

Public Safety Committee

Minutes of Thursday October 2, 2014 Agenda meeting

Location: 1160 N. Vermont Ave.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. **Welcome and introductions:** Meeting begins at 7:16 PM.
Safety Committee members in attendance:

Cheron McAleece, Craig Cox, Doug Haines, Leon Jost

LAPD Officers present: SLO Joe Eubank, Hollywood Division. Lieutenant Rob Taylor, LAUSD School Police, and accompanying Officer Masterson.

Public present: EHNC Board member Jeff Zarrinam. Members of public: Mike Clark.

2. **Public Comment:** None.
4. **A. Police update:** Officer Eubank discusses issues with Home Depot. Says Vice Unit sting with arrests and citations. Cheron asks if transients are still “shaken down” by MS13 gang members; Eubank says restraining order in place on one member. Says area has seen increased burglaries and graffiti. Says Headhunters gang members were arrested prior week in Serrano Ave. alley.

5. **Action Items**

A. Discussion and possible action regarding sending a letter to the CA Dept. of Alcoholic Beverage Control strongly opposing proposed transfer of an ABC Type 20 Beer and Wine license from the prior owner of the Day ‘n’ Nite Market at 5101 Santa Monica Blvd. to new owner Fernando Neomal, dba “Best Price Beer and Wine,” in accordance with Article XI of the EHNC By-Laws. Doug discusses recurring problems with all owners of market, who over the years continue to sell to drunks and minors. Says receives constant complaints from neighbors of drunks purchasing alcohol at market, passing out in parking lot and side streets. Prior ownership transfer had no hearing, was forced sale due to repeat ABC violations. Says sick of never ending drunks at location. SLO Eubank says market has had 11 calls for service in previous year, all for intoxicated drinkers. Says will contact owner, Dr. Gindhi. Says new Vice Unit supervisor is Lt. Dibbel. **Cheron moves to oppose license transfer. Leon seconds. Unanimous.**

B. Discussion and possible action regarding security concerns at Covenant House, 1325 N. Western Ave. and allegations that the facility exceeding its permitted maximum number of beds. Doug outlines problems he is encountering from facility resulting from recent firing of head of security, Craig Cox, w/o replacement. Representative of Covenant House, Mr. Siordia, with facility for 18 1/2 years. Says there’s a two-block radius where clients are not allowed to loiter. Youths asked to leave facility M-F at 9AM. Cheron says emergency youths at such facilities are a problem since they have nothing to do all day. Siordia says looking at creating a dayshift program, but admits has no start date. Recently hired a new person as resident advisor. Will create identification for clients.

Leon says ID is a plus, but that employees don’t live in area and don’t have to deal with problems. Craig says SLO Nony recently went to Covenant House and was not allowed to enter building. Told needed a warrant. Officer Eubank sees more loitering since no security. Says facility is private property, but when police show up and are kept out and forced to speak through the intercom it sends a

message that the facility is a safe haven for criminals. Doug says he wants a person available to contact 24 hours if there are problems. Says wants a qualified replacement head of security, one licensed to carry a concealed weapon. Asks that youths not congregate in front of facility.

C. Discussion and possible action regarding community complaints of inadequate efforts by the LAUSD School Police and LAUSD officials to detain truant students. Doug discusses problems his neighborhood is having with truants hanging out in area, especially new pocket park, with tagging and pot smoking. Can't get School Police to regularly check neighborhood and detain truants. Has to contact LAPD. No help from school principles. Seeks better efforts by LAUSD to control students, keep them in school. Lieutenant Rob Taylor, school police, says four years ago activist groups sought different approach to truancy, not police contact. Says there also was defunding of juvenile courts by state, creating backlog of cases and students waiting for court review long periods, out of school. Truant tickets also created economic hardships for parents. Result is that LAUSD's truancy approach has changed to "Restorative Justice." Counselors now deal with problems. Truants now returned to school, where a plan is created to address child's troubles. Some officers don't want to deal with "softer" approach. Truants have to be under 18. Taken into custody and put into patrol car, returned to school. Says LAPD also has "J" car, juvenile cars.

Cheron asks about jurisdiction of school police. Lt. Taylor says have full jurisdiction as any police officer to address criminal activity. Can arrest anyone. No difference at officer level. Mike Clark asks about number of officers and schools. Told school police operate 24 hours, fixed posts. 365 total officers for 900 schools. One officer at each high school. May have an officer at a middle school. Random patrols are most effective. 1 officer per 1,000 to 2,000 students. Lt. Taylor says he supervises 150 schools. Gives phone number as 213 625-6631.

Leon asks about adult schools. Lt. Taylor says special officers assigned to oversee. Usually LAPD officers paid at a reduced rate. Says that until 1985, school police were plainclothes. Now all are uniformed.

D. Discussion and possible action regarding a request by applicant Jacques Mesachi for the continued use of a CUB to allow the sale and distribution of beer and wine for off-site consumption in conjunction with an ARCO gas station mini-mart located at 4666 Santa Monica Blvd. Case # ZA 2011 2820 CUB. Hours of alcohol sales 8 AM to Midnight. Jacques introduces request for continued license, says doesn't sell to drunks. Says a new cashier sold alcohol to minor, first violation he's had. Put entire staff into training program. Wants to change conditions to allow 3-pack beer sales. Will make formal presentation next month.

E. Discussion and possible action regarding a request for a Conditional Use Beverage Permit at 4845-4849 Fountain Avenue (at the intersection of Catalina Ave.) to allow the dispensing of a full line of alcoholic beverages for both on-site and off-site consumption in conjunction with a proposed 3,242 sq. ft., 112-seat restaurant and market with live entertainment of up to four musicians, no parking spaces, and proposed hours of operation and alcohol sales of 6AM to 2AM daily. The applicant proposes that 58 of the restaurant's seats be outdoors, located on the exterior frontage facing Fountain Ave., utilizing both private property and the public right of way. The applicant is also requesting a Change of Use from retail to restaurant. Tabled to next month by applicant's representative's request.

ADJOURN: 9:41.