

NCWP Board Special Meeting
APPROVED MINUTES
Submitted by Michele Cooley-Strickland

Tuesday, September 4, 2018 – 6:30 p.m.
Westchester Council Community Room
7166 Manchester Avenue, Westchester, CA 90045

Present: Gregg Aniolek, Scott Carni, Michele Cooley-Strickland, Michael Frisch, Chris Gemgnani, Paula Gerez, Ted Grose, Tilmann Gruber, Don Hellwig, Cyndi Hench, David Mannix, Alan Quon, Matt Rheault, Naomi Shadis, Glenda Silva, Fred Smith, Garrett Smith, Jack Topal, Heather Tuttle, Gordon Welty, Grace Yao

Absent: Andrew Kamm, John David Webster

Excused: Tom Flintoft, Patricia Lyon, Geoff Maleman, David Oliver, Julie Ross, David Voss

1. **Call to Order – President Hench called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance led by President Hench**
3. **Introductions**
4. **Announcements from Governmental Representative (limit to 3 minutes please)**
 - a) **Matt Tecle**, Westchester/Playa del Rey Field Deputy, Councilmember Bonin's office
 1. **Ladera neighborhoods** - Councilmember Mike Bonin submitted new proposed legislation to increase emergency response times in Ladera neighborhoods. Fire station 54 has been closed. The Councilmember has obtained coverage from LAFD and LA County Firestations to work in the City of LA. This will provide quicker response times for Ladera. Also working to build a new fire station 54. Thanks to all involved in this process.
 2. **Playa del Rey neighborhood** – Councilmember Bonin worked to unanimously reject the Legado Project (70 units). Councilmember Mike Bonin stood with the community and neighbors to reject the project that was still too big for the area.
 3. **Westchester** - Small water main leak on 83rd at Lincoln on July 30th. The recycled water main had to be hand-adjusted by LADWP. New replacements placed on August 10th then the streets were repaved.
 - b) **Chuy Orozco**, Playa Vista Field Deputy, Councilmember Bonin's office
 1. **Community Planning 101** - this Saturday, September 8th from 11am-12:30pm at the Westchester Senior Center. Event hosted by City Community Planning to give the community planning update plans on the impending 3-year process. Won't be zoning, but can provide input on the future Recode LA. There will be other events as well. For more information: www.PlanningtheWestside.org
 2. **Playa Vista** – Implemented a rest-in-red at the Bluff Creek Drive traffic signal in front of Playa Vista Elementary School. One mitigation of many to make the streets safer.
 3. **Wetlands** - October 6th at 9:30am at 303 Culver Boulevard, Playa del Rey. Learn about the Ballona wetlands and the thousands of comments received by CA Fish and Wildlife and potential plans for the area.
 - c) **Gibson Nyambura** of DONE spoke re: Remind Board members complete their ethics training. There is one Board member who has yet to do so. DONE is updating their election boundary maps for upcoming May 2019 elections; when complete, Mr. Nyambura will email them to Board

members. Mr. Nyambura will be out of the office for the next two weeks; please contact his supervisor if assistance is needed in his absence.

d) **Senior Lead Officer Louis Panel – Pacific Division Update**

- a. **Pacific Division Open House** - Saturday, September 8th from 8am-11am will be Pacific Division Pancake Breakfast. IHOP is providing the pancakes. All are welcome.
- b. **Contact Information** - Senior Lead Officer Casteneda is still out of the office for knee surgery recovery. Please contact Officer Robert Hoebink in the interim. His email address is 38280@LAPD.online
- c. **Brief crime update (Year to Date; August 5th to September 1st)**
 - i. **Westchester (West of Sepulveda) and Playa del Rey** – Lowest amount of crime in entire Pacific Division (-0.7%); In Westchester and Playa del Rey, there has been a 22.2% increase in robberies (largely driven by robberies at Kohl's, CVS, TJMaxx; shoplifting incidents escalate into robbery because of resistance violence by the thieves against store security guards); 9.8% increase in area thefts. All other crimes “doing well.” 33.2% of all violent crimes. Property crimes down 6.4%. Down 7.0% for all around crimes.
 - ii. **“Eastchester” (Ladera to Sepulveda)** – Down 5.7% in crimes. Grand theft autos (GTAs) increased.
 - iii. **Knock-Knock Burglaries** in the area - This year down 5.7% (Westchester and Playa del Rey). Seems like more because neighbors are talking about it. Had been a priority of the Pacific Division to reduce these types of crimes in Westchester and Playa del Rey. Believe the primary crew has moved up to Mar Vista.
 - iv. **Board Members questions** for Senior Lead Officer Louis Panel
 - 1) Paula Gerez asked about two robberies at knife point reported on Nextdoor at Belton at 80th and another in Playa Vista of a mother with a stroller. Officer Panel confirmed both robberies.
 - 2) Michele Cooley-Strickland raised concerns about increase in local knock-knock robberies and that they are not included in the statistics. Officer Panel stated that unless citizens specifically make a police report (not just call the police department), no official police report is made. A good way to ensure a police officer follows up on a citizen report is to email the Senior Lead Officer for Pacific Division. They are mandated to check emails. Contacting the officers and obtaining a yellow copy of the investigative report is the documentation of an officially filed report. Call, email and report any crime that has occurred.
 - 3) President Hench stated that annually (over the past decade), in July and August, robberies go up in the Westchester/PDR/PV communities.
 - 4) Lead Officer Panel reported that thefts have increased because of the volume of packages delivered to people's homes. For example, he and his partner saw a 55" television sitting on the front porch of a home. The officers picked up the TV, moved it to the back of the house, and covered it with a tarp. He strongly recommends that citizens use Amazon Drop Boxes and/or request in advance of deliveries that neighbors look out for packages and remove them from the outside of homes.

5. **Announcements from Board Members**

- a) **Glenda Silva** – I-105 at the Imperial Highway exit (sections of the PCH to Vista del Mar) will

be closed for the next three weekends from 6am to 6pm Saturday and Sunday. The roads will be slurried and repaved starting this weekend (westbound).

- b) **Gregg Aniolek** – Wednesday, Sept 19th at Firestation 5 - Battalion Commanders meeting on how to use radio communications; open to the public.

6. **Public Comment** - non-agenda items (*limited to 2 minutes per speaker unless otherwise declared by the President or presiding director. Public comment on agenda items will be called as each agenda item is brought forward.*)

- a. **Darrell** spoke re: Street Parking. Has spoken to many street dwellers in the Westchester/Playa area and all under 60 years old. He is fed up with RV and street dwellers' waste, stench, rubbish and refusal to work when able.
- b. **Treva Miller** spoke re: Neighborhood Watch captain in LA City Ladera. There was a coalition of representatives from the Beautification Committee on landscaping on La Cienega who spoke at a recent NCWP meeting. Ms. Miller said those people are not LA City residents. Ms. Miller and her constituents are very grateful for all that Councilmember Bonin and the NCWP have done. The Ladera streets are safer and have received prioritized public safety, stop signs, and the new emergency response vehicles and proposed new fire station.
- c. **Mike Davidson** spoke re: update on Lot 87 and PLUC's recommendation to speak with Councilmember Bonin's office. Appeals have not resulted in Inspector Frank Lara responding. Lot 87 is an existing open space that should be preserved. Mr. Davidson spoke to the NCWP last month. Would like more response from the NCWP.
- d. **Josean Posey** spoke re: Resident and homeowner about the Ramsgate alley. There are sidewalk disrepair concerns too. However, the City is planting trees to beautify their area but Mr. Posey and his alley-way neighbors would greatly prefer that the budget is allocated to repairing their alley that is severely damaging their automobiles. Councilmember Bonin's Field Deputy, Matt Teclé, reached out to Mr. Posey.

7. **Presentations**

- a. **Emily Kantrim**, Program Coordinator, Safe Parking LA, spoke re: the Safe Parking LA program and how a trial program is proposed for Westchester/Playa.
- Ms. Kantrim is a Mid-City West Neighborhood Council member. Her colleague from Safe Parking LA, Scott Sales, is also on Neighborhood Council. Both saw a real need for homeless people in Los Angeles.
 - Safe Parking LA targets people living in vehicles (not RVs) who are homeless but who have things to do during the day and are working toward housing.
 - Sanitation (bathrooms and showers), security (cars not broken into), and legal (so no parking tickets) are provided in underutilized parking lots. Is a parking location that would not be used otherwise. Acknowledge there are people living in their vehicles trying to get into housing. This is not a program for people living on the streets. Is a specific target market. 9,000 people became homeless for the first time in Los Angeles last year alone (wages are stagnant, unemployment, and housing prices increased). Homeless because of economic reasons and there is not enough housing.
 - Santa Barbara has implemented Safe Parking programs successfully.
 - Housing is the goal for Safe Parking LA program participants.
 - Current pilot programs have a maximum of 15 cars in each parking lot of the Safe Parking LA program.
 - Rapid Re-Housing is an example of quick bridge housing program; are people working but lost their apartment.
 - Until recently it was not legal to do the Safe Parking program, but is now a strategy for the City and County in Los Angeles.
 - Safe Parking LA administers four of the 6 initiatives. Office is located on the Westside at the Veterans Administration. There is no federal funding for the programs.
 - Safe Parking LA Programs
 - Security onsite – all safe parking programs have 10-12 hours of security guard

(depending on the lot and the use of the lot); all current programs involve secondary use parking lots (have a use during the day).

- Provide sanitation – the kind depends on the lot. Minimum of a port-a-potty that is serviced two-three times per week.
- Insurance – add the lot owner and lot address to a general liability policy. Are not changing the use of the property; is still a parking lot and does not trigger a permit change.
- Screening participants – Who will decide who will be allowed?
 - A) Service provider (St. Joseph's Center) working in the area is aware of those in need and will refer clients to Safe Parking LA;
 - B) Homeless people may not know to find Homeless Services. They may Google search sites that they can safely park at night and find www.SafeParkingLA.org The program is seeking to serve people who already have strong ties (e.g., job, family, previous resident) to the area.
- Standards for Program Success
 - Los Angeles Housing Services Authority (LAHSA) governs the standards for success. This program seeks to be scalable, which is why it will conduct the pilot programs. A successful Safe Parking LA program outcome is that there are no complaints and it is considered safe. Patrons enter into a contract with St. Joseph's Center that they will seek housing and will keep working toward permanent housing during the 90-day period.
 - LAHSA decides what happens after the 90-day trial ends (not the NCWP). If Councilmember Bonin were to oppose the program at any point, LAHSA (according to Booker Pearson) would cease the pilot program in Westchester.
- Nextdoor commentary from the community (Emily Kantrim's responses):
 - a) Question: Is this going to attract a lot of people to find safe parking in this area? Response: Limit of 6 vehicles for the Westchester pilot program. Is not an open invitation. Requires a referral and application process. Driver's license, registration and insurance are required. Participants receive a placard they must display to enter.
 - b) [Homelessness] Issues in currently in the park will be improved because of the added security through the Safe Parking LA Program. Increased visibility for LAPD because they are aware that efforts are being made by the City.
 - c) Gate opens in late evening and closes at 10pm. If automobiles have not arrived before 10pm, they will not be allowed to enter that evening at all.
 - d) Question: What happens after the pilot? Response: We get the information we need to understand what we need to do to effectively run other programs throughout the City. West LA/Sawtelle and Mar Vista approved Safe Parking LA programs in their neighborhoods.
 - e) Community expresses concern for the homeless: We do need to do something; more housing. This is a solution for someone you're not seeing.

Public Comment on Safe Parking LA Agenda Item

- 1) **Lawrence McCue** spoke re: FOR the Safe Parking LA Program – USMC retired. He and his wife were vehicular homeless for 3 years and are now a success story. Mr. McCue said that thanks to the homeless program, they were housed for two weeks so that they could then receive services through the V.A. and no longer be homeless.
- 2) **Carla McCue** spoke re: FOR the Safe Parking LA Program. She and her veteran husband experienced homelessness, but are grateful to the Safe Parking LA Program for their assistance. Ms. McCue had been working for 25 years. Her husband had been working also until he became severely ill. She retired to care for him (because his caretaking needs were impacting her job performance). They were looking for employment but they lost their home. They began living out of their car, despite her working. They would drive to the park and park, but constantly worried about their safety in the middle of the night. Were able to get showers and sanitation through the Safe Parking program and then V.A. services and housing.
- 3) **Shawna Mclean** spoke re: FOR the Safe Parking LA Program; Playa del Rey resident who has worked with Booker Pearson conducting the Homeless Count in PDR. The homeless count in PDR has doubled since last year. The Safe Parking LA program has never had an

incident that needed to use the insurance. 1/3 of their homeless clients are disabled or senior citizens. Conveyed a positive report from Santa Barbara.

- 4) **Joe Guglielmo** spoke re: FOR the Safe Parking LA Program. Playa del Rey resident. There are a diverse group of homeless people in the area like students on scholarships and the working poor. People always say the homeless should be helped somewhere else, but this Safe Parking LA program is a small step that will help make a difference.
- 5) **Booker Pearson** spoke re: FOR the Safe Parking LA Program. Playa del Rey resident. Are 300 homeless in Westchester/Playa, half of whom dwell in their vehicles and RVs. We need safe parking so they will not park in front of residential homes. There are no services specifically for women (is a false rumor). Vehicular homeless women's biggest fear is to be raped and/or brutalized while parking on the streets; brings huge anxiety on top of inconvenience of no toileting and sanitation facilities. If there is a specific location for service organizations to find homeless who want services, it will be easier to assist them.
- 6) **Melanie Swell** spoke re: AGAINST the Safe Parking LA Program. Westchester resident. Learned a lot about the program in Ms. Kantrim's presentation and the public comments. Ms. Swell expressed concerns regarding health, sanitation, and safety, especially when the Safe Parking LA program grows. Say six cars (not 6 people) is the start, but what happens when 25 cars show up?
- 7) **Duanne Muller** spoke re: FOR the Safe Parking LA Program. Playa del Rey resident. Ms. Muller said more of our working poor are vehicularly homeless (like 9,000). They are just one tow away from living on the streets. Housing solutions take time. Need alternative solutions today. Santa Barbara since 2004 has taken 130 homeless in lived-in vehicles off the streets successfully. Is a band-aid on a large problem, but is a start.
- 8) **Dana Gray** spoke re: AGAINST the Safe Parking LA Program. Westchester resident. Opposed to the location of the program near the library, school, and park. Want to know what other locations could be served. Questions: Can they use the VA as a site? How many participants in the program have been housed? How many have used the social services provided? Are we partnering with our state, national, and federal resources – ex., military bases that are unused.
- 9) **Margaret Parkhurst** spoke re: FOR the Safe Parking LA Program. Westchester resident. Her synagogue is participating in Safe Parking LA. Will not be an overage of cars. Has to be secured and closed off. Faith communities often have parking lots that are gated off. Once the Safe Parking LA gate lowers at 10pm, no exiting. Many are senior citizens. All are highly vetted. They have to work with social services to be eligible for the program. Once they get social services, they are moved on and replaced.
- 10) **Naomi Waka** spoke re: FOR the Safe Parking LA Program. Westchester resident. There are different faces of homelessness. Many have addiction or mental health issues, but they are not targets of the Safe Parking LA Program. These are largely invisible people. They are fully vetted and issue-free. Security guards work consistently at the same lots. Patrons are given hang tags. Registered and insured autos with valid license required. Women and children are prioritized by the Westchester pilot lot. Please open our hearts and minds.
- 11) **Carlene Brown** spoke re: FOR the Safe Parking LA Program. Lives in Culver City. She had a Master's degree and left her position as an educator to become an activist. She became a caregiver living with someone needing care. Once the person died, Ms. Brown became homeless and lived in her car; was ashamed. People don't become homeless unless there is severe trauma. She was a substitute teacher. The Safe Parking LA program gave her a place to stay in her community in Culver City. Are beautiful people in the program, for example a family with three children sleeping in their van.
- 12) **Jim Bickhart** spoke re: FOR the Safe Parking LA Program. Lives in Playa del Rey. Has toured two of the Safe Parking LA sites. Are extremely well managed, quiet, industrious people who work fulltime during the day. Are not like the people living on the streets. Are looking for housing and want social services. Safe Parking addresses some of the key issues

in homelessness. Wants the pilot program to start in Westchester that will lead to better things in the community.

8. Motions/Actions Items and Related Public Comment

a. Discussion Calendar

- i. Motion to support a trial Safe Parking program limited to 6 vehicles (excluding RVs) for up to 90 days at the secured lot located at 7166 W. Manchester Avenue under the direction of Safe Parking LA and LAHSA. We recommend priority be given to vehicular residents who are women and families, but not to exclude others. The lot will operate between 7pm and 7am seven days per week with trained security on the property at all times during operation. ADA accessible toilet facilities are to be provided by the program. The NCWP requests a minimum of 60-day report on the functioning of the program (via the NCWP Homelessness Committee).

M/S Cooley-Strickland/Grose to approve the motion. Motion passes unanimously (20-0-0).

- b. **Consent Calendar:** *(The following items will be treated as one item and enacted with one vote unless a Board member or a stakeholder requests that an item be placed on the Discussion Calendar.)*

- i. Approval of Minutes of previous Board meeting
- ii. Receive and file the Treasurer's Report

M/S Gerez/Quon to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion passes unanimously (20-0-0).

- iii. Motion to create an Ad Hoc Committee for Community Plan Update.

M/S Cooley-Strickland/Gerez to approve the motion. Motion passes unanimously (20-0-0).

President Hench received requests to serve on the Ad Hoc Committee for Community Plan Update from NCWP Board members: Patricia Lyon, Paula Gerez (chairperson), Dave Mannix, and Julie Ross prior to this evening's Board meeting. President Hench gave Board members present at the meeting the opportunity to request to serve on the Ad Hoc Committee. Gordon Welty nominated himself. President Hench officially appointed the five Board members.

Motion to appoint members of the Ad Hoc Committee for Community Plan Update comprised of Paula Gerez (chairperson), Patricia Lyon, Dave Mannix, Julie Ross, and Gordon Welty.

Motion passes unanimously (21-0-0).

9. Committee Reports

Gregg Aniolek (Public Safety) reported that Public Safety would like to hold a Committee meeting and discuss the Mayor's Safety Commission prior to the Sept 19th Battalion Commanders meeting at Firestation 5.

Garrett Smith (Outreach) reported that Outreach would like to create standing banners for each active NCWP Committee. Committee chairpersons, please contact Mr. Smith to communicate what the committee would like on their banner.

Don Hellwig (Budget) – wants to hear from Board committees to start receiving grant applications from the Budget and Finance Committee. Please direct potential applicants to apply as soon as possible to prevent end-of-the-fiscal year last-minute requests.

10. **Committee Appointments**

Glenda Silva has been appointed by President Hensch to the Government Affairs Committee.

Motion for Ms. Silva to serve on the Government Affairs Committee.

Motion passes unanimously (20-0-0).

11. **Adjourn – President Hensch adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.**

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 2, 2018 – 6:30 p.m.