



July 10, 2024
Neighborhood Meeting Recap

Attendees:
(alphabetically)

Bruce Bermudez
David Brewer
Deborah Brosseau
Pamela Clay
Jason Cottis
Brandi D'Amore
Jodi Ehrlich
Anne Fitzgibbon

Scott Grodner
Merle Singer
Nathan Singer
Sharon Harris
Alexa Iles-Skarpelos
Pamela Kalmus
Schelley Kiah
Walker King

Joshua Marin-Mora
Cynthia Martinez
Heather Mata
Karim Nasr
Namita Rathi
Ellie Tuttle
Andrea Weltman
Kelly Ziegler

I. Welcomes & Introductions

Alexa Iles Skarpelos, HDCA President
Email: alexa@hollywoodell.com

Alexa thanked David and Cynthia for preparing the fabulous food for the meeting.

II. Updates From Local Officials & Reps

Walker King, Deputy District Director, LA City Council Member Nithya Raman's Office (CD4)
Email: walker.king@lacity.org

Walker announced that after many months a new field deputy has been selected for our area. J Anderson will be starting on Monday, July 15th. J recently completed graduate studies at UC Berkeley's Goldman School for Public Policy. We look forward to meeting him at our next meeting.

Alexa thanked Walker for assisting neighbors in getting the section of El Contento repaired. This had been an issue since the heavy winter rains.

2024 Homeless Count Results

Walker shared the biggest news – which is for the first time since 2018, the homeless count shows a decrease instead of an increase over the prior year's number. In CD4 they have made the best progress compared with other districts in the City of LA with a 38% decrease in unsheltered homelessness. The decrease in unsheltered homelessness in the City of Los Angeles was significant, at -10.7%. This was greatly helped by the Mayor's "Inside Safe" program.

To read the details on the count:

LA City: <https://www.lahsa.org/documents?id=8152-city-of-los-angeles-hc2024-data-summary>

LA County: <https://www.lahsa.org/documents?id=8170-los-angeles-county-hc2024-data-summary>

Q: What is the position of the Council Member regarding people who have been brought indoors but who continue to occupy a spot on the public sidewalk so that they can continue to use/sell drugs?

A: If there is illegal activity, call LAPD to enforce.

Q: For the past 9 months we have been talking about the growing encampment on Franklin (at Cahuenga). What's being done about it?

A: They have done several cleanup operations on Franklin. The number of people living there isn't as large as the footprint of this encampment. They are doing outreach with those occupants.

Q: How has the Supreme Court Ruling (Grants Pass v Johnson) changed how the city approaches encampments?

A: The Supreme Court Ruling doesn't change LA City Laws. It just allows the City to pass different kinds of laws. It's up to the City of LA to determine if there should be additional laws (beyond the existing "anti-camping" law 41.18). Several City Council members requested that the City Attorney's Office look into how the City might change our response to this topic. Nothing has been decided, it's still being discussed. The approach in CD4 is to lead with services and housing and not criminalizing homelessness. This hasn't changed. They feel their approach is more effective.

Q: According to the ADA act, there is supposed to be enough room for a wheelchair to pass on a public sidewalk. Why is this not being enforced? Many of these encampments fill the entire sidewalks so people can't even walk, much less use a wheelchair.

A: While they try to do this when they have CARE cleanups, this is virtually impossible to enforce across the city on a daily basis.

Q: Are there discussions about other cities putting much stricter restrictions in place that might drive people to LA to live on the street?

A: This was already happening. It's hard to say how much worse it will get.

Q: It's obvious that many of the people on the street need mental health / substance treatment. What's being done to address this?

A: Mental health and substance treatment are always part of the homeless outreach process. They work with the CIRCLE teams, a non-profit called Health Care In Action. They have tried some things at the City level, but the Department of Mental Health is LA County. They have advocated for the County to increase funding in those areas.

Heather Mata, LAPD Senior Lead Officer Area 6A15

Email: 40988@lapd.online

Officer Mata usually begins by giving some area crime statistics. About six weeks ago LAPD switched to a new record keeping system and they are still figuring out how to use it, and compare with previous year numbers.

June 10th Break-In on Rinconia Drive

This happened at approximately 2:30 am.

They accessed the house and were captured on security footage inside, but were all covered (masked, hoodies, gloves) so police weren't able to use facial recognition or get any ID information of the suspects. They were also not able to get a good license plate from the security footage on the outside of the home. If anyone on that street has a better camera, and can find a black sedan on your footage, please contact Officer Mata.

Q: Block Captain Sharon Harris (who also lives next door) commented that the occupants of this home are social media "influencers" and wanted to know if the detectives know that?

A: Yes. They have that information and are working on that.

The HDCA prepared a “How to Keep Your Home Safe While On Vacation” handout for this meeting.

- Install a home security system. If you have one already, use it.
- Smart Timers
- Post “No Trespass Signs and have a Trespass Arrest Authorization on file at the LAPD
- Get a house sitter
- Don’t post on social media until you get home!
- Collect those spare keys from your hiding spots and put them somewhere safe.
- Make sure all doors and windows are locked.
- Unplug non-essential electronics.
- Clear out the fridge and take out the trash.

Ivar Tunnel Encampment

One of the occupants was the victim of a shooting. He lost his job and apartment because he was hospitalized for 3 months after someone tried to kill him. Heather did connect him with services and support and he has since been brought inside.

The other occupants may have moved in because of recent “Inside Safe” operations in the area. This often happens, when people hear about an “Inside Safe” coming, they move to the area to get into housing.

Many of the folks on Franklin are resistant to outreach and may have also moved to the tunnel to avoid the “Inside Safe” workers.

National Night Out Event

Tuesday, August 6, 2024 for the annual National Night Out in Hollywood!

This year the event will be a block party next to the Hollywood Police Station & LAFD Station 27 (Cole Avenue between Fountain Avenue and De Longpre Avenue). There will live entertainment, In & Out truck, Chick Fil A, Rite Aid ice cream stand, bounce houses, face painting and lots of other fun things.

If anyone wants to volunteer at the event – please reach out to Alexa.

Joshua Marin-Moro, Field Representative, CA State AM Rick Chavez Zbur’s Office (51st District)
Email: Joshua.MarinM@asm.ca.gov

Joshua reminded us that our new field deputy is Robbie Staenberg (contact info below) – who he introduced at our Summer Block Party in June. Robbie had a conflict for this meeting so Joshua attended in his place.

Robbie Staenberg, Field Representative, AM Rick Chavez Zbur’s Office (51st District)
Email: Robbie.Staenberg@asm.ca.gov
Phone: (323) 436-5184

CA State Budget

Governor Newsom did finally sign the new CA State budget. They protected priorities (public education, safety net programs), but delayed funding projects that had been in the works for the time being. But they are also working on having budget resiliency.

Addressing Anti-Semitism in Schools

AM Zbur is working with the California Legislative Jewish Caucus on legislation addressing Anti-Semitism in California’s schools.

Prop 4

The CA State Legislature has approved a \$10 billion Climate Resiliency Bond to be on the November ballot. This is a historic measure aimed at boosting infrastructure related to offshore wind power off the California coast. If approved, it will represent the largest voter-approved climate resilience investment in U.S. history.

Home Insurance Challenges

Many people may have read that insurance companies (State Farm) are dropping large numbers of California customers, especially in high fire danger areas like ours. Joshua (and Robbie) have offered to have representatives from Insurance Commissioner's Ricardo Lara's office to do some Q&A and talk about the CA Fair Plan at our next neighborhood meeting.

Financial Literacy in CA Education

AM Zbur recently signed new law that California high school students must fulfill a financial literacy requirement to graduate. This will go into effect for the graduating class of 2031. This will include a semester that covers personal finance, credit cards, taxes, identity theft, bank accounts, interest rates, college loans, etc.

III. HDCA Business

Hollywood Bowl Advisory Group Update

Jodi Ehrlich serves as our neighborhood rep on the Hollywood Bowl Advisory Group.

The Hollywood Bowl is updating / expanding the community page on their website to make it more user friendly and provide useful information for the residents who live in the neighborhoods around the Bowl.

This season they have moved the ride share lot to the lot near the Odin Tunnel (they call it Lot C).

They are doing traffic studies on key choke points including some in our neighborhood.

There is a newsletter that you can sign up for to get alerts to high volume events that might create road closures.

Jodi asked if anyone had noticed the traffic is better this year?

Seems like on typical nights it does seem better. It also helps when there are traffic officers assigned to Holly at Primrose.

They are also doing a big outreach effort when they sell tickets and updating guests proactively that they have sold all the available parking spots so people don't try to drive and park on those nights.

Comment: people from our neighborhood use the Odin tunnel wish the sidewalks weren't so narrow – is there a way to widen at least one side?

Community Grant Program

At our May 8th meeting we announced that Live Nation Hewitt Silva would be funding an annual \$100K program to award community grants for those nearby neighborhoods most impacted by Hollywood Bowl activities.

We had been advised that week that each neighborhood could apply for up to \$20K. Submissions were due Friday, May 31, 2024 (5pm).

The HDCA selected the "Vine Overlook Improvement Project" since we have already had it in the works and would be able to put in a strong application despite the short time we were given.

We had hoped to have an update tonight, but they haven't notified us of their decision yet.

IV. Misc. Upcoming Events & Announcements

Hollywood Community-Police Advisory Board Meeting

Tuesday, July 16, 2024 (5:00 pm)

Virtual Via Zoom

Pamela Clay Performing

Saturday, July 13, 2024 (5:00 pm – 9:00 pm)

Celebrate Bastille Day At Toast

8221 West 3rd Street

Los Angeles, CA 90048

(702) 210-1200 or email: Chefjosette@gmail.com for reservations

Hollywood National Night Out

Tuesday, August 6, 2024

1300 Block of Cole Avenue (Fountain to Cahuenga)

Hollywood Dell Neighborhood Meeting

Thursday, August 15, 2024 (7:00 pm – 8:30)

Virtual Via Zoom

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 pm