

Harbor Alliance of Neighborhood Councils
Meeting Notes – March 4, 2015
Kaiser Permanente Conference Center
Frank Anderson, Central San Pedro, Chair

Attendees: Central San Pedro: Frank Anderson, Coastal San Pedro: James Dimon, James Baeza, Harbor City: Greg Donnan, Grant Reed, Olive Reed, Harbor Gateway North: Rosalie Preston, Lu Watson Harbor Gateway South: No one, Northwest San Pedro: Diana Nave

Others: Grayce Liu & Thomas Soong (DONE), Octaviano Rios (Mayor's Office) John Stinson (San Pedro Arts Association), Linda Alexander

LAPD Harbor Division Staffing and Safety

James Diamon initiated a discussion regarding the need to open the jail at the Harbor Division and circulated a letter of support for this position from Councilman Buscaino. The new facility cost taxpayers \$40 million yet it has never been put into use. Instead, each arrest results in two officers transporting arrestees to downtown LA, taking them off of patrolling the Streets for approximately 4 hours each. In addition, under Bratton, 30 officers were transferred out of the Harbor Division. We have seen an increase in quality of life issues – tagging, car burglaries, purse snatchings, etc and in general folks feel less safe than previously.

Linda Alexander reported that she previously met with LAPD commanders. This issue is larger than the Harbor Division and has budget ramifications. Of the 8 jails, 5 are currently closed including some in communities further away than San Pedro.

Rosalie indicated that Harbor Gateway North is part of the Southeast Division and they have a similar situation. She asked why when the number of officers increased under Villaraigosa we did not see an increase in the number of patrols. She thinks it has to do with the priorities of the department.

Olive indicated she previously met with the LAPD regarding opening the jail and was told that it would take 78 officers to staff it. This is in part because there are medical facilities, a food court, and separate facilities for men and women. One of the reasons it take them so long is the fact that LAPD officers are not allowed to use the fast lane unless they are using their lights and sirens.

One concern is where the funds would come from and what impact it would have on the overall level of deployment. James Dimon stated that if this was a pet project of one of the Council Members, they would find the money. The redirection of funds needed to clean up from tagging might more than pay for it?

Another concern raised was that LAPD officers are assigned to handle events that should be using private security.

It was moved, seconded and carried unanimously that HANC support Joe's efforts to get the jail staffed and opened. Letter to be prepared by James and Diana.

It was moved and seconded and passed unanimously that HANC invite the appropriate LAPD Commanders, the Council Office, LAPD, at a minimum, all Neighborhood Council Board Members to discuss this issue at the April HANC meeting. Linda Alexander will invite the commanders and the councilman, draft an announcement for distribution, and prepare a press release. Greg will invite LAPD. Diana will ask Katy Carlson if we can reserve the larger room.

It was recommended that everyone prepare questions and send them to Linda Alexander. In addition it was suggested that we try to have informal conversations with current and/or former LAPD officers who might be helpful in framing those questions.

The City Budget is being discussed right now so it is important to have immediate input and this should be raised at the Mayor's Budget Day tentatively scheduled for March 28.

DONE Report:

Funding: Tom announced the Ethics and Funding Training on March 23. Grayce said that 24 NCs are late on their financial reports.. DONE is now working with some of these NCs and will be charging the NC for their services. DONE has asked the controller if they can accept scanned copies of the expenditure reports rather than requiring NCs to submit originals. They have also asked the controller if they can allow NCs to use their funds through June for events scheduled to occur in July and August. In response to a question regarding Neighborhood Purpose Grants it was clarified that they can be funded in one year even if the actual service crosses into the next fiscal year.

Code of Conduct: The Code of Conduct was the result of a sexual harassment suit in the Valley. Councilwoman Nury Martinez introduced a motion mandating training for all Neighborhood Council Members. There were a lot of objections to this and BONC worked out a compromise, the Code of Conduct form. A list of who has signed it is now available on line. Some people objected to signing the form so DONE developed a 7-minute video is now available. For those who prefer they can view the video and send an e-mail to Grayce stating that they have done so. BONC set a deadline of April 3 for complying after which time those who had not either taken the training or signed the code would not be allowed to vote on fiscal matters. In response to questions as to whether or not the City has the authority to do this, Grayce indicated that she has asked City Attorney for a written opinion. A closely related issue is what happens when a Board Member violates the Code of Conduct and whether or not BONC/DONE have the authority to remove a Board Member.

Grievance Policy and Election Challenges: The Ordinance to adopt the development of Regional Panels to hear grievances and election challenges (after NCs are given the opportunity to resolve them) has been approved by the Neighborhood and Education Committee and should be considered soon by City Council.

Staff Responsiveness: Grayce indicated that only 18 of the 26 staff positions are currently filled. They have implemented a case management system to respond to

inquiries and a policy of responding within 2 working days. If you submit a request and do not receive a case number be sure to ask for one. This is how requests are being tracked and it also allows the Dept to measure response time. They will be developing a customer experience survey.

NC Elections: Grayce distributed two bulletins: Neighborhood Council Voting Facts and 2016 Online Voting Facts. The first one deals with votes by the Board and the second with the selection of Everyone Counts as the proposed online voting vendor for the 2016 elections. She indicated that this option would not be charged to individual NCs, but rather unspent funds from prior year NC allocations would be used. Would not apply to NCs using a Selection Process

Other:

- Website RFQ – 10 vendors qualified to do websites and NCs are required to use one of them; Kristina Smith is on the qualified list
- RFQ for Temporary Services will be out soon and Kristina will need to qualify in order to continue providing administrative services
- Civic University/Pat Brown Institute will be held in April. Each NC is asked to send 1 man and 1 woman. They must commit to attend all three nights. Participants will be grouped by region to work on projects which may extend beyond the training and may receive support from appropriate City Departments
- According to the State Attorney General, for reporting requirement purposes, Neighborhood Council Members do not fall into the same category as City Council members. Based on this, the City Council previously exempted NC Board Members from the Conflict of Interest filing forms.
- Although the Charter does not discuss the BONC developing policy, this power was given to them by ordinance (can be changed by ordinance).

Mayor's Office Update:

- Octaviano solicited input for the Mayor's Task Force to Improve LA's Waterfront (11 Dept Heads)
- Mayor has released two new apps
 - LAMobile– lets riders buy bus tickets on their smartphones for LADOT operated DASH and Commuter Express buses
 - PulsePoint registers people with CPR training will be alerted if someone nearby needs help potentially reducing the time before CPR begins, potentially saving lives
- Civic University provides great networking opportunities

Budget Advocate Update: Joan Jacobs reported that the advocates focused on finishing their 65 page white paper that was given to the Mayor and Rick Cole. The feedback from Rick was that it contained better recommendations than previous years. There is a \$165 million shortfall.

Mayor's focus is on reducing crime and making LA a World Class City – decreasing homelessness, increasing affordable housing, improving basic infrastructure, improving economic opportunities, and listening to residents and empowering them.

The Budget Advocates are asking each NC for \$1,000 this year. The funds are used to put on the regional budget day, general operational supplies, and to pay for the radio shows to educate the community on the Budget and the Budget Advocates.

Budget Day is tentatively scheduled for March 28. It will be by remote connections to the Mayor and most likely the San Pedro Municipal Building will be one of the sites.

Sharing:

- Rosalie will be forwarding copies of the Above Ground Facilities (cell towers) Ordinance
- Open House of the Jail – March 21 from 1-6 pm. Roll Call is either 4 or 4:30.
- San Pedro Art Assn is going to be requesting funds from all Harbor Area NCs for a Harbor wide Student Art Competition. 100 works will be selected, framed, and shown for 3 months at Crafted. The 100 students also receive travelling art sets. Opening reception is June 8
- Craig is still interested in developing a Regional Budget Day – wants each NC to give him the contact info of their budget reps
- The Defense Fuel Supply Point on N. Gaffey is closing. There will be a public meeting (scoping for the required environmental review) on Wed. March 18 at the Crown Plaza in San Pedro
- The Blue Butterfly Village (previously called Navy Village) is now accepting applications from homeless women veterans and their families. The Village is in former military housing roughly between Ponte Vista and Marymount and has been beautifully restored and lovingly furnished. Many services will be provided to residents.

NEXT MEETING: Wed. April 1, Discussion with LAPD regarding opening harbor division jail and increasing police deployment. Coastal San Pedro to Chair, Harbor City to take notes.

Notes taken by Diana Nave, Northwest San Pedro