

Public Safety Committee

Minutes of Thursday, April 4, 2013

Location: 5030 Santa Monica Blvd.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. **Welcome and introductions:** Meeting begins at 7:22 PM.
Safety Committee members in attendance:

Craig Cox
Eric Moore

Doug Haines
Leon Jost
Seta Panosian
Cheron McAleece

LAPD Officers present: None.

Present: Board member Armen Makasjian, HSDNC Chair Steve Whiddon. Public attending include: Cindy DuHaine, Lyn Pacificar, David Chamberlain, Mike Clark, Anthony Flores of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Walter of Normandie Ave.

2. **Police Update:** Mike Clark says Officer Ziegler of Rampart Division is getting bank that repossessed property at 714 N. Kenmore to board it up.
3. **CD 13 Update:** None, as usual.
4. **Public Comment:** Anthony of Immaculate Heart says church will have an event April 21 to raise funds. Steve Whiddon, Chair of the Hollywood Studio District Neighborhood Council states that our NC has similar safety issues and wishes to join his NC on new committee. Cindy DuHaine says she runs her neighborhood watch and believes that working together will enhance area. Doug comments that joint efforts will enhance awareness of NCs in area.
5. **Approval of Minutes:** Craig moves, Eric seconds. Unanimous.
6. **Action Items.**
 - a. **Discussion and possible action regarding neighborhood complaints of blighted properties at Edgemont St. and Melrose Ave., particularly complaints of trash, graffiti and squatters.** Problems expressed with landlords refusing to maintain blighted property. Armen says parents owned property behind antique shop and businesses parked on their property. Owner is David Simanian. Mike Clark says he put together a petition because graffiti was all across the Melrose lot but has since been cleaned up. City gave notice to 4401, 4409 Melrose to remove trash; City Attorney working on matter. Neighbor attending meeting asks why we're not addressing blight of property at Santa Monica Blvd. and New Hampshire Ave., owned by owner of Gran Burrito across the street. Doug says will be placed on agenda for next meeting. **Eric moves to write letter of support for Mike Clark's efforts to get blighted properties on Melrose Ave. cited and cleaned up. Leon seconds. Unanimous.**

- b. Discussion and possible action regarding a request for up to \$500 to purchase supplies for LAPD Hollywood Division's Youth Mentoring Center.** Discussion of Center's mission and lack of funds for essential supplies. **Eric moves** to support motion to Board requesting up to \$500 for Mentoring Center. **Craig seconds. Unanimous.**
- c. Discussion regarding status and organization of the Public Safety Committee, with possible nomination of new committee chairs.** Eric requests that he be relieved as co-chair. Cheron agrees to be co-chair, pending approval by Board. **Eric moves. Leon seconds. Unanimous.**
- d. Discussion regarding March 16 arson fire at 5343 Virginia Ave.** Doug explains carport arson fire at apartment building, incendiary device thrown at 10:45 PM by Hispanic male with baseball cap, joined outside by Hispanic male wearing hoodie. All caught on surveillance videos. Suspects are potential beer drunks who congregate on Virginia Ave. and had been previously in argument with victim. No action.
- e. Discussion regarding single-can beer sales by "Mom and Pop" liquor stores, particularly sales to minors and to intoxicated patrons.** Armen says Business Committee had meeting and invited storeowners of all liquor retailers in area, but only 7-11 on Sunset Blvd., T & J and Bill's Jr. liquor on Sunset showed up. Cheron says Junior Mart on Santa Monica Blvd. selling "shooters," i.e. small bottles. Eric asks about broader issue of homeless and alcoholics. Craig says State is dropping van loads of ex-cons in Hollywood. Armen says some stores trying to do right thing while others are creating problems, says good are caught up and prosecuted while bad are not. Consensus to leave to Business Committee. No action.
- f. Discussion regarding loitering at the intersection of Sunset Blvd. and Normandie Ave.** Armen says he's gotten a good response from property owners to address problem of homeless and drunks congregating at this location. Craig says homeless woman "Brenda" who slept on sidewalk in front of dialysis center died when taken recently to hospital. Problem is bus benches, where they loiter, but can't get them removed without a hearing. Even if benches are removed, transients loiter on block walls. No action.
7. **Old Business:** Rick Martino, aka Birdman, update. Cheron says recent Court of Appeal decision states that protesters may remain on public property. Eric says never sent letter of complaint about Martinos as approved by Board – Doug says irresponsible to not send letters Board approves.
8. **New Business.** Leon says Community Health Committee, has had trouble getting people to show up.
9. **ADJOURNMENT. 9:26.**