

## ELDRIDGE/WEST OAKS SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD

### Super Neighborhood 17 (SN17)

**Draft Monthly Meeting Minutes - Wednesday June 12th, 2024 @ 7:00 PM**

<https://sn17.org/>

*President, Jeff Baker; Vice-President, Nick Kornuta; Secretary, Joy Cocchiara; Treasurer, Diane Guillerman*

**Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order by the President, Jeff Baker at 7:00 pm with a quorum.

#### **Public Safety** – Officer Charlie Pocasangre/HPD

Crime stats will be sent under separate cover when they become available.

It was reported that there was one murder in SN-17 in May, and that the shooter was apprehended.

Shop lifting is now being more aggressively prosecuted. After the 3<sup>rd</sup> time caught, shop lifting can be prosecuted as a felony.

**Guest Speaker** – *Bill Higgins, President, Crest Management Company and Chair, TLAC (TX Legislative Action Committee) accompanied by Attorney, Chris Archambault, Porter Law Firm to discuss the Corporate Transparency Act.*

The speaker presented the Who, What, When, Where and How of the federal Corporate Transparency Act (CTA), which became law effective January 01, 2024. The CTA was enacted with the intent to identify and report activity related to money laundering, terrorist financing and other fraud. It requires that *beneficial owner* information be reported to the US Treasury’s Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN), with exclusions for companies such as large operating companies (> \$5M revenue), tax exempt corporations, banks, insurance companies etc., that are under regulations that already require such reporting information.

***Note that under the CTA, reporting companies typically include homeowners’ associations. In the case of homeowners’ associations, beneficial owners would include HOA board members.***

A *beneficial owner* is any individual who exercises substantial control over an organization or controls at least 25% of the company. Such individuals must report their full legal name, date of birth, residential address, and a unique identifying number (passport, driver's license, etc.) including an image of the document from which the id was derived. This information must be provided by 1/1/2025 for organizations formed prior to 1/1/2024.

Individuals may obtain a FinCEN identification number that can be used in filing instead of repeating the disclosure of the personally identifiable information listed above. If you meet the definition of a beneficial owner and want to obtain a FinCEN ID, you can log on to <https://fincen.gov/boi> and click on the link “Create a FinCen ID (optional)”.

Beneficial Owner Information filed with FinCEN is not accessible to the public and not subject to requests under the Freedom of Information Act. Information is accessible to law enforcement with court authorization and to financial institutions with consent of the organization. There are civil and criminal penalties for non-compliance, including jail time. The Department of Treasury has received numerous requests from a number of business groups for exemption from the CTA, including the Community Associations Institute (CAI). No exemptions are being considered at this time. There is an ongoing “call to action” campaign in which you can participate if you agree with the CAI in support of S 3625, urging a 1-year delay of all CTA reporting requirements. <https://www.votervoice.net/mobile/CAI/Campaigns/108066/respond>

## **Community Leaders**

- **District F – Tiffany Thomas/Stephani Leota, Director of Constituent Services & Special Projects**

City council members voted 14 to 3 to pay for the bond in connection with the \$1.5 billion collective bargaining agreement. The \$1.5 billion deal, includes back pay for Houston firefighters. The settlement also includes raises over the next five years. The city controller has yet to certify the legal fees associated with the settlement and has until 06/18/2024 for the court’s timeline to be met. Council members are expected to have to re-vote on the bond at the next meeting.

In a 15-2 vote, city council approved the city’s \$6.7 billion Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) operating budget.

A new contractor was approved to work on the Chelford City Diversion project. The project is set to restart in a few weeks.

The “Summer of Safety” initiative is returning with new program offerings. Council Member Thomas kicked off the initiative with a Swim and Water Safety Seminar at the Alief Neighborhood Center Pool in collaboration with Houston Waves, Houston Parks and Recreation Department, and Coach CPR LLC. The seminar featured a beginner’s swimming class and essential pool safety.

District F’s Hot Spot teams help keep neighborhoods free of the blight. The debris they remove is often from illegal dumping. Hot spots include abandoned cars, landscaping materials, building materials, and discarded tires and mattresses. Residents can report hot spots by calling the city at 3-1-1 or sending an e-mail to [districthotspot@houstontx.gov](mailto:districthotspot@houstontx.gov)

- **Harris County Precinct 4 – Lesley Briones/Victoria Calvillo**

HART Program: Harris County Commissioners approved proposals to continue, strengthen, and expand the Holistic Assistance Response Team (HART) program. The program allows eligible 911 calls to be diverted to unarmed personnel trained in behavioral health and on-scene medical assistance so HPD can focus their efforts on crime.

*Meet the Heroes of Hurricane Preparedness:* The goal of this event is to foster hurricane preparedness among residents and will provide families the opportunity to interact with first responders and the Precinct 4 Road and Bridge crews who play crucial roles during weather emergencies. Representatives from key organizations will be on hand to share valuable tips and information on hurricane safety and preparedness. The event is on Saturday, June 15, from 9 a.m. to noon at Bayland Park, 6400 Bissonnet St.

*Hurricane Safety and Preparedness Workshops:*

1. Saturday, July 20, 10:00 am – noon at Radack Community Center 18650 Clay Rd
2. Saturday, July 27, 2:00 - 4:00 pm at Kendall Library 609 N Eldridge Parkway
3. Saturday, August 10, noon - 2:00 pm at Burnett Bayland Community Center 6026 Chimney Rock Rd  
(*Spanish language workshop*)

- **City of Houston Department of Neighborhoods – Rene Ruiz**

Rene featured two online emergency resources:

1. State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR) allows local emergency management planners and responders to have access to information related to your needs during an emergency. You may want to consider registering if you are disabled or medically fragile, have functional needs such as limited mobility, communication barriers, require personal care or transportation assistance. Register yourself or on behalf of others at <https://stear.tdem.texas.gov>
2. The City of Houston Office of Emergency Management <https://www.houstonoem.org> is the chief coordinating agency for disaster response; OEM provides emergency response coordination and communication assistance to Houston agencies, and serves as liaison to regional, state and federal agencies during times of emergency. It is an excellent resource for developing a personal preparedness plan and keeping up with response and recovery resources.

### **Committee Reports – Jeff Baker, Community Safety and Communications**

ShotSpotter Program: Houston’s current five-year contract with SoundThinking, the company behind the gunshot ShotSpotter detection technology, is set to expire in 2027. Mayor John Whitmire believes the program is ineffective and does not intend to renew the city's contract beyond its third year.

Squatting seems to be a growing problem. State Sen. Paul Bettencourt presided over hearings in Austin aimed at strengthening anti-squatting laws and in hopes of passing bills next year to make it easier to remove squatters.

### **Old Business**

May minutes were approved.

### **New Business**

SN-17 meetings are suspended in July and August for summer break.

The September 11<sup>th</sup> meeting will feature guest speaker, Council Member District G, Mary Nan Huffman.

The October 9<sup>th</sup> meeting will feature guest speaker, At-Large Position 5 Council Member, Sallie Alcorn.

**NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, September 11, 2024**

**Have a Safe and Enjoyable Summer!**