

**Guests:**

	Shelly Anello, Old Sixth Ward
Jack Valinski, DON-COH	Jane West, Old Sixth Ward/SN22/SNA Secretary
Officer V. Losey, HISD Police Department	Paul Nicosia, Magnolia Grove
Mark Williamson, Greater Heights/SN15 President	Stacie Fairchild, Rice Military/SN22 Secretary
Juan Sorto, SN49-50/SNA Vice-President	Ruby Powers, Rice Military
Shelley Kennedy, District C Candidate	Cecil Weeks, Rice Military
Nick Hellyar, District C Candidate	Joan Miller, Rice Military
Karlos Lopez, Campaign Manager for Nick Hellyar	Karen Mattern, West End

**Civic Club Representatives:**

	Ross Mattern, West End
Steve Vealey, Camp Logan/SN22 Vice-President	Howard Watson, West End
Janet Scalia, Camp Logan	Meg Poissant, Westwood Grove
Mike VanDusen, Crestwood/SN22 President	Philip Temple, Woodcrest

**Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.**

**I. Introductions**

**II. Presentation A: Homeland Security – HPD Assistant Chief of Police, Larry Satterwhite**

Assistant Chief Satterwhite began by showing a video of HPD's Homeland Security's response during Hurricane Harvey utilizing the department's four divisions; Tactical Operations, Special Operations, Air & Marine, and Emergency Management. Houston has a diverse population of 2.3M people, and is home to many cultural institutions and exhibits which attract more than 7M visitors annually. Our economy has a broad industrial base in energy, manufacturing, aeronautics, and transportation. We lead in healthcare sectors and building oilfield equipment, thereby giving us a high profile and making us a significant target. Homeland Security serves the Greater Houston area including the surrounding 13 counties and provides traditional patrol functions as well as additional security functions mandated by the federal government to all airports—IAH/Hobby/Ellington—and immediate surrounding areas, lakes and tributaries, all major events (e.g., the World Series, Superbowl, and the upcoming World Petroleum Congress in December 2020), power and chemical plants, the Medical Center, the Port of Houston, Ship Channel and its connecting waterways. It patrols the central business district and Hermann and Memorial Parks via mounted patrol to proactively address quality of life issues, and deter crime through active enforcement and high visibility. Homeland Security also provides post-storm damage assessment, support for major fires scenes and high speed pursuits; it conducts search, rescue and recovery operations, SWAT officer insertion and extraction such as

hostage taking, barricaded suspects, suicide threats, and snipers; covert aerial surveillance, photo-evidence gathering, and security patrols of critical infrastructure. It coordinates police resources for approximately 125 special events (such as parades, fun runs, dignitary protection, and any other activities planned by the mayor's office) and responds to major incidents throughout the city including 200 planned and unplanned demonstrations each year, terrorists threats and attacks, pandemics and natural disasters. The Patrol Canine Detail unit helps patrol officers in their search for people and evidence, including narcotics and explosives. Homeland Security is in the process of upgrading and adding equipment in the Air & Marine division to be ready for the next major event. Assistant Chief Satterwhite said there are currently no imminent threats to Houston; his team is not watching anything specific. However, Houston has a lot of problems. Violent crimes are the number one issue across the country, and gang violence is another serious problem. HPD has 5,200 sworn law enforcement officers, and 1,200 civilian personnel with a very diverse representation across ranks including women at 18-20%. HPD has an annual general fund budget of \$825M.

**Questions:** Meg Poissant (Westwood Grove) asked who at HPD is in charge of the police presence in regard to the bar issues on-and-off duty. Assistant Chief Satterwhite stated that Commander Tinsley Guinn-Shaver in Central Patrol is responsible for the team of on-duty officer deployments. There are other divisions that work in this area along Washington Avenue. The Traffic Enforcement Division has DWI units that spend a lot of time on Washington Avenue; it gets more attention than anywhere else in the city if you are comparing it street by street. The patrol officers decide where they work off duty. The agreement is between the off-duty officer and the establishment. However, there are some establishments HPD officers are not allowed to work in an off-duty capacity (e.g., Sexually Oriented Businesses (SOBs), after-hours clubs, and any bars with serious problems). If a neighborhood is experiencing significant issues, Homeland Security will provide Mounted Patrol officers to increase the police presence in the area to help control the problem. I do understand there are some challenges along Washington Avenue. I am in constant dialogue with my Central Patrol colleagues and stand ready to provide resources should they need it.

Juan Sorto (SN49-50/SNA Vice President) asked if we have an air quality concern here from the ITC Deer Park fire, and is there a place online we can go look up the air quality for Houston. Assistant Chief Satterwhite responded that he gets regular reports from the TCEQ Air Quality Operations Center. We do not have any reports that show we've gone over our limit. However, if you are having trouble breathing, please go see your doctor. HPD does have an environmental unit but it focuses on illegal dumping; they are available to Homeland Security if needed. In situations like this, the responsibility resides with Homeland Security to liaise with government officials, its agencies, and experts involved. Visit [TCEQ's website](#) for the latest health warnings for Harris County related to the ITC terminal fire.

Juan Sorto (SN49-50/SNA Vice-President) asked if the same problem exists in Buffalo Bayou with thieves submerging cars as in Braes Bayou. Assistant Chief Satterwhite responded that his dive team pulls a lot of submerged vehicles out of all of the bayous as he receives notifications.

Cecil Weeks (Rice Military) asked how many languages HPD speaks with 100 languages present in Houston. Assistant Chief Satterwhite replied that it's about 20-25% of HPD's workforce who are proficient and they depend on the communities they serve to help communicate.

**Presentation B: Memorial Elementary/Lift Memorial – School Principal, Maria Garcia, Ed. D.**

Dr. Garcia began by stating that Memorial Elementary is a very unique school, and the teachers and staff work really hard to create a wonderful learning environment for the children. Dr. Garcia is in her fourth year as principal and understands the competitive market available to parents. The school has always maintained a Standard rating, but through community involvement it's started many projects recently to help attract future students knowing that having an educational presence is vital to a community's longevity. Lift Memorial, a non-profit organization coordinated by the surrounding neighborhoods—Camp Logan, Crestwood, Magnolia Grove, and Rice Military—is doing a lot of community outreach amongst the neighborhoods to increase enrollment and participation, change the school's perception, and educate parents of the value in public education. School projects to help raise awareness include: 1) Applying to become an IB (International Baccalaureate) World School focusing on primary years—a global program offering a continuum of international education, encouraging both personal and academic achievement, challenging students to excel in their studies and in their personal development; ultimately helping students to succeed in a world where facts and fiction merge, and where asking the right questions is a crucial skill that will allow them to flourish long after they've left the program. Hogg Middle School and Lamar High School are authorized IB schools. Memorial Elementary's application was submitted on April 1 and the candidacy process will take two years; 2) Memorial's Pre-K program is available to four-year olds using a traditional instruction method focusing on social and emotional conflict resolution; 3) A dual language program using a 50/50 model, which includes non-Spanish speakers. The children spend 50% of their day learning Spanish and the other half learning English. The program is available to all grades including Pre-K so that students enter junior high as bilingual and biliterate inquirers who celebrate diversity as responsible citizens; 4) Working with Urban Harvest to have a sustainable garden where students learn best seed practices and grow vegetables; 5) Offering Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts memberships; 6) A full-time music teacher gives instruction to Pre-K through 2nd grade students in general music learning how to sing, count and perform rhythms, and musical activities. Third graders and above have the opportunity to learn how to play an orchestra instrument, such as the violin, cello, viola, or bass; 7) Promoting the school's social media presence by engaging the neighborhood pages and answering questions. Dr. Garcia recently hired an Assistant Principal who is technology oriented to help students become critical thinkers, problem solvers, and use technology to grow and be successful. Interested parties wanting to learn more about Memorial Elementary should contact Dr. Garcia to set up a tour.

[Memorial Elementary Presentation](#)

**Questions:** Steve Vealey (Camp Logan/SN22 Vice-President) shared that Lift Memorial is a wonderful resource for the school, but wants neighbors to know people do not have to be a part of Lift Memorial to participate in the school's activities. Steve encouraged neighbors and families to engage the school to help them achieve their goals.

Mark Williamson (Greater Heights/SN15 President) asked how many students do you have space for when you do achieve growth. Dr. Garcia stated that there is room for 600 students; the current attendance is at 350 students with two classes per grade level.

Cecil Weeks (Rice Military) mentioned that Rice Military has a very active Facebook page, and suggested it

would be a good place to gain exposure as well as share school projects and activities to increase participation.

### **III. Old Business:**

**A. Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC):** Mike VanDusen (Crestwood/SN22 President) began by stating he's on the Bicycle Advisory Committee representing the Super Neighborhood Alliance. There are a few projects within SN22 that are coming forward; 1) The White Oak Bayou Bicycle Pedestrian Connection will link White Oak bikeway and Buffalo Bayou via Patterson Street. A refuge will be constructed on Washington Avenue to connect cyclists and pedestrians safely. There were two presentations made by the City, one to a larger audience and the other to the West End neighborhood where 70 neighbors provided input regarding the neighborhood's preferences. The refuge was well received; 2) The Memorial Park Bicycle Pedestrian Connection will link White Oak Trail with the northeast entrance into Memorial Park using Cohn Street bridge across I-10. The funding is approved and will come through H-GAC for \$2.5M. Cohn Street bridge will be widened to better accommodate pedestrians and cyclists, and address the safety issues related to pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists with the Washington/Westcott/IH10 intersection. The bikeway on city streets north of IH10 (Cohn, Kansas, etc.) will likely get posts with placards, and possibly sharrows.

**B. Planning Commission Updates (PC):** Mike VanDusen (Crestwood/SN22 President) shared that SN22 is beginning to work with the Planning Department on possible updates to the minimum lot size and minimum build line in the municipal code. The City will notify homeowners retroactively. There is to be a minimal ask for an existing designation, and unless there is a big objection, will extend for another 20 years.

**C. Quality of Life Committee Update (QOL):** Stacie Fairchild (Rice Military/SN22 Secretary) began by stating that most residents routinely affected by the current establishments on Washington Avenue have made progress with HPD's Central Patrol by communicating consistently through several mediums; HPD's non-emergency number, attending HPD citywide and divisional PIP meetings and speaking with beat officers in attendance, and directly contacting beat officers as incidents occur. There was a TABC administrative hearing held on March 8 where the applicant (Light Up the Sky dba Lucky Town) and protestants came to a settlement agreement. Prior to the hearing, residents asked CM Cohen to join them in the protest. CM Cohen's recommendation was to contact state representatives and HPD for help. Residents contacted State Representative Sarah Davis who responded quickly. However, because of the late timing we were not able to develop an organized approach. Residents involved are continuing the conversation with Representative Davis' office to come up with short, medium, and long-term resolutions to the issues. HPD is beginning to receive calls for service from the Woodcrest neighborhood on weekends between 10:00 pm - 2:00 am for loud noise coming from Axis & Alibi. Stacie Fairchild will follow up with residents to get more information about their experiences. DenzoSoHouston has moved his AirBnB parties outside of Loop 610 over the last six weeks, and is focusing on casting calls for upcoming events. Denzo was in Dallas hosting an event most recently.

**Questions:** Meg Poissant (Westwood Grove) asked what efforts have been made to file a protest against Boutique Nightclub, who owns it, and has anyone protested the parking variance on Center Street. Stacie Fairchild responded that the Clutch/Concrete Cowboy group own Boutique Nightclub and received its license in Fall 2018. Clutch will most likely have enough parking spots to share with Boutique Nightclub when the new parking lot is completed. The parking variance is for a street stub on Center Street.

Meg Poissant (Westwood Grove) asked if Stacie Fairchild had been in touch with the bar owners since the hearing to talk to them about the Boutique Nightclub establishment. Stacie Fairchild replied no.

Karen Mattern (West End) mentioned the parking variance item coming up on FM Kitchen + Bar lot, and asked for suggestions when speaking before the Planning Commission. Jane West and Mike VanDusen recommended organizing several people to speak to each of the application criteria and they would discuss and provide more suggestions offline.

**D. City Council Members and Department Updates:** Jack Valinski (DON-COH) announced the upcoming Spring Community Townhalls for District C and District H residents are available [here](#). In addition, Jack reminded SN22 attendees that he is available to support residents in any neighborhood/civic club initiatives or projects with the City.

Stacie Fairchild (Rice Military/SN22 Secretary) mentioned that METRO confirmed the bus stops removed on Washington and Durham at the Bottled Blonde construction was coordinated by the developer. METRO claims the bus stops will be reinstalled once the developer is finished with construction. Stacie Fairchild has requested frequent updates of METRO to ensure the stops are installed properly and the developer held accountable. Stacie Fairchild also requested that the Washington Avenue stop be moved west to the corner of Sandman and a shelter provided in addition to a post and placard for rider safety.

**E. Super Neighborhood Alliance (SNA):** Jane West (Old Sixth Ward/SN22 Past President/SNA Secretary) mentioned that the SNA is holding two training sessions this Spring for anyone who attends the Super Neighborhood (SN) meetings. The trainings will be held on March 27 and April 27 (HCC NE Campus) from 9:00 am - Noon. There will be three presentations at each training session; 1) The SN program and tips for running a successful SN council; 2) Rhonda Sauter who directs the Mayor's Citizens Assistance office will share the services her office provides to neighborhoods and SNs, and; 3) Rene Martinez, who is an urban planner by education and profession as well as a former City Planning Department employee, will give a brief introduction into neighborhood planning. The City is receiving millions of federal dollars to rebuild and reinvent Houston in a more sustainable, different way because of the destruction from Hurricane Harvey. There are lots of people in the development community and around the City who have very firm plans and ideas about what they would like to see. Neighborhoods need to have similar plans and decide what their vision is for their neighborhood in the next 3, 5, and 10 years, and be a part of the discussion. There will be door prizes, and free book giveaways throughout the sessions to encourage people to increase participation in your civic clubs and SN councils, and envision a better future for all of us.

#### **IV. New Business:**

**A. Candidate Forums and Issues:** Mike VanDusen (Crestwood/SN22 President) reminded attendees that SN22 will host three candidate forums in the September/October timeframe; District C, District H, and At-Large positions. It could be challenging since District C has eight confirmed, and possibly nine, candidates. It's likely we will partner with neighboring SNs. Once the deadline passes, SN22 will know more. District C candidate, Nick Hellyar, mentioned there are three additional At-Large candidates expected to announce very soon. Jane West distributed a list of Topics of Interest for neighborhood representatives to use to begin

thinking about what are the issues and the types of questions they want to ask candidates. Please send all developed questions to [superneighborhood22@gmail.com](mailto:superneighborhood22@gmail.com)

**B. AARP Walk Audits:** Mike VanDusen (Crestwood/SN22 President) began by sharing that AARP and the Complete Streets Coalition are trying to move forward with getting baseline information on SN22's sidewalks and walkability. To that effect, AARP is ready to conduct a series of Walk Audits this year. They have the leadership, and the tools and apps. However, they need candidate neighborhoods and communities. SN22 has identified some locations; 1) Arnot through the traffic circle moving east on Washington Avenue to T.C. Jester; 2) T.C. Jester to Shepherd Drive on Washington Avenue, and; 3) The Heights/Washington Avenue intersection. SN22 has received volunteer names from West End, and is looking for other representatives within SN22 neighborhoods to participate. AARP is asking for 40 volunteers who will receive training as to what to look for on the walk audits.

**V. Announcements, and Open Comments:** Jane West (Old Sixth Ward/SN22 Past President/SNA Secretary) announced that Old Sixth Ward has a new president, Roy de la Garza. He is hoping to attend the April meeting to meet everyone.

**VI. Upcoming Events of Community Interest:** On March 23, HISD's Career Readiness department hosted the "When I Grow Up" Expo from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm on 18th Street where students will enjoy hands-on career awareness and exploration activities. On March 24, Cigna Sunday Streets kicked off in the Heights from Noon - 4:00 pm; an initiative to promote and improve the health of Houstonians. A stretch of streets normally reserved for cars and other vehicles will be open to cycling, walking, dancing, socializing and provide a family-friendly opportunity to be physically active. HPD's Central PIP meeting was held at the HPOU building at 1602 State Street in Old Sixth Ward on April 7. The topic was hurricane preparedness.

**VII. Motion to Adjourn:** 8:20 p.m.

Next meeting: May 16, 2019 @ 6:30 p.m. – OEM's Public Information Officer, Cory Stottlemeyer, will discuss Hurricane/Emergency Preparedness & Response.