

Harbor Alliance of Neighborhood Councils
Meeting Notes – May 6, 2015
Kaiser Permanente Conference Center
Greg Donnan, Harbor City, Chair

Attendees: Central San Pedro -- Frank B. Anderson, Linda Alexander, Coastal San Pedro – James Dimon, James Baeza, Bob Gelfand Harbor City – Greg Donnan, Grant Reed, Eric DeKlotz Harbor Gateway North – Rosalie Preston, Joan Jacobs Harbor Gateway South – Katy Carlson Northwest San Pedro – Ray Regalado, Darlene Zavalney, Sarah Valdez, Craig Goldfarb

Others: Matt Sanderson (Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance), Mark Salazar (Director of Field Operations – Animal Control), Victor Medina (BONC), Jonathan William (President and CEO, Battleship Iowa), Pati Hanna (retired Animal Services)

Greg Donnan called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Those present introduced themselves.

LA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL SUSTAINABILITY ALLIANCE – Matt Sanderson explained that the Alliance was formed in February 2015 with a mission to advance sustainability issues across the City. The focus right now is on the drought and how Neighborhood Councils can partner with the Mayor to reduce water usage through the “Save the Drop” initiative. Sustainability Council Board members are reaching out to all Neighborhood Councils to get involved. The Alliance will work on local environmental and sustainability issues such as park equity and air pollution. Ideally, Matt would like a contact person for each Neighborhood Council. So far, he has met with the Green Committee of the Northeast San Pedro Neighborhood Council and also a Committee from Coastal San Pedro.

The Alliance’s second workshop will be held on Sat. May 16 at 1:30 p.m. at Tree People, Coldwater Canyon Park, 12601 Mulholland Drive, Beverly Hills. The Alliance is also working with other environmental groups and working with the City on the first L.A. Sustainability Plan. Please appoint one person from your Council to attend the monthly meetings. Also, your Board should vote to become a member of the Alliance. The bylaws are still being finalized. Contact the Alliance at ncsa@empowerla.org

RE-ASSIGNMENT OF ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS FROM THE HARBOR AREA TO SOUTH L.A. – Mark Salazar, Director of Field Operations, Animal Services Department, discussed the recent change for the Harbor Field office whereby the officers formerly working out of the Harbor Field office now report to the South L.A. office and are assigned to the Harbor area as needed. James Dimon, President of Coast San Pedro, asked whether the MOU with the Animal Services employees required adequate staffing at all facilities and wondered how they would handle calls for service from the Harbor area after 2 p.m. when the officers would then have to drive many miles in heavy afternoon traffic to get to the service site. He also asked how lost dogs will be reunited with their owners and how wild animals will be protected? He commented that the cutbacks are seen as another symptom of the lack of services in the Harbor area. He wondered what metrics were used to make this decision, was it due to an inadequate

budget and will the situation be remedied in the 2015-2016 budget? In his opinion the reassignment of staff is wasteful of time and gasoline.

Mark responded that he knows that it feels like the Harbor area is distant from City Hall. Animal Services General Manager Brenda Barnette asks that you express your concerns to the City. Animal Services has lost officers, including supervisors. Currently they have 74 authorities, including supervisors compared to 1900 for L.A. County. Of the 74, ten are out on leave, so that just 47 officers cover service requests for the whole of the City of Los Angeles. The Department receives 80,000 calls a year. The proposed 2015-2016 budget includes metrics for response times; however with so few officers, many calls cannot be responded to at all. Responses are made based on 19 priorities, including dog bites. During the last six months, on two days, there were no officers in the field at all. On 6-9 days, there is only one officer on duty so he cannot be in the field. On 12-18 days there are only two officers on duty. Therefore, it was decided to move the Harbor officers to South L.A so that there is always a supervisor. Since the move, there has been more support in the field.

Animal Services requested 24 additional officers, with 3-4 of those to be assigned to the Harbor. However, it looks like the City will only fund 12 officers for five months. The understaffing has resulted in 349% increase in workplace injuries. Sick time is up 24%. Overtime use is up 16%. Combining Harbor and South L.A. had been discussed before. There is currently no civil service list for animal control officers. 40% of the calls in the Harbor area are from Watts, so now the officers are closer to that area. The Department will probably have to combine the East and West Valley areas next. In addition, prosecuting large animal cases are very time-consuming and take the time of an Animal Control officer for four months.

Some other questions were why wasn't the community notified earlier of the change when they could have lobbied for more staff? Also, there was a suggestion to look into sharing resources of L.A County and other animal service agencies. As to why more services cannot be provided by the Reserve Animal Control officers, Mark said that there are only 3 of them. There was also a question of why clerical staff can't answer the telephone calls, freeing up more field officers? Mark responded that the clerical staff are not trained to answer such calls and make decisions about how to relay the dispatch to the field. There are also kennel staff members but they solely operate the animal shelters.

DONE UPDATE – There was no representative from DONE.

BONC UPDATE - VICTOR MEDINA: Victor Medina supervised the May 5 BONC meeting which took place in Palms. DONE is currently short-staffed so doesn't return calls from Neighborhood Council members. Victor urged keeping the reference number to use for follow up. In regards to the Grievance Panels, many grievances have been filed but there has been no follow up on them. Now that Herb Wesson is Chair and Paul Krekorian Vice Chair of the Education and Neighborhoods Committee, Wesson has introduced some motions in support of Neighborhood Councils, including 5 minutes to speak before the City Council and Committees, the ability of NC's to receive grants, and the ability to rollover funds at the end of the fiscal year. Wesson will be holding two meetings to receive comments on what Neighborhood Councils need. The closest to the Harbor will be held on Sat. May 16 from 10-12 at the Constituent Center, 8475 S. Vermont Avenue. BONC is considering requiring certain elements on NC websites, including approved minutes. The Empowerla awards nominations can be accepted from

May 8-August 1. Awards will be received at the September 11 Congress of Neighborhoods. The deadline for completing the Code of Conduct training has passed and now BONC will consider the penalties—probably removal from the Board and reinstatement when the training has been completed. April 15 was the last day to complete contracts during this fiscal year.

June 22 is the deadline for submitting Neighborhood Purposes Grants or any expenses over \$2,500. June 30 is the last day to use the Mastercard and also to let the Department know via a list all items still needing to be paid. July 1 is the deadline for submitting the 2015-2016 budget package. September 1 is the deadline for the self-assessment survey.

Some of the issues which HANC attendees mentioned to Victor were the non-return of telephone calls from DONE and also LAPD Senior Lead Officers not attending Neighborhood Council meetings. Victor suggested contacting Councilmembers Wesson and Krekorian.

Victor would like to see some of the key DONE meetings sometimes held in the Harbor area. He would also like to see Neighborhood Councils able to initiate Council Files.

BUDGET ADVOCATES – Joan Jacobs reported that the Budget Advocates have been present at Budget and Finance Committee hearings and have also presented their White Paper. There is a link from the CAO's website for the White Paper.

Each Neighborhood Council should now appoint two Budget Representatives attend the Sat. June 27 Budget Day and be in the running to become one of the two Harbor Area Budget Advocates. Neighborhood Councils can vote on funding both the Budget Advocates and the Congress of Neighborhoods. There may possibly be one more Sunday radio broadcast by the Budget Advocates.

Craig Goldfarb would like to see a Budget Day held in the Harbor area. He also would like to see the needs of each neighborhood reflected in the White Paper. Rosalie suggested encouraging individual letters stating an NC's priorities based on what stakeholders have brought before the NC during the past year.

SHARING/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Jonathan Williams, President and CEO of the Battleship Iowa, discussed the many programs that take place on the battleship, including "Music under the Guns," free entry to 16,000 at-risk students from LAUSD, and sleepovers on the ship (1,500 kids during the first four months of the program).

Rosalie Preston announced that the ILWU District Council, Food and Water Watch, and the Sierra Club will be sponsoring an informational workshop on fracking on Sat. June 27 from 10 am to 12 noon at the Carson Community Center.

On Wed. May 20 the Northwest San Pedro NC will host an emergency preparedness fair.

James Dimon said that the June 3 HANC meeting will feature Councilmember Joe Buscaino on how NC's can advocate for more LAPD officers in their areas.

Craig Godfarb remarked that negotiations with the Coalition of Unions is continuing. He thinks there is the possibility of a strike. The largest amount of money in the City budget is allocated for salaries and benefits.

NEXT MEETING: Wed. June 3 at 6:30 p.m.