



HDCA Monthly Meeting Notes  
January 8, 2020

Attendees:

Bob Adjemian  
Bruce Bermudez  
David Brewer  
Deborah Brosseau  
Dan Butler  
Pamela Clay Magathan  
Kerry Crutchfield  
Brandi D'Amore  
Linda Deutsch  
Judy Dowden  
Jodi Ehrlich  
Anne Fitzgibbon  
Rachel Fox

Chancellor Fried  
Persephone Godwin  
Scott Grodner  
Douglas Gruninger  
Alexa Iles Skarpelos  
Kathy Kielar  
Gary Lewis  
Lois Rosby Lewis  
Jose Lopez-Cepero  
Glenn Maith  
David Martel  
Cole Martin

Thomas Moore  
Fernando Morales  
Patti Negri  
Janet Simon  
Merle Singer  
Nathan Singer  
George Skarpelos  
Jacqueline Tager  
Jonathan Wallace  
Ethan Weaver  
Brian White  
Kelly Ziegler

## I. Welcomes & Introductions

**Alexa Iles Skarpelos** HDCA President  
Email: [alexa@hollywooddell.com](mailto:alexa@hollywooddell.com)

### Time to Pay 2020 HDCA Membership Dues!

Alexa welcomed everyone, thanked those who were members in 2019 and reminded everyone that it's time to pay 2020 dues! The first to join qualify for the Hollywood Bowl and other perks like discounts on Dell event tickets, and your name is entered to win "members" raffle items at our events. You can pay via check, using PayPal or credit card. The \$50 per household annually has been the same rate for nearly 10 years! It's a great bargain. We also offer a reduced rate for seniors. Dues pay to fund HDCA projects and events. To pay online go to: <http://hollywooddell.com/> and click on the "donate" button.

## II. HDCA Business & Announcements

### Filming in The Hollywood Dell

HDCA will be asking all production companies that film in the Dell to make a donation to the neighborhood starting in 2020. We learned that this is common practice, and that other neighborhoods have raised significant funds this way. In addition, because our neighborhood has been designated a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone by LAFD, and people from outside our area may not be aware of this, we will be advising those working on productions in the Dell of "no smoking outside" rules. This is a matter of public safety.

The HDCA requests that residents that receive notifications of filming from FilmLA to pass along the information to us so that we can reach out to the appropriate people. FilmLA only requires those neighbors adjacent to filming to be notified, but filming does impact the neighborhood at large. Please email: [alexa@hollywooddell.com](mailto:alexa@hollywooddell.com) or text a photo of the notice to: (310) 497-3982.

### **Becoming a 501c3**

Many years ago the HDCA was established as a 501c4 (social welfare / civic organization). While as a 501c4 the HDCA does have non-profit status, the IRS does not consider contributions to HDCA tax-deductible.

The primary benefit of being a 501c4 organization is to be free to engage in lobbying and political campaigns. Since the HDCA mission is to provide opportunities for civic engagement and information sharing, but not to support specific political ideas or candidates, we feel it's in our best interest to change our status. As a 501c3 we will have the ability to make "asks" from corporate donors and other groups that only donate to 501c3 organizations. This will help HDCA to do significant fundraising. Kelly Ziegler, HDCA Treasurer, will be heading up this effort. Anyone who has experience establishing a 501c3 is encouraged to join him in this project! You can contact him via email: [kelly@hollywoodell.com](mailto:kelly@hollywoodell.com).

### **February Election Meeting**

February is our annual HDCA Executive Board Election meeting. The four executive board positions are president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. We have three of the four running for re-election and one open position (secretary). HDCA members in good standing are qualified to run for any position.

### **Candidates For Council District 4**

We have also invited the candidates who are running to represent us in LA City Council District 4 to attend. We have confirmed that both challengers (Sarah Kate Levy and Nithya Raman) are coming. We are waiting to hear back if Council Member Ryu will also join us.

If you have questions for any of the candidates please let us know in advance! After the meeting there will be time for informal one-on-one chats.

### **Voting Centers**

In 2020 how / where you vote will be different than what most people are used to. Polling places will be "voting centers" not in the neighborhood.

### **Tablet Replaces InkaVote**

The way you mark your ballot is also changing. Say goodbye to the InkaVote method and say hello to the tablet (similar to iPad). There will be a voter center demonstration of the new tablet on January 23, 2020 at Cheremoya Elementary School. This is an opportunity to have "hands on" with the new tablet and practice before election day.

### **Registered Nonpartisan?**

If you are registered as a "nonpartisan" (not registered as a Democrat or Republican) you will NOT be able to vote in the presidential primary unless you request a ballot from one of the parties that allow nonpartisans. Only three parties (Democrat, Libertarian and American Independent) allow nonpartisans to "cross over" into their primary elections. Republican Party leaders closed their primary to nonpartisan voters.

## **III. Updates from Local Officials**

**Rachel Fox**, Field Deputy – Council Member David Ryu's Office (CD4)

Email: [Rachel.fox@lacity.org](mailto:Rachel.fox@lacity.org)

### **Sidewalk Vending**

Last year street vending was legalized by the State of California and the City of Los Angeles also passed an ordinance to regulate street vending. Effective January 1, 2020 vendors will have to go through a permit process and will have to follow specific steps getting registered. They will have to display something and the permit is good for the entire city, with the exception of the exclusion zones\* established by the city of LA. There are limits to how many vendors can be in city parks based on square footage. Street vendors are inspected by the County Public Health Department (this is who you file complaints with).

*\*Exclusion Zones include places like the Hollywood Bowl, Hollywood Walk of Fame, Staples Center etc.*

### **CM Ryu's has published a 2019 Annual Report.**

Rachel left copies for anyone who would like one. You can also read it online:

[http://davidryu.lacity.org/year\\_in\\_review\\_councilmember\\_ryu\\_releases\\_2018\\_2019\\_annual\\_report](http://davidryu.lacity.org/year_in_review_councilmember_ryu_releases_2018_2019_annual_report)

### **Annual Homeless Count**

They are asking for volunteers to participate in the count.

The Hollywood Count is scheduled for January 23, 2020 (from 10:00 pm – 12 Midnight) volunteers will meet at the 6501 Fountain CD4 Field office.

Getting an accurate count is important because it does determine funding that gets allocated to the city.

You can sign up to volunteer for the count at: <https://www.theycountwillyou.org/>

You can also donate items like hygiene kits, blankets, socks, warm coats / sweaters etc. at any of the CD4 field offices.

### **Leadership Program**

Rachel has been accepted into a leadership program that will conflict with some of our monthly meetings. On those dates her supervisor, district director, Nikki Ezhari will attend in her place.

**Ethan Weaver** Neighborhood Prosecutor Hollywood Division – LA City Attorney's Office

Email: [ethan.weaver@lacity.org](mailto:ethan.weaver@lacity.org)

### **Party House Crackdown**

AirBNB recently took down 29 listings at problematic locations. This has been a collaborative effort of the LAPD (Officer Brian White), the City Attorney's office and AirBNB. Most of the locations were in Mt. Olympus and areas above Sunset Plaza. There were a few in the Dell. Ethan can't share the actual locations.

This was covered in the news and as a result the other platforms (VRBO, HomeAway etc. ) are looking to get the same positive PR and work with the city. AirBNB has been the test case in this whole process.

It's important to understand that the ordinance is basically regulation on advertising. The city is making sure that properties listed for short-term rental are in compliance and if they aren't they can stop them from advertising them. Unfortunately, that means that rental business that is conducted in other ways won't be captured by this ordinance. If it's a chronic party-house short-term rental, this is where they can apply the Loud or Unruly (aka party house) ordinance.

**Brian White** LAPD Senior Lead Officer

Email: [38074@lapd.online](mailto:38074@lapd.online)

### **Crime Stats**

Crime was down for the Hollywood Division as a whole. Calls for service were up, but actual crimes and victims were down. He feels the community involvement and partnership is why we are having this success. Of all of the Hollywood Hills areas, this area has the lowest numbers of crimes!

### **Theft from Vehicles**

There has been news about an uptick in smash and grab from vehicles, or theft from person (while you get your coffee someone grabs your laptop). There are teams working tourist areas and targeting tourists in rental cars, but it also affects locals. The advice is to not leave ANYTHING visible in your car – even if it's junk. Criminals will break in if they see something.

*Q: What if there's a car parked on the street for an extended period – which may be stolen / dumped?*

A: You can report it to LA DOT as an abandoned vehicle by calling 800-222-6366 or by going online:

<https://prdwmq.etimspayments.com/pbw/include/la/complaintform.jsp?complainttype=1>

*Q: The encampments at the 101 under pass on Cahuenga are spilling large amounts of garbage into the public right-of-way (including the street and freeway on ramp) and tagging the tunnel with profanity. How can this be addressed?*

*How do we balance the right of the unsheltered to camp on a public sidewalk with the public's right to have safe passage and hygienic streets and sidewalks?*

A: There were some hiccups during the holidays because the usual team that do the cleanups weren't working on this. There are efforts being made to address the blatant drug use (which is more serious than the tent infractions).

*Q: If I can't toss garbage out of my condo onto the street in front, then why are we letting it slide when a homeless person does it?*

A: It's such a massive problem that it's almost impossible to be on top of it.

### **LAPD Promotions & Changes**

Officer Ben Thompson has been promoted to Detective in North Hollywood Division.

Officer Brian White will be taking over his responsibilities in Hollywood Entertainment District.

We will be getting a new SLO.

Until the new SLO is announced, Brian will still be assigned until the new person is in place.

### **Fernando Morales, Sr Field Deputy – County Supervisor Kuel's Office**

Email: [FMorales@bos.lacounty.gov](mailto:FMorales@bos.lacounty.gov)

Sheila Kuehl is the LA County Supervisor for the 3<sup>rd</sup> District. It encompasses 431 square miles from the Pacific Ocean to Los Feliz and from Venice to San Fernando.

### **Rent Stabilization Ordinance**

Economic issues are the number one reason people become homeless. As part of the effort to prevent homelessness, a permanent LA County Rent Stabilization Ordinance will go into effect on April 1, 2020. It applies to the unincorporated parts of the LA County ( so not the City of Los Angeles).

- Annual rent increases will be limited to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), with a cap of 8% (allowing luxury units to increase rents by CPI plus 2%).
- Just cause protections – which requires landlords to give reason for evictions from a list of allowable causes.
- Requires landlords to pay relocation costs in case of no-fault eviction
- Requires 120 notice or up to one year for seniors or people with disabilities
- Landlords must register rental units in a Rental Housing Registry System

### **Board & Care Facilities**

Board & Care Facilities (also known as adult residential facilities) have been closing at an alarming rate. These licensed facilities provide long-term housing with 24-hour assisted living services for those who are unable to live on their own due to mental or physical illness. Many struggle to stay afloat at the daily rent of \$35. The Board of Supervisors is looking to stabilize and grow the number of facilities and explore other options and funding to support them. This is a critical part of maintaining public mental health and preventing homelessness.

### **Rand Study on Mental Health & LA County Jail**

He cited a recent study by the Rand Corporation that found that a significant part of the population of the LA County Jail (61%) is appropriate (equally served without any danger outside the jail system) for diversion into community-based mental health clinical services rather than incarceration. To read the report: <https://www.rand.org/news/press/2020/01/07.html>

### **TRIESTE Pilot Project**

In September 2019, a group of Los Angeles officials and leaders visited Trieste, Italy to observe and study their system for mental healthcare. The World Health Organization (WHO) has recognized this Italian model of placing the whole person, not their symptoms or mental disorder at the center. It fosters engagement of persons with mental disorders through proper housing, job placement and opportunities to participate in sports, art and nature with other members of the community.

To read more, here's the Steve Lopez column in the LA Times:

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2019-10-04/homeless-hollywood-italy-mental-health>

This pilot program has been funded and approved specifically for Hollywood.

### **Fernando's Recent Role Change**

He will now be in the District Director position (Venice to Atwater).

He will introduce his replacement when they are in place.

### **George Skarpelos, President – HUNC**

Email: [george@myhunc.com](mailto:george@myhunc.com)

### **Candidate Forum**

Hollywood United Neighborhood Council (HUNC) along with several other neighborhood councils (Los Feliz NC, Wilshire NC, Hollywood Hills West NC) will be hosting a LA City Council District 4 candidate forum at Marshall High School on SUN February 16<sup>th</sup> – 4pm.

### **CERT Training**

HUNC will be sponsoring a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training in either March or April. This is a once a week evening class for 7 weeks. It will be at the Station 82 Annex on Bronson. HUNC provides food and swag. This is important for all of us to do because if there is a major event (earthquake, brushfire, other disaster) we will need to be able to care for each other and ourselves in the immediate aftermath. This course will teach you the skills to be self-reliant such as basic first aid, how to recognize if a building is unsafe to enter, etc. and how to assist first responders.

### **Mural In Canyon Park**

They will be discussing this at the next HUNC board meeting.

### **Proposed Traffic Light at Canyon and Franklin**

They will discuss this – send your opinions or come to the February meeting. The mission of the neighborhood councils is to give the community a forum to discuss these type of things.

*Q: What about the light at Franklin & Western that was supposed to be installed by December 2019.*

*A: Rachel asked LADOT and they said “they ran into some issues with having to relocate some utility lines – so it will happen, just delayed.”*

## **IV. Items From Residents**

### **Proposed Traffic Restriction at Odin & Cahuenga**

Odin from Holly Drive to Cahuenga Blvd. often becomes backed up during high traffic times, when there are Hollywood Bowl events, or when the 101 freeway traffic is re-routed because of accidents. We should do a survey of Dell residents to give feedback and ideas before we make a request.

## **V. In other news...**

### **Brandi D'Amore - Animal Services & CERT Workshop**

There was a recent CERT meeting with a representative from Animal Services talking about animals and emergencies, what the laws are with regards to pets in Los Angeles.

Also they advised getting your pet chipped (or re-chipped) at an LA Animal Shelter because they use the type of chip that can be universally scanned. Also, be sure and update the registration for the chip if you adopt a pet that already has a chip.

You can have your pet chipped at any LA Animal Services Shelter - the cost is \$15 (if you adopt through the shelter the chipping fee is included with the adoption fee).

For more information you can go to: <http://www.laanimalservices.com/>

### **Linda Deutsch – Support The Press**

As a career journalist, Linda implored Dell residents to support the local press and subscribe to the LA Times. This is the only paper that is covering local issues. If we don't have newspapers we won't have important information about our area.

To subscribe to the LA Times: [https://www.latimes.com/subscriptions/land-subscribe-evergreen/sale.html#int\\_source=on\\_site&int\\_medium=sale\\_landing\\_page&int\\_campaign=4\\_weeks\\_for\\_four\\_dollars](https://www.latimes.com/subscriptions/land-subscribe-evergreen/sale.html#int_source=on_site&int_medium=sale_landing_page&int_campaign=4_weeks_for_four_dollars)

### **Jodi Ehrlich – Dell Neighborhood Watch**

If you don't know whom your block captain is – find out! If there isn't one, volunteer! This isn't really that much about crime – it's about having connections with your immediate neighbors in case of any emergency.

**Next Event:  
WED February 11, 2020**