – Greg Donnan, Grant Reed, Harbor Gateway North – Rosalie Preston, Joan Jacobs, Lu Watson, Harbor Gateway South – Katy Carlson, Northwest San Pedro – Diana Nave, Ray Regalado,

Others: Councilmember Joe Buscaino (CD 15), Jacob Haik (CD 15), Ryan Ferguson (CD 15), Manny Lopez (Mayor's Office), Josh LaFarga (Board of Neighborhood Commissioners), Octaviano Rios (Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment), Kristina Smith (DONE Elections Division), Stakeholders: Linda Alexander, Sunny Lopez, Dave Behar, Olive Reed, Daina Mosich

Discussion with Councilman Joe Buscaino: The Councilmember said that he had made a commitment to visit every Neighborhood Council within CD 15 this year and has achieved that goal. He noted that he also meets with the Neighborhood Council Presidents on a quarterly basis. He thanked the Neighborhood Councils for all that they do, functioning as the eyes and ears of their respective communities and advocating for an improved quality of life in their neighborhoods.

He said that in regards to the status of Cabrillo Beach Youth Waterfront Sports Center and the lease to the Boy Scouts or other community group, the Request for Proposal is currently under review by the City Attorney because of concerns raised by San Pedro Neighborhood Councils.

He referred to the Homeless Forum which he convened on September 3 at the Warner Grand Theatre and which brought more than 1,000 people. At that time he presented his 8-point plan to address the homelessness issue and gave an update on progress: 1) there has been an increase to the LAHSA Emergency response teams, which now number six outreach teams, plus the addition of a two-member Mental Health street team to work with the homeless population throughout CD 15. This team was funded with support from L.A. County Supervisor Don Knabe. With these measures, 79 individuals have now been housed. 2) LAPD added a foot patrol in addition to the quality of life patrol car for downtown San Pedro. 3) He sent a letter to all of the mayors from the South Bay requesting their commitment to working for more services and housing. Councilmember Buscaino is on the South Bay COG (Council of Governments) and at his urging they created a special committee on homelessness which he chairs. PATH Partners has been given a \$500,000 grant from Los Angeles County to put homeless response teams on the street. 4) The Councilmember agrees that permanent supportive housing is the way to solve homelessness. CD 15 has 311 supportive housing units built or in the works, including the Vermont Villas, Blue Butterfly Village, 127th Street Apartments, and El Segundo Apartments. 5) He created the San Pedro Community Homelessness Taskforce co-chaired by Ray Regalado. Their first task will be coordinating the various public feedings for homeless people. Task Forces have also been formed in Wilmington and Harbor City. 6) Clean ups of homeless encampments are continuing from Harbor Gateway North to San Pedro. The City Council has just voted to decrease the mandatory time between citation and clean up from 72 hours to 24 hours. Tents cannot be erected between 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. A lot of criminal activity happens within the encampments,

such as domestic violence and drug dealing. 7) The Councilmember supports Mayor Garcetti and the City Council in identifying the current situation as a shelter crisis emergency. The City of Los Angeles established a \$100 million fund. The County of Los Angeles has also agreed to match funding for permanent housing. 8) Support for the services of the Harbor Interfaith Council. A significant amount of money has been raised for these services since the Homeless Forum via the Go Fund Me campaign.

- In regards to the Metro Express lanes on the 110 Harbor Freeway, the toll lanes have actually generated a lot of revenue. Ways to spend these revenues will be discussed at a Metro meeting on Mon. December 14 from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Metro will release an RFP in February. The Silverline bus service is going to be extended to San Pedro, with more frequent departure and return times.
- Some Neighborhood Councils have concerns about the negotiations with the Port of L.A. over the China Shipping settlement. The Port meets regularly with the Neighborhood Council presidents. Councilman Buscaino meets on a monthly basis with Executive Director Gene Seroka. He will encourage the Port to meet all of the China Shipping benchmarks and knows that Gene supports this also.
- On the illegal dumping issue, the City Council has put additional funding into the Clean Streets Initiative. Additionally Team Buscaino comes out to clean specific areas throughout CD 15. From January to October, Clean Streets removed 440.93 tons of trash. The Dept. of Sanitation has picked up 641 tons of bulky items. CD 15 is working with Siemens to utilize cameras in the Harbor Gateway and Watts areas to discourage illegal dumping. Rather than the LAPD, Siemens would monitor the cameras to determine when illegal dumping occurs. This would be a pilot program.
- For new and existing businesses, Ana Dragin and David Roberts have created a One Stop Shop to assist new businesses to get through the many layers of City regulations. The Harbor Business Source Center also provides support. Ray Chan, General Manager for the Dept. of Building and Safety, has created a new Hospitality Unit to expedite restaurant openings. Brouwerij West and two new restaurants (one in Watts and one in San Pedro) will be opening soon. The City's gross receipts tax needs to be lowered so that Los Angeles is more competitive with nearby cities in attracting new businesses.
- The Harbor Division jail reopening will happen once more new detention officers are trained. There are two other LAPD Divisions in the Valley without open jails. Councilman Buscaino appreciates that HANC raised the issue. He is advocating that Harbor should be the next one opened but that may still be a couple of years away.
- The Councilman is aware that LAPD response times are slow after crimes are reported to them. LAPD has shifted resources to higher crime areas. However it is true that lately there have been a lot more property crimes than violent crimes. The Councilman has introduced a motion asking LAPD to report back on how they balance protecting property with violent crime.
- One-third of City streets are in a failed condition and 40% of City sidewalks need replacing. To repair the City sidewalks, the City will be spending \$31 million a year for 30 years as part of a lawsuit settlement. The Councilman would like to also see a bond issue so that the timeframe is reduced to 15 years. Per State law, it is the property owner's responsibility to repair the sidewalks in front of their property. The tree canopy also needs to be preserved. For this project, an EIR will be required and that will take 18 months to two years to complete. In the meantime, as the Chair of the Public Works Committee, Councilman Buscaino would like to see a new 50-50

program. The priority will be sidewalks in front of public buildings. He is also looking at some type of incentive program similar to the lawn replacement program of the DWP.

- There has not yet been a report back on the resources needed to create a Safe Parking program for RV's of the homeless. He anticipates that this will be an "opt in" program.
- Has Proposition 47 led to an increase in crime? Councilman Buscaino would like to see more of the money saved by not using jails put into community services.
- Will Neighborhood Councils be involved in prioritizing sidewalk repairs? Councilman Buscaino says they will be.
- Who do NC's contact about homeless issues in their areas? Call Nicole Wells and she will mobilize the street teams.
- There should be another community meeting before the plan for a renovated Ports O' Call is presented. Councilman Buscaino said that there will soon be a ground-breaking for the renovation.
- When will the Clean Harbor Gateway be set up? The Councilman said that Clean Watts covers the Harbor Gateway area, so give CD 15 a call on the locations that need clean up and Beacon House or GAP will be sent out. Lu Watson from Harbor Gateway noted that Harbor Gateway needs a unit all for its own and the Councilman promised to create one.
- What about providing jobs for the homeless as some other cities are doing? The Homeless Task Force is looking into this.
- Communication from NC's to City Departments—CD15 needs to work with us on getting the Departments to be more responsive, such as the Port of Los Angeles. Councilman Buscaino suggested a half-day retreat. He also noted that he looks for Community Impact Statements on issues he will be voting on and has seen that the Harbor Area NC's file very few of them.
- What about using the Armory on 15th Street as a temporary shelter during the upcoming wet weather? It is being looked into.
- The Councilman left to attend his daughter's ballet rehearsal. Deputy Chief of Staff Jacob Haik stayed to answer other questions. Porn shops and pot shops—how to reduce them? Porn shops are a legitimate use in the commercial zone and can open by right. Nearly all of the medical marijuana stops in CD 15 are illegal under Proposition D as they were not on the original list. The pot shops are being shut down, sometimes
- by citing the owners of the property and sometimes by cutting off the electricity. As pot shops pop up, notify both the council office and your senior lead officer.
- In regards to Port O' Call, will there be a public meeting before or after the lease is signed? Jacob said it would be after the lease is signed.
- Is there any progress in opening Sobriety Centers to address one aspect of the homeless problem? The Councilman is working with South Bay COG on this.

Consider motion re: proposed sign ordinance: Diana Nave of Northwest San Pedro read over the proposed motion regarding the Sign Ordinance which would support the Planning Commission's stronger version and request that the Port of L.A. and downtown San Pedro be removed as qualifying for Sign District status. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by James Dimon, and passed 5-0-1 (Northwest San Pedro abstaining until after their board vote) to support the motion. Lu Watson encouraged all HANC

members to agendize this issue and file Community Impact Statements in support of this position.

Mayor's Office Update: Manny Lopez said that the City of Los Angeles had reduced its greenhouse gas emissions between 1990 and 2013 by 20%. The Mayor is raising funds to help house the formerly homeless. The U.S. Navy will hold its 2016 Fleet Week in Los Angeles in late summer of next year, an event expected to bring 15,000 sailors and many visitors to the Harbor Area. The Mayor has launched a program with LAUSD to provide support for the students of military families. The Fire Department is providing 200,000 sandbags via a call to 311, in preparation for the El Nino rains. On Mon. December 7 there will be a second CD 15 presentation on how to prepare for El Nino at the Normandale Recreation Center from 6-7 p.m. In the 2015 homeless count the number of veterans nearly doubled from the 2014 count. The Mayor has set a new goal of eliminating veteran homeless by Summer 2016. The City has identified \$13 million towards the \$100 million for reducing homelessness. The Mayor is working to identify the rest in the 2016-2017 budget. Manny will find out where the \$13 million is coming from.

DONE update: Octaviano Rios suggested that the Public Works Liaisons work to have their Councils support File No. 14-0163-S4 the "Comprehensive City Sidewalk". DONE is considering offering CIS training in the Harbor area. There will be four Election workshops in December and two Funding workshops.

Kristina Smith introduced herself as the Region 12 Independent Election Administrator. Her e-mail is Kristina@empowerla.org and her telephone numbers are 310-514-1797 work and 310-918-8650 cell. The online voter registration portal is now active: empowerla.org/vrp. The IEA's will have tablets for field registrations. Each election site will have a poll manager, a poll assistant, and two poll workers provided by DONE. Kristina needs each Council's budget and marketing plan for the elections. If a Council cannot find a volunteer Election Chair, DONE can provide an Election Manager at a cost of \$2,000. Measureable goals need to be set for the elections. Ask your NPG grantees to help promote your election and ask if they can advertise the election to their database and put notices on their website and in their newsletters. Each NC should do two full mailings to stakeholders during the election cycle. Use some type of PR every week about your elections. Consider lawn signs, as they are effective. Put the election links on your website.

Budget Advocate selection: Since Joan Jacobs has resigned as the third Budget Advocate for the Harbor Area, a new BA is needed. Harbor City might have a candidate. Alexander Hall of Central San Pedro also might be interested. This will be put on the January agenda.

Sharing:

- Northwest San Pedro is supporting the Candy Cane Lanes on Fri. December 4 from 5-9 p.m. at Weymouth Corners.
- Diana Nave will follow up on the half-day retreat with Councilman Buscaino and HANC on better communications with various City Departments.
- El Nino preparations on December 7 at Normandale Recreation Center, 6-7 p.m.
- Coastal San Pedro will hold its Homeless Task Force meeting on Wed. December 9 from 6:30-9 p.m. at Olguin Campus of San Pedro High School.

- Northwest San Pedro has set the date for the next Pathways to Employment for Youth event for May 14.

NEXT MEETING: January 6

Notes taken by Rosalie Preston – Harbor Gateway North

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