



HDCA Meeting Notes  
April 14, 2021  
Zoom / Virtual Meeting

Attendees:

Angela Babcock  
Rod Borders  
David Brewer  
Deborah Brosseau  
Pamela Clay-Magathan  
Monty Cornell  
Brandi D'Amore  
Debra DeCordova  
Steven DeCordova  
Judy Dowden  
Linda Deutsch  
Jodi Ehrlich  
Anne Fitzgibbon

Seamus Garrity  
Billy Harris  
Armando Hogan  
Jan Hohenstein  
Alexa Iles-Skarpelos  
Pamela Kalmus  
Kathy Keilar  
Mary Ledding  
Swami Mahayogananda  
Cynthia Martinez  
Patti Negri  
Pablo Ortega

Deirdre Owens  
Marcello Picone  
Todd Regenbogen  
Erin Seinfeld  
Merle Singer  
Nathan Singer  
George Skarpelos  
Sarah Tanberg  
Ethan Weaver  
Matthew Welsh  
Brian White  
Kelly Ziegler

## I. Welcomes & Introductions

Alexa Iles Skarpelos, HDCA President

## II. Special Guest LAFD Deputy Chief Armando Hogan

### About Chief Hogan

He joined the LAFD in 1983 and has served in a variety of roles over the years. He previously served as the Chief Training Officer at the Los Angeles International Airport, as a Community Liaison Officer where he represented the Fire Chief as his spokesperson, as a fire fighter, Inspector, Captain, Battalion Chief and Assistant Chief in various communities throughout Los Angeles.

### Current Role at the Los Angeles Fire Department

Deputy Chief Hogan is the Los Angeles Fire Department West Bureau Commander. West Bureau covers a large swatch of Los Angeles from the coast (Pacific Palisades to Westchester) to Los Feliz / Silver Lake. They are responsible for the hillside communities of Los Angeles, including ours.

LAFD West Bureau Map: <https://www.lafd.org/lafd-bureaus-map>

### Highlights From His Presentation

#### Fire Prevention

Chief Hogan wants to work on fire prevention and have the LAFD be more proactive and work on being a deterrent before fires start, especially with regards to encampment fires. They are also looking at areas where they have seen arson fires.

#### Accessing Hillside Areas

He addressed concerns about access in challenging hillside areas like the Hollywood Dell. The LAFD regularly does pre-fire planning. They come out looking at the challenges they might face, such as steep hillside locations with difficult locations. They also use air ships, and when necessary, utilize brush crews (hand crews) to walk the steep terrain. He assured us that even if they have to stop their ambulance or fire truck and hike into an area to get to someone in an emergency they will do it.

## Education & Outreach

He sees education and outreach as an important part of fire prevention, particularly in high fire areas like ours.

### **He also took questions from our community:**

Q: What happens to people who are caught setting off fireworks in a brush area?

A: *The LAFD has an arson investigation unit and they work with the city attorney. Usually there are fines imposed.*

Q: There was a recent fire (January 2021) on the La Rocha Trail. There seems to be a lot of people hanging out on the area of the trail where there are benches for people to enjoy the view. What can be done to get some “no smoking – fire danger” signs installed?

A: *The first step is to determine who's property / responsibility that it is. The LAFD can't just post signs without permission. The second thing is getting the correct verbiage on the signs. Funding is also an issue – especially now with budget cuts. Then who is responsible to enforce it? LAFD doesn't have the authority to write tickets, usually it's park rangers that do that.*

Alexa: *The HDCA will partner with LAFD to provide funds and volunteers!*

Q: We have two fire “hot spots” in our neighborhood; the La Rocha Trail is under the MRCA (Mountains Recreation Authority) and the Vine Street Overlook (Cal Trans & LA City). How does the LA Fire Department handle those situations?

A: *The LAFD will reach out to those entities, but LAFD will respond to emergencies wherever they occur regardless of who's property it is.*

Q: While Judy commended the LAFD for getting the trail fire out and preventing it from burning any structures, she lives on a street that has a vantage point where she was able to watch the response to the fire in January. She and her husband were able to observe that it seemed like there was a lot of confusion about how to best access the fire location – instead of accessing it from the entrance at the Quebec end (which was much closer to the fire), they were coming up from the La Rocha Trail entrance at the Deep Dell end, and had to drag hoses on foot a really long way because the trucks couldn't get through. What kind of training is being done or could be done to familiarize the responding fire teams to the unique aspects of our neighborhood?

A: *He is disappointed to hear this and guessed that it might have been a responding company that doesn't usually service our area. He will look into it, and requested an email with some specifics so he can see how they can improve. He wants us to reach out with our concerns. Sometimes crews are making decisions on the ground based on location of fire hydrant access, or are avoiding accessing via private property...he will look into it.*

Q: As a follow up, several of us called 9-1-1 to report the fire and the dispatch operators were not receptive to our suggestions when we were trying to explain how to best access the fire. We were trying to be helpful and they were dismissive of our input.

A: *He advised that any time we are reporting a fire to stay on the line especially if it's NOT coming from the address we are calling in from (as in this case) so we can make sure they are responding to the actual fire location. He will address this with dispatch.*

Q: What specifically are the resources they are allocating to fire prevention, especially in respect to the encampment areas?

A: *He is looking at dedicating basically a small rig that they would send out to patrol the areas where there have been a lot of calls for service. They are looking at the best times of day to have this effort (since it likely won't be 24/7) so they want to look at patterns and trends to maximize the effort. He wants to do a pilot program for 30 – 60 days so they can show success and get additional assistance and support. Normally the fire department doesn't “patrol” but they are trying to think outside the box.*

Q: When fire brush inspection notices go out can they include information about checking roof areas for fire hazards? Sometimes there are accumulations of material on roofs that people may not be looking for that should be cleaned up.

A: Go to [LAFD.org](https://www.lafd.org/fire-prevention/brush) and click on "Fire Prevention" all the information is on there you can report this type of thing and they will send out a fire inspector. <https://www.lafd.org/fire-prevention/brush>

### III. Updates from Local Officials & Reps

**Brian White**, LAPD Senior Lead Officer Covering Area 6A15

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

Mobile: (213) 793-0702

#### Division Crime Stats

Total crime in Hollywood Division is up 4.5% with about a 10% increase in violent crime, and about a 2.6% increase in property crime. The increases are dramatic, but influenced by the historically low numbers in the past. Vehicle crimes are still the biggest category with grand theft auto is up 200% (YTD) and 95% increase of theft from vehicles. He reminded everyone to keep cars locked and not leave keys in their cars even for a quick minute.

#### Recent Street Takeover Incidents

April 2<sup>nd</sup> there was a street takeover in Beachwood Canyon (on Beachwood Drive near the market). It was a coordinated effort by a group where the street was blocked and hot rods were doing dangerous stunts (burnouts / donuts) and left a huge mess of tire markings from the activity. This isn't a drag racing activity, but concentrated on stunts in an intersection. Police advise calling 9-1-1 if you witness anything like this – because of the danger to the public. LAPD can cite people for "exhibition driving" violations.

Q: It seems like there has been a lot more dangerous driving since the pandemic. Is LAPD seeing this?

A: Yes, they are hearing complaints. Unfortunately its difficult because often by the time a call comes in and they respond the activity is over.

#### Derek Chauvin Trial Verdict

LAPD is preparing for any civil unrest activities after the Derek Chauvin trial verdict. Because they have some history and can plan they feel confident they are prepared to deploy as needed. They will go to full deployment (no days off and 12-hour shifts for all personnel) as needed.

Q: 6425 Weidlake Drive, this has been a problem location for years, after a bit of a quiet period there was a big and disruptive gathering recently (April 2, 2021). What is being done about this location?

A: There is a new group of tenants at this address. They were cited that night. He met with their security team and manager. The tenant approached him about a \$125K fine from the property owner. In his opinion, because of the tenants who come and go at this location, the prosecution route is less effective than him personally reaching out and talking with them, which is more immediate.

Q: There is someone who has a huge bed (mattress) in the Ivar Tunnel right now that completely blocks the sidewalk. Before it turns into another Gower or Cahuenga underpass situation with graffiti and trash, what can we do? When do taxpayers get their concerns addressed?

A: Make sure you elect representatives that share your view of what needs to be done. The difference between the Ivar tunnel and Gower and Cahuenga is the narrowness of the sidewalk. There's not room for a tent and ADA access so they can't stay there. He will stop by and take a look. He encouraged him to reach out directly to discuss it further.

**Erin Seinfeld**, Senior Field Deputy – LA County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's office  
Email: [eseinfeld@bos.lacounty.gov](mailto:eseinfeld@bos.lacounty.gov)  
Office Phone: (310) 231-1170

COVID-19 LA County Update  
Los Angeles

- DPH finding that men of color have higher mortality rates from COVID-19, they are linking this to reluctance to getting vaccinated.
- Things are opening up! There are new protocols for venues effective April 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Starting April 15<sup>th</sup> everyone who lives or works in LA County over the age of 16 are eligible to get vaccinated!
- More than 5 million doses have been administered across the County. Over 37% of all residents have received at least the first dose.
- There are over 700 sites to get vaccinated between City, County and Federal.
- Johnson & Johnson vaccine has been put on hold until the FDA and CDC complete a review. Only 19,600 of the doses administered to date have been the J&J.
- 16 and 17 year olds can only receive the Pfizer vaccine.
- Vaccine Info: <http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/vaccine/index.htm>

Food Distribution Event Coming Up

April 22, 2021 (9:00 am – 12:00 pm)

Los Angeles City College

4301 Melrose Avenue, LA 90029

Please help get the word out about this drive-up event (no walk ups).

Link: <https://covid19.lacounty.gov/food-distribution-events/>

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

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

Office Phone: (213) 978-7904

He is still watching the party house situation and working on the re-opening of Hollywood Boulevard.

Ethan also shared an update regarding Michael Aguilera (he is the field deputy in US Congressman Adam Schiff's office). Michael has been deployed with the National Guard since the start of the pandemic, first at the testing sites and now at the vaccination sites (12 hour shifts, 7 days a week). So that's why he isn't available to respond to our emails lately.

Q: What is a neighborhood prosecutor?

A: A neighborhood prosecutor works out of a police station and works in the community to identify issues and help solve some of the underlying roots of problems in our community.

**Seamus Garrity**, Senior Field Representative for CA Assembly Member Laura Friedman, District 43

Email: [Seamus.Garrity@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Seamus.Garrity@asm.ca.gov)

Phone: (818) 558-3043

Legislation Updates

AB1401

Link: [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202120220AB1401](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB1401)

AM Friedman introduced AB 1401 in February to address mandatory parking requirements for new residential and commercial developments located within a 1/2 mile of public transit. This passed today, April 14<sup>th</sup> (as amended) with bi-partisan support.

AB 1371

Link: [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201320140AB1371](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201320140AB1371)

This would enact the Three Feet for Safety Act, which requires a vehicle passing a bicycle to pass at no less than 3 feet.

AB 43

Link: [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202120220AB43](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB43)

AM Friedman introduced AB 43 in December of 2020 in an attempt to codify recommendations from the Zero Fatalities Task Force. This has to do with how speed limits are set, and it aims to include other factors such as pedestrian and bicycle safety as considerations.

SB 9 & SB 10

Link: [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202120220SB9](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB9)

Link: [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202120220SB10](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB10)

Both these Senate Bills have to do with changing limits to zoning, with the goal of increasing density in single-family neighborhoods. They are still being crafted and revised and haven't been finalized for review by the Assembly. AM Friedman won't take a position until they are in the final version.

*NOTE: we had planned to discuss SB 9 & SB 10 tonight, but due to time constraints we will schedule this for another time. The following are the key points to consider:*

- *The Hillside Federation (a group of 45+ associations) has voted to oppose both SB 9 & SB 10 as they are currently written.*
- *Overrides local authority for zoning decisions*
- *Eliminates environmental review process*
- *Does NOT require / allow for public input*
- *No yard required, only 4 foot set backs*
- *No affordability or infrastructure requirements*
- *8+ units could end up replacing what are now single-family structures on a single lot.*

Q: Can Seamus clarify how AB 1401 and SB 9 or SB 10 might be related?

A: *They are not in any way related to each other or coordination between them. AB 1401 is an effort to encourage mass transit usage.*

#### Wildfire Risk Prevention

Link: [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201920200AB3074](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB3074)

AB 3074 passed and was approved by the Governor in September of 2020. AB 3074 objective was to create ember-resistant zones in high fire hazard areas. \$536 million was recently approved to fund efforts to "home hardening" and risk management.

#### Encampments Around 101 Freeway

CALTRANS maintenance teams were hard hit by COVID-19, which resulted in the CSR's (Customer Service Requests) for cleanups around the 101 freeway piling up. Assembly Member Friedman had Seamus initiate a newly formed working group comprised of representatives from:

- CALTRANS
- La City Council Reps from CD 4 & CD 13
- The Mayor's HURC (Homeless Unified Response Center)
- CA Assembly District 50
- CA Senate District 24

This group has been tasked with strategizing how to address the growing problem in these locations. CALTRANS maintenance teams are not set up to deal with the heavy and toxic waste associated with encampments, rather they are focused on clearing litter that comes off passing vehicles on the freeway.

They have organized some recent cleanups, but it is a huge endeavor, and requires a HAZ MAT team - which is quite expensive. These areas are complicated because of this and the multiple jurisdictions involved. The next meeting will be on April 22, 2021. They will be discussing how to address the areas near the Dell such as the Cahuenga underpass.

**Sarah Tanberg**, Field Manager – LA City Council Member Nithya Raman’s Office (CD4)

Email: [sarah.tranberg@lacity.org](mailto:sarah.tranberg@lacity.org)

Phone: (323) 570-4335

Website: <https://councildistrict4.lacity.org/>

#### San Marco Drive Hillside Update

The LA Bureau of Engineering checked it out and submitted a report on April 5, 2021. They Determined that the hillside was NOT unstable / or a threat to public safety, but that there was enough accumulated material that it was creating a hazard on the street below and that LA Street Services would be assigned the task of clearing it.

#### Pet Waste / Public Trash Collection

Sarah apologized for the lapse in service because of the transition. LA Conservation Corp is back on weekly collection. If there are issues with collection they should be reported to CD4. Jeremy Tramer is the CD4 coordinator with the LACC team and his email is: [jeremy.tramer@lacity.org](mailto:jeremy.tramer@lacity.org)

#### Legislative Update

Tenant Harassment Ordinance

Protections for tenants in RSO (rent stabilized). Updates and details will go out in the CD4 newsletter.

#### Volunteer Corp

This week volunteers will be calling landlords to educate them about the “Lease Up” program and encourage them to participate. This is an incentive program to get landlords to participate in providing permanent supportive housing.

#### Vine Overlook

We are working on getting a better fence solution on the border between the LA City property and CALTRANS property.

#### LADWP Project At the Weidlake Gate to the Reservoir

It’s close to being completed, timing is estimated to be by the end of May.

Mary asked where the runoff is being sent now that it’s paved?

Sarah will follow up with LADWP on that.

#### Ivar Tunnel

ADA accessibility is a concern. There was a meeting with LAPD Captain Lurie and others to discuss the issues around ADA access in the Cahuenga underpass and other locations like that.

#### Gower Encampment

This is in CD13 but the CD4 office will be working with them to address this area and share resources.

**Q:** Many people in the Hollywood Dell walk to the Hollywood Bowl. The route via Odin under the 101 can be quite precarious. What are the plans for keeping those sidewalks clear of dangerous hazards that prevent safe passage of pedestrians?

**A:** *They are working on targeted efforts to get outreach teams out to get people into services and housing so those areas can be addressed.*

Alexa: To clarify, the Odin tunnel isn’t where people are living, the sidewalks are too narrow (like Ivar and Holly tunnels) but there are adjacent encampments that generate the debris. Hundreds of people use that route during Bowl season. We want to know what the plan is for keeping the sidewalks clean and safe for the public to use without dangerous debris forcing people into the street and oncoming traffic.

**Angela Babcock**, VP Stratiscope - Hollywood Bowl Community Relations  
Email: [angela@stratiscope.com](mailto:angela@stratiscope.com)  
Phone: (626) 826-4531

The Hollywood Bowl will be open this summer!

20 – 30% capacity

The first 4 shows will be May 15 & 22nd and June 12 & 26<sup>th</sup>. These will be free to invited first responder / frontline worker audience. These shows will be an opportunity for the Bowl to work out their Covid protocol. Hopefully by July 4<sup>th</sup> the Hollywood Bowl will be officially to the public.

Traffic Mitigation Update

The new left turn at Odin from Highland (northbound) so people don't have to do the ridiculous u-turn from seasons past! This was an improvement suggested by the community.

Sound Checks!

FYI There will be sound checks on April 15 and 16 from 7pm – 10pm

**George Skarpelos**, President – Hollywood United Neighborhood Council (HUNC)

Email: [george@myhunc.org](mailto:george@myhunc.org)  
Phone: (323) 301-6406

HUNC Board Elections

This was an entirely vote by mail election due to the pandemic. They had some issues because of the process to get signed up to receive the vote by mail ballots so turnout was low. They still have a few open seats, so if anyone knows someone who works at a non-profit who is interested, please reach out. The new HUNC board will be officially seated in July of 2021.

Nightclub Noise Complaints

Academy Nightclub on Hollywood Blvd. (just east of Gower) has a significant outdoor patio area. There have been some serious sound issues reported by the residents of the supportive housing building on Gower around the corner. Previously HUNC had been considering approving the conditional use permit until they heard the complaints. This is why it's important to keep HUNC in the loop when there are issues such as this.

LAPD Officer Jesse Rubalcava

He is the SLO now assigned to the Area south of Franklin.  
Email: [38655@lapd.online](mailto:38655@lapd.online)

RYLAN (emergency prep) event planned for April 26<sup>th</sup>

Proposed Community Clean Up

Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup> (day after Mother's day)

Go to HUNC website for updates and details: <https://hollywoodunitednc.org/>

## **IV. HDCA Updates & Announcements**

LAPD Hollywood Blood Drive

Wednesday, April 21, 2021 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Community Room

6501 Fountain Avenue, Hollywood CA 90028

Schedule your appointment: [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and enter sponsor code: LAPDHOLLYWOOD

Hollywood Dell Neighborhood Clean Up Day

Saturday, April 24, 2021 starting at 9am

David Brewer is the point person. Email him: [david@hollywooddell.com](mailto:david@hollywooddell.com)

Upcoming In-Person Dell Event

We are discussing a version of a Hollywood Dell Neighborhood Summer block party – likely in mid to late July. It won't be exactly like our annual BBQ but hopefully still a fun get together once it is safe to start doing that. Anyone interested in participating in the planning – please reach out and join us!

Hollywood Community Plan

Linda asked who is behind the big marketing push to approve the HCP?

Outdoor Hollywood Event This Summer

Yes! The HDCA board has already discussed the timing that we could possibly plan something based on the vaccination rollout. It's looking like mid to late July.

Arclight Theater Closure Announced

Linda encouraged people to sign petitions to save the Arclight Cinerama Dome.

*Next Month's Meeting: WED May 12<sup>th</sup>  
Meeting Topic: Neighborhood Safety*