

ELDRIDGE/WEST OAKS SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD

Super Neighborhood 17 (SN17)

Monthly Meeting Minutes - Wednesday September 11th, 2024 @ 7:00 PM

<https://sn17.org/>

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

The meeting was called to order by the President, Jeff Baker at 7:05 pm with a quorum.

I. Public Safety – Westside Officer Edna DeLeon/HPD

- A meeting to address the homeless problem at Barker Oaks has been set for late September.
- There is a new homeless coalition of Westside Differential Response Team (DRT) officers. These officers are specially trained police who practice Problem Oriented Policing, utilizing non-traditional police methods.
- Overall, SN-17 crime trended down slightly in August as compared to July, with the exception of sexual assault (most incidences involving known persons), robbery, theft and burglary of a habitat. SN-17 crime stats (Aug vs July and year-to-date and arrests) are reported on page 4 of this report.

II. Guest Speaker- District G Council Member Mary Nan Huffman <https://www.houstontx.gov/council/g>

- There is optimism about the John Whitmire administration. Huffman serves at the Chair of the Prop A committee. Prop A, passed on the Nov 7, 2023 ballot, gives council members more power to place items on the weekly agendas; formerly only the mayor could set agenda items.
- Mayor Whitmire appointed Thomas Muñoz as the chief of the Houston Fire Department, who most recently served as the City's Emergency Management Coordinator and the acting Director for the Mayor's Office of Public Safety and Homeland Security.
- J. Noe Diaz, former Katy police chief and TX ranger, was sworn in as the new Houston Police Chief.
- A review committee was formed to investigate the 268,000 HPD cases that were closed out under the "Suspended - Lack of Personnel (SL)" code. The investigation particularly focused on crimes that have victims. The resulting **HPD SL Project** report describes efforts to address 1. significant inconsistencies in case management 2. HPD understaffing 3. an outdated record management system and 4. communication breakdowns between staff and management.
- The Office of Policing Reform & Accountability (**OPRA**) under the direction of Deputy Inspector General, **Christina Nowak**, has created a dashboard to monitor the progress of the **HPD SL Project**. She spoke about OPRA's efforts to increase transparency with regard to the investigation and reporting. The dashboard can be found at <https://www.houstontx.gov/opra/>
- To address HPD understaffing, the budget includes a pay raise for police cadets. There is also a program that brings back retired officers to do part-time clerical work to free up police for patrol, and the city is entering a memorandum of understanding with the sheriff's office to combine training.
- City Council district offices spent a lot of time dealing with the complaints related to CenterPoint's poor response to the recent storms.
- Cases of West Nile virus has been found in the Houston area. Harris County mosquito control test for West Nile weekly. If positive mosquitos are found, spray trucks are sent out. There has been a great collaborative effort between the city and county in an effort to manage the spread of the virus.
- National Night Out (NNO) is on Tuesday, Oct 1st. If your neighborhood is planning a NNO event and want council member Huffman to drop by, fill out the form at <https://www.houstontx.gov/council/g/nno.html>

III. Community Leaders

- **State Representative -Mano de Ayala/Deanna Harrington** <https://house.texas.gov/members/4135>
 - While the legislature is out of session, Rep. Ayala is still engaged in interim hearings on the following committees: 1. Elections, 2. Appropriations 3. a select study on Sustainable Property Tax Relief.
 - Rep. Ayala’s office is reinitiating the **West Houston Teen Leadership Summit**, a program for students to spend time with local experts in Government & Politics, the Economy, Markets and Business, Communications, Media and Community Leadership. The summit is on Saturday, **February 22, 2025** and will feature “Mattress Mack” McIngvale and other local leaders including Tom Ramsey, Jacquie Baly, Charles Blaine and Jim Granato, among others.
- **Harris County Precinct 4 – Lesley Briones/Meagan Blackwell** <https://cp4.harriscountytexas.gov>
 - A traffic study has been initiated to study sidewalks on State Hwy 6.
 - In collaboration with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston, parents can now enroll their children in one of the three after-school programs – free of charge - at Precinct 4’s Bayland, Weekley or Radack community centers. Program areas include literacy, math, social-emotional learning, leadership and citizenship, sports, dance and art. For more information and to register contact bgcgreaterhouston.my.site.com or call the Club at 713.868.3426
 - Commissioner Briones unveiled the master plan for Gulfton’s Bayland Park in July at the Burnett Bayland Community Center, working in collaboration with METRO and Houston Mayor John Whitmire, who promised a “new beginning” for the Gulfton area.
 - The Inner Northwest Community Plan was kicked off in August and is seeking community plan feedback. The survey can be found at <https://cp4.harriscountytexas.gov/Inner-Northwest>
- **City of Houston Department of Neighborhoods-Rene Ruiz** <https://www.houstontexas.gov/neighborhoods>
 - Now that most of the issues related to Hurricane Beryl are under control, the Department of Neighborhoods is back to focusing on enforcement.
- **City of Houston Metro-Margaret Dunlap** <https://www.ridemetro.org/about/news-media>
 - Metro’s focus has changed to improve transportation services and experiences for riders. Two bus routes – the 402 Bellaire Quickline and the 28-OST - will be piloting a new service with electric buses. The changes have already been made for the 402 Bellaire Quickline. This route serves Southwest Houston, Bellaire, and Gulfton areas, running from Chinatown to the Medical Center. The 28-OST on Wayside already has at least five electric buses in its fleet, serving the Fifth Ward.

IV. Old Business

June Meeting Minutes were Approved

V. New Business

- Candidate for Sheriff - **Mike Knox** and Candidate for 215th District Civil Court – **Nathan Milliron** spoke for 5 minutes each on their respective candidacies.
- **Voter Registration & Education - Meiling Lin** <https://www.hctax.net/Voter/Registration>
 - Customized sample ballots for the November 5 General and Special Elections will be available after 9/23
 - Election day and early voting centers will be posted soon on <https://www.harrisvotes.com>

- Harris County commissioners voted 4-0 to increase 2024 property tax exemptions for senior and disabled residents by \$45,000, from \$275,000 to \$320,000.
- **Energy Corridor of Houston Orchestra (ECHO) - Sarah McDonner**
- ECHO announced its 11th Season (2004 -2005 Concert Series). Information about the season's concerts can be found at <https://www.echorchestra.org>

11th Season | 2024-2025 WWW.ECHORCHESTRA.ORG

BREAKIN' CLASSICAL
Fly
The Gentlemen of Hip Hop
THURSDAY, OCT 24, 2024 | 7:30 PM
STRAKE JESUIT - PARSLEY CENTER
THE ULTIMATE COLLABORATION OF SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND STREET DANCE EXPERIENCE!

A Night in Italy
Arias and Italian Food
Featuring Ruben Erazo, Tenor
DECEMBER 27, 2024
Hyatt Regency Houston West

Family Concert
JANUARY 18, 2025 | Strake Jesuit

ECHOES IN THE PARK
FREE COMMUNITY CONCERT & FESTIVAL
SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2024
11:00AM - 4:00PM
RAY MILLER PARK | 1800 ELDRIDGE PKWY
CHAMBER MUSIC
ARTISAN VENDORS
FOOD TRUCKS
KIDS ACTIVITIES

ECHOES IN THE AREA
ECHO'S COMMUNITY CHAMBER CONCERT SERIES
NOV 2024 KENDALL LIBRARY - SCIROCCO WINDS-
FEB 2025 BLUE WILLOW BOOKSHOP - ECHO STRING QUARTET-
MARCH 2025 THE CANNON - LATINUS QUARTET-

Rhapsody in Blue
Featuring Andrew Staupe, Piano
May 16, 2025
St. John Vianney Catholic Church

NEXT MEETING: OCTOBER 9th, 2024

**SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD 17
HPD WESTSIDE DIVISION CRIME STATS**

Month-to-Month Trends (Aug/July)

SN17	Jul	Aug	TREND
MURDER	0	0	0.00%
SEXUAL ASSAULT	1	4	300.00%
ROBBERY	16	17	6.25%
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	33	28	-15.15%
Violent Crimes	50	49	-2.00%
BURGLARY HABITATION	25	28	12.00%
BURGLARY BUILDING	24	18	-25.00%
BURGLARY MOTOR VEHICLE	52	51	-1.92%
THEFT	39	51	30.77%
AUTO THEFT	37	27	-27.03%
Non-Violent Crimes	177	175	-1.13%
CRIMES TOTAL	227	224	-1.32%

Year-to-Date Trends (2023/2024)

SN17	2023	2024	TREND
MURDER	5	4	-20.00%
SEXUAL ASSAULT	19	24	26.32%
ROBBERY	81	97	19.75%
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	209	237	13.40%
Violent Crimes	314	362	15.29%
BURGLARY HABITATION	159	131	-17.61%
BURGLARY BUILDING	93	131	40.86%
BURGLARY MOTOR VEHICLE	544	457	-15.99%
THEFT	377	340	-9.81%
AUTO THEFT	286	240	-16.08%
Non-Violent Crimes	1459	1299	-10.97%
CRIMES TOTAL	1773	1661	-6.32%

Arrests*

Current Month Arrests			
Aggravated Assault	7	Murder	0
Assault	13	Narcotics	1
Auto Theft	1	Prostitution	2
Burglary Habitation	1	Sexual Offenses	1
Criminal Mischief	0	Theft	2
Disorderly Conduct	3	Offense Against Family	1
Drunkenness	1	Weapons Violation	2
DWI	5	All Other Crimes	4
Robbery	2		
Total People Arrested	46		

* Arrests made during the course of the offense on the original offense date and location