



HDCA Meeting Notes
July 8, 2020
Zoom / Virtual Meeting

Attendees:

Rebecca Asher
David Brewer
Deborah Brosseau
Bruce Bermudez
Pamela Clay Magathan
Chad Costello (LAPD)
Judy Dowden
Jodi Ehrlich
Andrew Evans

Annah Feinberg
Rachel Fox (CD4)
Leslie Hendry
Jan Hohenstein
Alexa Iles Skarpelos
Pamela Kalmus
Mary Ledding
Patrick Lee
Rebecca Lowman

Cynthia Martinez
Heather Mata (LAPD)
Brian Nichols
Russ Peterson
Janet Simon
George Skarpelos
Victoria Ullmann
Ethan Weaver (City Atty)
Kelly Ziegler

Note: due to a problem with the zoom link, several people were unable to join the meeting.

I. Welcomes & Introductions

Alexa Iles Skarpelos HDCA President

Email: alexa@hollywooddell.com

This is the second “zoom” virtual neighborhood meeting.

II. LAPD Update

Senior Lead Officer Heather Mata

Email: 40988@lapd.online

Mobile: (213) 308-0455 (this is a new number)

Officer Mata was assigned Basic Car Area 6A15 SLO at the end of February of this year. She replaced Officer White in this role. Immediately after she took over as SLO, she was assigned to COVID-19 related shifts outside of this area. As the protests and unrest erupted all over the city she, along with the entire department, were on emergency duty. For the past couple of weeks she has been back to “normal” duties in our area and is catching up on all the accumulated issues.

Is It Illegal To Host A Party?

While ill-advised, and in direct contradiction to public health officials recommendations in slowing the spread of COVID-19, it is not against any law to host a gathering at your private residence, and the LAPD does not “enforce” pandemic recommendations. LAPD is enforcing orders in public spaces, such as when businesses were ordered closed. If a neighbor is hosting a party it is their business, as long as they aren’t creating conditions that would rise to a citation under the Loud Or Unruly Gathering ordinance (see attached ordinance for ref.).

6425 Weidlake Drive. The current tenants (content collective “Hype House”) at this location have been advised that there are witnesses and video that clearly shows them setting off illegal fireworks. There is a pending investigation. Since Officer Mata met and spoke with the tenants and property owner there haven’t been any fireworks reported at this address.

2407 San Marco Drive. This is a relatively new problem location (started in recent months). This is a short-term rental. This property is also in foreclosure. There have been 22 calls for service and 4 arrests. LAPD has issued 3 Loud Or Unruly Gathering citations, and because someone removed the public posted notice (which must be left up for 30 days) they got an additional citation. AirBNB has been contacted, however it continues to be rented out as a weekend party house using other platforms or under other names. Neighbors who see other listings for this location should forward them to Officer Mata and Ethan Weaver. The LA City Attorney's collects this type of information to use when drafting a nuisance property letter.

2419 El Contento Drive. The issues with this location started in Mid April when tenants moved into this newly built property. They have a long-term lease. There have been 31 calls for service, and LAPD Patrol cars responded 28 times to this address. Responding officers thus far have been unable to witness any criminal / nuisance activity that they could issue a citation for. Officer Mata reviewed the responding officer's body cam footage and confirmed this. To date, no citations have been given.

Reporting to the Police

The LAPD is unable to follow-up with callers who choose to remain anonymous (no name, no contact info). There was some discussion about the security or safety of giving a name. A community member related her prior experience with a problem neighbor who was able to obtain her information from LAPD after she made a complaint. This resulted in months of harassment and threats to her personal safety. Someone commented that the property owner at 2419 El Contento had been aggressive and threatening in past interactions with neighbors, and that had made some people reluctant to give their information. Several neighbors spoke up to say that they had been leaving their names when calling in complaints.

Have LAPD Come To Your Location

If people are willing to give a name and their contact info, and request that LAPD respond by coming to their location to hear what they are hearing, it may allow LAPD to witness the problem. Often, because of the way sound carries in the hills, the sound from street level, especially from a house that is 3 stories high may not reflect what is being heard across the way.

Response Times Are An Issue

There were comments on the length of time that it takes for LAPD to respond to noise complaints, and those that occur in the late night / early morning hours make it a burden on residents to stay up and wait for the police to come.

Documenting Incidents

Residents are advised to document ongoing disturbances to assist the authorities with building a potential nuisance case. Noting the date, time and specifics of the incident and including photos or videos. However, if the photos and videos don't clearly show the violation of an ordinance or law, the police can't issue a citation.

Officer Mata reviewed all but the most recent videos submitted to her by neighbors of activities at 2419 El Contento and was unable to see or hear anything that could be used as evidence in court. Ethan Weaver also looked at much of the submitted materials and came to the same conclusion.

Next Steps

Brian Nichols and Andrew Evans asked that Officer Mata arrange to meet with the impacted neighbors. They invited her to visit their home and see for herself. They expressed frustration that she had granted that consideration to the property owner and his tenants, but had yet to meet in person with them or any of the other neighbors. Officer Mata shared that she had spent a disproportionate amount of time on this location, more than any other in her service area and at this time didn't feel that additional time or a meeting was warranted. She did concede that if there were new/additional incidents, that she would follow-up on them.

III. LA City Attorney Update

Ethan Weaver Neighborhood Prosecutor, Hollywood Division
Email: ethan.weaver@lacity.org

As part of the discussion about noise from problem locations, there was a question about what is considered a violation of the City's noise ordinance.

LA City General Noise Ordinance

SEC. 112.01 RADIOS, TELEVISION SETS, AND SIMILAR DEVICES

- (a) *"It shall be unlawful for any person within any zone of the City to use or operate any radio, musical instrument, phonograph, television receiver, or other machine or device for the producing, reproducing or amplification of the human voice, music, or any other sound, in such a manner, as to disturb the peace, quiet and comfort of neighbor occupants or any reasonable person residing or working in the area."*
- (b) *"Any noise level caused by such use or operation which is audible to the human ear at a distance in excess of 150 feet from the property line of the noise source, within a residential zone of the City or within 500 feet thereof, shall be in violation of the provisions in this section."*

SEC. 116.01 LOUD, UNNECESSARY AND UNUSUAL NOISE

"...it shall be unlawful for any person to willfully make or continue, or cause to be made or continued, any loud, unnecessary, and unusual noise which disturbs the peace or quiet of any neighborhood or which causes discomfort or annoyance to any reasonable person of normal sensitivities residing in the area. The standard which may be considered in determining whether a violation of the provisions of this section exists may include, but not be limited to the following:

- (a) *The level of noise;*
- (b) *Whether the nature of the noise is natural or unnatural;*
- (c) *Whether the origin of the noise is natural or unnatural;*
- (d) *The level and intensity of the background noise, if any;*
- (e) *The proximity of the noise to residential sleeping facilities;*
- (f) *The nature and zoning of the area within which the noise emanates;*
- (g) *The density of the inhabitation of the area within which the noise emanates;*
- (h) *The time of day and night the noise occurs;*
- (i) *The duration of the noise;*
- (j) *Whether the noise is recurrent, intermittent, or constant, and*
- (k) *Whether the noise is produced by a commercial or noncommercial activity.*

SEC. 41.58.1 LOUD OR UNRULY GATHERINGS (aka the "party house" ordinance)

"Loud or Unruly Conduct, as used in this section, includes any of the following conduct if in violation of any provision of this Code or State law;

- A. *Loud noise;*
- B. *Obstruction of a street or public right-of-way, including a sidewalk;*
- C. *Public intoxication or drinking in public;*

- D. *The service of alcoholic beverages to minors;*
- E. *Possession and/or consumption of alcohol by minors;*
- F. *Assault, battery, fights, domestic violence or other disturbances of the peace;*
- G. *The sale or service of alcoholic beverages without a required State license;*
- H. *Vandalism or destruction of property;*
- I. *Litter;*
- J. *Urinating or defecating in public; or*
- K. *Trespassing.”*

IV. Council District 4

Rachel Fox Field Deputy, CD4 – Council Member David Ryu’s Office
Email: rachel.fox@lacity.org

Homeless Encampments

The encampments under the 101 at Gower, Cahuenga and Holly Drive have become worse (larger, more garbage and more graffiti) since COVID-19 pandemic. We have received a lot of complaints from Dell residents and asked Rachel to address those concerns.

Rachel shared the following:

Suspended Enforcement

During the time period covered by the emergency declaration, the Dept. of Sanitation and LAPD have been instructed to suspend enforcement of LAMC 56.11, which requires tents to come down between 6:00 am and 9:00 pm.

CDC Recommendation

The LA City Council and the Mayor acted to suspend enforcement because of recommendations by the CDC (Centers for Disease Control) to control the spread of COVID-19. The CDC maintained that the risks associated with sleeping outdoors or in an encampment setting are different from staying indoors in a congregate setting (such as a shelter or other living facility) and the homeless could self-isolate in their tents and physically distance between themselves and others. As a result, the encampment cleanups have ceased because they can’t require “tents down” to do it.

Project Room Key

The State, County and City of Los Angeles have worked to secure hotel and motel rooms to house vulnerable people experiencing homelessness. The aim is to protect high-risk individuals (those who would likely need hospitalization if infected by the virus) and prevent the spread of the virus to preserve the capacity of our hospitals.

Bulky Item Ruling

Additionally, a US District Judge recently ruled that the City cannot enforce a law that allows them to seize and dispose of bulky items such as mattresses and carts that are kept on a public sidewalk based solely on their size. City crews may still confiscate belongings that are left unattended, blocking the sidewalk or are a threat to public health and safety.

What can Dell residents do? Rachel encouraged residents to report trash, graffiti and issues with encampments to MyLA311 (or call 3-1-1) and email her the service request tracking number so she can follow-up.

Parking Enforcement Update

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, LADOT had relaxed parking enforcement. The limited relaxed parking enforcement has been extended (they were set to expire on July 6, 2020) through the end of July. The categories for relaxed enforcement are:

- Residential street sweeping
- Expired registration on a vehicle
- Overnight / oversize parking districts
- Peak / rush hour and gridlock parking restrictions
- No ticket / tow for abandoned vehicles and oversized overnight parking
- A two-week grace period for vehicles with expired permits within a PPD

Additionally:

- No parking fine increases for failure to pay
- Immediate extensions on all deadlines for payments
- Temporary, print-at-home permits for residents of a PPD who have renewed their permit but will not receive the new placard before the current permit expires

Enforcement WILL continue for the following:

- Metered parking
- Time limits within a PPD for vehicles without a permit
- Posted time limit zones in residential and commercial areas
- All posted temporary No-Parking signs
- Vehicles blocking emergency access (alleyways, fire hydrants etc.)
- Colored curb zones
- Parking restrictions for City-owned lots

For the most current LADOT information, visit: <https://ladot.lacity.org/coronavirus>

CD4 “Safety for Our Communities” Survey

Council Member Ryu has created a survey for his district to ask for community input on public safety in light of recent events. Hollywood Dell residents are encouraged to fill out the survey and get your voice heard.

Here is the link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScjQ32sVlkdYbZU7_0PBI7DQf_ECh5aZy7lphUgh-jZtFicAQ/viewform

V. Misc. HDCA Business & Announcements

Keeping The Conversation Going

We have received the copies of “How To Be An Anti Racist” that HDCA purchased and they are available for Hollywood Dell residents to borrow. Email alexa@hollywooddell.com to request a copy.

Hollywood Center Project

Robert Silverstein is the lawyer who successfully litigated the Millennium Project. He is now working to compel the State to release a report by the California Geological Survey that exposes the bogus seismic studies submitted by the Hollywood Center Project (aka Millennium II) as part of their Draft Environmental Impact Report.

He has made a request to the community to help fund this effort and has estimated he will need \$20K to cover the costs.

In 2013 the HDCA (along with other neighborhood groups and individuals) helped fund his previous, successful fight against the Millennium project. Mary Ledding asked that Hollywood Dell residents (and those in the other impacted neighborhoods) consider contributing to this new effort. Contributions are not tax-deductible.

For more information, check out this page: <https://stopthemillenniumhollywood.com/>

To contribute online: <https://stopthemillennium.com/donate/>

Or, send a check:

Pay to the Order of:

The Silverstein Law Firm
Memo note: Stop Millennium/Hollywood Center
215 North Marengo Avenue, 3rd Floor
Pasadena, CA 91101-1504

Neighborhood Watch News

New Captains

Patti Negri & Pamela Kalmus have joined forces as co-captains for Ivarene Avenue. If you live on Ivarene, you can contact them to get signed up for the neighborhood watch.

Patti Negri
Email: patti@hollywooddell.com
Phone: (323) 465-8407

Pamela Kalmus
Email: pkalmus@aol.com
Phone: (323) 957-2790

Fire Safety

HDCA had banners (for the A Frames) and flyers printed and distributed them throughout the Dell ahead of the 4th Of July weekend advising that this is a high fire area and that fireworks create a fire danger.

Want to join the neighborhood watch? Not sure who your block captain is?

Contact Jan Hohenstein, HDCA Neighborhood Watch Lead Captain
Email: jan@hollywooddell.com
Phone: (323) 428-2845

Note: the next meeting is scheduled for WED August 12, 2020 at 7:00 pm