



HDCA Meeting Notes
September 8, 2021
Zoom / Virtual Meeting

Attendees:

Angela Babcock
Bruce Bermudez
David Brewer
Deborah Brosseau
Madonna Cacciatore
Pamela Clay
Brandi D'Amore
Everett Darling
Linda Deutsch
Judy Dowden
Jodi Ehrlich
Anne Fitzgibbon

Beverly Freeman
Annie Gagen
Scott Grodner
Billy Harris
Leslie Hendry
Jan Hohenstein
Alexa Iles-Skarpelos
Tifanie Joudeh
Pamela Kalmus
Kathy Keilar
Shelley Kiah
Swami Mahayogananda

Heather Mata
Robin McWilliams
Patti Negri
Helen Rose
Jack Rosenfeld
Helene Rotolo
Jenn S
Erin Seinfeld
Merle Singer
Alli White
Kelly Ziegler

I. Welcomes & Introductions

Alexa Iles Skarpelos, HDCA President

II. Updates from Local Officials & Reps

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

No updates, but some sad news (for us). Erin has taken another job and will be leaving this position in about a week. Her replacement has not been identified yet. As soon as we know we will share the info. Alexa thanked Erin for all her good work during this crazy pandemic year and wished her all the best in her future adventures.

Brandi D'Amore, Hollywood United Neighborhood Council (HUNC)
Email: brandi@myhunc.org

Proposed Project at 6335 Quebec Drive

We talked about a proposed project in our neighborhood at 6335 Quebec Drive that came before the HUNC Planning & Land Use Management Committee last week. Plans are for construction of a new single family dwelling across two lots that have frontage on Quebec Dr. and La Punta Dr.

HDCA has drafted a letter to HUNC outlining the concerns associated with this project.

The project will come before the HUNC full Board on Monday, September 13, 2021. It's important that Hollywood Dell residents show up for this meeting. The agenda will be published by Friday, September 10th and will include the link to join the virtual meeting. Go to: <https://hollywoodunitednc.org>

Comment: There's another proposed project of concern at 2415 San Marco Drive. Similar in that it's located on a substandard (very narrow width) street, with a building site on a steep lot. The developer seems to be trying to work around the rules. Residents are concerned. Brandi said she would put it on the next PLUM Committee meeting agenda.

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

Email: helene.rotolo@lacity.org

Phone: (213) 473-7004

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

As of Sept. 1, 2021 rent relief has re-opened. You can apply for assistance for missed rent during the pandemic. Renters or landlords should know to go to the website: www.housingiskey.ca.gov

Motion to Enforce the Home Sharing Ordinance

CM Raman recognized that there hasn’t been effective enforcement since the Home Sharing (aka Short Term Rental) Ordinance went into effect. The result is that housing stock continues to be taken away from residential use and homes are being used as party houses with no consequences. CM Raman made this motion to get the LA City Planning Department to identify a process to identify unpermitted listings, cite non-compliant properties, and create a dedicated compliance and enforcement team.

For details: <https://councildistrict4.lacity.org/press-release-councilmember-raman-introduces-motion-enforce-home-sharing-ordinance>

Vaccination Efforts in CD4

The LAFD Mobile Vaccine Team has vaccinated 93 people in CD4. That includes at least 54 people who are currently experiencing homelessness.

CAL TRANS

There was a recent cleanup around the Holly Tunnel on CAL TRANS property. Helene encouraged residents to continue to report encampments and problems in these areas so she can follow up with the appropriate entities.

Franklin Ivar Park Security

The Park is NOT being locked up at night as promised.

Who’s responsible? RAP (Rec And Parks Dept.) is the responsible entity.

LAPD Security Services has told Helene they aren’t responsible...

Helene will give an update at next month’s meeting.

LAFD Fire Education Effort

They are doing fire safety education in homeless encampments.

The Hollywood Gateway Triangle

It has been illegally altered for an unpermitted restaurant “pop-up.”

They removed the plantings the community had installed.

They stopped lighting the sign.

The City of LA has filed a criminal case against the people who did this.

What is the timeline for getting the fence removed and the triangle restored?

Ivar Tunnel

This is a problem area, repeated tagging, illicit / nuisance activity, dangerous individuals hanging out / living in and around the tunnel. Residents don’t feel safe walking through it. On August 28th there was an encampment fire at this location. Helene indicated that it was complicated because of jurisdiction; CAL TRANS property and equipment (utility boxes), LA City Street/Sidewalk, RAP in charge of the Park...She said that LA Sanitation Crews are not permitted to cleanup on CAL TRANS property...Helene is working with Seamus (Assembly Member Friedman’s office) and LAFD to partner on solving this.

Graffiti / Tagging

They are seeing an increase in graffiti and tagging city-wide. The best way to combat it is to get it cleaned up or painted over as soon as we see it. Residents can help by using MyLA311 to report it. The graffiti abatement team is very responsive and once a service request is made will have it remedied within a day or two.

Cahuenga Underpass

What is the update on that situation now that the anti-camping ordinance has gone into effect? Helene said, "at this point their office doesn't feel anyone is actually living there." It's complicated, but she assured us that they are aware of the situation and working on it.

Question/Comment: why can't they just remove it all tomorrow? It's an embarrassment, unsafe, ADA non-compliant.

Angela Babcock, Hollywood Bowl

Email: angela@stratiscope.com

We thanked Angela for gifting us the Hollywood Bowl Vouchers, and for arranging the 30 seats together for the Dell Group Night on THU September 9th. She was very happy they were able to do something, since they had to hold back on giving vouchers (after having no season last year and not sure how this season would go...) at the start of the summer.

Thankfully, because the Bowl is an outdoor venue, they have been able to operate and welcome audiences to performances even with the constantly changing situation with the pandemic.

Angela shared the links to feedback forms for residents to fill out. She hasn't gotten much feedback on traffic this year. There was one event in particular that she got feedback on regarding sound/noise.

Sound Feedback: <https://forms.gle/a94ESCTFQuJlGgqw9>

Traffic Feedback: <https://forms.gle/rQrFDvvM3TnIQqBs7>

Traffic Complaints: not too many nights where traffic was a problem. Angela did mention that the worst dates are during weekdays when Bowl crowds are combined with commuter traffic.

Special Road Closures: so far this season they haven't had "hard closures" to block traffic access to neighborhood streets on the West Side of Highland. They do expect to have some closures for upcoming shows. Angela will give us a heads up. Usually ticket sales 10K and up are shows they consider for hard closures.

Sound / Noise Complaints: So far the only show that generated a lot of noise complaints was on Sunday, August 29th (Club Quarantine with D-Nice). Angela did comment that sometimes the combination of the type of music (heavy bass) and weather conditions (air pressure and humidity) will allow sound to carry a great distance and defy the sound studies for typical Bowl events.

Heads Up!

November 2 & 3 the City of LA is planning closures on Hollywood Blvd. plus there will be a popular show at the Bowl and it's a weeknight so there is the added factor of commuter traffic.

Heather Mata, LAPD Senior Lead Officer, Hollywood Division

Email: 40988@lapd.online

Phone: (213) 308-0455

Violent Crime Category is Up

There is currently a very high spike in violent crime numbers across Los Angeles. The numbers are double over the same time last year (keeping in mind that last year we were still in quarantine – which kept the numbers low for 2020 overall). Hollywood is "leading" (as in the worst right now) in violent crime incidents.

Is there a reason this is happening? Officer Mata pointed to some recent policy changes that have released career criminals early and made prosecution of certain crimes a misdemeanor, so fines instead of jail time. This emboldens bad actors to take advantage.

Hollywood Division Resources Strapped

LAPD Hollywood has 50-60 less officers than they did last year. Currently they have just enough officers to cover basic patrol requirements (to handle 9-1-1 calls) so please understand that they can't allocate officers for any special patrols right now.

There used to be 60 officers assigned to the Hollywood Entertainment District alone - now there are just 12. The HED is an area where a lot of incidents occur.

Catalytic Converter Theft Prevention

Because of an uptick in thefts of Catalytic Converters, the City of LA is putting on an event SAT, October 9, 2021 (Franklin & Vista del Mar) from 1pm – 4pm. Community members who want to get their Catalytic Converter engraved /etched at this event please let Officer Mata know and she will get you an appointment.

Q: What can community members do to assist LAPD in keeping crime down?

A: Write letters to civic leaders and ask that resources be allocated to support Hollywood LAPD.

The HDCA suggests sending letters sharing your concerns and asking for resources to support the LAPD Hollywood Division to the following officials:

Nithya Raman, LA City Council Member – 4th District

(our representative on the LA City Council)
200 N Spring Street - Suite 415
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Email: contactCD4@lacity.org

Los Angeles Police Commission

https://www.lapdonline.org/police_commission

Michel Moore, Los Angeles Chief of Police

100 West 1st Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Eric Garcetti, Los Angeles Mayor

200 N Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Email: mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org

Brent McGuyre, Captain III - Hollywood Division Commander

1358 N Wilcox Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90028
Email: 36095@lapd.online

George Gascon, Los Angeles District Attorney

211 West Temple Street, Suite 1200
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Mike Feuer, Los Angeles City Attorney

City Hall East, Suite 800
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Email: mike.n.feuer@lacity.org

III. Gubernatorial Recall Election

The Recall Process

This recall election was qualified by 12% of the 12,464,253 votes cast at the 2018 election for Governor (1,495,709 signatures).

How Much It Will Cost

According to the California Dept. of Finance, the estimated cost to taxpayers of this recall election will be \$243.6 - \$276 million.

What's On the Ballot?

The ballot contains just two questions. There are no other initiatives or offices up for vote on this election.

Question 1: Do you want to recall Governor Newsom?

Question 2: If the governor is recalled, who do you want to replace him?

There are 46 candidates listed on the ballot for question 2, and another 7 who have qualified to be a write-in candidate.

If 50% or more vote NO, Governor Newsom will remain in office. If more than 50% vote YES, he will be removed from office and the person with the most votes will replace him.

Ballots

All California active registered voters should have already rec'd a Vote-By-Mail Ballot.

The official election date is **TUE September 14, 2021**

Vote Centers are already open (since September 4, 2021)

Mailed ballots must be post-marked on or before September 14, 2021 to be counted.

No postage is necessary.

You can also drop off your vote-by-mail ballot at any Vote Center or secure ballot drop box.

If you use the Vote-By-Mail ballot, you MUST sign and date the outside of the return envelope for it to be counted

In-Person Vote Centers

You also have the option of voting in-person. In-person vote centers will offer voter registration, replacement ballots, accessible voting machines and language assistance.

Three vote centers nearest (within 3 miles) the Hollywood Dell are:

Hollywood Recreation Center (Gymnasium)

1122 Cole Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90038

Elysian Masonic Temple (Dining Room)

1900 N Vermont Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90027

Fairfax Senior Center (Auditorium)

7929 Melrose Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90046

Hours:

September 4 – 13 10:00 am – 7:00 pm

September 14 (Election Day) 7:00 am – 8:00 pm

IV. HDCA / Neighborhood Updates

HDCA Hollywood Bowl Advisory Committee Report – Jodi Ehrlich

In addition to the Hollywood Bowl, they are also operating the John Anson Ford Theater. They offer concession menu items that are plant-based (vegan). There is actually a parking enforcement person on site to respond to parking issues during events. If you have a parking issue in our neighborhood, you can call and report it to them.

HDCA Film Committee Update – Jodi Ehrlich

Our process for getting notification from FILM LA and sending out notices to our email subscribers to let them know when filming will occur in the neighborhood seems to be working well. We have been working with companies to limit the negative impact on residents.

Little Free Libraries

Holly Drive location has been vandalized and we do have a request in to get it repaired. The Willetta location has had a couple of incidents of being completely cleared out...not nice but technically not stealing.

V. Upcoming Events & Announcements

- Hollywood Dell Group Night at the Hollywood Bowl TOMORROW! (September 9th)
Beethoven & Schumann (Marta Gardolinska, conducting – Helene Grimaud, on piano)
We have still have some of the 30 seats together in Section M1 rows 9,10 and 11 (just behind the superseat section) available.
- Gubernatorial Recall Election Ballots Due, TUE September 14, 2021
- Pamela's Zoom Show, SAT September 25th at 7pm PST
<https://metropolitanzoom.ticketleap.com/pamela-clay-092621/details>
- Community-Police Advisory Board (CPAB) Meeting, THU September 30, 2021 at 2:00 pm
- Next Neighborhood Meeting: WED October 13, 2021 at 7:00 pm (*Patti's Birthday!*)
- Halloween in the Dell, SUN October 31, 2021