

OPNC Board Meeting  
April 2, 2018

I. WELCOMING REMARKS

a. CALL TO ORDER

- i. Mitch Edelson, OPNC Secretary, chaired this meeting and began the meeting at 7:15PM.

b. ROLL CALL

- i. The meeting didn't reach a quorum, and had 7 board members in attendance.

Present (7)	Laura Rudison, Bonnie Strong, Mitch Edelson, Theodore (Ted) Smith III, Adrienne Edwards, Hank Williams, Roberta (Robbie) Farwell
Absent (6)	Faalaniga (Nina) Smith, Peter Wilson, Joanne Fleming, Gerry Pass, Curtis Clark, John Snyder

II. CITY OFFICIALS/CITY, COUNTY, STATE AND OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPTS/AGENCIES

a. Officer Harry Cho, Senior Lead Officer of the Olympic Division, was present from the LAPD

- i. The main crime in the area has been home burglaries of single family homes. There are multiple crews from South Los Angeles and Long Beach. The crews are gang members from different gangs working in conjunction. They stop in Olympic Park, then go to Hancock Park, Studio City, Calabasas, Ventura County, and then stop in Olympic Park again on their way back.

1. The burglaries are called knock knock burglaries. Burglars drive around the neighborhood in nice cars, watch for cars leaving the houses and knock on the front doors. When no one answers the doors they go break in the back doors or windows.
2. The LAPD has good footage of the burglars from home surveillance cameras.
3. In the last month, there have been twelve burglaries, five robberies, and six or seven grand theft person in the neighborhood.
4. The LAPD has two suspects from a crew in custody and are looking for the third.
5. There are multiple crews operating in the neighborhood.

ii. Cars are getting stolen and broken into.

1. If thieves see anything in the car that would imply that there might be something valuable within, they will smash the car window and rob the car.
2. Out of all the vehicles stolen, only two have not been recovered, and one of the vehicles not recovered was a motorcycle.

b. Officer Rodriguez, Senior Lead Officer for the Wilshire Division, was present from the LAPD

- i. He said that car break-ins have increased. People are leaving their vehicles unlocked with items inside.

- a. Officer Rodriguez requested that residents remind their neighbors to lock their vehicles. He said to not leave items in the car. Even loose change will attract a break in.
  - ii. There have been seventeen thefts this month, with many thefts being crimes of opportunity. A lot of thefts have been attributed to people leaving their items unattended when they go shopping. People have also been going into stores and stealing items.
  - iii. Burglary crews are using doggie doors to enter residences.
    1. They knock on the front door, and if nobody answers they go through the dog door. Some carry pepper spray to keep the dogs away.
    2. Alarms and big dogs have scared thieves away, but they do not prevent theft. Home security signs deter burglars but they don't prevent them.
  - iv. There has been an increase in aggravated assault.
    1. A group was driving around LA High and shooting kids with paint ball guns as they came out of school. They were not caught and a description and a partial license plate was taken.
  - v. Barbara Calloway, resident, asked about drugs at the laundry mat on Highland and Pico. She said that a business has also been having unauthorized parties. She contacted the LAPD and has not heard back. Officer Rodriguez replied that he contacted the VICE unit and he will follow up with them.
  - vi. Officer Cho stated that an alarm will not prevent burglary but it will prevent loss, because the thieves know that someone will be coming to check out the residence.
    1. Officer Cho recommended surveillance cameras because they help identify thieves. Without a camera, the police report will read, "unknown suspect." The detectives will try to do fingerprints and DNA but they will have no leads. If residents have footage from a surveillance camera, that will give detectives a lead and may help connect the thieves to other crimes.
    2. Officer Rodriguez added that surveillance also gives residents real-time information. There are many surveillance systems available, and residents should get one that notifies them in real time.
- c. Councilmember Herb Wesson was present from City Council.
  - i. He announced that he created a program called EmBRACE LA which will run from April 16 through April 20. EmBRACE LA will consist of 100 dinners in one week throughout the city of Los Angeles with representatives from the LAPD at each dinner. The website is [www.embracela.org](http://www.embracela.org).
    1. During dinner, participants will talk about race, women's rights, relationships with law enforcement, and how Los Angeles residents can come together as a people.
    2. The program has received a great response, but they could use some help reaching residents in the valley.
    3. At every dinner, the program will have a trained facilitator that will move the conversation. They are hoping to create a national conversation where people can sit down and talk about these topics. Hopefully the program can get people to agree that everybody has the right to exist in this city.

- ii. Councilmember Wesson's office has started a quarterly meeting with Olympic Park and the Longwood Homeowners Association. The meetings are Saturday early in the morning for two or two and a half hours.
  - iii. Councilmember Wesson stated that he was joined at the OPNC meeting by Jordon, who does the planning in his office, and Miss Lacy, who is the District Director.
  - iv. Caroline Taylor, the Vice President of the Longwood Neighborhood Association (LANA) stated that the OPNC PLUM committee needs more representation from members of LANA. LANA wants to work with OPNC and is proposing and asking to be immediately placed on the OPNC PLUM committee.
    - a. Mitch Edelson replied that currently, the OPNC is about to go through a transition. The City Council has asked all neighborhood councils to furlough elections until 2019, so OPNC will not have an election, but instead will be electing a new executive committee.
    - b. Mitch asked Caroline to please contact the board if she would like to volunteer to serve as a board member of OPNC. The board has a lot more people on the west side than the east side.
    - c. Mitch requested that LANA wait for the new executive committee and asked for LANA and any other association to attend the PLUM meetings and OPNC meetings.
2. Beth MacNamera, resident, said that stakeholders have the right to be looped into any issue that effects them. The stakeholders in LANA were not given an opportunity to oppose the building project.
- a. Mitch replied that the project has not been approved. It is a by right project. OPNC had a meeting and told the developer to take until May to address the issues that OPNC addressed at the meeting.
    - i. Beth said that a lot of the people sent letters and LANA talked about it at the meeting and OPNC had a meeting with the developers without LANA.
  - b. Herb Wesson said that they are ready to bring the Longwood Neighborhood Association in to the meeting.
    - i. Beth replied that LANA had to alert the community that the project had been approved. When she looked at best practices for the PLUM Committee, it said that they would notify people within 1,000 feet of a development.
  - c. Laura Rudison stated that LANA members have been invited to meetings and OPNC has been sending notifications via email. With the new transition and new people, OPNC has room for LANA members. It is not that OPNC has not invited LANA.
  - d. Herb Wesson stated that it appears to him that people from LANA want to participate and OPNC's arms are open. He suggested making a commitment to work together moving forward. He said that OPNC and LANA should come together now to talk to the developers. He said he would be totally

engaged in the process if this is the desire of OPNC and the homeowners in the Longwood area.

- v. Carl Fletcher, resident, stated that the project is right in his backyard, and he found out that the project has been going on for six months. He contacted all of his neighbors and nobody got a notice. He said his next door neighbor just spent \$20,000 for a fence in his backyard.
  - 1. Herb Wesson asked Jordon about notification requirements with the passage of Measure JJJ.
    - a. Jordon stated Transit Oriented Communities (TOC) do not require notifications, and the builder is practicing its base incentives as a TOC so they the project does not require notifications.
  - 2. Carl stated that this project will affect his people in his area.
    - a. Herb Wesson replied that if this is because of Measure JJJ, the voters approved it. Whenever there is something new, there are always hiccups. There are groups of people trying to come to some agreement to alter JJJ. Los Angeles is now beginning to experience these changes and they are causing angst in the community. He stated that in his opinion, when there is any development of significance, he believes anyone in the area should be notified by the city of Los Angeles. But with JJJ, it is not required anymore.
    - b. Carl replied that even if it is not required, it is what is right.
    - c. Herb Wesson said that there were good intentions with JJJ, but not one member of the City Council supported it because Councilmembers knew it would cause these problems.
  - 3. Milton Gaines, resident, stated that even though there is not a requirement by JJJ to inform, community members need to make sure that any type of development that goes on should notify the residents.
    - a. Herb Wesson asked Jordon and Andrew to put together a motion requesting the CLA to recognize that this is a concern and give the councilmember options on how to remedy the notification process. He said that a motion will get a quick response and hopefully will be ready Tuesday or Wednesday.
- vi. Milton Gaines asked if there had been any discussion as to what will happen with the billboard at the site.
  - 1. Herb Wesson replied that the community can bring that up with the developer. The best way would be to bring in the developer to the district office.
- vii. Beth MacNamera stated that she has been trying to push for developers to meet with individuals and subcommittees so that when a community comes together they can say that they got a sign off by the council. If we are alerted by the OPNC that the developer has been invited to the PLUM committee, the community can come to the meeting.
  - 1. Herb Wesson stated that he is a big fan of neighborhood council because it allows people to participate in government, and he believes that LANA should have someone from its region represented on the council. The only way the neighborhood council system will work is if

they represent the entire region, and the only way they can do that is if they have representatives from the entire region on the board. He stated that he recommended several months ago, creating a working group that will meet in his office and go over community concerns.

2. Mitch Edelman stated that OPNC is glad that the LANA Council came out and the board would love for LANA to be involved. Board members are volunteers that serve the community and OPNC wants people to come to the meetings and voice their concerns. OPNC has open seats and anyone interested in joining should let the board know. He added that anyone interested in joining a committee should wait a couple months until OPNC can appoint the new committees.
  - a. Herb Wesson suggested that, due to the nature of LANA's concerns, maybe OPNC can unofficially have a representative from Longwood Park on the PLUM Committee.
  - b. Mitch suggested that LANA come to the OPNC PLUM Committees and regular board meetings. He said that everyone is always invited.
  - c. Bonnie Strong, Vice President of OPNC, announced that she would like everyone to sign up on the website to receive emails that will tell them everything going on. She suggested that stakeholders sign up to get regular notices.
- viii. Judith Wilde was present from the Country Club Park Neighborhood Association (CCPNA). She spoke against the development of properties in CD 4 but within 500 feet of Country Club Park.
  1. The properties would be two apartment buildings up to 96 feet tall. She said that it is not an exclusively by right project. They have R3, R4, and C2. The developer came to the CCPNA meeting. He tried to lead people to believe that the conversion was inevitable.
    - a. Herb Wesson asked if there has been any conversation with CD 4. Judith replied that CD 4 sent a representative to the meeting.
    - b. Herb Wesson stated that he will make sure that his planning council gets together with Mr. Ru and hopefully help them work with CCPNA.
  2. Judith stated that the CCPNA is not trying to reduce the size of the building but think that more than 25 units should be affordable housing. The association is trying to get it to be more appropriately contextual.
  3. Herb Wesson stated that it seems like the developer will have to come to the city to get a variety of things. His office will help if it can.
- ix. Nancy Levine, resident, asked who decides if a development meets the TOC requirements.
  1. Jordon replied that any development within a ½ mile radius of a transit stop qualifies as a Transit Oriented Community. City planning gave the development at 1180 South La Brea a Tier 2 approval.
  2. Nancy asked if being a TOC means that the project does not need to have a traffic study, because that part of La Brea is curved and is treacherous. She stated that it is also an ecologically sensitive area, traffic-dense, and she is not sure who is certified to say it meets the criteria.

- a. Herb Wesson stated that he would like to meet with the City Attorney and have a conversation about this.
- x. Trinity Tran stated that public banking keeps Los Angeles residents' funds within the city. Her organization wants to ensure that this bank does not just address the cannabis issue.
  - 1. Herb Wesson stated that in early July 2017, he proposed to colleagues at City Council that they create a public bank. Throughout the country, a lot of people have wanted an alternative to the current banking system so he proposed that the city see if it is feasible. He indicated looking realistically into the opportunity of affording the cannabis industry the ability to bank. He did not realize that the news would run with that. The cannabis was an afterthought. The proposal needs more support from the community and the support needs to be people with common sense reasons why Los Angeles should do this.
    - a. Trinity stated that her organization leads the DivestLA movement and is building an alliance with San Francisco, Alameda, and Berkeley, and there is a coalition that is ready with financial experts on board.
  - 2. Laura Rudison stated that she attended a number of meetings on public banking so OPNC is informed on the proposal.
- xi. Jonathan Ashworth was present from St. Joseph's Center. He complimented Herb Wesson on the 222 plan to help the homeless. He stated that he wanted to present himself as a resource for connecting homeless with services.
  - 1. Herb Wesson stated that the reason why it is important that he gets a commitment from each council member is if they do not commit, they will want to build it all in Herb Wesson's district. In order to properly address the homeless issue, it has to be addressed throughout the entire city. Herb Wesson stated that he needs to see council members commit to building in their areas as well.
  - 2. Jonathan stated that when you disperse poverty, you bring it down, but when you condense poverty you increase it.
  - 3. Jonathan stated that he is also part of #shedoes, which is trying to get 1,000 women sheltered by August 2018.
  - 4. Herb Wesson stated that he worked with the Community of Friends to build supportive housing in an area where there was an empty lot with homeless people living there and trash everywhere.
    - a. Brian Belgium, resident, stated that he lives in that area. He said that on Arlington and Venice there are still people living on the street on the SE corner.
- xii. Brian Belgium stated that he does not like propositions because nobody ever reads them, and it is important on the council level to look at what the council has to do if a proposition passes. He asked if the South La Brea thing is a done deal.
  - 1. Herb Wesson stated that they have already pulled permits and are ready to go.
  - 2. Brian stated that there will be parking issues. Aside from the impact on the traffic, the way the city has deemed it is that new developments are supposed to have parking for two cars per unit, which is not what is

already available. There is not enough space for 150 new cars in that area. He asked what the city is going to do to remediate it free of charge.

- xiii. Brian asked for an update on the home sharing ordinance.
  - 1. Herb Wesson replied that the Planning Committee was supposed to meet last week on the issue. In the next two weeks residents will hear from the PLUM Committee.
    - a. Brian asked if the City Council has considered using a definition other than one from 1978. Herb Wesson replied that he will be afforded the opportunity to ask his questions and that is not a bad question.
- xiv. Ted Smith stated that there is no General Plan yet for the city of Los Angeles overall. With Measure JJJ and spot planning on density corridors, he suggested that there be a moratorium until Los Angeles has a General Plan in place.
  - 1. Justin replied that there is an outdated General Plan and the City Attorney is working on updating the General Plan.
  - 2. Ted stated that Los Angeles has JJJ, a density corridor, and little plans, and there should be a general freeze until there is a plan for the entire city.
- xv. Barbara Calloway asked how she can find out about Saturday meetings. Herb Wesson replied that she should email Miss Lacy.
- xvi. Barbara asked about the shopping center on Pico on the south side by the Founder's Bank
  - 1. Justin replied that Herb Wesson's office had a developer meet about a mixed use building with 300 units but the office could not get behind it.
  - 2. Barbara asked if it can be made into a senior center like the one in Culver City.
    - a. Herb Wesson replied that he would love that but it is owned by a private person who could probably make a larger profit doing something else.
    - b. Barbara suggested enticing the owner by naming it after them or something. She said that Culver City has a great senior center and her community has nothing.
    - c. Herb Wesson stated that he would love to create that type of facility in the district.
- xvii. Barbara stated that she has contacted Herb Wesson's office about trash cans on Pico and La Brea and Highland.
  - 1. Herb Wesson stated that there are blue trash cans on Washington and for the first few years they were supposed to be for someone walking down the street. What has happened is that some people put their trash from their house or business in the blue trash cans.
    - a. Starting April 15, Herb Wesson has two people coming to work for him that will provide a rapid-response bulky items pickup. They will be given five zones within the district and every day will be in a different zone to pick up trash. They will also work with 311 sanitation. The office is going to see if they can respond quicker and keep the neighborhood cleaner.

- xviii. Barbara stated that she lives on the 1500 block of Highland. She deals with drugs in the laundromat. Also, residents would like permit parking. She gave Herb Wesson a letter to read that included all of her concerns.

*Councilmember Herb Wesson left the meeting at 8:38PM*

- d. Paul Pham, Battalion Chief, was present from the LAFD
  - i. There was an incident on Hobart involving carbon monoxide poisoning, and the fire department was able to evacuate the building.
    - 1. Chief Pham told residents to get a CO detector, because you can not see or smell carbon monoxide. Symptoms of CO poisoning are flu-like, involving headache and nausea. A CO detector could save your life.
- e. Chin Thammaasaengsri – Presentation by Chin from CERT on communications and radios (Robbie)
  - i. CERT is an acronym for the Community Emergency Response Team, which is a team of civilian responders used for disaster time, when the LAFD and emergency services are overwhelmed and unavailable.
  - ii. CERT teaches members first aid, fire suppression, and search and rescue.
  - iii. CERT members are your neighbors. The LAFD teaches the program year-round all over the city. Check the website to find out when to take the classes.
  - iv. A portion of the training is disaster awareness. CERT also trains for “call out,” where they work with the fire department in support operations. They also do outreach in the community and neighborhood preparedness.
  - v. Robbie Farwell asked how important radios in the community are.
    - 1. Chin replied that CERT is working in the neighborhood trying to get everyone prepared. One aspect of it is two-way radio communications. One of the most important things in the neighborhood is being able to reach out and see what is going on. CERT has built a radio network. They would like neighborhoods to create their own neighborhood networks. CERT is a resource for the neighborhood.
- f. Julien Antelin was present from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment.
  - i. April 30 will be a citywide neighborhood council outreach gathering. The gathering will discuss how to have a better outreach for the 2019 election cycle.
  - ii. The Planning 101 workshops and trainings will take place the following dates:
    - 1. April 9 at the Inland Cultural Center
    - 2. April 12 at Herb Wesson’s office
    - 3. April 25 at City Hall
  - iii. CPO will air its first podcast, which will be a podcast from the city of LA about neighborhood councils, and to educate residents more about city leaders.
  - iv. Julien thanked Bonnie Strong for helping support inventory last week.
  - v. Milton Gaines expressed his desire to fill one of the vacant spots on the board. Mitch Edelson replied that all vacant seats are on the west side, but there will be more vacancies in May.

### III. ADJOURNMENT

- a. The meeting ended at 9:03PM.