



THE CENTRAL SAN PEDRO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council
Tuesday, December 8, 2009
Minutes of Special Board & Stakeholder Meeting
Croatian Cultural Center, 510 W. 7th St, San Pedro, Calif.

Call to Order & Roll Call: The meeting was called to order at 6:49pm by President John Delgado. The following board members were present: Andrew Silber, Art Almeida (arrived at 6:47pm) Linda Alexander, Sue Castillo, John Delgado, Frank Anderson, Caroline Brady-Sinco, Kara McLeod, Julia Parker, Bill Roberson, Carrie Scoville, Daryl Seybold, and Phill Trigas. Absent: Philip Strout. New board members were seated: Scott Gray, Pat Carroll, and J R Perez. Approximately 45 stakeholders present.

Introduction by President: John Delgado asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Michael Alfaro, the 17 year old fatally shot in an incident at the 800 block of 17th Street on Sunday, November 22. He then talked about the need for more neighborhood watch programs and community meetings which include youth participants.

Message from Vice President, Andrew Silber: Andrew Silber thanked all those in attendance and commented that we hope to improve the situation. He stated that the LAPD needs to be commended for their job in the above incident. The suspects were apprehended very quickly thanks to the efforts of the LAPD. He explained that the point of tonight's special meeting is to make sure that the Harbor Division is getting its fair share of whatever resources are available throughout the city. The City of Los Angeles has 9,963 officers. Our concern is that the Harbor Division is losing officers when 900 or more officers overall have been added to the LAPD police force. What can we do to get more of the newly recruited officers to Harbor Division?

Comments from Board Members:

- a) **Linda Alexander** commented that she feels very safe in her community. She finds it heartbreaking and alarming that anyone should have to fear walking around on a Sunday morning.
- b) **Carrie Scoville** commented that she resides in the Black Hill area and she also feels safe. She made an announcement about an upcoming meeting related to the China Shipping Aesthetic Mitigation Funds.
- c) **Art Almeida** stated that he has never feared this town. He was born and raised here. Doesn't feel intimidated and marvels at people who feel fearful.
- d) **Bill Roberson** commented that he lives at 4th and Mesa and also feels safe in his neighborhood. However, fellow residents do fear going out at night. He stated that "perception" is as big a problem as anything.
- e) **Kara McLeod** feels that there are far too many people in this town who don't report crime and that's a real problem. There are not enough eyes on the street. She has major complaints about the 30 police officers we lost four years ago. Now there are 1000 new officers and she would like to see 106 of those officers on the streets of San Pedro.

Public Comments:

- a) **Xavier Hermosillo:** Born and raised in this town in the area of 4th and 5th around Center. He works with the LAPD as a civilian worker. Commented on the two new captains and how they are interested in working with the community. Talked about gangs and the lack of resources here in San Pedro. He feels that there is no leadership in the city council and that our community can't get

our officers back because we have no one supporting us in the city council. He asked what has our council member done and what is she going to do about this issue.

- b) **Charles Nelson:** Born and raised in San Pedro and currently lives on Grand. He does not feel that safe in San Pedro and agrees that our Council representative does not support the community as it could be supported.

Comments by the Councilwoman's Office. Councilwoman Janice Hahn commented that she was glad to attend tonight's meeting and that she is here to serve the community. She tries to make the best decisions she can for her constituents. She is happy to be here because this is what she envisioned Neighborhood Council to be. To call an emergency meeting to discuss a specific problem. She feels like we do. She doesn't like hearing about incidents such as murder and gang wars in the communities she represents. It is not enough to feel safe, we have to be safe! She stressed that public safety is the number one priority for all of the city council members. We are never going to arrest our way out of the gang problems. We have to have prevention. Bring vocational training back. We need to create comprehensive strategies. She has asked for more police officers. She has been asking the new police chief about deployment. She brought a video from the Chief. In the video he commented that he is going to put more officers in each District and hold the Captains accountable. Our captain will be able to decide how best to use those officers.

Comments from the LAPD: Officer Billy Hayes was introduced and made comment. Chief Gannon was also introduced. He stated that it is important how we use the resources. Even with less officers we have less crime. The recent incident involving the fatal shooting of Michael Alfaro was not gang related, it was a grudge. He does not feel it could have been prevented. Of the five homicides this year in the San Pedro area, four have been solved. The community came forward to help solve the case. They are still working on the fifth homicide in hopes to solve it. He talked about how he uses his resources. They go over the crimes from the previous days and have a conference to discuss the issues and then deploy the resources to try and combat and prevent further crimes. He also talked about finding kids that are not in school when they are supposed to be and getting them back into school. The Department also does work with curfews. He feels that the preventative aspect is important. He went over statistics for the past few years. There will be an increase in officers starting January 3rd.

Additional Comments:

- a) **Andrew Silber:** Feels that the press needs to report more about crime being down.
- b) **James Allen:** Uniforms are not going to solve our problems. What are the other avenues for making our streets safe. What kind of collaboration with the community is planned? **Response:** Working with San Pedro High School Collaborative, Toberman, etc. to be a source of possible problems and get them diffused. Captain Hayes talked about juvenile programs that include working with the parents.
- c) **Caroline Brady:** Talked about Measure A and Janice Hahn's support of gang alternative programs. What can this council do to help? Get involved, bring information from the stakeholders straight to the Captain so he knows about it and can decide what to do.
- d) **Bob Gelfand:** Lives on the south end of town and commented that the police do not show up when there is a problem.
- e) **Deputy Chief Pat Gannon:** Stated that he was previously the area captain for three years. He was born and raised in San Pedro and knows the community. He is now the Deputy Chief for the area South of the Santa Monica freeway down to San Pedro. He will be looking at staffing levels in the areas that he has been assigned. Effective strategies are important. Explained the strategies and factors related to how many officers are assigned to specific areas.
- f) **Andrew Silber:** Commented that he was the murder of a young man that inspired him to have this special meeting. This senseless murder bothers him and everyone in the room. The reason he started the process to get this meeting held was to answer the question that if there had been more

police deployed in this area would the two young men who murdered Michael have taken the chance on a Sunday to murder someone in broad daylight.

- g) Additional comments from Kara McLeod who is very angry about response times by the LAPD
- h) Additional comments from Art Almeida who feels our society is “pampering kids” and that is part of the problem.
- i) **Bill Roberson:** Thanked those officials who attended tonight. Also commented that the community came to the aid of the officers. We have a youth problem but that won’t be solved by the cops. It takes the parents and the community. Thanked everyone for coming out.

Closing Remarks: Pres. Delgado thanked everyone for attending.

Motion: Andrew provided the following motion which was seconded by Daryl Seybold: *The CSPNC will continue to support and communicate closely with the LAPD but will also lobby continuously for adequate sworn officers for the Harbor Division.* 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed.

Motion: *Kara McLeod made a motion that the Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council formally requests that Captain Hayes send us a report on the progress of getting officers to San Pedro.* 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:42pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kristina Smith, Neighborhood Council Administrative Assistant.