



HDCA Meeting Notes
September 9, 2020
Zoom / Virtual Meeting

Attendees:

David Brewer
Deborah Brosseau
Pamela Clay Magathan
Debra DeCordova
Stephen De Cordova
Linda Deutsch
Judy Dowden
Jodi Ehrlich

Celeste Goyer
Scott Grodner
Jan Hohenstein
Alexa Iles Skarpelos
Pamela Kalmus
Mary Ledding
John Mannino
Cynthia Martinez

Officer Heather Mata
Lisa Meredith
Tom Meredith
Patti Negri
Pablo Ortega
Ethan Weaver (City Atty)
Andrea Weltman
Kelly Ziegler

I. Welcomes & Introductions

Alexa Iles Skarpelos HDCA President
Email: alexa@hollywooddell.com

Hollyw

II. Updates from Local Officials & Reps

Heather Mata, LAPD Senior Lead Officer Area 6A15

Hollywood Area Crime Stats

Overall crime is still down (which has been the trend during the pandemic), however grand theft auto still continues to be one area that is an ongoing issue. In many cases the vehicle has been left running (perhaps because someone was just picking up or dropping off something) or the fob has been left in an unsecured car in the driveway. Please get the word out to friends and neighbors to be sure to lock up and take their keys / fobs with them.

Package & Mail Theft Incidents

Because of the pandemic, more people are having things delivered to their homes, which has attracted criminals who target packages left by delivery drivers. Also, there has been an uptick in regular mail theft. Officer Mata thanked Dell residents who reached out and provided the LAPD evidence and reports to assist their investigation for recent mail theft incidents. The LAPD did arrest an individual at his residence in Glendale on Friday night on several felony charges (because of the \$ amount) that is believed to be responsible for many of the recent Dell incidents. If any of your items were recovered the detectives will reach out to you.

Mail thieves aren't just looking for cash or gift cards. Information from stolen mail can be used to steal your identity. Criminals can use this information to submit fraudulent EDD claims, and set up credit card accounts.

How To Report Mail / Package Theft

Right now Officer Mata recommends making reports online.

Currently because of COVID-19 the front desk at the Hollywood Station is not open to the public to file in person. And by phone may take a long time because of the volume of calls they are handling.

It's important if you file online, that even if you have video or photo evidence that you NOT check that box. When you check the box, the system will kick you off and not allow you to complete the online report. Officer Mata recommended completing the online report, get the reference number and send her an email with it and the videos or photos so she can follow up. Her email is: 40988@lapd.online

Here's the link to file an online police report:

https://www.lapdonline.org/home/content_basic_view/60409

Some tips to avoid being a victim of mail theft:

- Register with US Post Office for "informed delivery service" (it's free). Here's the link to set it up online: <https://informedelivery.usps.com/box/pages/intro/start.action>
- UPS also has a service where you can get delivery notifications and provide instructions for drivers. Here's the link for UPS "my choice" service: <https://www.ups.com/us/en/services/tracking/mychoice.page?>
- Be sure and clear your mailbox each day! Even now that many people are working from home, a surprising number of people aren't checking their mail each day and the accumulated mail can attract mail thieves.
- Install a more secure mailbox or a mail slot that goes directly into your house or garage. It's also been helpful when people have doorbell cameras or home security cameras.
- If you are expecting a package and won't be home to collect it – ask a neighbor!
- While it's not as convenient as getting mail at home, and costs money, getting a P.O. Box for sensitive mail is another way to ensure thieves don't have a chance to intercept it.

Increase in Graffiti Incidents in the Dell

If your property is tagged with graffiti, be sure and take a photo before having it cleaned up or painted over. Send the photo to Officer Mata to see if it's gang tagging.

Abandoned / Dumped Stolen Vehicles

Because of the pandemic, LADOT has suspended the enforcement of vehicles parked longer than 72 hours (aka "abandoned"), however, if a vehicle appears to be a dumped stolen car or is impeding traffic, LAPD can have them impounded. Recently there was a car with no plates and a flat tire on Quebec that was unregistered (no record) that they were able to swiftly impound.

How to report vehicles that you suspect might be stolen / dumped:

1. Call the LAPD non-emergency number: (877) 275-5273
2. Send Officer Mata an email with the location, description, license plate number and photo if possible. Her email is: 40988@lapd.online

Upcoming Blood Drive at Hollywood Police Station

Cedars Sinai Blood Donor Services is holding a blood drive:

Thursday, September 17, 2020

12:00 pm – 6:00 pm

LAPD Hollywood Station Community Room

6501 Fountain Avenue

Los Angeles, CA 90028

They are encouraging donors to schedule an appointment by contacting Sgt. Cory French via Email: 38277@lapd.online or by Phone: (323) 871-4068

They are offering COVID-19 antibody testing to all donors who complete a successful donation.

When donating be sure to:

- Bring a photo ID
- Be in good health
- Adults (18+) must weigh at least 110 lbs
- If 16 – 17 years old you must weigh at least 135 lbs. & have a signed parental consent form
- Eat a good meal before hand and drink extra water

Ethan Weaver, Neighborhood Prosecutor – LA City Attorney’s Office Hollywood Division

Party Houses Update

Most of the huge party houses are west of the 101 freeway in the Hills, although we have a few in the Dell. The LAPD and Ethan are very focused on dealing with them.

In addition to the Loud or Unruly ordinance, as of August 8, 2020 the emergency “Safer at Home” orders due to COVID-19 have now prohibited large gatherings at private residences. The Mayor’s office now has the power to shut off water and power to chronic locations. The mayor has the power to keep them off for months (until the emergency period is lifted) but it depends on circumstances and will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Hollywood Division has a dedicated party patrol car now every day of the week and multiple cars focused on party patrol on the weekend. Resources that in pre-COVID times were assigned to the bars/nightclubs/vice patrol in the Hollywood Entertainment District have been assigned to the party houses in the hills.

There is a list of chronic party house locations that the Senior Lead Officers provide to the party patrols for them to check on (not generated by calls) and this proactive work does seem to have quieted down many of the locations.

Some Locations With Recent Parties / Nuisance Activity in the Dell

- 2160 Alcyona Drive
- 2355 Holly Drive
- 2407 San Marco Drive

The question from Andrea was, is it worth it for neighbors to call it in to LAPD non-emergency number to report disruptive parties. Ethan advised neighbors that calling in is the only way they can get problem locations on the record. It’s also a good idea to send an email to Officer Mata to keep her in the loop.

2020 Census Information

It's important to be counted! The purpose of the census is to count the entire population and responses to the census help communities get their fair share of the federal funds spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works and other vital programs. Local governments, businesses and other organization use census data to support community initiatives and for public safety and emergency preparedness.

The 2020 census is currently in the "non-response" follow-up phase. After April 1st "Census Day" only about 30% had filled in their census forms by mail or on-line. There are census workers who are out in the field going door to door to follow-up. They were knocking on doors in the Dell this week. Some people have also received phone calls from people claiming to be from the census and there was a question about whether these were legit.

Tom Meredith (Dell resident, HUNC Board Member), has been working on the 2020 census and said he is not aware of an official phone outreach effort. He said **it's best to be safe and DO NOT give any personal information out over the phone.** He said don't feel pressured to provide anything over the phone even if you aren't sure if you have completed your Census form. If you aren't sure if you filled it out, you can still do it. There's no harm in doing it twice, they have a way to sort out any duplicates.

1. To fill out the form online: <https://my2020census.gov>
2. To call in and complete the questionnaire over the phone: **(844) 330-2020**
3. Fill out the form that was mailed to you and return it by mail.

To see the questions: <https://2020census.gov/en/about-questions.html>

Hollywood United Neighborhood Council (HUNC)

Monday, September 14, 2020

US Congressman Adam Schiff will be speaking at the HUNC Board Meeting. Monday, September 14, 2020 at 6:30 pm.

The link to join this Zoom meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/96795928162>

They will be appointing new board members to several seats.

They will also be discussing the Hollywood Center Project.

Friday, October 2, 2020

HUNC will be co-sponsoring a debate between the two candidates for Council District 4 (incumbent David Ryu and challenger Nithya Raman), most likely on October 2, 2020. We will announce the details once they are finalized.

Note: the last day to register to vote in the November 3, 2020 election is WED October 14th.

To check and see if you are registered, or to register online go to: <https://www.lavote.net/vrstatus>

III. Hollywood Development News

Hollywood Center Project Update

Recent Public Hearing

WED August 26, 2020 there was a public hearing (via phone) regarding the proposed Hollywood Center Project (aka Millennium II). Thank you to all who sat through the marathon (4-hours) meeting over the phone and who provided public comments.

The Final Project EIR (Environmental Impact Report) was issued AFTER the hearing, and released to the public on September 3, 2020. Here's the link to read it:

<https://planning.lacity.org/development-services/eir/hollywood-center-project-2>

Council Member David Ryu's Letter

On August 19, 2020 CM David Ryu issued a letter to voice his concerns regarding public safety and asking the Departments of Building and Safety and City Planning to explain their review process to verify seismic studies since the US Geological Survey and California Geological Survey's findings are in conflict with what the developers submitted regarding the earthquake danger on the project site. To read his comment letter:

<https://stopthemillenniumhollywood.com/councilmember-david-ryu-on-millennium/>

Public Comments

The public can still submit written comments. If you haven't already, send them to:

Mindy Nguyen
City of Los Angeles, Department of City Planning
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 1350
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Email: mindy.nguyen@lacity.org
Ref: Hollywood Center Project
State Clearinghouse Number: 2018051002

To Make a Tax Deductible Contribution

There is a group of activists who are fighting this development (with Robert Silverstein) and it's looking like they will have to pursue a lawsuit. This will cost money. The Hillside Federation is collecting funds on behalf of this effort. To make a tax-deductible donation:

Write a check and be sure to include "Stop the Hollywood Center" in the memo line and send it to:

Don Andres, Hillside Federation Treasurer
7470 Franklin Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90046-2242

Or donate online: www.hillsidefederation.org and be sure to indicate "Stop the Hollywood Center Fund" as the desired option.

Hollywood Community Plan Update

The Final Draft of the Hollywood Community Plan Update (HCPU2) has been published. It will ultimately become the blueprint for density, development, mobility and preservation for this area.

To read more about it: <https://planning.lacity.org/plans-policies/community-plan-update/hollywood-community-plan-update>

IV. Hollywood Dell Neighborhood News

Power Outages During the Recent Heat Wave

Many streets in the Dell were affected by power outages over the past few days. Different streets had different periods of power loss (some as long as 50 hours!). In addition there were problems with Internet services (AT&T) being out as well.

We discussed the best way to report outages to get prompt response from LADWP.

By Phone:

LADWP Customer Contact Center: (800) 342-5397

Online:

Often during large service outages, too many people will be trying to call in...

The LADWP Site will show you a map of the outages they have identified in the area and you can report your outage there: https://www.ladwp.com/ladwp/faces/internal/ReportOutage?_adf.ctrl-state=l4wgfjktf_21&_afLoop=88886553993194

Using the MyLA311

You can also use your MyLA311 App on your phone and submit a service request (select “other” and describe the problem in the comment window.)

Dell Little Free Library Project Update

We are moving forward with our idea to create “branches” of little free libraries around the Hollywood Dell. So far these 5 confirmed locations have been generously offered up:

- 6359 Primrose thanks to Ellen Vinitsky
- 2207 Holly Drive thanks to Susan Polifronio
- 2445 El Contento Drive thanks to Harvey Schwartz
- 2636 Creston Drive thanks to Karen Janszen
- 6306 Weidlake Drive thanks to Olin Sherrod

The next step is to have them built by a local craftsman! Stay tuned for updates.

“Holly-ween In The Dell”

Los Angeles officials are cautioning against traditional Halloween celebrations and activities (such as trick-or-treating, parties, parades or any type of gatherings) due to COVID-19 to prevent spreading the virus.

The HDCA will be hosting a brainstorming session to come up with a safe and fun way for the Dell to celebrate “Holly-ween in the Dell” this year. The virtual meeting is on Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at 7pm via Zoom. Email alexa@hollywooddell.com if you would like to participate.

Ivarene Painted Rocks Project

Hollywood Dell artist Rosemary May has been painting intricate images on smooth river rocks and leaving them along her street for neighbors to discover. What a fun and inspiring idea! See if you can spot them.

Next Meeting: WED October 14, 2020 (7:00 pm)