

Public Safety Committee

Minutes of Thursday, October 3, 2013

Location: 5030 Santa Monica Blvd.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. **Welcome and introductions:** Meeting begins at 7:15 PM.
Safety Committee members in attendance:

Craig Cox, Cheron McAleece
Seta Panosian
Doug Haines

LAPD Officers present: Officers Matt Ziegler, Rampart, Homicide Det. John Motto, Rampart, Mark Allen, NE.

Public attending include: Raffi Kassarsian, Mike Clark, Fred Stifner, Jeff from Kenmore Ave, Ariel Gutierrez for Carousel Restaurant, others (no one signed sign-in sheet). CD 13 rep Aram Taslagyan.

2. **Police Update:** Gang shootings in area on 9/12, 9/19, 10/3. Same person targeted in two shootings by La Mirada Locos: Former member with Clantoon gang, 25-year old, suspected of being a “snitch,” shot at when at Mobil gas station on Melrose and Vermont. A westbound police unit spotted suspect with gun, but victim wouldn’t cooperate. Officer Ziegler asks if NC would support injunction against La Mirada Locos gang, due to lack of support by Silver Lake NC for a ban against gang members in their area. Committee members express support for injunction.

SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA: Discussion of murder at Edgemont/Santa Monica. Altercation began at the El Cafetal Restaurant, victim regular bar patron (the El Cafetal is a Type 41 licensee, beer and wine only). Victim, known for being belligerent when intoxicated, offended women in bar, who contact gang member friends. Security separates groups and monitor situation. Men hang around nearby 7/11 waiting for victim to leave, while security monitored situation. Sent patron out at 2AM when gang members appear to have left. Barrage of gunfire after 15 minutes, shooting at Edgemont south of Santa Monica Blvd. Car had stopped in middle of road, 4 people exit to assist victim, who was being beaten by gang members while crowd watched. Someone opens fire on good Samaritans who tried to stop victim from being beaten. Victim killed, one other sent to hospital with shot in arm. El Cafetal surveillance did not record encounter. Suspects back at restaurant following evening.

Doug mentions CD13 planners need to become more aware of alcohol issues. Says El Cafetal constant problem for neighbors, who request action. Doug suggests abatement with revocation of El Cafetal’s alcohol license.

Cheron discusses problems with prostitutes near Jr. Liquor Market on Santa Monica Blvd. Fred Stifner asks what happens when he calls non-emergency dispatch – Ziegler says he’s swamped with calls, can’t get to all call locations. Cheron asks about drunks passing out in area. Neighbor on Heliotrope says drunks being drinking at 6:30 AM. Ziegler says liquor outlets’ “bread and butter” is serving drunks.

Discussion of problems with alcohol licenses. Officer Ziegler says Arco Gas station at Vermont and Santa Monica Blvd. has high thefts of shoplifters doing “sweeps” of items into bags and running off. Says has high incidence of drunks coming from College hotel on Santa Monica Blvd.

Kevin of Kenmore Ave. says block needs more street lights. Says street has lots of problems, including recent stabbing. Ziegler says crime down in Rampart division, assaults on officers up. Says all Hondas and Toyotas from 1987 to 2005 will be stolen.

Questions to Ziegler about 101 Freeway bridge underpass at Melrose Ave. Residents says it’s a drug den. Ziegler says he’s working with Caltrans to fence entire bridge. Caltrans says not LAPD area, not to go into site without protective clothing due to diseases. Aram of CD13 says Kevin DeLeon’s office will get involved. Craig says having heroin problem at Covenant House. Says more heroin off clients in past week than all 8 years. Ziegler says all homeless are “AB109” people (prison releases due to court-ordered reductions). Says all are coming to Hollywood, giving parole officers fake addresses.

- 2a. CD 13 update:** CD 13 rep Aram Taslagyan says he’s called NE Vice regarding El Cafetal. Trying to shut it down. Craig predicts that their security will be less confrontational, afraid of getting shot. Craig suggests emergency meeting with owner, tell to employ off-duty LAPD. Ariel says lots of options with beer sales, high alcohol content. Says ABC can check if 51% of revenue is for food sales. Suggests Roxy Wiles, enforcement staff with City Planning Dept.

Aram says working on moving bus stop back to in front of Ramona Elementary School. Says MTA trying to push the issue off. Craig asks again about removing bus benches in front of Covenant House. Fred says a water main burst at Berando, with lots of mud.

- 3. Public Comment:** Fred says a water main burst at Berando, with lots of mud.

4. Approval of Minutes

5. Action Items:

A. Discussion and possible action regarding working with Councilman O’Farrell’s office for monthly clean-ups of troublesome neighborhoods and/or streets, the “Adopt-a-Trash-Can” plan for businesses along the major EH corridors and possible participation by local schools as interns to assist in organizing the clean-ups and to get neighborhood youth involved in their community and local government. We will discuss the actual mechanics of such an endeavor. Bernstein High wants a clean-up for extracurricular credit. Police Activities League will participate. Sam Kabushyan will contribute a van. Cheron suggests Nov. 9 for 1st clean up. Mike wants an Adopt-a-Basket for LA City College. Aram says he can arrange.

B. Discussion and possible action regarding a request by the Carousel Restaurant at 5112 Hollywood Blvd. for a Conditional Use Beverage permit to allow the sale and dispensing for on-site consumption of a full line of alcoholic beverages (ABC Type 47 license), with hours of operation from 11:30 AM – 11:00 PM Sunday to Thursday, and 11:30 AM – 1:00 AM Friday and Saturday [Case No. ZA 2013-1818]. The subject business is a 100-seat, 2,511 sq. ft.

existing restaurant in an 18-store strip mall with 31 total parking spaces shared by all businesses. Two other restaurants occupy the strip mall: Boiling Shrimp Restaurant (Beer and Wine license), and Dara Thai Restaurant, with 38 seats (full line of alcohol). Doug introduces. Says issues from last committee hearing on the application are: Request for a full line of alcohol rather than just beer and wine, and hours of operation. Applicant Mike Tcholakian says wants to serve “Arak” vodka to groups, common in Lebanon with meals. No mixed-alcohol drinks. Large party groups of 20-30 people. Now closes at 11PM, wants to allow groups to remain if necessary. Craig says wants to limit hours of alcohol sales to midnight. Applicant says will go for 12:30. Motion to support deviation from NC hours of sales to allow alcohol sales to 12:30 Friday and Saturday, require security cameras with high-resolution and 2-month backup, 2 Terabytes of storage. Craig moves, Cheron 2nds. Unanimous.

C. Discussion and possible action regarding Step-Up on Second’s development and operation of a permanent supportive housing project at 1011 N. Western Ave. Discussion of status of Hollywood Studio District NC’s review of proposal. Cheron says she volunteers at shelter for homeless women, is supportive of such housing, and that crime spread across area by homeless will be overseen and contained in facility. Doug says Step Up’s concept is to house homeless without any controls, that operator will not provide security on-site, that people to be housed don’t want to be off street unless they can do as they please. Doug says police can control criminal behavior when homeless are on street because they must abide by rules, but that Step Up tenants have renter’s rights to their housing, can bring in any visitors, and City Attorney would have to get involved to evict, therefore is much more difficult to control problematic behavior.

D. Discussion and Update regarding development of mixed-use project at 5245 Santa Monica Blvd. Follow up of letter to City Council from EHNC on March 25, 2012 with Councilman O’Farrell’s office. Cheron says went through City Council file and found NC comments. Seta asks why O’Farrell will not meet with her and her neighbors on this matter, since she’s been trying for months to arrange one. Aram says he discussed matter with staff and was told project already approved and nothing can be done. Doug recites history of project, says plenty can be done and needs to be done to protect neighbors and Elementary School students from impacts of this massive development. Aram says will look into issue.

6. **Old Business** Health committee in disarray.
7. **New Business/ agenda items for future committee meetings.**
8. **ADJOURNMENT: 9:30.**