



November 8, 2023
Neighborhood Meeting Recap

Attendees:
(alphabetically)

Tifanie Acosta
David Brewer
Deborah Brosseau
Jason Cottis
Ronna del Valle
Linda Deutsch
Judy Dowden
Jodi Ehrlich
Beverly Freeman
Anne Fitzgibbon

Matt Franco
Debra Gainor
Scott Grodner
Jan Hohenstein
Alexa Iles-Skarpelos
Pamela Kalmus
Mary Ledding
Nathan Mader
Cynthia Martinez
Heather Mata

Karim Nasr
Jerry Pierucci
Jack Rosenfeld
Josh Scarcella
Merle Singer
George Skarpelos
Josef Siroky
Natalie Vartanian
Kelly Ziegler

I. Welcomes & Introductions

Alexa Iles Skarpelos, HDCA President

II. Updates from Local Officials & Reps

Natalie Vartanian, Field Rep - LACounty Supervisor Kathryn Barger's Office
Email: NaVartanian@bos.lacounty.gov

They are hosting a food distribution event on November 29th (9 am – 12 pm) in Lakeview Terrace, at All Nations Church. It will be a drive-thru giveaway.

Senate Bill 96: Historic Venue Restoration & Resiliency Act
Authored by Sen. Portantino and signed into law by Gov. Newsom in October
Applies to venues built prior to 1940 with a seating capacity of more than 15,000 (such as the Hollywood Bowl, the Rose Bowl Stadium, etc.). It allows for a portion of sales and use taxes to be reinvested back into those sites for restoration, maintenance and other capital improvements.

Q: How much money does this represent for the Hollywood Bowl each year?

A: Natalie is working on getting that number. Sales tax information is confidential. The Bill goes into effect in January.

Q: Will it be possible to have some of that money apply to traffic mitigations?

A: She will look into it, unless its upgrading infrastructure that will help with traffic and accessibility.

Heather Mata, LAPD Senior Lead Officer for Hollywood Area 6A15
Email: 40988@lapd.online

Hollywood Division is leading the City of LA in violent crime reduction.
Her basic car area (Hollywood Hills north of Franklin) is down 24% to last year
Hollywood Division as a whole is down 14% compared to last year

Officer Mata explained LAMC 41.18

41.18 is the City of LA's "no camping law"
(https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/los_angeles/latest/lamc/0-0-0-128514)

Special Enforcement Zones

LA City Council voted that there are special zones where encampments are not allowed. The closest Special Zones to the Hollywood Dell are the Gower underpass and the Bronson Bridge (both are in CD13) CM Raman has chosen to not ID special zones in Council District 4.

What LAPD Can Enforce

Blocking a sidewalk, their belongings within 10 feet of a driveway or entrance

Step 1

LAPD has to give a reasonable amount of time for them to move their stuff (depends on the situation, but anywhere from a few hours to 24 hours).

Step 2

LAPD can issue a citation (a ticket).

The reality is that even when LAPD issues a citation, it doesn't necessarily change behavior.

ACE (administrative) citations are tickets that are strictly a fine, and nothing goes on their record. However, if you don't have a mailing address (many living on the street don't), you can't be issued an ACE citation. If you refuse to pay an ACE citation the fine increases.

The second type is a "release from custody" citation, which gives a criminal court date and could result in arrest if they are unpaid.

Either way, these aren't effective tools for LAPD to solve these issues.

The LA City Council is looking at the effectiveness of LAMC 41.18.

Q: Nathan is new to the area and has a school aged child who attends Cheremoya School. He feels there is no reasonable and safe way for him to walk his child to school from their residence on Cahuenga (north of Franklin). What can the City do to help with this?

Jack Rosenfeld commented that the schools encourage kids to walk to school, even though it's not really possible.

Q: With the situation in Gaza, has LAPD been tracking anti-Semitic activity or hate crimes in LA / Hollywood?

A: Yes, they are very aware and monitoring it. So far the only activities have been peaceful protests in Hollywood.

Q: Can you update us on the two incidents on Rinconia this past week that generated LAPD response?

A: One incident was reported as a possible burglary in progress and that's why there was such a big response (including a helicopter for 30+ minutes searching for the suspect). It turned out to be just a trespass and not an actual break-in. No arrests were made.

Officer Mata didn't have any additional information on the second incident

III. HDCA Business

Dix Encampment Update

Dell resident, Debra Gainor began the discussion by describing the most recent activities she witnessed on Dix. There was an overdose incident in the past week. Debra spoke with the Dix encampment occupants and pleaded with them to move on and give the Dix residents a break.

Josh Scarcella, Sr. Homelessness Deputy - LA City Council District 4, Nithya Raman's office
Email: josef.siroky@lacity.org

Josef Siroky, Field Rep - LA City Council District 4, Nithya Raman's office
Email: josef.siroky@lacity.org

7 am Monday, November 6th there was a "CARE+" cleanup conducted at the Dix encampment. CARE (Comprehensive Cleaning and Rapid Engagement) cleanups are typically planned a few weeks in advance and require the occupants of encampments to move their belongings so that LA Sanitation workers can remove trash, power wash and take away hazardous materials. Prior to the cleanup, the outreach teams give a "heads up" so they know it's coming.

They encouraged them to not move back to the Dix location. It looks like they have reassembled their encampment in the Cahuenga / 101 underpass.

In the past month CD4 got a different outreach team to work with them. They are prioritizing them on the list for housing to get them inside. They don't have a spot for them right now. According to Josh, they are willing to accept housing. He is continuing to work to get them inside.

Q: What's different? The Dix encampment occupants have now moved (back) to Cahuenga underpass? That underpass was a huge problem for years, and many of the occupants of the Dix encampment were the ringleaders there. How is this progress?

A: The encampments are on their (CD4) radar and they plan to continue to work to get them indoors. He anticipates doing a CARE+ cleanup in the underpass in the weeks to come. They already know the individuals on the west side of Cahuenga because they were previously at Dix, so they will continue their work with them.

Q: The Ivar tunnel has three men living in it. The eastside of the tunnel is impassable. There is one individual who is using the tunnel as a toilet, has threatened her with a pole, and just this morning trespassed onto her apartment building property to defecate in their carport. The tunnel is an ongoing safety issue. There is a lighting issue, there have been fires, there are several places where someone can hide and it's unsafe for residents to walk thru. This tunnel needs to be addressed.

A: This is unsafe for the neighborhood. Can Deborah and Josh have a further conversation offline to deal with the specifics? What residents need to know is that this tunnel is currently unsafe for residents to use until these issues are resolved.

Q: Where is the tree trimming on Franklin (near Ivar) in the process?

A: Josef responded that the requests are pending.

Hillside Federation Update

The Hillside Federation is a broad coalition comprised of 48 member organizations in the Santa Monica Mountains and other hillside areas of Los Angeles.

The Hillside Federation opposes the Housing Elements Rezoning of multi-family neighborhoods. (LA City Council File 21-1230)

<https://planning.lacity.org/plans-policies/housing-element-rezoning-program>

Planning Dept. Report on Short Term Rentals

The LA City Council

This 57-page report did cover all of the concerns with enforcement and their recommendation was to have the City form a dedicated department to handle this. We should support this, as it will hopefully make oversight and enforcement more efficient and transparent.

The Planning Department has launched a new portal for the public to look up an address to see if the location is registered with the city to legitimately operate a short-term rental. The portal is tricky/difficult to navigate and needs to be improved so that the information is accessible. Here's the link:

<https://losangelesca-self.govplatform.com/>

The HDCA needs a rep to attend the Hillside Federation meetings. We currently don't have one. The Federation covers a lot of environmental and development issues in the hillsides. If you are interested let Alexa know and she will send you the link to the Zoom.

Holly-ween in The Dell Recap

The HDCA Holly-ween in the Dell was very well attended. Many of our key volunteers weren't able to join us, but we were still able to pull it off. Shout out to MVP David Brewer!

We did get feedback from a resident on Holly that we reinstate the trick-or-treat route map and include them. The board also met and discussed how to ID households that welcome trick-or-treaters and create a way to promote that for next year.

HDCA arranged for Willetta to be closed to traffic (near Primrose), which was very helpful in increasing public safety. It was also nice to have LAPD and LAPD Reserves/Volunteers on hand. Jodi commented that people were still driving too fast on Holly Drive and asked that we figure out how to make that safer.

Year End

HDCA will be publishing the 2023 membership list at the end of November and we are very excited to announce we have the highest membership in recent years. We surpassed our goal for the year and have increased membership by 9%! Thank you to all who joined HDCA in 2023.

We will be providing a free "No Trespass" sign for the first people who pay dues for 2024.

December Holiday Party

We don't traditionally hold a neighborhood meeting in December; instead we have a holiday party. We are looking for a location to hold it. If anyone would like to offer their home, or has another suggestion, please let us know.

Please contact: alexa@hollywooddell.com if you would like to help with this.

IV. Neighborhood Hot Topic

Supporting Local Organizations / Charitable Giving

The Mission of HDCA is to support projects, activities and organizations that make a positive contribution to the neighborhood and community. Our dues support the operational expenses of HDCA (website, Mailchimp, PO Box, office supplies, printing costs etc.), the special events and in-person meetings and projects. We also contribute locally. This year so far we contributed to LA Fire Department Station 76 and supported LAPD National Night Out.

At the end of the year, if we have any funds left over we look for local organizations that are making a positive impact on our community to support with a donation. We thought it would be a good opportunity for our community to discuss the organizations that you support and share with the HDCA membership.

HDCA Vice President David Brewer volunteers with other Dell neighbors at the St. Stephens food distribution, which is every Wednesday morning. They give away fresh produce boxes. They started doing this during COVID. They average about 250 food boxes each week. The produce comes from produce wholesale companies. The produce is typically at it's peak use, and not saleable in stores. The church would welcome donations of \$'s as well to help with this effort.

St. Stephens website: <https://www.ststephenshollywood.org/>

Alexa mentioned My Friends Place in Hollywood. They provide services to homeless youth (12 – 25). These are kids who often have aged out of the foster care system, or they have been kicked out of their homes for their sexual orientation.

My Friends Place website: <https://www.myfriendsplace.org/>

V. Upcoming Events & Announcements

Street Closures in Hollywood in November

<https://hollywoodpartnership.com/alerts>

Hollywood Bowl Street Closures in NOV

Mariah Carey is performing (*this is a leased event*)

Friday, November 17, 2023 (7:30 pm)

Sunday, November 19, 2023 (7:00 pm)

There will be street closures (Milner & Camrose) on both nights starting at 5:00 pm (and ending 1 hour after the show concludes) this means they are expecting high traffic volume.

Hillside Federation Virtual Meeting

Tuesday, November 21, 2023 (7pm via Zoom)

Please let us know if you can attend this meeting on behalf of HDCA and report back on any topics that impact our neighborhood. Email alexa@hollywooddell.com and let us know! We will forward the link.

Hollywood Dell Neighborhood Meeting

We don't typically hold a meeting in December. Instead, we are planning a Holiday Party for Wednesday, December 13, 2023. If you have a location you would like to offer up, please let us know!

Email: alexa@hollywooddell.com

SAGAFTRA Strike Ended Today! That's good news for Hollywood and Los Angeles.

George Sunga died, Tuesday, November 7, 2023. He was 91. He was a director and producer who worked on iconic television series: All In The Family, The Jeffersons, The Redd Foxx Show, Good Times, The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour and Threes Company.

He served as a past president of HDCA. He and his wife Judy (who died last year) had lived on Rinconia Drive in the Hollywood Dell since the “hippie days.” They are both featured on a short video about the Dell that was made in 2006 to mark the 50th year of HDCA.

Here’s the link to view it: <http://hollywooddell.com/hollywood-dell-video/>

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm