

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

HOLLYWOOD HILLS WEST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL OFFICERS

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HOLLYWOOD HILLS WEST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

C/O Department of Neighborhood
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HOLLYWOOD HILLS WEST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

December 5, 2018

6:00 pm

**Will and Ariel Durant Library Branch
7140 Sunset Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90046**

1. **The meeting was called to order by President, Anastasia Mann at 6:04pm.**
2. **Roll Call by Secretary Britta Engstrom. Quorum established. Absent: Suzanne Warren, Mary Yarber, Barbara Witkin, Jon Guzik. Melissa Reeck arrived at 6:28pm.**
3. **Minutes approved as corrected 18-0.**
4. **Public Official Reports**
 - a) CD13 – Dan Halden, Office of Councilman Mitch O’Farrell updated the Board that his role is going to change and that it would be his last HHWNC meeting. He stated that a 60 bed bridge housing facility for the homeless just opened and that another one is currently under construction.
 - b) CD4 –Field Deputy, Madelynn Taras, Office of Councilmember David Ryu stated that the new budget is out. Additionally, she updated the group that they broke ground at women’s bridge housing facility and to reach out if anyone has questions.
 - c) 46th Assembly District, Cindy Vallegas, Office of Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian invited stakeholders to the District Office Open House on 12/6/18 from 5:30-8:30pm at the Van Nuys Office.
 - d) LAPD-Senior Lead Officer Ben Thompson provided an update on crime. Overall the Hollywood entertainment district has seen lower crime numbers this year. The crime of the moment is theft from retailers such as Marshalls, Walgreens Hot Topic etc. He provided an update on a major case that was filed against a property owner who owns alcoholic beverage controlled facilities siting building code violations and municipal code violations. Officer Thompson introduced Senior Lead Officer Eubank and the new neighborhood prosecutor, Ethan Weaver who will be replacing Steve Houchin. Sergeant Shannon Geaney and SLO Tim Talman were also in attendance.
 - e) LAFD (see President’s Report)

- f) Renee McDade, Election Administrator updated the Board on the candidate filing period for the upcoming neighborhood council elections. The filling period opens on Sunday, December 16, 2018--applications are on their portal. Filing closes Tuesday, January 15, 2019. Documentation is due by Friday, January 18, 2019. They will release the certified list of candidates on Wednesday, January 30, 2019. Election day is Sunday, March 31, 2019. Voting place will be the Will & Ariel Durant Library.

5. **President's Report (Anastasia Mann)**

NOTE TO BOARD: In the interest of time, the Chair may request other agenda items to be addressed, out of order, prior to the Fire Department presentation in order to complete agenda in a timely matter.

a) Community Business

- i. Reminder: HHWNC's Holiday Singalong Friday Dec 14th at Wattles Mansion Gardens at 7pm. Evite is out. Please RSVP ASAP. Limited space.
- ii. City Council File #18-1120 Motion regarding public safety (see attachment)

CD4 is requesting we submit a community impact statement (CIS) report referencing this item.

Motion & Vote: The HHWNC Supports Council File #18-1120 that the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) and Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) jointly assemble and lead a Wildland-Urban Interface Hazard Mitigation Task Force (Task Force), consisting of representatives from the Police Department, Emergency Management Department, Department of Transportation, Department of Recreation and Parks, Department of Animal Services, Information Technology Agency, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, Department of Building & Safety, Department of City Planning, Department of Water & Power, and any other internal and external partners deemed necessary, to discuss the issues described in the attached text along with any related matters. Additionally, that the LAFD and CLA jointly convene an initial meeting of the Task Force, and provide a written report to the City Council outlining the work and objectives going forward.

Anastasia made the motion, Jeffery 2nd the motion. The motion was approved 19-0.

- iii. Anastasia let the board know that Joyce Dyrector has resigned as Area 4 Chair. The board thanked Joyce for her service.
- iv. **FIRE/EARTHQUAKE EMERGENCY "AT RISK" Presentation by LAFD Deputy Chief Hogan, Assistant Chief Saunders and EMS Captain Kevin Johnson.**

Powerpoint presentation and discussion with Q&A.

Presentation Notes

1. Your Preparedness
 - Mobility to move at a moment's notice
 - Go Bag: flashlight, transistor radio etc.
 - Notify LA (get the play by play of what happens)
 - Have the resources to be self-sustained for 7-14 days
2. Your Community's Preparedness
 - Walk your neighborhood, prepare for different routes of escape
 - What neighbors have pets? Medications? Elderly?
 - What resources do your neighbors have? Know your neighborhood.
3. How to interact with Police/Fire in an emergency
 - LAPD handles the evacuation, if asked to evacuate please listen as to not put others in danger

Chief Hogan explained how fires are fought using air operations (helicopters), and how they target area with hills. He stated that helicopters can get to the HHWNC area from Van Nuys in 5-18 minutes. Additionally, he explained how they use drones to fight fires.

Assistant Chief Saunders explained the evacuation timeline and how weather can impact fires. He made note that you can purchase lock boxes for your house that only LAFD have access to, so they can enter your residence to rescue pets etc. in case of a mandatory evacuation. He encouraged stakeholders to microchip their pets, so if they are taken to a shelter during a fire, they can be easily found.

LAPD suggested that stakeholders be familiar with RYLAN-Ready Your LA Neighborhood.

Proposed Motion & Vote: HHWNC supports an event to be hosted by HHWNC with HUNC re: "AT RISK" EMERGENCIES including Fire, Earthquake, Flooding, etc., within the HHWNC and HUNC borders in CD4 and CD13. Presenters to include LAFD, LAPD, DOT, CDs 4 & 13, at least, and to address evacuation, preparedness, communication, etc.

Proposed location: TBD

Proposed date: TBD 2019.

Guest speakers to include George Skarpelos, President HUNC & reps from LAPD, DOT & CD4 & 13 in addition to LAFD Captains.

Discussion: local AREA/Canyon/Flats Meetings in addition to Town Hall to address specific geographical & traffic related concerns. 30-45 minutes.

Proposed Budget: \$2000.00 (In cooperation with HUNC)

Anastasia made the motion, Danielle 2nd. The Board discussed the scope, scale and topics of the proposed meeting. The motion was approved 19-0.

- b) The next HHWNC Board meeting date will be January 16, 2019.

6. First Vice-President's Report (Orrin Feldman)

a) 3077 Cahuenga Boulevard West

David Moss and Parama Ghosh Roy met with the PLUM Committee to discuss the Patels' pending application to demolish an existing building on the site and build a new apartment building there.

The revised building would provide slightly fewer studio units, a few more one bedroom units, and a newly redesigned exterior. The building's basement level would provide a laundry, gym, home theater, a community area, a recreation room, a meeting room, a business office and outdoor area. There was concern from the PLUM Committee that this building would be operated as more of an extended stay facility or a hotel, rather than as a building for long term tenants to reside in the Cahuenga Pass neighborhood.

Mr. Moss declined to further revise the proposed project and return again to meet with the Committee.

Presentation by David Moss & Associates, Inc. on the property, architecture and project.

Proposed Motion: HHWNC Board opposes the proposed project on the basis that the proposed mix of units in the building still didn't include a sufficient number of 1 and two bedroom units, and that the building might be more of short term stay rather than an apartment building, which might provide long term residences for the Cahuenga Pass neighborhood.

Orrin made the motion, Luminita 2nd the motion. The board and stakeholders discussed. The motion passed 16-yes, 0-no, 1 abstain.

Public Comment: Krista Michaels, President of Cahuenga Pass Property Owners Association opposed the project.

7. Treasurer's Report (Michael Meyer)

- a) Motion and Vote to approve monthly expenditures reports
- b) Approve Funding request forms
- c) Approve reimbursement of \$131.37 to Mary Yarber for the purchase of a Husky light for use at the December 14th HHWNC Holiday Sing Along event which was approved in October by HHWNC within the budget of \$1,500.
- d) Approve reimbursement of Brian Dyer, Area 3 Chair, for expenses related to the November 5, 2018 Area 3/Housing/Business committees meeting in the amount of \$90.05 as provided for in HHWNC's annual budget for committee chair reimbursement.

Michael made a motion to approve all funding request forms and reimbursements, Oren 2nd the motion, the motion was approved unanimously.

8. Committee Reports

a) **Parks & Open Spaces/Environment (Jeffery Masino & Patty Dryden)**

- i. Runyon Tree Planting Event on January 19th 2019 9am-12pm

Motion: Request funding not to exceed \$1500.00 for Runyon tree planning on January 19, 2019.

Patty made the motion, Serra 2nd the motion. The motion was approved 19-0.

b) **Transportation (Danielle Mead)**

- i. Traffic Avoidance Apps & Cut-Through Traffic

Council File 1800304 “Mobile Mapping Applications (Apps) / Impact to Neighborhood City Streets / Reduce Hazards / Feasibility Report.

Stakeholders throughout HHWNC have expressed ongoing concerns about cut-through traffic due to navigational wayfinding/traffic avoidance apps. To ensure their concerns are being heard, the Transportation Committee proposes HHWNC submit the included Community Impact Statement to the LA City Council and the LA Department of Transportation. (See attachment)

Motion: HHWNC submit the attached Community Impact Statement to the LA City Council and LA Department of Transportation for City Council File 1800304.

Danielle made the motion, Jeffery 2nd. The Board approved the motion 15-0.

c) **Area 8 & Emergency Preparedness Ad Hoc Committee Update (Serra Aladag, Matt Shichtman & Paul Jenkins)**

- i. WeWork was presented a Certification of Appreciation by the Emergency Preparedness Ad Hoc Committee in appreciation of their generous contribution to HHWNC’s CERT Level I Training.

d) **Community Enrichment (Melissa Reeck)**

- i. **Education Summit Update:** I attended the Education Summit held on October 23. One of the goals of the summit was to establish connections between neighborhood councils rather than operating in silos. With those connections, we would share the most effective and beneficial programs in which neighborhood council’s participated or created.
- ii. **Gardner Elementary Update:** I reached out on how HHWNC can actively continue our support of the school and students. I’m in touch with Rebekah Stevenson (Chair – Friends of Gardner). She’s going to chat with her board and see how we can expand upon our partnership between HHWNC and Gardner.
- iii. **Community Cash:** Support Gardner School through Community Cash. Login to your Ralphs account, search for Community Rewards and click to support Gardner Street. 1-4% of your purchase will support the school. This does not affect your Ralph Rewards points. Detailed information available to hhwnc.org – Enrichment News.
- iv. **Valley View Elementary Update:** I will be reaching out to Valley View to build upon our relationship between HHWNC & the elementary school.

- v. **Nextdoor Update:** I activated HHWNC's Nextdoor community. Last board meeting we had 1x woman arrive specifically because of the Nextdoor board meeting post. If you're not on Nextdoor, please download the Nextdoor app so you can stay up to date on board meetings, community events, traffic alerts and risk prevention presentations.

9. **Public Comments** – Comments from the public on agenda items and non-agenda items within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction. Public comments are limited to 2 minutes per speaker.

10. **Adjournment at 8.57pm.**



FRIDAY DEC. 14TH
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
WATTLES MANSION - BACK TERRACE
1824 N. CURSON AVE. PARKING IN STREET AND IN LOT OFF SIERRA BONITA

Please join us for an evening of holiday cheer. Come meet your neighbors while enjoying the spirit of the holidays and your Hollywood Hills community. The Music Companie carolers will be leading us in a fun-filled evening of singing along to your favorite holiday songs. Presented by **Hollywood Hills West Neighborhood Council** <http://www.hhwnc.org>

TICKETS ARE FREE
BUT LIMITED
PLEASE RESERVE YOUR TICKETS AT
[HTTPS://HHHSINGALONG.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://hhhsingalong.eventbrite.com)
REGRETTABLY, ENTRY CANNOT BE GUARANTEED WITHOUT A TICKET.

MOTION PUBLIC SAFETY

The City of Los Angeles is one of the most well-prepared municipalities in the United States, and we are constantly evolving to changing threats, both natural and man-made. In light of the increasing frequency and severity of wildfires, the City has taken a number of actions in recent years to begin to adapt to this threat. This includes increasing the LAFD helicopter fleet through the purchase of fifth water dropping aircraft, restoring eight of the 11 engine companies closed as a result of the Great Recession, increasing the City's participation in the statewide mutual aid system, the purchase of improved Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) for firefighters, and passing an ordinance to ban the use of metal cutting blades for brush clearance. However, we still must go further in order to adapt to this new normal.

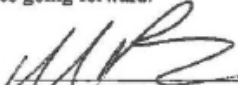
The last two fire seasons not only underscore the grave threat that wildfires pose to our neighborhoods, but they have also demonstrated how these wind-driven events can wipe out entire communities and take many lives in the process. Prolonged drought, climate change, and additional development, when considered together in the context of the Wildland-Urban Interface, raise several interrelated issues that we must carefully reevaluate both within and beyond the roughly 133 square miles of the City of Los Angeles that fall into the state-defined Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ). These factors include, but are not limited to: street width requirements, parking restrictions, the effectiveness of emergency alert systems and evacuation plans, shelter-in-place procedures, the suitability/survivability of designated evacuation sites, safe refuge and evacuation locations for animals - including horses, current building codes and standards, and the need for stricter enforcement of construction activities on narrow roads.

We must also give consideration towards issues such as whether or not the current Red Flag Parking Restrictions should be expanded to apply on days when the Burn Index (BI) reaches "Extreme", whether or not high-voltage overhead transmission and distribution lines need to be shut-off during strong wind events, and if the VHFHSZ itself needs to be expanded beyond currently defined boundaries. For instance, the Coffey Park neighborhood of Santa Rosa lost 1,200 homes in the 2017 Tubbs Fire, despite the fact that it is not located within a Wildland-Urban Interface. It was also determined that this fire was caused by sagging power lines during a strong northeast wind condition. While not all policies and programs require wholesale change, they are likely in need of review. For example, the City's Red Flag Parking Program was launched in 2005, but since then, there has not been a comprehensive Citywide assessment of street system bottlenecks within the VHFHSZ. Further, while the danger of a fast-moving and destructive brush fire is greatest on a Red Flag day, there are many more days each year when the LAFD pre-deploys and augments neighborhood fire resources due to "Extreme" fire weather, yet parking restrictions are not triggered as a result of this increased risk.

Lastly, we need to leverage technology to the greatest extent possible, which includes expanding the existing network of Remove Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) both inside and outside of the City, to enable more precise neighborhood-specific measurements of temperature, relative humidity, and wind speed. This is in addition to the further development of predictive fire spread modeling tools such as WIFIRE, which the LAFD recently launched in partnership with UC San Diego. Also critical is the need for improved public information sharing. We should begin development of a public-facing app that incorporates real-time fire weather, Red Flag parking alerts, the NotifyLA system, 'Ready, Set, Go!' material, and push notifications with information on designated evacuation sites, and should residents become trapped, the location of pre-designated safe refuge areas. The integration of this information into a single app could dramatically improve the level of public awareness, readiness, and safety during the next major wildfire.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) and Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) jointly assemble and lead a Wildland-Urban Interface Hazard Mitigation Task Force (Task Force), consisting of representatives from the Police Department, Emergency Management Department, Department of Transportation, Department of Recreation and Parks, Department of Animal Services, Information Technology Agency, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, Department of Building & Safety, Department of City Planning, Department of Water & Power, and any other internal and external partners deemed necessary, to discuss the issues described in the above-mentioned text, along with any related matters.

I FURTHER MOVE that the LAFD and CLA jointly convene an initial meeting of the Task Force, and provide a written report to the City Council outlining the scope of work and objectives going forward.

PRESENTED BY: 
MIKE BONIN
Councilmember, 11th District

NOV 20 2018


SECONDED BY: 


ORIGINAL

Transportation Attachment-Community Impact Statement -City Council File 1800304-Agenda Item 10. b. i)

The Hollywood Hills West Neighborhood Council is one of the city's certified neighborhood councils, representing residents and businesses located in the Hollywood Hills and foothills. While we hear from our stakeholders on a wide variety of issues, one item that is a consistent unresolved concern is the increased prevalence and impacts of cut-through traffic from wayfinding apps such as Waze and Google Maps.

Cut-through traffic is not a new phenomenon, and drivers have always sought short-cuts or faster alternate routes. However, the dramatic increase in cut-through traffic from traffic avoidance apps has resulted in a proportional decrease in the quality of life for those forced to deal with additional vehicles on their residential streets. Frustrated drivers seeking alternate routes to avoid congestion are typically in a hurry and race through residential streets causing safety concerns.

Local residents are often not able to enter or exit their properties due to backed-up cars blocking access to their driveways and garages. Residents face long delays in getting home as they wait in lines of traffic with other drivers who are only using their streets as a short-cut to somewhere else. They must also deal with new or additional noise and pollution from the increased volume of cars driving past their homes.

But beyond quality of life issues, wayfinding apps present public safety risks that cannot be ignored. Our residential streets are intended to be pedestrian-friendly, yet people now face speeding cars that often fail to stop at stop signs, making it difficult to safely cross the street with children or pets. If Los Angeles is truly committed to Vision Zero and other initiatives designed to improve walkability in the city, it must address the safety risks presented by cut-through traffic from traffic avoidance apps.

Many of Hollywood Hills West's hillside streets lack sidewalks entirely. Residents who wish to walk in their neighborhoods with children or dogs used to be able to safely walk in the streets themselves; after all, these were quiet residential streets that were only ever intended to be used by local homeowners. Now those same residents risk being run over by drivers who have been directed up these streets without any awareness of their narrow, winding nature.

Our hillside roads often feature blind curves and do not meet city standards for two-way traffic. Sending high numbers of non-resident drivers through these substandard streets can result in accidents and traffic jams. In addition, the increased volume of cars on these small streets leads to road damage that can imperil hillside stability.

These issues not only affect residents; they have a significant impact on city services. Residents and homeowners facing dangerous cut-through traffic justifiably demand increased enforcement from the city. They ask for the presence of traffic cops to ticket speeding drivers. They request new no-turn signage or additional stop signs, all of which require additional enforcement. They rightly call for meetings with Department of Transportation officials, demanding solutions that will return their streets to the safe, residential roads they once were. And the sheer increase in vehicles driving these roads means more frequent fixing of potholes, more repaving, more restriping.

Los Angeles has created relationships with Waze and other wayfinding apps in order to share data. But a data-sharing agreement does not address the long-term issues being caused by cut-through traffic. Data-sharing does not provide any relief for our stakeholders.

The City Council and the Department of Transportation must do more to hear and act on the concerns of its residents being affected by this problem. If not addressed, the impacts will only worsen, leading to additional public safety risks, deterioration of our residential streets and an increased demand on city services. The Hollywood Hills West Neighborhood Council calls on our city officials and all pertinent city departments to take immediate steps to resolve this problem.