

# Public Safety Committee

Minutes of Thursday June 5, 2014 Agenda meeting

Location: 1160 N. Vermont Ave.

## AGENDA ITEMS:

1. **Welcome and introductions:** Meeting begins at 7:28 PM.

Safety Committee members in attendance:

Craig Cox, Cheron McAleece, Seta Panosian, Doug Haines, Leon Jost

LAPD Officers present: NE Commanding Officer Jeff Bert; Sergeant Soltero, Vice, SLO Lenny Davis, SLO Nina Preciado; Rampert: Commanding Officer Sandoval, Sergeant Turner, Vice, Officer Turner, Vice, Officer Gallahan, Vice, SLO Matt Ziegler; Hollywood Division Commanding Officer Zarcone, SLO Brenda Ramirez, SLO Jason Witt; SLO Julie Nony. ABC investigator Sean Ramos; CD 13 Field Deputy Aram Taslagyan; City Attorney Jackie Lawson; City Attorney Gabrielle Taylor.

Public present: Approx. 50 residents and neighborhood council members.

2. **Public Comment:** Jirair Tossoknian discusses Nextdoor.com. .

3. **Police Update:**

**A. Discussion regarding the April 29, 2014 shooting at the 98 Cent Store located at 5065 Hollywood Blvd. Discuss police response and school notification of gunman at large.** NE Captain Bert says busiest area in his division is East Hollywood. Says shooting victim was deceased upon officer arrival, family members upset. Needed to establish perimeter, resulting in criticism. Investigation is on-going. Tereza Yerimyan complains of slow response time, says nearby Armenian school wasn't notified of gunman at large until 11AM, school finally locked down. Captain says no protocol for locking down a school. SLO Lennie Davis says he met with Armenian school head, is working to improve communication.

Business owner at Melrose and Heliotrope asks about using social media to alert community of such incidents. Captain Bert says NIXEL is LAPD way to do so. SLO Preciado mentions officer contact sheet distributed at meeting. Captain Zarcone of Hollywood Division says Amber Alert type warnings are rarely used, but LAPD does have the capability.

Captain Bert says biggest crime in East Hollywood is theft, particularly burglaries from motor vehicles. Says high percentage of residents in area leave car doors unlocked, states crime would decrease 30% if everyone locked car doors. Captain Bert further states that aggravated assaults in area have no pattern, one-third are transient on transient reports. Dealing with problems by putting more officers in our area.

Resident Jeff Gordon of Kenmore Ave. asks for social media to keep updated on crime stats, says hasn't received any such information. Another resident asks why patrol officers don't stop and address homeless encampments. Captain Bert replies that not all officers are on patrol, many are on their way to calls. Captain gives his personal phone number: 213 804-3861.

Captain Bert says number one complaint is graffiti. Has tracking system in place, has arrested 96 people. Wants to have community call his station with moniker of tagger and photo of graffiti. Resident Mike Clark asks why officers on patrol don't photograph graffiti and report to his division. Captain Bert says they are too busy.

**B. Discussion regarding local neighborhood markets' illegal alcohol sales to minors and inebriated patrons; persistent gang tagging and lack of graffiti removal; ineffective security, high number of police calls for service and undue burden on LAPD and ABC resources, and decrepit appearance of property. Specifically Jr. Market, 4820 Santa Monica Blvd., Day 'N' Night Market, 5101 Santa Monica Blvd.** ABC investigative officer Sean Ramos says his department has opened an investigation of the Jr. Market. Nearby resident Matt says his house overlooks the market and drunks begin congregating at parking lot at 6 AM. Business owner Fred Stifter of Linoleum City states that he is constantly dealing with transients, drunks urinating on his property, wants to know what to do, asks if limitations can be placed on size of alcohol containers. Investigator Ramos says there are no restrictions on the size of alcohol containers sold; SLO Ziegler says officer needs to personally see person drinking in public to give citation.

Craig Cox asks for the number of ABC license suspensions before revocation. No clear answer. Doug asks if a suspension is permanent or temporary; Ramos says minimum 1-year suspension. Rampart Vice officer says he has visited the Jr. Market 13 times. Cheron says people should take photos of transients congregating near market; local resident says tried to do so and was attacked. A business owner at Arka Plaza says she runs a counseling center, feels like she is a hostage in her own business. Craig suggests she hire private security; business owner says she believes police are responsible for maintaining order, she pays taxes for their service. City Attorney Gabrielle Taylor says her office needs evidence to prosecute, but has limited resources; have 200 attorneys, down from 300.

**C. Discussion regarding the LAPD's jurisdictional divisions hampering effective law enforcement in East Hollywood. Examples of public drinking on side of one division while source of alcohol being obtained from other side.** Cheron says she's spoken to an officer from NE Division while witnessing an assault on Rampart side of Santa Monica Blvd., with no action by NE officer. Captain Zarcone says residents need to continue calling police so that the record shows the number of calls. Says not to call front desk, as will not be reported.

**D. Discussion regarding the proiferation of marijuana clinics and the lack of enforcement of Measure D.** Jackie Lawson of City Attorney's office says to go to web site and check if dispensary in community is on list. Says there are no funds to close pot shops, that laws are confusing due to conflicting statutes. Says website will provide details. Says Measure D is working.

**E. Discussion regarding drug use and sales, and prostitution.** Resident asks about massage parlors; Captain Zarcone says to contact Vice unit for investigation. Rampart Division Vice officer says his unit is doing undercover investigations.

**F. Discussion regarding increased gang activity north of Santa Monica Blvd., at Melrose and Heliotrope Ave.** Fred Stifter says constant tagging in his area, has his workers paint over graffiti. SLO Ziegler says "Clantones" gang and La Mirada gang doing most of the graffiti. Says "through the roof." Says increased shootings between gangs.

Craig says Covenant House clients beat up on Friday and Saturdays by gang members. Getting “jumped.” Ziegler says clubbers are easy victims, especially when intoxicated. Jon, owner of the Karabaugh Meat Market on Serrano Ave. says he sees drunks every morning at Sunset and Normandie drinking alcohol, smoking pot. Says gang members are using acid on windows of businesses, tagging constantly or using Pee Wee inductees to do so.

4. **CD13 Update:** Rep Aram Taslagyan says Councilman Mitch O’Farrell couldn’t attend. On issue of Pot clinics, Aram says O’Farrell wants Measure D enforced. On homeless encampment issue, says recent State Supreme Court rulings require 10-step process to eliminate them. Jon of Karabaugh Meat Market complains about large increase in homeless population at Barnsdall Park; Aram says will have PATH reach out to transients.
  
- 2a. **Further Public Comment:** Linda Kroff complains of illegal dumping in her area on Santa Monica Blvd. near Madison Ave. Says she sees no police presence. Displays photos of alley adjacent to Cahuenga Library, trash and graffiti. Aram says DWP has put up more lights in the alley; Jackie Lawson of City Attorney’s office says had similar situation with SLO Brenda Ramirez, cleaned up alley.
  
5. **Additional Community Updates:** Captain Zarcone mentions Emergency Preparedness Expo on June 24. Craig Cox says gets immediate action when contacting Hollywood Division. Says: “A closed mouth doesn’t get fed.”
  
6. **Action Items:** None.
  
7. **New/Old Business:** None.

**Adjourn: 9:48**