

Minutes from the meeting of JUNE 14, 2017 – Super Neighborhood 17

- I. Call to Order at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was established.

- II. Captain M. Faulhaber, from the Westside Command Station, advised the Super Neighborhood attendees as to current crime statistics, since the last SN meeting. There were no murders in SN17 and only one sexual assault – this is compared to three sexual assaults in the prior thirty days. There were 16 cases of aggravated assaults, fourteen of which were family violence. There was an increase of 10.7% in burglaries of habitations (31 for the last 30 days compared to 28 the prior month); most occurred in the morning and afternoon hours. The top three streets for habitation burglaries were: Briar Forest (11), Eldridge (4), and Richmond (2). Twenty-four of those occurred at apartments. There was also an increase in auto thefts (by 50%). Eighteen occurred over the last thirty days, while there were 12 during the previous thirty days. These primarily occurred during the evening and nighttime hours. The increase is primarily due to school being out. HPD is taking a number of measures to do more with less. The Westside Command station has lost more officers (due to transfer and retirement) than were replaced, and already two cadet classes have been cut for next year due to budget constraints.

Westside has the largest population in the City of Houston as well as a high crime rate, but a very low number of officers. HPD is looking to redistribute the offices, but Captain Faulhaber cannot say when this will happen. Burglaries of motor vehicles are the most frequent crime in the city. It would decrease significantly if people would lock their cars and hide or take their valuables with them. Westside is using their bike patrols to work on encampments and the impeding issues (impeding traffic). The first time someone is caught panhandling and impeding traffic, they have to be given a warning and that has to be noted in HPD's records. They also have to be provided with social services information and that has to be documented too.

Captain Faulhaber also discussed the heroin problem in the northeast part of the country. The drug cartels are mixing heroin with fentanyl, which is making it very dangerous. Crystal meth is a problem in the hotels along Beltway 8 and Highway 6; it can also be mixed with fentanyl.

Jack O'Connor and John Lozano are meeting with Captain Faulhaber to discuss how the SN 17 and its residents can assist Westside Command station.

- III. Government Announcements:

Rene Ruiz – City of Houston representative:

Mr. Ruiz stated that there is not much going on right now. Mayor Turner is thinking about suing the state over SB 4 (requesting identification for citizenship).

M. Dunlap – METRO representative:

Ms. Dunlap stated that METRO is registering seniors for discount cards. Those from 65 to 69 years of age get a discount card and for those over 70, they can ride for free. There is a new program at METRO called the Summer Fun Pass; those from grade kindergarten through grade twelve can ride METRO for free with a summer fun pass. Then, beginning September 1, 2017, the pass turns into a half-price ticket. It's a valuable pass for teenagers who work.

METRO is continuing to work on its regional plan. There will be public meetings on the plan – twenty-five in various areas of the city—in July and August of 2017. A meeting will be held at Wyndham West (Highway 6 and I-10) on July 8, 2017 and another at the Merrill Center in Katy on July 15th. The regional plan is important as it will plan METRO and transportation for the next twenty to thirty years. By next year, Houston will be the third largest city in the country and a good transportation plan is essential. The METRO referendum is up for a vote in November of 2018.

Rashad Cave – Dept. of Neighborhoods:

He is working on the retention pond issues (maintenance). The City of Houston only cuts the outskirts of the ponds. Also, if they are cut to the bottom (as apparently someone has been requesting) it can clog up the drainage of the ponds. Also, the growth within the ponds helps absorb the water.

He is also working on speed bumps in the area. J. Lozano's neighborhood is on the list. City council is financially assisting some neighborhoods in obtaining the speed bumps.

Mr. Cave also advised there is an anti-gang division within the Department of Neighborhoods. If you feel any children are at risk of joining gangs, this group can help. They assist with tattoo removal, haircuts, summer employment, etc. You can contact Mr. Cave at Rashad.Cave@houstontx.gov.

IV. Old Business:

A. Committee Reports:

There were no committee reports.

B. May minutes were approved.

V. New Business:

Mr. Lozano announced that Mark Batterson, the Eagle's Trace representative was leaving, having been transferred to Baltimore. Also, Judy Thompson will no longer be with the SN because she has moved.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm. Next meeting is September 13, 2017.