



HDCA Meeting Notes
January 12, 2022
Zoom / Virtual Meeting

Attendees:

David Acosta
Bruce Bermudez
David Brewer
Deborah Brosseau
Madonna Cacciatore
Pamela Clay
Monty Cornell
Brandi D'Amore
Judy Dowden
John Dravillias
Jodi Ehrlich
Anne Fitzgibbon
Beverly Freeman
Seamus Garrity
Terri Gerger

Scott Grodner
Billy Harris
Sharon Harris
Jan Hohenstein
Wendy Horowitz
Alexa Iles-Skarpelos
Sheila Irani
Tifanie Joudeh
Pamela Kalmus
Teddy Kapur
Kathy Keilar
Mary Ledding
Swami Mahayogananda
John Mannino

Cynthia Martinez
Heather Mata
Robin McWilliams
Patti Negri
Debbie Pattillo
Jack Rosenfeld
Helene Rotolo
Merle Singer
Nathan Singer
George Skarpelos
Jacqui Tager
Ethan Weaver
Alli White
Kelly Ziegler

I. Welcomes & Introductions

Alexa Iles Skarpelos, HDCA President

COVID19 Update

The Omicron variant has been surging in Los Angeles. In the past week the average testing positivity rate is over 22%. In the past 7 days, on average 3,766 people have been hospitalized with COVID19. Hospitals are facing severe staffing shortages.

To get up-to-date information about COVID in LA County and testing locations:

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/>

HDCA IRS Status Announcement

The HDCA board, and in particular, our Treasurer, Kelly Ziegler worked very hard to get our organization's status to change from 501c4 (social welfare / civic organization) to 501c3 (charitable organization – fully non-profit). This will allow us to do more significant projects that involve fundraising, and donations to HDCA are completely tax-deductible. We can now apply for public funds and grants to help us improve our community! Hooray and congratulations to everyone who helped make it happen.

II. Updates from Local Officials & Reps

Helene Rotolo, Field Manager – LA City Council Member Nithya Raman's Office (CD4)
Email: helene.rotolo@lacity.org

Franklin Ivar Park Security Update

CD4 is temporarily paying for a contract security company to lock up the park until they work out the jurisdictional issue with who should be responsible for this.

Lake Hollywood Pedestrian Path Closure Update

Because of the recent storms, there were several areas that have unstable hillsides above it and it has been closed for public safety (LADWP and private property was affected). Until the private property owner stabilizes their portion, which is above one of the sections LADWP needs to work, LADWP can't complete the repairs.

There will be a partial reopening of the walking path starting tomorrow (January 13). The Tahoe and Weidlake gates will be open, but be advised that there will be a portion of the path that will be cordoned off to the public. About ¾ of the path will be open for public use.

New Organic Waste Collection Rules

Helene still hasn't rec'd any information from the Dept. of Sanitation regarding the new rules for organic waste / composting collection. For the time being she advised we continue to sort our refuse as we have been.

Changes to Council District 4 After Recent Redistricting

The previous boundaries included Toluca Lake, Central LA, parts of Koreatown, and Hancock Park as well as our area. The new boundaries do not include those areas but still include Hollywood Dell, Whitley Heights, Beachwood etc. and now Franklin Canyon, Studio City, Sherman Oaks, Encino and some of Reseda. Helene is still our area rep. They are referring to this as the central city and valley "bridge" district. Link to view the new map: <https://bit.ly/cd4field>

Note: There was a question about what is being done about the proliferation of the encampments in and around our neighborhood and new laws, or programs that should be helping with the issue. It was determined by the group that this is an important and complicated issue that we should have a separate meeting about with the right people in the room to answer all of our questions. The HDCA will schedule a separate Zoom on this topic within the next couple of weeks. Helene offered to attend with the CD4 Homelessness team and Seamus offered to attend as well, since he's been working with CD4 and Cal Trans in a special working group.

Seamus Garrity, Senior Field Representative – Assembly Member Laura Friedman's Office (Dist. 43)

Email: seamus.garrity@asm.ca.gov

SB9 & SB10

These are state senate bills that are designed to allow small multifamily buildings on single-family lots to provide relief from our current housing crisis. SB9 would allow for up to four units of housing on a single-family lot. SB10 would allow local government to upzone (without going through CEQA review) any parcel of land, including a single-family lot, to allow a building of up to 10 units as long as the location was near public transit.

Seamus shared that Assembly Member Friedman had voted against both SB9 & SB10. He also pointed out that SB10 is not a mandate, but leaves it up to local governments to decide. He thought it unlikely that the LA City Council would pass an ordinance that would approve adding density in a hillside neighborhood like ours because of the conditions that make it a designated Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone.

Heather Mata, LAPD Senior Lead Officer, Hollywood Division

Email: 40988@lapd.online

Crime Stats

Crime overall in 2021 compared with 2020 was up 42% (even compared with pre-pandemic numbers it was up 37% to 2019).

Hollywood LAPD Holiday Toy Giveaway

She thanked everyone who contributed to the Hollywood LAPD toy drive. They handed out close to 2,000 toys to families in need in Hollywood.

Personnel Updates

Captain Brent McGuyre is moving on to Harbor Division, which is closer to his home. His replacement, Captain Raymond Valois, will be starting this week. Officer Mika Gonzalez will be officially assigned as the SLO for Area 6A49 (south of Franklin between Vine & Normandie) which had been without a SLO for a long time. Currently they are down about 50 officers at the Hollywood Station due to COVID19.

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

Email: ethan.weaver@lacity.org

Hollywood Gateway Triangle

He is currently taking legal action against the individual who took over the space for the illegal pop-up restaurant. He has consulted with Merle Singer, who was involved with the original effort to improve the triangle. He has been working with the Office of General Services to get it replanted and restored. He isn't going to wait for the criminal case to be settled for the restoration to be started, but will be going after the restaurant to reimburse the City for the cost of putting it right.

Brandi D’Amore, Hollywood United Neighborhood Council

Email: brandi@myhunc.org

Update: Proposed 7ELEVEN at Franklin & Vista Del Mar

There was a hearing on January 11, 2022. The hearing was to decide on whether to approve the extended hours (6am – 2am). Many neighbors and community organizations object to a 7ELEVEN at this location. Public comments were taken and several Dell residents gave compelling arguments against approving this project to move forward. Mashaal Majid, Planning Director for Council District 4, gave a very strong statement in support of the community and encouraged the Planning Commissioners to deny the project. They were able to deny it based on at least 3 key findings.

Upcoming Projects To Be Aware of

- Gelson’s has applied for a conditional use permit to serve alcohol at an onsite café.
- There is a potential 23-story tower at Carlos and Bronson.
- There is a marijuana dispensary that still needs to obtain community input on its permit for the location at 6223 Franklin (at Argyle).

Brandi invited the community to attend upcoming HUNC Planning & Land Use (PLUM) Committee Meetings because this is where these projects are discussed at length. They are the first Thursday of each month.

III. Guest Speaker

Teddy Kapur, Candidate for Los Angeles City Attorney

Email: teddy@teddykapur.com

Teddy Kapur is one of the 7 candidates running for Los Angeles City Attorney.

He came to our meeting to introduce himself to our community. He is supportive of the neighborhood prosecutor program and wants to expand that.

Key Priorities

- Reducing Homelessness, advise the Mayor and City Council to declare a state of emergency and address the situation as the humanitarian crisis it is
- Expand housing along commercial corridors
- Protect tenants
- Fighting corruption in our city government
- Reducing wage theft
- Need more enforcement around marijuana dispensaries
- Need more enforcement around the short-term rental ordinance

IV. HDCA / Neighborhood Updates

HDCA Hollywood Bowl Advisory Committee Report – Jodi Ehrlich

2021 was actually the Hollywood Bowl Centennial. They will be doing an official celebration in 2022. It will include a book and limited edition box. They are adding a shuttle from Inglewood. They are increasing lines for park and ride. Vouchers are back! They also will be hosting the neighborhood pancake breakfast again.

New LA County Supervisor

Because of redistricting, our LA Council Supervisor is no longer Sheila Kuehl.

**We are now the southern edge of the new 5th District
County Supervisor Kathryn Barger**

<https://kathrynbarger.lacounty.gov/>

Our New Rep is Jason Maruca
Assistant Field Deputy
(818) 993-5170
jmaruca@bos.lacounty.gov

There is a new plan for the Ford Theater Trail Project. The Ford is under the jurisdiction of LA County.

LADWP Project on Barham will impact traffic until June 2022.

P22 Sightings in Our Area

Many people have reported seeing P22, our resident celebrity mountain lion, in and around the Hollywood Dell. There are lots of video clips on nextdoor.com and a few people have actually encountered P22 when out walking at night. So here is some advice from the experts.

What to do if you encounter a mountain lion...

Stay calm. Hold your ground and back away slowly. Face the lion and stand upright.

Do not approach a lion. Never approach a mountain lion especially one that is feeding. Most will try to avoid confrontation. Give them a way to escape.

Do NOT run from a lion. Running may stimulate their instinct to chase. Instead, stand and face the animal, maintaining eye contact. Keep children from running away.

Do not crouch down or bend over. Biologists surmise that mountain lions don't recognize standing humans as prey. On the other hand, a person squatting or bending over looks like a four legged prey animal. Children and dogs are more vulnerable than adult humans because they are small and easier prey.

What to do if the mountain lion moves in your direction or acts aggressively:

Do everything you can to appear intimidating.

Attempt to appear larger by raising your arms and opening your jacket. Bang sticks or clap your hands while yelling. If that doesn't work, throw something (rock, water bottle, bag or backpack) in the direction of the lion and continue to face it – never turn your back.

Other tips: If you are walking your dog, always have them on a leash – and never on one of those extension leashes. Carry an air horn or other noisemaker. Keep your children close.

“Influencers” On Weidlake Drive

There’s a new group of influencers from Dallas moving into the Weidlake houses. Keep Helene, Ethan and Officer Mata in the loop if there are issues.

V. Upcoming Events & Announcements

Tuesday, January 18, 2022 (9:00 am – 3:00 pm)

LAPD Hollywood Blood Drive “Battle of the Badges”

To sign-up go to: RedCrossBlood.org and use sponsor code LAPDHollywood
6501 Fountain Avenue, Hollywood CA 90028 (Community Room)

Wednesday, February 9, 2022 (7:00 pm – 8:30 pm)

February Hollywood Dell Meeting – Annual HDCA Board Elections
Via Zoom

Saturday, March 19, 2022 (7:00 pm)

Pamela Clay Show “Spring Fling” Zoom Concert

Link: https://metropolitanzoom.ticketleap.com/pamela-clay-031922/dates/Mar-19-2022_at_0700PM

Saturday, June 4, 2022

Hollywood Dell Summer Block Party

Featuring: Live Music with the Hollywood Dell Tones & the Much Beloved Pet Parade