

# Public Safety Committee

Minutes of Thursday July 10, 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 (leaves at 9PM), Cheron McAleece, Seta Panosian, Doug Haines, Eric Moore, Shahan Suzmeyan

LAPD Officers present: NE SLO Lenny Davis, Nina Preciado; Hollywood Division: SLO Julie Nony. Metro Vice Jeb Levine  
ABC investigator Will Salou; CD 13 Field Deputy Aram Taslagyan; City Attorney Jackie Lawson; Board members Jeff Zarrinman; Matt Benton; Patrick Bustamante; Public present: Cindy DuHaime-Londberg; Linda Kroff, Jeremy Sidell, PATH. Gurmeet Multani. India's Restaurant.

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

2. **Public Comment:** None.
3. **A/C. Police and ABC Updates:** Shooting on June 29 on Vermont: Officer Davis says numerous witnesses and investigating. June 5 shooting near Del Taco not tied to King Middle School. Says victim had been at event. April 29 shooting at 98 Cent store on Hollywood Blvd. is also an on-going investigation.

Davis says 8 car break-ins prior week, 5 at unlocked cars. One victim now third time, keeps leaving purse in car with doors unlocked. Cindy asks about proliferation of shootings. Shahan says he's noticed an increase in transients in neighborhood, says appear to be dealing drugs. Officer Davis says bike unit is dedicated to area, court rulings require homeless rights. Jeff Gordon of Kenmore Ave. asks about association between graffiti and violence. Davis says he's concerned about cross-outs and retaliation. Patrick asks if a tagged area is a hang-out; Davis says such areas are claimed.

Tenant of Arka Plaza says constant drug dealing in mall; Cheron says owner communicated with police and is considering hiring security. Davis asked for a summary of such problems.

Detective Jeb Levin of citywide Metro vice and nuisance abatement says his unit involved when area patrols fail to resolve problems. Meets with property owners, explains charge, uses zoning laws to prohibit alcohol venues. Joins with City Attorney. Cover all vice issues except narcotics. Works out of downtown headquarters. Takes up to 2 years to rescind CUB if the property owner won't cooperate. Meets with property owner, says will change site zoning. Says active investigations on-going with Jr. Market, El Cafetal, and Day 'N' Night market.

Will Salou of ABC says looking into complaints on El Caretal. Says covers L:A from downtown to West Hollywood. Says former El Cafetal owner surrendered license. Can't comment on Jr. Market. Eric asks about sales of alcohol to "private parties" at El Cafetal. Salou says will investigate.

Jackie Lawson fo City Attorney's office asks about timeframe for ABC investigations. Salou says regular license application would be made public and El Cafetal hasn't reapplied. If no protests

requires 90 days; contested take six months to years for approval. Matt asks about Jr. Market investigation timeframe and end result. Salou says have a 30-day investigation requirement. If nothing illegal will close investigation after five attempts. Det. Levin says it's better to pester his unit, not ABC. Eric Moore asks about witnesses to sales to minors, taking photos. Det. Levine says will use as evidence to approach owner. Salou says need to physically have proof of violation. Says very difficult to revoke license. Matt says drunk transients impact neighborhood. Salou says can never get a criminal file on serving alcohol to habitual drunks. Need obvious proof that clerk witnessed person being intoxicated. Det. Levine says problematic venues can have imposed conditions such as requiring bright orange shopping bags so patrol officers can recognize source of alcohol.

Arka Plaza tenant complains of transient on mattress on property, won't go to hospital despite illness. Police move transient only to street. Officer Nony distributes homeless services cards.

Detective Phelps of Hollywood Division Narcotics unit is dealing with pot shops. Says dwindling quickly. 135 allowed citywide under Measure D. Resident asks if California headed in direction of legalization akin to Colorado. Phelps says Colorado did process correctly. Says Michigan has 3 pot shops in entire state. Jackie Lawson says to contact her office if a new dispensary opens. Seta asks about kids buying pot; Phelps says to call Narco unit. Shahan says he's getting complaints about carload of minors pulling up, adult buys pot for all, kids smoking pot on sidewalk, behavioral issues of disobedience. Phelps says hasn't encountered anyone selling to minors. Says clients can smoke pot anywhere except where smoking laws apply. Doug asks about options to rid areas of pot smokers in neighborhood. Levine says can use loitering rules.

Craig says Covenant House kids buying pot at Lemon Grove shop on Western Ave. without medical cards.

**B. Update from City Attorney.** Joel Taylor, City Attorney's office, says event to be held to meet neighborhood prosecutors. July 16. 213 978-7837. Jackie Lawson says she brought Dec. Levine to answer issues.

**D. Update from CD13.** Aram says 30% of pot shops have closed. Discusses Barnsdall Park homeless population. Says PATH and park rangers and city attorney met to address. Says a resident on Virgil and Hoover complaining about cars on street with "For Sale" signs. Passing ordinance to restrict from on Hoover from Santa Monica to Temple. Eric asks about illegal vending. Aram says people being cited.

4. **A. Discussion and possible action regarding properties located at 1126 1/2 and 1126 3/4 N. New Hampshire Ave. Neighbor complaints about unoccupied units utilized by squatters in drug activity, noise. Uncooperative owner.** SLO Preciado did a building search for transients, property owner will board building. Liinda Kroff says lock not put on front gate. Says her window is "4 feet" from property. Called owner, who said wouldn't do anything. Has had break in in her apt. as a result. Cheron says to discuss with SLO.

**B. Discussion and possible action regarding monthly clean-ups, Introduce Sharyn Romano, LA/Hollywood Beautification Team.** Sharyn not present. Cheron says want to identify problematic street segments and "transfor" entire street and vest neighbors in doing so.

**C. Discussion and possible action regarding support of PATH and the East Hollywood Los Feliz Homeless Coalition.** Megan Colvard and Dana Cremin. PATH in existence 30 years, 500 beds, 7 housing developments. Jeremy Sidell for PATH, Dana for EHLFHC. PATH hired by communities to house homeless. Outreach at Kaiser emergency room.

**D. Discussion and possible action regarding supporting a “Responsible Retailer” program and ordinance banning single-can sales of alcohol.** Tabled.

**E. Discussion and possible action regarding formation of Neighborhood Watch groups. Cindy DuHaime-Londberg of the Garfield Neighborhood Watch.** Cindy describes how she moved to Hollywood from Beachwood Canyon. Deaf and can't hear anyone approaching her. Worked to meet neighbors and bring together community, now has block parties of everyone in area. Invites NC to attend annual party. Text her at 310 770-1014. Email at garfieldwatch@hotmail.com.

**F. Discussion and possible action regarding procedure for pro forma safety committee letters.** Tabled.

**G. Discussion and possible action regarding application for a beer and wine license for the India's Restaurant, 4366 Fountain Ave.** Owner Gurmeet Multani, opened 5 months ago. Beer and wine sales would be 10% of business. Agrees to not sell alcohol without a food order. Shahan says to stick to NC guidelines due to concentration of alcohol in immediate area. Discussion, vote to amend allowed hours of allowed alcohol sales to 3PM to 11PM Monday through Friday, 11 AM to 11 PM Sat/Sun, with 2/3 vote of Board. Shahan moves, Seta 2nds. Unanimous.

**H. Discussion and possible action regarding nomination of Matt Benton to the committee.** Eric moves, Seta 2nds, Unanimous.

**I. Approval of May and June meeting minutes.** May minutes: Shahan moves, Eric 2nds. Unanimous. June minutes: Cheron moves, Shahan 2nds. Unanimous.

**5. NEW/OLD BUSINESS.**

**6. Adjourn: 10:20.**