

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

Date: Monday – September 15, 2025

LOCATION: Hacienda Heights Community Center, 1234 Valencia, Hac. Hgts., CA 91745

Meeting Called to Order: Time: 7:00 PM. **Meeting Chaired by..... David Fang, President**

Pledge of Allegiance..... Henry

Roll Call:.....Andy Guo

Present – David Fang, Alitzah Weiner, Bala Venkataraman, Jenny Lin, Andy Guo, Faye Lee, Steven Wu, Andrea Gordon, Michael Wang.

ABSENT: R. Ann Ellis-Hall, Julie Tan

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES David Fang

- August 18, 2025-Motion Sought to Approve

Approved by David Fang, Alitzah Weiner, Bala Venkataraman, Jenny Lin, Andy Guo, Faye Lee, Steven Wu, Andrea Gordon, Michael Wang.

TREASURER’S REPORT: August 2025--Reported and Filed by..... Jenny Lin

- The Total income is \$990.02.
- The Total expenses is \$276.00.
- The operating budget for May was \$6,955.65, with two accounts making up \$5,383.03 and \$1,572.62

PUBLIC SAFETY & LAW ENFORCEMENT UPDATES

a. LASD Industry Sheriff’s Station Liaison Deputy Jose Ruano/Rodriguez

Deputy Rodriguez reported that overall crime in Hacienda Heights and surrounding areas increased by about **9%** compared to August 2024.

Crimes Against Persons: There were 3 assaults (down from 6 last year) and 3 robberies (up from 1). Residents are reminded to stay alert when handling cash, especially near banks and ATMs, and to always be aware of their surroundings.

Property Crimes: There were 6 burglaries (4 residential, 2 commercial) compared to 4 last year, and 39 thefts compared to 23 — a **22% increase**. Auto thefts dropped from 10 to 6, down **8%**.

Prevention Tips: Avoid displaying cash or valuables in public or inside vehicles, travel with a companion when using ATMs, and report any suspicious activity immediately.

Scam Alert: Individuals posing as utility workers have been seen in neighborhoods. Residents should verify identification and avoid opening doors to unknown persons.

Law Enforcement Efforts: Deputies conducted a countywide operation targeting graffiti, catalytic converter theft, and burglaries, resulting in multiple arrests.

b. California Highway Patrol Liaison Officer/PIO Zachary Salazar O'Toole

PUBLIC INPUT:

1) Liz

Resident Liz, a lifelong community member, expressed concern about safety at **Los Robles Park**, where her daughters' basketball team practices in the evenings without proper lighting. She reported recent incidents involving graffiti, animal cruelty, and racial slurs and urged the **installation of lights** to improve safety and deter crime. Liz noted that Los Robles Park is an active community space, not a "passive park," and thanked the Sheriff's Department for their patrols while requesting stronger safety measures for local families and athletes.

2) Mary Torres

Mary Torres, speaking for Coach James and the youth basketball program at Los Robles Park, requested the **installation of lights** to improve safety and reduce vandalism. She noted that the nonprofit basketball club has supported local girls for nearly two years, but recent increases in unwanted activity have raised safety concerns. Lighting, she said, would enhance security, encourage park use, and help maintain Los Robles Park as a clean and safe community space.

3) Lauren Chow

Lauren Chow urged residents to strengthen fire protection by **upgrading home vents** to prevent embers from entering attics during wildfires. She noted that many major fires, such as the Palisades and Paradise fires, began as brush fires but spread when embers entered homes through standard quarter-inch vents. She recommended **installing finer 1/16-inch mesh vents** and emphasized that fire safety must be a **community-wide effort**, since one unprotected home can endanger others.

4) Peter Lai

A resident reported ongoing **traffic safety issues at the CA-60 freeway exit**, noting that cars exiting the freeway do not stop while local traffic must, creating confusion and frequent accidents. The interchange design is outdated and unable to handle today's heavy traffic, especially during peak hours. The resident also noted that the short distance to the nearby traffic light causes gridlock and blocked intersections. They have **reported the issue to Caltrans** several times over the past three years and urged improvements to **reduce speed and prevent collisions**.

5) Priscilla

Priscilla from Heights Worship Center announced two upcoming events: the **3rd Annual "Light the Night" Harvest Festival on October 25 from 2–6 PM**, a free family event with food and activities, and the **First Annual Golf Tournament on November 15 at Golf Center in Norwalk**, starting at 7:30 AM. Proceeds from the tournament will support **local community programs and mission work abroad**. She invited all residents to attend and noted that flyers are available for more information.

PRESENTATION

1. The safe community project provided by LA County.....Jonathan Cornejo

Representatives from **MySafe:LA**, a nonprofit fire-safety organization, discussed wildfire prevention, home hardening, and defensible space. They explained that modern wildfires are far more intense than in the past and often become **urban fires**, where homes fuel the flames. The presenters emphasized creating **defensible space** by clearing vegetation within five feet of structures and **hardening homes** with ember-resistant vents, roofs, and windows.

They encouraged forming **Fire Safe Councils** through CAL FIRE to help communities work together and access grant funding for safety improvements. The team also addressed **insurance changes** tied to new wildfire regulations taking effect in **January 2026** and recommended using alert systems like **Genesis Protect** and **Watch Duty** for evacuation notifications.

All MySafe:LA programs and home assessments are **free**, and the group offered to assist Hacienda Heights residents with wildfire preparedness and community safety planning.

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

a. Representative 1st Supervisorial District-Monthly Ryan Serrano

Ryan Serrano, Deputy District Director for **Supervisor Hilda Solis**, and **Joyce**, a new deputy fluent in Mandarin, provided community and county updates.

Ryan began by recognizing **Hispanic Heritage Month** and invited residents to attend the celebration at the Community Center on **Friday, September 15, from 4–6 PM**. He also shared progress on the new **Puente Hills Regional Park**, the county's first regional park in more than 35 years. **Phase 1 (48 acres)** is underway, with completion expected by December. **Phase 2 (148 acres)** will require additional funding and future oversight by the next administration.

Community members were invited to attend **input sessions** for nearby parks:

- **Manzanita Park:** September 23–24
- **Simons Park:** September 25

Ryan also highlighted **Alzheimer's Awareness Month** and encouraged residents to learn the early warning signs and seek medical evaluation when needed. He promoted **Coastal Cleanup Day** this Saturday, with a volunteer site at Whittier Narrows Park.

Addressing traffic concerns raised earlier regarding the **CA-60 and Fullerton Road exit**, Ryan clarified that the issue involves **multiple jurisdictions**. The County has completed its traffic studies and is now **working with Caltrans** on possible safety and signal improvements.

He introduced **Sergeant Castellanos** from the **Sheriff's Parking Enforcement Division**, who announced that parking enforcement is now a **24-hour operation** with new staffing and countywide coverage. Residents can report parking issues at any time. Sergeant Castellanos, a long-time law enforcement officer familiar with Hacienda Heights, encouraged residents to reach out directly with concerns.

In response to earlier public comments about lighting and safety at **Los Robles Park**, Ryan explained that it is designated a **passive park**, meaning it lacks official programming or staffing after dark, which limits the installation of lighting. He encouraged community members to work with the County on permitted park use options for safety and recreational activities.

Finally, Ryan provided an update on the **transitional housing project** at the former restaurant site. There is **no new commercial development planned**, and delays have been due to **SoCal Edison permitting**. The County expects to gain full control of the site by **late October or early November**. The 142-unit project will include **24/7 security, on-site management, workforce development, and rehabilitation services**. He emphasized that this will be **permanent supportive housing**, not a temporary shelter, with **strict background checks** and eligibility requirements to ensure resident and community safety.

b. Representative 38th Congressional District-Quarterly.....Yulissa Chavez

A representative from Congresswoman **Linda Sánchez's office** announced the **20th Annual Senior Fair**, to be held on **Thursday, October 3**, from **9:00 AM to 12:00 PM** at the **Cerritos College Performing Arts Center**.

The event will feature:

- **Free health screenings** and assistance with **Medicare, Social Security, veterans benefits, and food and housing programs**.
- **A Senior Scam Stopper Workshop**.
- **Free transportation** from local senior centers (registration required for headcount only).
- **Free parking and complimentary lunch** (while supplies last).

The event welcomes over **1,000 attendees annually**, and **no RSVP is required**. Flyers and contact information are available for anyone with questions.

c. 30th State Senate District-Quarterly/April Kyle Miller

d. 56th State Assembly District-Quarterly.....Steven Cornell

- The Governor has until **October 12** to sign or veto bills.
- Assembly member Calderon has **five bills** awaiting the Governor's action, including:
 - **AB 826** – Ensures the California FAIR Plan remains financially stable through additional liquidity.

- **AB 888** – Creates grants (up to \$5,000) for FAIR Plan policyholders to improve home hardening, prioritizing roof upgrades.
- One bill, **AB 1003 (Public Health: Lung Health)**, has already been signed by the Governor, building on prior efforts to address wildfire smoke health impacts.
- Regarding the **homeless encampment along Gale Ave**, Caltrans is aware and working on fencing improvements for Hacienda Heights and Rowland Heights. Residents should submit service tickets via the Caltrans CSR site and share ticket numbers with Steven for follow-up.
- Announced the **College & Career Fair on October 11 at Rio Hondo College**, featuring 48 colleges and 15 career/apprenticeship programs. Open to students and businesses interested in hiring.

e. Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority-As RequestedAndrea Gullo

- **Mid-Autumn Nature Walk:**

The Habitat Authority will host its **2nd annual Mid-Autumn Nature Walk in Powder Canyon (La Habra Heights)** on **Sunday, October 5**.

- Check-in: 8:00 AM | Hike starts: 8:30 AM
- Parking available in the canyon or along the street (arrive early to walk in).
- Complimentary **mooncakes** (while supplies last).
- Guided in **Mandarin, Cantonese, and English**.
- Event co-hosted with the **Rowland Heights Chinese Association**.
- **\$4.9 Million Wildfire Resiliency Grant:**
 - Funded by the **Rivers and Mountains Conservancy** and officially signed in August.
 - Supports wildfire prevention work, including:
 - **Vegetation clearance** along preserve perimeters for defensible space.
 - **Home hardening project** at an agency facility — gravel replacement in the “zone zero” area, fire-retardant paint, non-flammable deck materials (Trex), and vertical blinds for fire resistance.
 - **Board meeting:** Thursday, 9:30 AM – public may attend or join via Zoom. Agenda available at habitatauthority.org.
- **Measure PH Update:**
 - **Passed in November 2024** with over **68% voter approval**.
 - Funds not yet collected — expected **December 2025**, with spending plans beginning **January 2026**.
 - **Community Fiscal Oversight Advisory Committee:** Applications open through **Supervisor Solis’s office**.
 - **Citizens Technical Advisory Committee:** Additional openings available; applications also via District 1.

- **Wildfire Preparedness & Education:**

- Comprehensive resources available on the Habitat Authority's **Wildfire Preparedness webpage**.
- Andrea will participate in a **Cal Fire & LA County Fire Department home hardening certification workshop** for community education and outreach.

- **Ongoing Public Hikes:**

- **"10,000 Steps Hike"** every **Thursday and Sunday at 4:00 PM** in Powder Canyon, led by volunteer docents.
- Details and registration available on the Habitat Authority website calendar.

f. Hacienda Heights Librarian-Monthly.....Chrstina Cabrea-Labrado

The library announced upcoming **adult programs**:

- **"Read White" Hispanic Heritage event** – *Tuesday, September 23*, featuring a **miniatures craft activity**.
- **Elder Scam Awareness Workshop** – *Friday, September 26 at 10:30 AM*, presented in partnership with the **Department of Mental Health Older Adult Services**.
- **Book Club** – *October meeting* will discuss *"Everything We Never Had"* by Randy Rebec.

g. Hsi Lai TempleAvelyn Busch

- **Parenting Workshop ("CHIP – Communication Help Interactive for Parents")** – *Friday, October 4, 1:00–5:00 PM at Hsi Lai Temple*.

A hands-on parenting program offering expert guidance and real-life skill-building for parents of adolescents. **Free admission**, with **on-site childcare provided**.

- **Evening Under the Moon – Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration** – *Friday, October 4, 5:30–8:00 PM*.

A festive evening featuring **lantern decorating, tea meditation, live music, candlelight offering**, and cultural activities. Free and open to the public.

- **One-Day Meditation Retreat** – *Friday, October 18*.

A full-day mindfulness retreat for ages **15 and older**, focused on relaxation and reflection.

h. LA Co. Parks & Recreation-Monthly.....Brian Ceballo

- **Park Operations:**

Oversees all Hacienda Heights parks, including **Steinmetz, Manzanita, Los Robles, Orange Grove, Thomas Burton, Countrywood, and Pet Park.**

- **Community parks** (Steinmetz, Manzanita, Simons) host programs and staffed activities.
- **Passive parks** (Los Robles, Orange Grove, Countrywood, etc.) have no regular programming and are **first-come, first-served** for public use.
- Hacienda Heights has **one splash pad** (at Steinmetz Park) and **no swimming pools.**

- **Facility Improvements:**

- All County parks received **upgraded basketball courts** through funding from the **LA Clippers.**
- **Los Robles Park** received a full concrete rebuild, repainting, and new backboards.
- **Simons Park** will have its **parking lot lines redone** this year, based on public input from last year's meeting.

- **Community Input Meetings (Five-Year Plan):**

- Residents are encouraged to attend and share feedback on programs, amenities, and maintenance needs.
- Meetings run **7:00–8:00 PM:**
 - **Manzanita Park:** September 23
 - **Steinmetz Park:** September 24
 - **Simons Park:** September 25

- **Reservations and Website Info:**

- Main reservation site: **reservations.lacounty.gov**
 - For gazebo, field, and room rentals at most parks.
- For **Steinmetz Community Center rentals**, contact staff directly for availability and pricing.
- Note: The **parks.lacounty.gov** website is limited and not regularly updated; use the **ActiveNet system** for current programs and classes.

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Membership Update..... Bala Venkataraman
- b. Public Relation Update..... Alitzah Wiener

PRESIDENT CLOSING..... David Fang/ Alitzah Wiener

The next monthly HHIA Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday October 20, 2025 at 7:00PM at Hacienda Heights Community Center located at: 1234 Valencia Ave., Hac. Hgts., CA 91745

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00pm

The next HHIA Board of Directors meeting---9/18/2025 6:30PM

**Minutes Submitted by Andy Guo, Secretary
Entered into record after approval**

Andy Guo

10/10/2025

Secretary Signature

Date