



HDCA Meeting Notes
March 10, 2021
Zoom / Virtual Meeting

Attendees:

Rod Borders
David Brewer
Deborah Brosseau
Nicole Carcel & Baby Joseph
Pamela Clay-Magathan
Chelsea Crowely
Brandi D'Amore
Debra DeCordova
Steven DeCordova
Judy Dowden
Linda Deutsch
Jodi Ehrlich

Mike Feuer
Anne Fitzgibbon
Debra Gainor
Jan Hohenstein
Wendi Horowitz
Alexa Iles-Skarpelos
Pamela Kalmus
Rebekah Ladizinsky
Mary Ledding
Swami Mahayogananda
Ailsa Marshall
Heather Mata

Patti Negri
Deirdre Owens
Namita Rathi
Erin Seinfeld
Merle Singer
George Skarpelos
Sarah Tanberg
Ethan Weaver
Matthew Welsh
Brian White
Kelly Ziegler

I. Welcomes & Introductions

Alexa Iles Skarpelos, HDCA President

II. Special Guest LA City Attorney Mike Feuer

About Mike Feuer

Mike Feuer was first elected Los Angeles City Attorney in 2013 and was re-elected in 2017. Prior to that he represented the Hollywood Dell as our California State Assembly Member for the 43rd District. Some of you may recognize him from the Dell BBQ & Pet Parade, or the La Rocha Trail and Franklin Ivar Park dedication events or maybe from a neighborhood meeting like this. Tonight we have invited him to speak about his role as City Attorney and his thoughts about the important challenges facing Los Angeles.

The Role of the City Attorney

The City Attorney writes every municipal law, advises the Mayor and the City Council on every issue that has a legal dimension to it, defends the city in litigation, and brings forth lawsuits on behalf of the people. His office is one of the largest prosecutorial offices in the United States; they prosecute misdemeanor crimes (the DA prosecutes felony crimes). He doesn't look at conviction rates as a measure of success, but rather the reduction of recidivism.

Highlights From His Presentation

Mr. Feuer touched on a variety of topics; spoke about the challenges facing Los Angeles and shared his thoughts about how to best address various issues.

Challenges

- Health Crisis Due To The Pandemic
- Los Angeles Economy & The City Budget Crunch
- Homeless Crisis
- Enforcement of Existing Laws & Ordinances
- Lawsuits & the City of LA

Programs & Solutions

- The local problem solving of the Neighborhood Prosecutor Program (<https://www.lacityattorney.org/neighborhood-prosecutors>)
- The community-based approach of the Neighborhood Justice Program (<https://www.lacityattorney.org/njp>)
- Creative problem solving in his office – special teams going into communities
- 2018 LA Times Op-Ed he wrote suggesting that Los Angeles needed a FEMA-like approach to addressing the homeless crisis (<https://www.latimes.com/opinion/op-ed/la-oe-feuer-homelessness-los-angeles-20180109-story.html>)
- Taking inspiration from Trieste, Italy (<https://www.psychiatrictimes.com/view/restoring-respect-people-mentally-illness>)

Mr. Feuer also answered questions from our community:

Q: What about adding the consequence of a utility shut-off to the Loud Or Unruly Ordinance as one of the penalty options for repeat violators (after the mayor's emergency order is lifted)?

A: He thought that could be done, it requires a change in the Ordinance that would have to be initiated by the City Council. He underscored that the utility shut-off has been quite effective. He also understands that party houses are more than a noise issue, there is an important public safety aspect in neighborhoods like ours.

Q: What about the impression that there's an overall lack of enforcement by the City for existing laws & ordinances?

A: He agreed that there's not enough enforcement and that needs to change. He gave the example of the short-term rentals, he hasn't seen a second round of citations given (by the Planning Dept.) and he knows that there are many locations that are repeat offenders. This needs to change.

Q: His thoughts on the efforts to "defund" the LAPD.

A: "Defunding the police isn't just a bad slogan; it's a bad idea." He does support efforts to fund alternative programs for mental health crisis teams and supporting underserved communities. LAPD shouldn't be asked to respond to some of the things they have been because a lack of alternatives.

Q: Why are these large encampments in our area such as Gower (under the 101 Freeway) allowed to spill into the streets? Do people have a "right" to live like this on our public streets?

A: He feels that we should have a goal to end street homelessness in the next five years. We should lead with housing and services but also, there's no "right" to live on the street.

Q: What about people who are lighting fires, using drugs, leaving needles on the ground, there are those who block the entire sidewalk and not leave room for a wheel chair?

A: No one should be allowed to block a sidewalk, they should allow for 36" of passable space. No one should be allowed to start a fire in a dangerous situation. Drug possession has largely been made a misdemeanor with very little consequence due to Prop 47, but drug sales, prostitution, and gang activity in encampments should be enforced. Criminal behavior should not be overlooked simply because someone is un-housed. Rules should be enforced.

III. Updates from Local Officials & Reps

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

Email: sarah.tranberg@lacity.org

Phone: (323) 570-4335

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

“Hero Pay”

On March 3, 2021 the LA City Council approved the \$5 / hour boost for grocery store workers (aka “hero pay”) as an emergency ordinance. This will apply to all non-managerial employees at grocery or drug retail stores with more than 300 employees nationwide or more than 10 employees on site. It will be given in addition to employees base wages for the next 120 days.

Reduction In Street Sweeping

Street sweeping services in the city of Los Angeles will be reduced to every other week starting March 1, 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and staff reductions. If you live on a street with posted street sweeping parking restrictions, you can register to be notified (24 hours in advance) about street sweeping at: <https://streetsla.lacity.org/sweeping>

New additions to the CD4 staff

Mashaël Majid, Planning Director

Email: mashaël.majid@lacity.org

Josh Nuni, Legislative Director

Email: josh.nuni@lacity.org

Gregory Randolph, Policy Advisor, Economic Development

Email*: contactCD4@lacity.org

** note he is working part-time and hasn’t been assigned a city email as yet*

Budget News

LA City Council voted this week to direct the \$150 million cut from the LAPD budget to re-invest in support of Los Angeles’ most underserved communities of color. They also voted on a plan to devote substantial resources to develop an unarmed alternative to armed police response.

LA Times Article: <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2021-03-02/la-city-council-to-reconsider-88-million-spending-plan-communities-color>

Homeless Outreach Report

A motion instructing the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) to deliver a report about how homeless outreach is being conducted and how data is being shared with the City and Council offices was passed this week.

The Hollywood Community Plan (HCP)

THE HCP Update will be before the Planning Commission March 18th. This will be a continuation of the 6-hour + hearing that was held on February 18, 2021. The HDCA will be sending out an email with information about the HCP this week. For more details: <https://planning.lacity.org/plans-policies/community-plan-update/hollywood-community-plan-update>

Specific to the Hollywood Dell

Holly Drive Street Work

The city is working on several improvements between on Holly Drive (between Dix & Odin). They will be repairing sidewalks and installing wheel chair accessibility on the corner crossings. They have posted “no parking” along this section of Holly Drive. No confirmed date when this will all be finished. While this is an inconvenience for residents who normally park along Holly, the end result will be a welcome improvement.

Deep Dell Sewer Work

The sewer work being done on Deep Dell Place is for two permits issued in January & February 2021 for 6372 Weidlake Drive. The permits expire 2 years after they are approved (January & February 2023).

San Marco Drive

Residents have reported concerns about landslide issues from a vacant lot on San Marco Drive. Sarah will contact LAFD in to take a look at the issue.

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

Email: ethan.weaver@lacity.org

Office Phone: (213) 978-7904

Primary concerns: party houses and the uptick in illegal club activity in Hollywood.

Heather Mata, LAPD Senior Lead Officer for Area 6A15

Email: 40988@lapd.online

Mobile: (213) 308-0455

Crime

All auto-related crime is surging throughout LA, but especially in Hollywood. Grand theft auto, theft from a motor vehicle, license plate theft etc.. If you are a victim of a crime, please report it! You can do it online or email the Hollywood Station. About 40% of the vehicle thefts are because the key or key fob has been left in the car.

On Leave

Officer Mata will be on leave starting March 11th returning the first week of August (*she’s having a baby girl!*). SLO Brian White joined the meeting tonight and will be covering for her in addition to his regular duties. He is very familiar with our neighborhood, since he was our SLO before Officer Mata.

Brian White, LAPD Senior Lead Officer

Email: 38074@lapd.online

Erin Seinfeld, Field Deputy – LA County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl’s office

Email: eseinfeld@bos.lacounty.gov

Office Phone: (310) 231-1170

COVID-19 Status in LA County

Los Angeles had been in the “purple” tier, which is the worst (aka widespread) up until recently. However, this week we have now moved into the “red” tier (aka substantial). The metrics being used to assign the tiers are:

- New COVID-19 cases per day per 100K people
- % Positivity Rate (7-day average)
- Vaccine Equity is a new metric they are looking at

Vaccinations

As of Monday 2.4 million doses have been administered and of those, 815K were people getting their second doses. Of the 312K doses that are being distributed to the 375 vaccination sites this week, 54K were the new single dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

Who Can Get The Vaccine Now

In addition to those who were already eligible with Phase IA (healthcare workers, staff & residents of skilled nursing facilities and those 65+) eligibility was expanded this month to include Phase IB for the following sectors:

- Childcare & Education Workers
- Food & Agriculture Workers
- Law Enforcement & Emergency Service Workers
- Custodians & Janitors
- Public Transit Workers
- Airport Ground Crew Workers
- Social Workers & Foster Parents

She encouraged everyone to sign up for the LA County vaccine newsletter:

<http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/coronavirus/vaccine/index.htm>

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

Email: george@myhunc.org

Phone: (323) 301-6406

HUNC Board Elections

This is a vote by mail only election due to the pandemic. The deadline for requesting a vote by mail ballot was March 9, 2021. If you applied but have not received your ballot email George and he will look into it.

You can start dropping off ballots as of March 9, 2021 at the drop box located at the Frances Howard Goldwyn Public Library, 1623 Ivar Avenue (between Hollywood Blvd. and Selma). You can also mail your ballot. Ballots must be dropped off or post-marked March 16, 2021 (the official election day).

There have been two candidate forums held via zoom. If you want to watch the recordings, they will be made available on the HUNC website: www.myhunc.org/elections

The new HUNC board will be seated in July of 2021.

Misc.

Fareless Transit will be discussed at the Transportation & Public Works Committee meeting on Monday, March 15, 2021.

IV. HDCA Updates

HDCA 2021 Membership Drive

Kelly Ziegler - HDCA Treasurer

You can still join HDCA for 2021! Everyone is welcome to go to our website to join online. Thank you to all of you who have already paid your 2021 dues. The February “members only” raffles as part of our membership drive were very well received! The HDCA board decided we should continue to do a “members only” raffle each month. Go to: www.hollywoodell.com

HDCA Film Committee

Jodi Ehrlich – Committee Chair

Email: Jodi@hollywoodell.com

Phone: (323) 462-3456

The Hollywood Dell Civic Association (HDCA) Film Committee was established to ensure the Hollywood Dell is a positive place for film production for both the film production companies and the neighborhood residents. The primary role of the committee is to create awareness, share information and

act as a resource so that filming activities are done within the established rules and permit guidelines, that public safety is observed and that the impact on the neighborhood is minimal.

We are working with FilmLA, which is the organization that operates as the official film office for the City & County of Los Angeles. FilmLA is advising us whenever a permit is requested within the Hollywood Dell, but if you receive a notice or survey from FilmLA, please let Jodi know so we can keep track and make sure everything is going as it should.

The HDCA will notify our email subscribers whenever there is a film permit granted within the Hollywood Dell, regardless of the size, type or location of the production. There have been 9 permitted film productions in the Hollywood Dell so far in 2021. There were also 2 additional film productions on the borders of our neighborhood (Agyle and Franklin) that involved parking and road closures. There is no limit to the number of days that filming can occur at a location.

The committee has already drafted handouts for production companies about filming in our neighborhood and is working on creating a handout for residents who may be considering hosting filming at their home.

HDCA Neighborhood Watch

Jan Hohenstein – Committee Chair

Email: jan@hollywooddell.com

Phone: (323) 428-2845

New Watch Captains

There has been some re-building work being done and we have added four new watch captains:

- Debra Gainor (Bryn Mawr East)
- Jack Rosenfeld (Fink Street)
- Wendy Horowitz (Cahuenga Terrace)
- Cynthia Martinez (Deep Dell Place East, La Rocha, Weidlake near Rinconia)

HDCA Neighborhood Improvements Committee

David Brewer – Committee Chair

Email: david@hollywooddell.com

Phone: (323) 440-6141

This committee used to be called the “beautification committee” but we felt it was time for an update. Many of the projects this group works on are improvements, whether it’s the little free libraries, the pet waste stations, and traffic mirrors, planting projects or neighborhood cleanup days.

Vine Street Overlook Committee met on February 15, 2021 and came up with a solid list of ideas to improve the area and discourage nuisance activity.

We have scheduled a neighborhood clean up day for Saturday, APRIL 24TH. We will organize the work so that it is socially distant and safe.

Anyone interested in participating in this committee should contact David.

Recognitions

Thank you to all who have been volunteering on the various committees we didn’t talk about it tonight, but our Outreach Chair, Judy Dowden makes the most charming welcome baskets for new neighbors and she couldn’t do it without her outreach teammate Anne Fitzgibbons who compiles the list of new homeowners and lets her know where they need to go. We want to welcome everyone, and those who rent are the hardest ones to ID – so we are relying on their neighbors to reach out to Judy (judy@hollywooddell.com) and let her know!

V. New Business & Announcements

Saturday April 3, 2021

Pamela Clay invited everyone to join her Show (Metropolitan Zoom) from 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm. Pamela is the star lead singer of our neighborhood band the Hollywood Dell Tones! To purchase tickets:

<https://metropolitanzoom.ticketleap.com/pamela-clay-040321/>

Wednesday, April 14, 2021

April Hollywood Dell Neighborhood Meeting, 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Special Guest: Los Angeles Fire Dept. Deputy Chief Armando Hogan

Saturday, April 24, 2021

Hollywood Dell Neighborhood Clean-Up Day

A great volunteer opportunity for the whole family.