

Minutes for the meeting of February 11, 2015

I. Call to Order at 7:05 p.m.

II. Speakers: **Ast. Chief Mattie Provost - Houston Police Dept.**

- Chief Provost joined HPD in 1985. She gave us a brief history of her credentials and experience at HPD including her leadership and FBI institute experiences. In her presentation she gave an overview of several programs.
- Highlights of crime statistics were noted. The top three stolen vehicles are: 1) Chevrolet Trucks, 2) Ford Trucks, and in third place Dodge Trucks. Always remember to stow or hide items, and lock up your vehicles.
- Police are learning more about shootings particularly since San Francisco and Ferguson incidents. One method that we have here in Houston that has worked well was mounted patrolmen. The animals are formidable and can get right in the thick of demonstration areas. Demonstrations in Houston were unlike those in other metro areas due to our effective strategies including the Mounted Patrol Officers.
- The District Attorney has noted that most citizens do not fully understand the Grand Jury System. This is an area in need of further study.
- The Body Cam project is in process. HPD has one million dollars set aside for body cams. Testing is in progress. There are several types and evaluations are being done at this time before selections are made. There is a reasonable expectation that May or June would be completion of the testing phase. The funds should purchase about 600 – 800 cams depending on the model chosen.
- There is a Citizen's Police Academy that is a ten week curriculum. The program is free. Contact the Public Affairs Department at 713-308-3200 or online for more information on this valuable program.
- Chief Provost was happy to have the overtime funds to address the homeless/panhandling issues. Some items under discussion are Bill Boards that foster a NO GIVING trend. There will be more information in coming months.

- If you notice encampments of homeless or panhandlers please make HPD aware. Encourage all property owners to cut the grass and pull weeds so these can be readily visible, thus curbing the popularity of hidden areas. Steve Wick of HPD is a talented officer in the Homeless Coalition Unit. There is a “mow down” program within City of Houston offered by Mark Kirschke.
- Help the police department by helping our selves using the following strategies:
 - Be observant and aware of your surroundings
 - Walk and park in well-lit areas
 - Travel with a partner/buddy
 - Walk with confidence not looking down or at phones
 - Carry only a small amount of money, only what you expect to spend
 - Be On Guard!
 - Lock your passenger door when filling up at gas stations
 - Don't make it easy for criminal elements to target you
- The Shoot don't Shoot program that has been in the news has made a real perspective change for citizens due to high profile attendees. Comply with police when they direct you to do something.
- There is a new Captain –Paul Follis is replacing the retiring Ruiz.

HPD does have diversity training for dealing with persons with mental health issues.

Please contact HPD or Assistant Chief Provost with questions or issues.

III. Announcements: Districts F & G, City, Metro, Repr. Murphy

District G Councilmember Representative, Mark Kirschke

- Next CIP meeting is February 18, 2015 at Revere Middle School, all are welcome. There are demonstrative steps being made to make the CIP meetings more community friendly. The Public Works Department will have representatives present to answer questions. The plan is to have much more information available at these meetings.
- Regarding projects with COH average 15 major projects per year. The new plan is to have a public meeting before each project as well as before the design phase to have real public input. It is felt that direct information

from local residents can be considered by the city as part of the overall plan since the changes or improvements directly affect the residents.

- Open space fund is a plan to have parks in all areas. There is a fee of \$700.00 per unit fee that is put into a fund. It is to be slated for parks in the area. Most will pay the fee instead of creating park space within the property owner's borders (i.e. apartment complex). Check Equity Maps for green space information or contact Mark.
- Right turn lanes are suitable as a CIP project to be submitted.
- City of Houston is planning to go totally single stream recycling. This has been put into effect in quite a few areas already.
- COH has a Homeless Help card with resources available online.
- COH has been correcting drainage charges. The details received for the more careful measurements are now in centimeters not feet. There is better modeling. If you have issues, check and verify your property and ask more questions.
- Councilmember Pennington has added \$25,000.00 to the fund for help with homeless as did District F.
- There will be SNAP project funds of \$50,000.00. The worst will be done first. An allocation to \$200,000.00 has been set aside for concrete panels for Eldridge Parkway.
- \$2,100.00 was given to Lakes of Parkway in matching grant funds from District G.

IV. Old Business

A. Approve Minutes from previous meeting. Motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to corrections needed and approval of the previous minutes.

B. Vote on Change to By-Laws

Quorum was present. Motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to corrections needed.

C. Vote on elimination of December meeting. Motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to dispense with the December meetings.

D. Committee Reports:

1. Beautification (Diane & Virgie) - none
2. 311 (Judy Thompson) – none
3. Security & Long Range Planning (Johnny Lozano) - none
4. Flooding (Billie Long) – new spillway is under construction. Braes Project is nearly complete (near Westbelt and Eldridge). He noted that a Bald Eagle was seen at the Braes project and was a lovely sight indeed.

We are still looking into details to become a 501C 4 (civic league). All areas of this issue are being explored including speaking with other local super neighborhoods.

5. Homeless (Jack O'Connor) – Jack was pleased with Asst. Chief Provost as a proactive and positive change regarding the homeless/panhandler issues.

V. New Business:

A plan for HISD for redistricting is coming soon.

Next meeting is Wednesday, March 11, 2015