

ATTENDEES:

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Danny	Ruiz	daruiz@sandiego.gov	City, Park and Rec Open Space Ranger
Derrick	Torrence	dftorrence@neighborhoodhouse.org	Neighborhood House Association, Security
Francisco	Peralta Perez	FranciscoP@sandiego.gov	Representative, D9 Councilmember Sean Elo-Rivera
Gerrie	Flaven	gcfleven@gmail.com	Resident, Rolando Park Community Council
James	Lively	James.b.lively@gmail.com	Resident, Azalea Park Neighborhood
John	Luellen	JLuellen@pd.sandiego.gov	NPD, CRO, Get It Done Coordinator-
Lexi	Chavez	lexic@epath.org	PATH, Outreach Specialist, City Heights
Linda	Pennington	gizmopennington@cox.net	President, Azalea Park Neighborhood Association, Project CLEAN
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Pat	Heller	pheller@pd.sandiego.gov	SDPD, NPD, Sgt. Neighborhood Policing Team
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Sharon	Johnson	sharonj@epath.org	PATH, Outreach Specialist, Rolando
Terry	Hoskins	THoskins@pd.sandiego.gov	SDPD Mid-City CRO
Vickie	Church	vchurch7@gmail.com	Resident, Leader of Friends of Chollas Creek Oak Park Branch

NOTES

1. Introductions:
2. SDPD CRO Terry Hoskins shared a traffic stop incident that took place on February 26, 2023, to this group to illustrate the importance of police officer being able to do traffic stops to check for outstanding warrants, stop unsafe vehicles, and question suspicious individuals about criminal activity. *(Note from Linda: In order to correctly report this incident, I asked Terry to write it up and send it to me. Terry wrote: "It occurred on 02/26/2023 at approximately mid-night, Officers observed a White Ford F150 with Washington plates. There was a report of a male pointing an AR-15 rifle at someone. Officer located what believed to be the vehicle, attempted to stop the vehicle. Pursuit began, vehicle became disabled 13 minutes later on Fletcher Parkway and Amaya Dr. in La Mesa. When the male stepped out of the vehicle, he had a loaded revolver in his front waistband, which fell onto the ground. Male was taken into custody, inside the vehicle was unloaded AR-15 rifle, an unloaded level style rifle, 4 – 30 magazines for the AR [200 rounds and half were armored piercing rounds], several rounds of .357 ammo, and numerous pairs of brass knuckles." FYI, the MCHC members clearly understand that SDPD is short on staff and our violent crime rate is the highest that we've seen in decades but there is a growing movement in the San Diego community to support the "Protect Act" which would keep our officers from conducting traffic stops where they often find illegal guns. I hope this information is useful to the members so they can make up their own minds about the Protect Act.)*
3. Terry Hoskins: **50th and University** is being maintained after the cleanup several weeks ago. The original agreement between ConAm, the owner of Auburn Park apartments and the City to maintain the park next to Auburn Park was recently distributed to Code Enforcement and members of the City Heights Clean and Safe Coalition. The agreement outlines ConAm's responsibility to clean the park with help from the City since the Public can use the park. Since the homeless encampments have made it untenable to maintain the park, the City has agreed not to penalize ConAm for the trash and debris associated with those encampments.
Colina del Sol: Within the last two weeks, NPD did cleanup and enforcement near Colina del Sol park along 54th St.

4. Linda Pennington noted the ongoing long term problems with all of **Auburn Creek** from University next to Auburn Park Apartments, south through Wightman Park and the section south of that **from dead end of 50th south of Wightman to Auburn Dr.** which Linda worked on with San Diego Canyonlands and Community Housing Works Bandar Salaam Apartments from 2014 to 2019. Countless 40-yard dumpsters were filled. (Further south is the section that Brian Do recently cleaned up with some sheriff's deputy friends that Wendy Miller and many of us have cleaned before.) Pat Heller said he would check my former project.
5. Vickie Church reported the big encampment in the **5600/5700 block of Chollas Parkway** was cleaned but it was all back in 3 weeks.
6. Terry noted the encampment around the tow yard at 38th and Home. He said private property owners can get a stay-away order but they do need a name to apply for one.
7. Pat said ESD recently selected and City Council approved Urban Corp to receive a 3-year cleanup contract. Urban Corps has purchased several packer trucks and hired more staff.
8. Terry said private property owners can contact Trash King (*note from Linda: he meant to say Junk King*) to do cleanups of homeless encampments on their property. Pat Heller says interested owners should to do a Get It Done report on private property and come up with a plan to set a date for and organize a cleanup and his team can come and do outreach ahead of time. You can reach him by emailing neighborhoodpolicing@pd.sandiego.gov and Officer Luellen with get the information to him. Francisco says D9 can help with a dumpster and a landfill pass.
9. Conservatorship reform at the State level passed but Paul Krueger noted that it is being fought in court. (*Note from Linda, the following is from Mayor Gloria's March 10 e-newsletter: Reforming Conservatorship Laws Will Save Lives*
Having worked to reduce homelessness for the better part of two decades, I've spoken with countless people living on the streets and in shelters, and I learned long ago that everyone has a unique story about how they came to be without a place to call home. Many simply can't afford a place to live. Some have struggled with drug addiction. Others haven't been able to overcome the effects of past trauma in their lives. And then, there are those who are unable to tell their story at all because they suffer from such serious mental illness that they are not reachable in a conversation.
Under my administration, the City of San Diego is developing solutions to meet all of these unique circumstances, and it's that latter group – those with severe mental illness – who I'm working to help through advocacy at the state Capitol.
We see the need for this advocacy represented every day on our streets. It might be someone you've seen screaming at someone only they can see. Maybe it's someone half-naked, sleeping in a doorway.
The painful, but real-life truth of the matter is: These are folks who are so severely mentally ill, they're incapable of taking care of themselves or recognizing the need for them to seek help. And our current mental health system makes it next to impossible to get them care. What that means is means they're left to suffer and die on our streets.
I can't accept that, and that's why I've been pushing mental health reform in our State Capitol and why I am such a strong supporter of Sen. Susan Tablemates Eggman's package of legislation to reform California's conservatorship laws and compel treatment for some extremely sick people who can't help themselves.
The two bills Senator Eggman has introduced will modernize our State's behavioral health care system by broadening the definition of "gravely disabled" to include the inability to attend to one's own medical care and self-protection, and also by creating a real-time online dashboard of available beds at nearby psychiatric and substance-abuse facilities.
It's long past time to address the heartbreaking tragedy unfolding on the streets of San Diego and across California, and I will do everything in my power to help get it done.)
10. Lexi Chavez of PATH explained about **Waiting Lists for Housing**: When clients for housing are enrolled in the CES system, they need to check in with their case manager every 90 days. If they fail to check in, they will be bumped off of waiting lists for various iterations of housing. Gerry Flaven, who volunteers with UPLIFT, says that she has a client who was offered 2 very inappropriate shelters which she rejected but is now not on the list because she is known to have rejected 2 offers.
11. James Lively wants to have a bi-monthly meeting to strategize. Email him if you are interested
12. Bettina brought up the water tower encampment on mixed private and City property. Pat said they need a cleanup plan before they go in there. Terry noted the encampment is east of the water tower and gave directions: go south on 58th and turn east on Dandridge for best access. Terry will contact Stephen Bilecz for ownership.
13. Francisco noted two upcoming cleanups facilitated by D9 staff: a Litter Pickup on March 4 around Gem Café at El Cajon and Euclid and a Hollywood Canyon Neighborhood Dumpster Day on March 11. (*Note from Linda: Francisco gave the follow-up for these events at the Azalea Park Neighborhood Association meeting last night. He noted 25 volunteers at the Gem Café event including residents from Talmadge, Teralta East, Colina Park and Hoover High School. On March 11, volunteers removed trash from encampments on the side of 805 next to Hollywood Community Park. Francisco and Martha Zapata, also a D9 staffer, facilitated these events.*
14. Derrick says Home Ave. looks better but the Neighborhood House Association Head Start at 4111 Home where he works still has 2 homeless near them. In the past, homeless were living on their roof.
15. A report from Mayor Gloria had noted for every 10 people that get off the street, 13 more show up.
16. Linda asked Pat to describe the territory his squad of 6 covers. (*Note from Linda: To make sure I got the answer right, I asked Officer Luellen to email the answer to me. He wrote: On a north south boundary Sgt. Heller's area goes from the 94 up to the Wild Animal park location. For east west it is everything east of 805/163 [Where they cross] out to neighboring cities. Geographically it is very large. If you go to the city website under public safety you can see a map and look by division. His squad handles Eastern, Mid-City, and Northeastern Divisions.)*

Notes by James Lively and Linda Pennington

The next meeting on the calendar is Tuesday, March 28, 2023, 8am to 9am.