



HDCA Meeting Notes
January 13, 2021
Zoom / Virtual Meeting

Attendees:

Brandi D'Amore
Angela Babcock
Bruce Bermudez
David Brewer
Stephen Brodheim
Deborah Brosseau
Madonna Cacciatore
Pamela Clay Magathan
Debra De Cordova
Stephen De Cordova
Linda Deutsch
Judy Dowden
Jodi Ehrlich

Annah Feinberg
Anne Fitzgibbon
Scott Grodner
Billy Harris
Sharon Harris
Jan Hohenstein
Alexa Iles Skarpelos
Tifanie Jodeh
Pamela Kalmus
Mary Ledding
Swami Mahayogananda
John Mannino
Cynthia Martinez

Heather Mata
Patti Negri
Namita Rathin
Jack Rayner
Allison Schallert
Dia Schuldenfrei
Ray Schuldenfrei
Merle Singer
Nathan Singer
George Skarpelos
Ethan Weaver
Brian White
Robin Williams

I. Welcomes & Introductions

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

Guest Speaker Raman

Council Member Raman's office contacted us today to let us know that she is unable to join us tonight (Agenda Item II) We apologize to everyone who is here because they were looking forward to hearing her speak. I'd also like to thank those of you who submitted questions for her in advance of today's meeting.

We have rescheduled her for a special meeting two weeks from tonight on WED January 27th at 7pm and will ask her those questions at that time. That means that if you weren't able to send in your questions for the Council Member before, you have time to do it before the 27th. It also means that she will be the only speaker on the agenda that night, so we will have more time with her.

Before we move onto the other agenda items, we would like to let you know that we have several important guest speakers already signed up for the first part of this New Year. In February, we have the LAPD Hollywood Division Commander, Captain Steve Lurie. In March we have LA City Attorney Mike Feuer. In April we have LAFD Deputy Chief Armando Hogan. We have also reached out to US Congressman Adam Schiff's office and State Assembly Member Laura Friedman's office with invitations to speak but we don't have confirmed dates yet.

La Rocha Trail Fire Update

On Monday afternoon a fire broke out on the hillside at the west end of the La Rocha Trail. Several quick thinking neighbors called it in and attempted to assist with fire extinguishers and a bucket brigade. LAFD had 55 fire fighters on the scene from multiple fire stations, and two water dropping airships respond. It took approximately 39 minutes to knock it down. We were fortunate that it occurred during a day with very little wind, and that the wind was blowing the flames away from nearby structures. The cause of the fire has been confirmed as accidental, resulting from a careless teenage smoker.

We have reached out to Deputy Chief Hogan, and we will be doing a site walk through with the Battalion 5 Commander to discuss the special challenges for fire response to our neighborhood. We will be working on establishing a strategy with LAFD to ensure they have the information they need in advance of an event so that they can have the best possible conditions for success.

The HDCA will continue to take steps to alert neighbors of the fire danger in the area. Additionally, we will be contacting property owners along the north side of the La Rocha Trail who have not done adequate brush clearance. HDCA will also be installing “no smoking / fire danger” signage near the benches where people have been smoking while enjoying the view.

III. Updates from Local Officials & Reps

Heather Mata, LAPD Senior Lead Officer for Area 6A15

Email: 40988@lapd.online

Mobile: (213) 308-0455

Crime Numbers for 2020

Overall in her area (north of Franklin to Barham, the 101 freeway to Western) was down 13% compared with 2019. This is in contrast to the City of Los Angeles overall, where they have seen significant increase. She thinks it's possible that because the bars and nightclubs in the Hollywood Entertainment District were closed for the pandemic, that the resources usually needed in those areas got redeployed to the hill areas which helped keep crime down overall.

COVID-19 Update

As of today there are over 2000 officers (of the 10,000 total) who have tested positive. LAPD is Tier 1B for the vaccine distribution. As the LA Fire Department has extra doses they are calling in the police to come get them so they don't go to waste (they are no good after an hour of being defrosted).

LAPD Personnel Changes

They were notified last night (January 12) that they were planning a 1,000-officer cut. It's not final yet. They will have final answers by May/June of this year.

Q: There seems to be an increase in nuisance activity at the Vine Overlook (near the Vedanta Temple).

A: This has historically been a problem spot. Officer Mata has advised patrol to do extra patrols to this location. She also encouraged residents to report problems to the non-emergency number (877) 275-5373. Or email the station Hollywood@lapd.online to let them know what's happening.

Q: What is happening with the changes coming from the newly elected District Attorney Gascon for example with not prosecuting trespass violations?

A: There are certain misdemeanors that his office will not file on. LAPD will still respond to these calls, the difference is what happens next.

Trespass Authorization forms and signage. Property owners need to have a “trespass authorization form” on file with LAPD, and post the appropriate signage so that responding officers have the authorization to arrest someone on your property. Officer Mata will submit the forms if we send them via email to her.

Here's the link to get the form: https://www.ladbs.org/docs/default-source/forms/code-enforcement/tresspass-arrest-authorization.pdf?sfvrsn=7cebeb53_8

Here's an example of the appropriate sign that must also be posted and the link to purchase one online: <https://www.amazon.com/WITHOUT-PERMISSION-LAMC-41-24-Closed-Public/dp/B0716Q2MC8>

Volunteer with Hollywood LAPD

One way community members can assist our local police department is to volunteer. When civilian volunteers help with administrative tasks that don't require a sworn officer, those officers can focus on crime suppression and public safety responsibilities. This will be even more important as the LAPD looks at budget cuts and reducing the number of officers.

To learn more, check out this link: https://www.lapdonline.org/our_communities/content_basic_view/733

Or contact: Officer Johnathan Johnson, Reserve & Volunteer Coordinator, Hollywood Division

Email: 37836@lapd.online

Phone: (323) 871-4109

Ethan Weaver, Neighborhood Prosecutor – LA City Attorney's Office

Email: ethan.weaver@lacity.org

Office Phone: (213) 978-7904

New Directives from District Attorney Gascon

The District Attorney has jurisdiction over all of the most serious felony crimes in Los Angeles (murder, trafficking, drugs, rape, etc.) He also has jurisdiction over misdemeanor crimes in the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. Because the City of Los Angeles has its own City Attorney's office, they handle the prosecutions of misdemeanor crimes (trespass, prostitution, etc.) that occur within the City.

The LA City Attorney has no plans to follow Gascon's lead. They will continue to try to use the criminal justice tools to get people into the services they need. This means using trespass arrests to get people mental health services, or prostitution arrests to help people who may be victims of human trafficking. The goal is to help those people, but also to keep the public safe.

Q: Why do they have to use the criminal justice system to assist people with the services they need?

A: Because we don't currently have an alternative, we don't have laws or mental health facilities to handle these situations. They do the best they can with what they have to work with. They are also losing tools such as "stay away" orders as a condition of probation (from 3 years to 1 year). The state has also given judges the discretion to ignore the recommendations of the prosecutors.

Ethan requests our community to reach out to him and share questions or issues that matter to us.

Q: Have they spoken to elected officials / decision makers about the need for more mental health and substance services?

A: He encourages us all to ask, because the more people who press for this the more likely we will get action.

Q: What are the current rules about parties under the SaferLA order?

A: ANY private gatherings that include people from outside your immediate household are currently prohibited due to the COVID-19 surge and emergency orders.

Q: Why can't the trash and mess under the 101 near the service station on Franklin & Argyle get cleaned up? It appears to be an abandoned encampment. Why can't it be cleaned up tomorrow?

A: There are jurisdictional issues because areas like this are technically Cal Trans property and the City doesn't have the authority to go and deal with it.

A: Contact our State Assembly Member, Laura Friedman's office to ask for help with this. Her field deputy for our area is Seamus Garrity, his email is: seamus.garrity@asm.ca.gov

A: George also commented that HUNC has voted to send a letter to Gov Newsom about this problem. Cal Trans reports to the Governor.

Angela Babcock, Vice President Stratiscope – Hollywood Bowl Community Engagement
Email: angela@stratiscope.com
Mobile: (626) 826-4531

The Hollywood Bowl / LA Philharmonic has not operated as an entertainment venue this year due to the pandemic. They have hosted a Voting Center and been doing drive through food banking. She does encourage people to sign up for her email updates. Once they resume shows these will give you the heads up on what's happening. The community relations group helps brainstorm on solving issues such as traffic, noise, parking etc.

Q: How soon can we expect them to start having events?

A: They still don't know, even with the vaccinations there's still so much unknown about how things will work. As soon as she has information she will share.

Q: Any thoughts or suggestions on what can be done about the Northbound Highland off-ramp? It's a disgusting cesspool of trash and humane waste!

A: Prior to the pandemic they worked closely with the CD4 and the County to help tackle these issues. They look forward to working with newly elected CM Raman to address this issue.

George Skarpelos, President – Hollywood United Neighborhood Council (HUNC)
Email: george@myhunc.org
Mobile: (323) 301-6406
Website: www.hollywoodunitednc.org

Board Elections in March

HUNC will be holding board elections on Tuesday, March 16, 2021.

Vote By Mail Only

Unlike in the past, due to the pandemic, voting in the upcoming election will be entirely Vote-By-Mail, and you need to register for a vote by mail ballot: <http://hollywoodunitednc.org/elections/> This is different than regular voter registration, and is through the LA City Clerk's office.

Deadline to Register

The vote by mail application period begins on Friday, January 15, 2021 and ends on March 9, 2021.

What Seats Are Up For Vote?

Go to the FAQ section and click on the drop down menu to review the slots up for election.

There Will Be Candidate Forums

Like everything else these days, they will be virtual via Zoom. They will be announced in the coming weeks.

Fire Safety Signs going in at the Vine Overlook

Proposed 711

At the location of Cesar's Auto Shop (6201 Franklin Avenue at Vista Del Mar) they are proposing a redevelopment project to put in a 711. HUNC Planning and Land Use Management Committee will be discussing this at the meeting on THU February 4, 2021 at 6:30 pm. It will also be discussed at the Board meeting on MON February 8, 2021 at 6:30 pm. Those who have concerns/objections or want to voice support are encouraged to participate in these meetings. HUNC's role is to provide a forum for the community to give feedback to the City.

Q: If community members aren't able to make the meeting, is there another way for them to get their input heard?

A: Send George an email with your comments, but it's always best to be there in person.

A: You can also send your comments directly to the Planning Department. In this case there are two administrators in the Planning Department, one for the construction aspect, the other for the conditional use* aspect.

*Conditional use refers to granting them the ability to sell alcohol.

To contact the Planning Department Directly:

The proposed project location is 6201 Franklin Avenue.

Email: Jason Chan: jason.chan@lacity.org

The Case # for the Construction: ENV-2020-7463-CE

Email: Edwin Cano: Edwin.cano@lacity.org

The Case # for the Conditional Use Permit: ZA-2020-7462-CU

You can also sign up to be notified of any public hearings associated with this project by filling out this form online:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScY5keKSJG75g0o58OvJCqVOqjI1_b4r6tcRBzDDxGqWu7mqA/viewform

IV. HDCA Business / Updates

Filming Committee

At the end of 2020 HDCA formed a new committee to work on issues related to filming production in our neighborhood. Committee chair is Jodi Ehrlich and other members are our Treasurer Kelly Ziegler, our VP David Brewer, and past president and film industry professional, Peter Barnett. The HDCA has already established a protocol with Film LA to notify us whenever filming permits are applied for in our neighborhood. The primary goal is to advise production companies of public safety concerns, fire danger and parking issues to minimize the negative impact of filming in our neighborhood. We are NOT anti-filming, but rather pro responsible filming.

Little Free Library Branches

The libraries will be finished and installed within the next couple of weeks. If anyone has been doing a New Years clear out and has books, there will be 5 new LFL to donate to.

Vine Overlook Committee

We are reactivating this committee due to the increase in nuisance activity at the Vine Overlook. The HDCA will be brainstorming on actions we can take to make this entrance to the Dell welcoming and at the same time discourage those who are creating disturbances, litter and other illicit activities. If anyone is interested in participating, please contact alexah@hollywooddell.com

Neighborhood Watch

A reminder, if you aren't already a block captain or haven't already been contacted by a block captain, please email jan@hollywooddell.com your contact information and we will add you to the neighborhood watch list. Be sure and include all members of your household and mobile phone numbers.

The neighborhood watch isn't just about crime; it's our way to look out for each other whatever the emergency is (fire, earthquake, pandemic...).

When the fire happened on Monday, we were able to notify our entire street using our watch list so that those who saw the smoke but didn't know where it was happening could be advised of the fire and assured that LAFD was on the scene.

Project SHARE

HDCA has received several complaints / questions from residents who live near 6295 Ivarene. They are concerned about the un-permitted construction and number of occupants at this location. In mid December, one of the occupants was taken into custody under a 5150 hold (mental health) because of an attempted suicide. We reached out to Allison Schallert, who lives in the Dell but also works in the non-profit world as an advocate for affordable housing solutions to help with the homelessness crisis. She spoke with the folks that run Project SHARE and this is what she learned:

Project SHARE is a model for group living for people on a shared recovery journey. They have been in operation for over 9 years and are a reputable company. There are no onsite managers or support services 24 / 7, rather it is peer-based support. They are open to coming to a meeting and speaking if we would like to learn more.

V. Announcements & Misc. New Business

Filming Activity Tomorrow

There is filming activity scheduled tomorrow, Thursday January 14, 2021 from 7:00 am – 10:00 pm. We have advised the Argyle Civic Association that 160 feet of parking along Argyle will be impacted. Hollywood Dell people who live near Argyle will likely see parking congestion along Vine as a result.

PERMIT NUMBER: F00167788
PRODUCTION COMPANY: Happy Place
LOCATION: 6253 Holly Mont Drive 90068
PREP / STRIKE DATES: NONE
FILM DATES: Thursday, January 14, 2021
TIME: 7:00 AM - 10:00 PM
NUMBER OF CAST & CREW: 14 crew, 6 cast, total = 20

FILMING ACTIVITY: Interior filming of a “live” performance for a late night show.

POSTED PRODUCTION PARKING:
West side of Argyle Avenue, 160 feet.
7:00 am - 10:00 pm

VEHICLES:
2 trucks, van, portable restroom, shuttle transporting cast and crew from base camp outside the hood.

NOTE: no cast/crew should be parking on any streets within the neighborhood – if you see this happening, let Jodi know. Jodi@hollywooddell.com phone: (323) 314-6755

Construction at Lake Hollywood South Entrance

Yesterday LADWP began work on the paving project outside the Weidlake gate to the Hollywood Reservoir walking path. Residents will still have pedestrian access during the 3 – 5 month construction period, but there will be no parking allowed. Hours of construction will be 7:00 am – 3:30 pm Monday through Friday with some Saturday work. Be aware that trucks and equipment will be using the path around the reservoir during this period.

For more information contact Michael Ventre, LADWP Community Affairs Liason (213) 804-4767 or email: Michael.ventre@ladwp.com

HDCA will be reaching out to LADWP to ask that they install public advisory signage at the entry points to the Hollywood Dell to let people know that there will be no parking at the Weidlake gate area so that people don't drive all the way up there and cause a traffic snarl.

Upcoming CPAB Meeting

The Hollywood Community Police Advisory Board will be meeting (zoom) on THUR January 28th at 2:00 pm. If you are interested in attending, please email me and I will add you to the subscriber list. Attendees are required to register in advance of the meeting.

Annual HDCA Elections

In addition to our guest speaker, LAPD Captain Lurie...

We will conduct our annual HDCA Board election at our February 10th meeting.

Tom LaBonge

On January 7, 2021, former LA City Council Member for District 4, Tom LaBonge passed away at age 67.

LA Times Article Link: <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2021-01-08/tom-labonge-la-city-councilman-dies>

HDCA will send a letter of condolences to his family.