

October 10, 2018 SN17 Meeting minutes

We started about 7:05pm with a quorum.

1. **Captain Faulhaber** gave us crime stats.

There have been 3 sexual assaults but all known suspects in last 30 days

Violent aggressive assaults down from 18 to 10

Violent crime all together down 30%

P1 crimes down 17%

Police focus on Violent Crimes since they are short staffed

The burglaries in the area are of buildings along Westheimer, many of which are abandoned.

They do offer crime prevention meetings for the public

Some citizens make things worse by living in fear of crime. There is a "We Chat App" that helps to spread the fear among neighborhoods.

Homeless – other cities give bus tickets to Houston to their homeless that are arrested. Then Houston's homeless numbers don't go down. But they do stay steady.

After they used to go to Homeless court, they could work off their warrants. But that option is no longer available.

Bissonnet Corridor – prostitution problem is down

Panhandlers – there is still a pending lawsuit at SCOTUS between ACLU and city of Houston on the issue of free speech in regards to Panhandlers

We need a specific description of aggressive panhandlers.

The L gang has had numerous charges brought against them. ATF has helped take down some of the adults with weapons charges. The US District Attorney has given them federal jail time.

Virgi Manning thanked Captain Faulhaber for his help with closing down the Gentleman's Club. He said that it is always faster to get the county attorney involved in these kinds of cases.

2. **Councilmember Dr. Steve Le** spoke on the status of District F beginning about 7:15pm

Traffic including potholes, crime and homelessness are his current focus now that the Gentleman's Club has shut down.

For dealing with the homeless, Houston has "city camps" where they can bath, meet with social workers where decisions can be made if they are a harm to themselves or society.

Dr Le approved overtime for HPD of \$245K to combat panhandlers. He is going to specify (or has already specified) it be used for the summer, spring break and holiday shopping of November and December.

In 2012 Houston had 15K homeless. In 2016 Houston had 6600 homeless. Houston used police, mental health specialists, social workers to help the homeless access job training and housing.

CIP section 6 street repairs. Lash (section 6 resident) called Le's office the day after NNO and got street repairs started. Le is using council funds to put in panels on the streets that should last 5-10 years. If he waits for a CIP project, it could take 15 years to get fully resurfaced streets.

Feds gave 1.3 Billion in funds.

400M will be used for streets

320M will be used for homes

The rest will be used for flood control like dredging, underground pumps, 3rd reservoir, possibly an underground tunnel on Braes.

Le has also decreased the "game rooms" in the district.

3. **SNA President Michael Huffmaster** talked about plans for decreasing flooding on Buffalo Bayou. He started speaking about 8:15pm and had slides if more details are needed in regards to his presentation.

The SNA wants to work on this with the city and the SNs. 100M was given for the watersheds but not directly due to needs. Braes, Hunters, Spring Creek (?) and White Oak got most of the funds. There will not be new funds for 15 years.

Since Buffalo has 2 reservoirs and did well until the reservoir release, they did not get allocated any funds and the city wanted the money to go to help the maximum number of people.

Buffalo Bayou Advocacy for Funding is the group Michael is with.

- Flood Control Enhancement
- Improve Conveyance
- Preserve Natural Character
- Preserve Character of Bayou

Goals:

- To secure funding
- Mid reach of Buffalo Bayou
- Reduce Future risk of flooding

Michael's plan proposes shortening of (cutting across) the oxbows from Highway 6 to Shepherd. The SN17 delegates voted to support Mr. Huffmaster's plan.

Meeting adjourned about 9pm.