



HACIENDA HEIGHTS IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.
POST OFFICE BOX 5235 • HACIENDA HEIGHTS, CA 91745

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING MINUTES

August 20, 2018

LOCATION: Hacienda La Puente Unified School District at 15959 E. Gale Avenue in the City of Industry, CA. 91716-0002.

- 1 MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: Time is 7:00 P.M. and HHIA meeting is held in the District Conference Room chaired by Mr. Mike Williams, President.**
- 2 PLEDGE OF ALLIGIANCE: Pledge led by our Town Sheriff Deputy Jose Ruano**
- 3 SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER: Jim McDonnell, Sheriff of Los Angeles County-** Sheriff McDonnell shared some thoughts and gave a broad overview of his time serving as Sheriff of Los Angeles County including some of the challenges we face and where we are going. Looking back 4 years serving as Sheriff at his capacity Sheriff McDonnell's goal was to restore public trust after troubled times. McDonnell's focus has been to hold staff, deputies and support staff to a very high standard, setting the bar and being consistent. There are a number of different vehicles in place such as the Audit and Accountability Bureau, Constitutional Policing Advisors and 2 Attorneys are all working together to hold the department accountable by being consistent in discipline, policy and procedures with the goal to continuously improve. The Inspector General is also a key component working closely with the board of Supervisors and Sheriff's Department to ensure that the department stays consistent and identifies deficiencies for the department to resolve. Most recently The Civilian Oversight Commission was put in place to identify issues within the organization and bring perspective from all the constituencies to improve operations. The goal overall is to find the balance between public safety and public trust while giving our residents the best service possible. McDonnell expresses in this tough environment we face there have been some up ticks in crime due to certain props naming prop 47, 57 and the new laws for marijuana but overall crime is down across the board in the past 4 years except burglary which is essentially flat. A major focus of Sheriff McDonald's work has been on Human Trafficking. In 2015 the Human Trafficking Bureau was created because the it was critical to focus on these particularly heinous crimes putting 35 detectives in place while collocating this bureau with other agencies and organizations to accomplish three major goals. The goals have been to number one, rescue young persons (average ages ranging from 12-14 years in age) some of the most vulnerable coming from the foster system. Number two, go after the pimps and human traffickers. Number three, to go after the pedophiles

and prosecute them to the fullest extent of the law. Other topics that have been a focus during Sheriff McDonnell's time are Counter Terrorism, Fentanyl, Mental Illness in Jail and Homelessness. In the Question and Answer segment a resident asked about body cameras. Sheriff McDonnell claims to be a proponent of them but in the latest estimation it would cost effectively sixty-three million dollars a year. Sheriff McDonnell exclaimed if the department was given additional funds of that amount he would first need to spend it on his number one priority which would be staffing, putting more officers on the street. Second resident asked "How can we improve community relations?" Sheriff McDonnell explained he relies heavily on each station and each sheriff to be an ambassador for each local community. Public safety is a team sport. As civilians the best way you can help is get to know your deputies. Another Resident asked two questions first how do we fill the vacancies we need? Sheriff McDonnell answered they have built a staff of 23 Recruiters and hired 2300 deputies in past 4 years but have a way to go. Second question was in regards to policy on officers preparing reports when police have video footage to review. Sheriff McDonnell explained statements made by officers should be written based on the state of mind and intent of the officer before reviewing any tapes especially while reporting on a use of force situation. Supplemental reports may be attached that are written after reviewing any footage. Another Resident asked how we can increase coverage of officers in our area and commented that there have been complaints in the community via social media that there are long wait times in regards to service. Sheriff McDonnell expressed that any concerns and issues you see as far as coverage need to be addressed with your County Supervisor so that the Supervisor is aware of the needs of the community and look at that when making decisions. Another Resident asked about the homeless population and what can be done. Sheriff McDonnell explained it is not a crime to be homeless. Most encounters with the homeless the Sheriff Department has when they are in crisis. There is a homeless outreach task force that reaches out offering services and shelter unfortunately many homeless suffer from mental illness and deny the services and are shelter resistant. Currently there are about 60,000 homeless accounted for in Los Angeles County. A Board member asked if we can find opportunities to transfer between law enforcement departments. Unfortunately, Sheriff McDonnell explained that is not possible to easily transfer between departments. Everyone is trained in their specialty and has different classifications. Another Resident asked if department is using drones. Sheriff McDonnell replied there are currently two drones. One for training and one for deployment used in a very limited way based on protocol. Drone use in deployment is usually related to trying to find someone who is lost, tactical operations in swat and bomb calls. It is a potential life saver. Mr. Williams, President of HHIA, closed with Sheriff McDonnell by making a comment for that our town Sheriff Deputy Jose Ruano attends all of our HHIA meetings, answers residents questions, provides statistics and is working very hard as our town Sheriff which Sheriff McDonnell thanked him for his comment.

4 ROLL CALL: Ted Chang, Jeffrey Lin, Scott Martin, Lucy Pedregon, David Salcedo, Sandy Keat, Joan Licari, Jennifer Kelley, Mike Williams, Jim Kleinpell.

ABSENT BOARD MEMBERS: Shou Jen Kuo, Joan Snyder.

- 5 **MEETING MINUTES:** For Board meeting July 16, 2018, A motion was made to approve the minutes by Joan Licari as presented, second by Jim Kleinpell. No objections, motion carried.
- 6 **TREASURER’S REPORT:** Mike Williams reported HHIA holds an account at US Bank located at 2040 So. Hacienda Boulevard in Hacienda Heights, CA. 91745. The report of Income/Deposits total to the amount of \$245.53 while the amount of expenses total to \$2,950.54 concluding to a balance of \$11,180.09 (as of July 12, 2018). For itemization of details refer to Website: www.hhia.net

(From Addendum)

a. Approval for Printing of Parade Clean-up Certificates of Appreciation \$34.00 Check No. 2146 to Lucy Pedregon.

b. Appreciation Gift Card to Hacienda Baptist Church Custodian \$20.00

7 **PUBLIC SAFETY & LAW ENFORCEMENT UPDATES:**

a. **California Highway Patrol** – Officer Jeremy Tolen reported statistics for unincorporated Hacienda Heights, 195 collisions reported on the streets and 636 collisions on the 60 freeway. Station wide the statistics in regards to collisions were 12 fatal accidents, 1,454 injuries and 3,562 non-injuries. The primary factor in most collisions were due to excessive speed. There was one fatality due to DUI and 105 injuries due to DUI. There were 6 motorcycle fatalities, 4 heavy truck/ big-rig fatalities, 154 big-rig injury collisions, 429 big-rig non-injury collisions. Officer Tolen advises please keep your distance when driving next to a big- rig on the right side of the freeway. If you can not see the driver in their mirror then they cannot see you. Enforcement statistic 2018 year to date written 2725 speeding citations which is up over last year. Arrested 641 DUI drivers, 638 seatbelt citations, 1245 talking on the cell phone citations, 2210 for texting while driving. Cell phone related citations just about doubled from the year before. Upcoming events the CHP will be partnering with Ian Calderon’s office for the College Career Fair at Los Altos September 15 from 10am-1:30pm. Concerned resident inquired about the “side show” car takeover that happened on Azusa and Colima. Officer Tolen explained they are aware of these incidents and have a task force out looking for these events. Officer Tolen urges all residence that are witness to these occurrences call 911 immediately and do not get involved. These participants can be armed, under the influence and dangerous. There have been several recent incidents where law enforcement was able to make arrests for illegal activity that take place with the task force assigned. These incidents go from a few hundred participants to over thousand. Officers have to careful when taking enforcement action because of the size. Officer Tolen encourages all residence follow the CHP on social media for up to date information. Residents that would like to file a complaint can email 550trafficcomplaints@chp.ca.gov

b. **Los Angeles Sheriff Department** – Deputy Jose Ruano thanks the community and HHIA for their support. Since Jose has been assigned to our neighborhood he has performed over 100 “Neighborhood Watch” meetings. Deputy Ruano invites residence to contact him personally to address issues in the community. The Deputy wants to hear directly from the community to help resolve problems residents are facing. Deputy Ruano invites residents who want to be more involved to participate with the volunteers on patrol program. There is also the reserve program available for residents that may want to take a more active role. Please contact the sheriff department for more information. Deputy Jose Ruano can be reached directly at (626) 934-3052 or email jaruano@lasd.org . Crime Stats for Hacienda Heights this moth are down 9%, there was one rape reported which was more of a domestic type of crime, a deputy was assaulted this week, 10 burglaries in August so far. In the last 3 months there have been 52 burglaries compared to last year for the same time period there were

74 so it has gone down. Deputy Ruano encourages residents to get to know your neighbors and learn to communicate on a regular basis. Being more attentive to who is in your neighborhood and practicing great communication can prevent crime by reporting suspicious activity. Know what your neighbors drive. There have been 5 auto thefts this year and 5 vehicle burglaries this month which is down from last year. Most thefts/ burglaries is from victims leaving valuables visible. It is always best to not leave valuables in a vehicle but if you do store it out of sight. If you have an alarm then use it!!! Resident inquired how to prevent identity theft/ keep financial information safe. Both Officer Tolen and Deputy Ruano says when getting gas always look for the official seal on a credit card terminal or better yet pay for gas inside with attendant. Always use credit card so you have recourse if your money is stolen. Using a debit card money is not usually recovered.

- c. **Mountains & Recreation & Conservation Authority** – Ranger Francine Godoy was Absent. For more information about the Hacienda Heights Trailhead log on to www.habitatauthority.org or call (562) 945-9003.

8 COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES:

- a. **Representative 4th Supervisorial District** - Field Deputy Nicholas Holden reported there were 2 items on the agenda to share from District Supervisor Hahn's office. First item being an ordinance to limit rate increases at Mobile Home Parks up to 3 % which would apply to unincorporated areas. The board will be meeting again to vote on this agenda item. The second item was to approve a 2.6 million dollar budget to refurbish Schabarum Park specifically it is going to be used to improve two of the three playgrounds. Replace fixtures with more energy efficient lights. The mobile field office is still being held at Shabarum Park every Wednesday from 9am-12pm. LA County Fair is coming up we have LA County day on September 2 with a special admission price \$6.60. Downtown field office for 4th District Supervisor Janice Hahn is (213) 974-4444.
- b. **Representative 39th Congressional District** - Field Deputy is vacant.
- c. **Representative 57th State Assembly District** - Field Deputy Ruby Duenas announces the upcoming College Career Fair to take place September 15 from 10am-1:30pm at Los Altos High School providing great information to students. There are 9 opportunity drawing of \$250 for students to participate in. There are college writing contest that can win \$3,000 scholarships. Assembly bill 354 Preserving the American Dream for Home Owners. This would limit institutional investors from purchasing multiple properties and taking away the opportunity for first time home owners to purchase a home by competing against these investors. This would define an institutional investor as an individual or corporation that owns more than 100 single family homes in California that is valued at more than 10 million dollars.
- d. **Representative 32nd State Senate District** - Field Deputy is vacant.
- e. **Representative Mt. San Antonio College** - Don Sachs shares Mt. SAC starts August 27 with 32,000 fulltime students in attendance. The Academy of Mt Sac in West Covina allows students to earn college credit and complete an Associate Degree while complete High School courses. The Board of trustees had their July 24 meeting and approved a measure to place a bond measure on the ballot. There have been numerous meetings over the past year and a half discussing necessary upgrades and improvements needed to the college.
- f. **Hacienda Heights Librarian** - Amy Boteilho announces September 3rd Library is closed. Big events: September 15 at 2pm concert at the Library, September 24 at 7pm to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, September 29 at 2pm concert for children with disabilities. Library is now Metro tap facility. You can load your tap card at the library. Library experienced vandalisms and it is under investigation. Please go on the website for details <http://lacountylibrary.org/lib/haciendahts/>.
- g. **Community Center** – Olivia Perea our community center manager reports Summer was very successful with a great turnout for Movie Night and Concerts in the Park. Steinmetz Park has

a new program that was started this year called Parks After Dark every Thursday, Friday and Saturday through out the summer from 6pm-9pm with multiple family friendly activities. This program may come back during the winter months so stay tuned. Currently at the community center there is a girl empowerment program that runs for 8 weeks, this Friday is Paint Nights. These Paint nights are geared toward family activities you are instructed as you paint along and they have the instructor on the big screen which really makes it fun and informative and there are refreshments and nice music. There is a monthly newsletter to checkout and keep up on all the activities the community center has to offer. The school district owns the property and has a contract with the community center to use the facility. Any questions or comments please contact the Hacienda Heights Community Center at (626) 333-3250.

- h. Hsi Lai Temple, Project Coordinator, IBPS** - Gena Ooi the Hsi Lai orchestra is holding auditions for children ages 7-10 years old to join their orchestra which will be performing at Cal State University, Los Angeles to celebrate their 30 year anniversary in December. September 22 the Hsi Lai Autumn Moon Festival will be held at the temple in the court yard from 7:30pm- 9pm. There will be tea, moon cake, meditation class and the abbot will speak. Meditation classes will start a new session again in September. The temple serves vegetarian buffet lunch for the public from 11:30am to 1:30pm week days and on the weekend till 2:30pm for \$8 donation. There is a coastal beach clean-up on September 15 at 7:30am- 2pm meet leaving from 3130 Colima Rd, Hacienda Heights travel on school buses will shuttle volunteers down to event. For more information on events and classes visit <http://www.hsilai.org>.

9 OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **2018 Membership Drive**- Jim Klienpell invites anyone who is not already a member to join. 269 renewal letters were mailed out.
- b. **July 2018 Newsletter**- Joan Licari states all newsletters have been sent out 289 newsletters were sent out to all HHIA members and important officials such as the office of Janice Hahn and Ian Calderon.
- c. Ted Chang ask members to review cell tower report and utilities

10 NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Appointing Annual meeting Committee celebrating 71 years of HHIA. Lucy Pedregon and Scott Martin will be co-chairing the committee, volunteers are David Salcedo, Randy Black, Maury Edwards, Adriana Quinones, Vince, Jennifer Kelley
- b. West Nile Virus Prevention Challenge (Assist Los Angeles County Public Health) Committee includes David Salcedo, Lucy Pedregon and Sandy Keat will work to come up with concept and strategies to get the word out.
- c. Volunteer for 2017 HHIA Financial Audit: Maury Edwards, Vince Hann and Ron Dunbar.

11 COMMITTEE REPORTS: Please refer to HHIA website www.hhia.net for details of Board Member reports.

12 PUBLIC INPUT:

- a. Resident brought up concerns that there is a lawsuit that was recently over turned in regards to the oil drilling locally in the Wild Life Preserve in our hills. The resident has brought the concern to Supervisor Janice Hahn's office and they are working on it. Board offices are being briefed. Resident warns that our hills are at risk again of drilling to start. City of Whittier had it on their agenda in close session meeting. Resident is opposed to

drilling in our hills, it is hazardous and believes it causes negative impact on our residents. Joan Licari Board member mentioned she attended a meeting with the Puente Hills Preservation Habitat Authority. Ms. Licari says that Organization is waiting to hear what steps Whittier will take before making any decisions. Ms. Licari is Environmental chair with HHIA and will follow up to gather more information.

- b. Hank Pedregon brought up the concerns that not all candidates were invited to speak at HHIA board meetings. Mike Williams, President of HHIA, clarified that HHIA does not invite, solicit or endorse any candidates. If a candidate comes forward willing asking to speak they are given equal time to introduce themselves and speak about the issues that they would like to address if they would serve and answer concerns from HHIA members. HHIA does not allow candidates to bad mouth other candidates during their time to speak.
- c. Resident brought up that we need to better promote HHIA. She suggests mailers blanketing different sections of the community through out the year. Have a presence on Social Media such as Facebook.
- d. Resident asked if HHIA is supporting the Verizon Cell Towers. Mr. Williams, President of HHIA, gave a statement that we understand the need for better cell service but in recent months have seen a major increase in applications for permits to install, improve and upgrade cell towers in the area and HHIA has requested a map with regional planning showing the overlay to all cell towers present in our area because of the concerns of residence in regards to health concerns, quality of life and visual aesthetics in the neighborhood. Resident asked if HHIA can also find the dead zones.
- e. Former HHIA Board member Steve Rodriguez addressed a few concerns to the HHIA Board members. First Mr. Rodriguez asked that the approved meeting minutes be put on the HHIA website ASAP. Second, Mr. Rodriguez stated Hacienda Heights Connections is no longer going to be published and Mr. Rodriguez asked if the County approached HHIA with this decision which Mr. Williams, president of HHIA, stated HHIA was not informed. Third, Mr. Rodriguez brought up a concern that the HHIA letter was once a monthly newsletter then it went down to six per year, 5 per year, three per year to two per year. Mr. Rodriguez asks why the decline? Fourth, Mr. Rodriguez asked on the HHIA website the "About" section for Board members, Mr. Rodriguez suggests listing the duties of each of the committees in order for members to know what the committees do in case they would like to get more involved. Mr. Williams answered there is a document that describes it called the Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs responsibilities. Mr. Rodriguez suggests on the website have the contacts list emails and under "About" do not re-list emails rather provide a description of committee and duties. The last item Mr. Rodriguez addressed is in regards to membership email addresses. Mr. Rodriguez suggests using the membership email to email the newsletter and other documents to keep HHIA members informed. Mr. Rodriguez stated he has not received any emails as a HHIA member.

13 ADJOURNMENT: HHIA meeting declared closed at 9:43 P.M. by Mr. Mike Williams, President. Thank you all for attending the meeting!

Respectfully Submitted by,
Jennifer Kelley, Secretary