

Super Neighborhood 17 – Eldridge/West Oaks

Minutes from March 08, 2023, 7:00 PM

- I. **Call to Order** President, Jeff Baker called the meeting to order and established a quorum.
- II. **Public Safety** Officer Tim Whitaker provided a summary of crimes for the month of February as compared to January. Officer Whitaker was upbeat about the overall reduction in crime in SN-17, specifically violent crime, which was down 40% over this period!

As to the increase in *auto thefts, recovery of stolen vehicles has also increased*, due in part to the prevalence of Flock cameras in and around Houston. When a car is stolen outside the city, but *recovered and reported inside the city, theft is added to Houston's stats*, inaccurately skewing the statistics somewhat higher than they actually are.

III. **Guest Speaker – Mary Nan Huffman, COH Council Member District G**

- A. **Crime Prevention:** Purchased 50 Flock (Automated License Plate Reader) cameras using Council District Service Funds (CDSF). Working with HPD, the cameras were placed so as to create a network to best cover District G. Additional crime prevention investments included: HPD overtime patrols and equipment, approval of city ordinances addressing noise, theft and resale of stolen catalytic converters, increased fines for large vehicle parking violations, and requirements for certain business types to install outward facing security cameras.
- B. **Infrastructure and Flood Control:** Using CDSFs, infrastructure investments included sidewalks, speed bumps, crosswalks, and pavement improvements. Addressing flooding concerns, Huffman partnered with Harris County to bring capital improvement projects to the district and initiated a storm water action program, under which storm sewer improvements, ditch management and localized projects to direct water flows away from houses were accomplished.
- C. **Houston Housing Authority – Public Facility Corporation (PFC) Developments:** Huffman presented the following facts: HHA is not a city department, not accountable to city council, the mayor appoints the HHA Board of Commissioners without city council approval, and all seven commissioners' terms are expired. Companion bills HB 2071 and SB 1278 have been filed in the TX legislature that seek to improve project notification to local governments and require registration, compliance reviews and annual audits for present and future PFC developments.
- D. **Kirkwood Phase 2:** The first round of bidding did not meet specs and thus rejected. Houston Public Works has solicited new bids and tentatively expecting to award a contract in the Spring.
- E. **Nearby Road Projects:** Dairy Ashford between Buffalo Bayou and Briar Forest should begin construction this spring/summer. Repairs to Memorial Dr near Beltway 8 are substantially complete, pending landscaping and irrigation.
- F. **311 Requests:** In 2022, District G 311 requests were up about 50% as compared to 2021. The top five service request types were: water leaks (19%), traffic signal maintenance (11%), water service (6%), sewer water (5%) and parking (4%).

IV. Community Leaders

- **State Representative Mano DeAyala (Deanna Harrington, District Director)**

DeAyala serves on the TX House *Appropriations* and *Elections* Committees. He has authored/coauthored a number of bills related to his elections committee duties. In addition, he co-authored *HB 2071 relating to certain public facilities used to provide affordable housing*. HB 2071 was referred to the Urban Affairs Committee on Mar 8th. Sen Paul Bettencourt sponsored companion bill, SB 1278, which was referred to the Local Government Committee on Mar 9th.

- **District G: Office of Councilwoman Mary Nan Huffman**

District G is hosting *A Conversation on Crime – Thursday, April 13, 6:30 – 8:00 PM featuring Councilwoman, Mary Nan Huffman and HPD Chief, Troy Finner at Grace Presbyterian Church 10221 Ella Lee Ln.*

- **Precinct 4: Commissioner Lesley Briones**

Jesus Zamora and *Victoria Calvillo* were introduced as Briones' Community Engagement Staff. They will be representing Precinct 4 at our monthly SN-17 meetings. Also, present was the Chief of Staff, *Alice Lee*.

SN-17 Vice-President, *Nick Kornuta* raised a concern over the pressing need for AC repair at the Glazier Senior Education Community Center. There will be a follow-up on the repair of the AC at our next meeting.

- **Houston Metro (Margaret Dunlap)**

METRO Rapid University Corridor Project: This project is a key component of METRONext, a master plan to accommodate transportation for the region's projected population growth. When completed, the project will provide service to multiple residential, business and education centers with dedicated transit lanes, connectivity to local METRO bus routes, METRO Rail Red, Green and Purple Lines, the METRO Rapid Silver Line in Uptown, and Multiple METRO Park & Ride and transit center facilities. Community input as to the first segment of the project (Westchase/Westpark) is underway, and public engagement will continue throughout the project timeline.

Discussions are in the concept stage for a transit-oriented, multi-use development on METRO-owned land at the Addicks Park & Ride.

Dunlap expressed her thanks for letters sent by SN-17 and constituent neighborhoods in support of METRO's application for USDOT grant money for METRO's BOOST improvements to the 82 *Westheimer route*. The application was filed on February 28 with letters of support included.

- **Houston Public Library (Ivy Bao, Kendall Branch)**

Program Offerings: *Free classes (1 & 2) require registration www.houstonlibrary.org*

1. Computer classes will begin on Tuesday, 4/18/2023, from 2 pm to 3 pm every other week.
2. Organic/Container Gardening classes on Thursday, July 20, 2023, at 6:00 pm
3. Tax preparation "drop-in" help is available every Wed and Fri 12:00 – 4:00 pm until 4/15.

V. Committee Reports

- **Flooding (Nick Kornuta)**

Buffalo Bayou - Flood Mitigation Studies: Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) and the Army Corps of Engineers reached an agreement on how to move forward with *flood mitigation studies* targeting Buffalo Bayou. The Corps has been working on an interim report of *Buffalo Bayou and Tributaries Study*, based on public meetings dating back to April 2019. Under the new agreement, the HCFCD will contribute additional funding and technical assistance to the project and will "temporarily take the lead on additional analysis of various study alternatives, including deep stormwater tunnels." See the complete article by Shawn Arrajj, editor, Community Impact Newspaper at:

[Army Corps, Harris County Flood Control announce path forward on Buffalo Bayou flood study | Community Impact](#)

Inwood Detention Basin Interlocal Agreement: Houston City Council approved funding for a major flood mitigation project to appropriate \$15.2 million to the Inwood Detention Basin Interlocal Agreement between the City of Houston and the Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD). The Inwood project will protect over 4,400 structures in the White Oak Bayou and Vogel Creek watersheds, with construction scheduled to be completed in 2025.

Harris County Commissioners Court also approved its portion of the Interlocal Agreement with the City. *Inwood Forest is the first of four Hazard Mitigation Grant Projects approved by FEMA following Hurricane Harvey in 2017.* It is a joint project with FEMA, Harris County Flood Control, and the City of Houston. FEMA is providing 75 percent of funding for the project, and the city and HCFCD will divide the remaining 25 percent.

- **Old Business**

The January and February draft meeting minutes were approved.

**Next Meeting is Wednesday, April 12, 2023
7:00 PM at Eagle's Trace**

Guest Speaker: Lesley Briones, County Commissioner, Precinct 4

2023 February Crime Stats

Current Month Arrests

Aggravated Assault	5	Murder	0
Assault	10	Narcotics	3
Auto Theft	4	Prostitution	1
Burglary Habitation	0	Off Against Family	0
Criminal Mischief	2	Sex Offenses	0
Disorderly Conduct	2	Sexual Assault	0
Drunkenness	0	Theft	4
DWI	6	Weapons Violation	3
Forgery	0	All Other Crimes	8
Total People Arrested	48		

SN17	Jan	Feb	TREND
MURDER	2	0	-100.00%
SEXUAL ASSAULT	1	0	-100.00%
ROBBERY	13	7	-46.15%
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	24	17	-29.17%
Violent Crimes	40	24	-40.00%
BURGLARY HABITATION	32	29	-9.38%
BURGLARY BUILDING	12	20	66.67%
BURGLARY MOTOR VEHICLE	87	49	-43.68%
THEFT	45	30	-33.33%
AUTO THEFT	30	29	-3.33%
Non-Violent Crimes	206	157	-23.79%
CRIMES TOTAL	246	181	-26.42%

SN17	2022	2023	TREND
MURDER	3	2	-33.33%
SEXUAL ASSAULT	6	1	-83.33%
ROBBERY	17	20	17.65%
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	58	41	-29.31%
Violent Crimes	84	64	-23.81%
BURGLARY HABITATION	46	61	32.61%
BURGLARY BUILDING	39	32	-17.95%
BURGLARY MOTOR VEHICLE	168	136	-19.05%
THEFT	82	75	-8.54%
AUTO THEFT	42	59	40.48%
Non-Violent Crimes	377	363	-3.71%
CRIMES TOTAL	461	427	-7.38%