

Public Safety Committee

Minutes of Thursday, July 11, 2013

Location: 5030 Santa Monica Blvd.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. **Welcome and introductions:** Meeting begins at 7:17 PM.
Safety Committee members in attendance:

Cheron McAleece
Eric Moore
Doug Haines
Leon Jost

LAPD Officers present: Officer Orange, NE.

Public attending include: Fred Stifner, David Chamberlain. Cameron Brown, Raffi Kassarsian, Eliza Suruchlian, Magdi Gindi, Ariel Gutierrez, Steve Chon, Mike Tcholakian, Lex Chau, Roy Martinez, Tripti Majkinder. CD 13 rep Arem Taslagyan.

2. **Police Update:** Officer Craig Orange, replacing former NE SLO Lennie Davis, states that problematic locations include 1269 N. Vermont, a Section 8 housing unit, with drug, gang and prostitute issues. Says 13 residents are convicted criminals, have had 11 convictions from 17 arrests. Officer Orange says break-ins occurring at Normandie Ave. and Sunset Blvd., and restaurant robberies on Hillhurst. Suspect in robberies is Hispanic on bike, robs at midnight, on bike. Says also that East Hollywood is busiest area of division for crime.

Cheron asks how to get more police resources devoted to area; officer have city put in more lighting. Discussion regarding proliferation of homeless, Arem from CD13 says trying to address homeless situation, will have meeting July 19 with CD 4, 9:30 AM.

3. **Public Comment:**

4. **Approval of Minutes:** Agenda not posted in time for Brown Act 72 hours – no votes.

5. **Action Items.**

A. Discussion and possible action requesting intervention by the City Attorney against a nuisance commercial property at 5101 Santa Monica Blvd. at the intersection of Normandie Ave., and discussion regarding the lack of corrective measures by property owner Magdi Gindi. Complaints over several years that have been expressed by both adjacent residents and on-site business owners include: illegal alcohol sales to minors and inebriated patrons by the Day ‘N’ Nite Market; intoxicated patrons passed out daily on premises and adjacent public sidewalks; homeless/intoxicated persons sleeping on premises every night; 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. Owner Magdi Gindi present, and tenants Raffi and wife. Discussion of homeless persons sleeping on property, public drunkenness, alcohol sales to minors, graffiti on premises. Request that Officer Orange speak to owner of Day ‘N’ Nite Market, threaten to bring action against owner if continues to sell to drunks and minors. Lengthy conversation with mall owner and Officer Orange regarding

options to clean up premises. Doug berates owner for not addressing graffiti or maintaining premises. Says not City's responsibility to clean up his property, needs to put up "No Trespassing" signage and hire effective security. Says NC will help draft letter to market owner threatening eviction.

J & J Liquor Market owner says she received complaint from ABC and LAPD about her sales to minors and drunks, told to clean up or lose license. Says took training and stopped improper sales. Says spoke to Day 'N' Nite owner, asked that he also stop selling to drunks, but that the owner wouldn't do so and didn't care.

B. LAPD update regarding passage of Measure D on the May 21, 2013 citywide ballot, and LAPD/City Attorney efforts to shut down illegal marijuana dispensaries. Doug says discussed issue with CD 13 planning deputies earlier in day, told that they had a "ride-along" with LAPD Hollywood Division Commanding Officer Captain Girmala, and that CD 13 felt she considered dispensaries a low priority. Doug said had invited LAPD narcotics officer to attend, but didn't return call. Tabled for further discussion.

C. 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). Owner Mike Tcholakian says in operation for 28 years, parents original owners, has another restaurant in Glendale. Says Glendale restaurant has full line of alcohol and live entertainment, belly dancers. Wants license for Hollywood location to remain competitive with others in strip mall that recently received alcohol licenses (Boiling Shrimp Type 41, Dara Thai Type 47). Will limit hard liquor to vodka, only sell with food order, now closes at 9:15 to 10:15, depending on groups, wants to sell to 2AM. Request by committee to have midnight cut-off; owner refuses. (Rep: Ariel Gutierrez).

Doug asks about parking, as only 31 spaces for entire mall. Owner says valet will use lot across Hollywood Blvd. Doug says that the lot already used by other businesses; owner says Dara Thai is a late venue, no conflict with customers. Leon expresses concerns about impacts on neighborhood, says we have to deal with the problems when owner goes home to Glendale. Entitlement consultant says application is expedited; Doug says will try to decide matter prior to any city hearing.

D. Discussion and possible action regarding a request by applicant Antico Los Angeles – Hollywood LLC for a Conditional Use Beverage permit to allow the sale and dispensing for on-site consumption of beer and wine at a proposed "Desano Pizza Bakery" at 4969 Santa Monica Blvd., at the intersection of Alexandria Ave. Hours of requested operation are 11:30 AM – 10:00 PM Sunday to Thursday, and 11:30 – 1:00 AM Friday and Saturday. The proposed operation is a 6,822 sq. ft. restaurant with 149 seats and 10 parking spaces [Case No. ZA 2013-1911]. Introduction by representative of entitlement consultant, Elizabeth Peterson Group. Says will be upscale pizza restaurant, alcohol sold only in conjunction with food. Parking limited to 10 spaces due to "change of use" credit issued by Building and Safety. Doug requests certificate to review, says inadequate parking even for employees, asks why adjacent parking lot controlled by applicant will be for valet parking with charge instead of free since right next to

restaurant. Representative says will look into it. Discussion of late hours, Doug mentions problems by El Cafetal Restaurant next door with gang members. Rep says will look into it. Request for further information at next hearing. Application on slow track.

E. Discussion and possible action regarding Against the Stream/Clean-up of debris, graffiti, etc. along Clinton Street. Against the Stream would like our input and possible participation in cleaning up this neglected street. Cheron says will attend Saturday at 9AM, July 28.

F. Discussion and possible action regarding Walk-the-Redline Event/Silver Lake Comprehensive Mobility Project C.h.i.M.P., a subcommittee of the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council's Transportation and Public Works Committee program to improve the walkability from the Vermont/Santa Monica station to Sunset Junction. Walk to take place Saturday, July 13 at 9am.

G. Discussion and possible action regarding increased homeless, public drunkenness around Arka Plaza. Officer Orange says plaza needs "No Trespassing" signs with LAMC code, and that area residents need to contact the NE watch commander and complain about intoxicated persons. Says callers need to request "cite and search," ask for record of response to calls, say want to go to City Attorney. Get patrol officers to follow "mission sheet," checking off address on sheet each patrol.

Eliza asks about people urinating in plazas in public view. Officer Orange says police and city attorney no longer file citations and charges, no resources to follow up. Leon says can contact school police near school facilities.

H. Discussion and possible action regarding constant low-flying helicopters. Cheron says helicopters circling every night, looks at crime stats and sees no reports of arrests. Asks if copter pilots are joyriding. Officer Orange says have limited patrol resources, requested copter to circle overhead and use heat-seeking device to determine if people are hiding.

I. Discussion and possible action regarding Winnebago parked around the neighborhood with people living in it full time. Possible preferential or permitted parking? Doug introduces issue of man, "David," living in large Winnebago, currently parked in 4500 block of Santa Monica Blvd. Spoke with occupant, says trying to leave, understands neighbor's concerns, realizes leaking sewage. Says RV was improperly impounded and cost \$1,300 to recover, set him back financially, wants to go downtown where had previously parked 20 years. Is blind in one eye due to recent accident and cannot drive, needs assistance. Would not attend meeting but said to give out his phone # to anyone. Officer Orange says will go over and speak to occupant, an cite for parking. Doug requests that "David" be given an opportunity to leave, says "David" explained had previous run-in with police resulting in impounding of vehicle. Officer Orange says will give him a chance to get it together and leave.

6. **Old Business** Health committee moving forward.
7. **New Business/ agenda items for future committee meetings.**
8. **ADJOURNMENT: 9:55.**