

Guests

Kimberly Hatter, Mayor's Office
CM Michael Kubosh
John Gibbs, CM Michael Kubosh's Office
CM Robert Gallegos
Daniel Santamaria, CM Gallegos' Office
Lindsey Ray, CM Amanda Edwards' Office
Katie Stewart, CM Karla Cisneros' Office
Samuel Pena, HFD
Teresa Geisheker, Planning & Development Dept.
Alyce Coffee, PWE-Solid Waste Management
Monica Vasquez, PWE
Rashad Cave, Department of Neighborhoods
Rhonda Sauter, Citizens Assistance Office, DON
Amanda Timm, Local Initiative Support Corp.
Margaret Dunlap, METRO
Chelbi Mims, One Word
Jessica Wiggins, Bike Houston
Ashley Johnson, LINK Houston

Super Neighborhood Representatives
Philip Salerno, SNC 05
Ricky Miller, SNC 05
Mark Klein, SNC 12
Pedro Ayarzagoitia, SNC 15

Super Neighborhood Representatives
Greg Sergesketter, SNC 16
Randy Jones, SNC 16
Jack O'Connor, SNC 17
Michael Huffmaster, SNA Chairman, SNC 18
Judson Bryant, SNC 18
Jane West, SNA Past-Chairwoman, SNC 22
Mike Van Dusen, SNC 22
Margaret Poissant, SNC 22
Kay Warhol, SNC 24
Doug Smith, SNC 25
Sandra Rodriguez, SNC 27
Harold L. Harris, SNC 31
John Nienhuser, SNC 32
Huey German Wilson, SNC 48
Ken Williams, SNC 48
Albert Coleman, SNC 49/50
Juan Sorto, SNC 49/50
Randall Baxley, SNC 51
Cheryl Baxley, SNC 51
Keith Downey, SNC 52
Bridgette Murray, SNC 57
Kathleen O'Reilly, SNC 66
Tomaro Bell, SNC 82
Scott Cubbler, SNC 84

I. Introductions and Approval of Minutes from August, October, and November 2017 Meetings:

Deferred due to late distribution.

II. Harvey Recovery Team Progress Report, Amanda Timm

Amanda Timm of LISC (Local Initiatives Support Corporation) together with Department of Neighborhoods Director Takasha Francis is leading the post-Harvey neighborhood recovery effort. This effort is aimed at building support systems in neighborhoods and ensuring that neighborhood voices are heard. Ms. Timm reported that the first Neighborhood Restoration Center has opened at the Kashmere Gardens Multi-Service Center, 4802 Lockwood Dr., Houston, TX 77026. So far this

center is open one day a week on Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. offering case management and other services. Additional non-profit provided services are expected to be added in the future. Seven additional Neighborhood Restoration Centers are expected to be opened in the coming weeks. Harvey Recovery Team leader Marvin Odom and other team leaders have been in Washington, D.C. working to secure resources and team members here at home have been working to insure that Houston is ready to receive resources when they arrive. Press releases and other information about the Harvey Recovery Team's progress are available at www.HoustonRecovers.org.

Chairman Huffmaster added that since the November SNA meeting a number of related meetings have been held, including an informative Greater Houston After Harvey Symposium hosted by the Houston Chronicle. The emphasis at the Chronicle's symposium was the need to get organized and mobilized quickly to attract resources needed to recovery from Harvey and to mitigate the impacts of the next hurricane. See www.HoustonChronicle.com/Harvey.

III. Houston Fire Department: Chief Samuel Pena

Chief Pena opened by stating that he's been in Houston almost a year and during that time Houston has hosted the Super Bowl, endured Hurricane Harvey, watched the Astros win the World Series, and watched snow fall. Regarding HFD's response to Hurricane Harvey, Chief Pena reported that the 311 emergency call center was overwhelmed and that people mistakenly assumed it stopped functioning. That was not true. The 311 system remained in service throughout the storm but response time was slow due to the exceedingly high volume of calls; at one point there were over 1,000 calls waiting for service. Fortunately, community members stepped in to help. Approximately 1,000 of HFD's 3,000 personnel were on duty throughout the storm and their service was above-and-beyond the call of duty. Some HFD employees worked 3-4 days straight because others could not reach their locations to relieve them. HFD did the best it could with only 10 boats and one highwater rescue vehicle which arrived the Friday the storm made landfall in Rockport. HFD used PWE dump trucks as rescue vehicles; each dump truck holds 38 people. Who knew? HFD did not have a sufficient number of radios to maintain contact with all of the PWE vehicles in operation. Since the storm City Council and a number of corporate partners have taken action to fund the purchase of 2 highwater rescue vehicles and to acquire a commitment for a third such vehicle.

Three fire stations were lost, #26 on Dixie Road, #78 in Memorial, and #104 in Kingwood. HFD also lost 28 vehicles, including 6 fire trucks which do not function well in highwater. HFD's aging fleet has been an issue for some time. Pumper trucks cost @ \$500,000 each and remain in service @ 20 years but optimally are move to reserve status after 12 years. Best practice is to maintain the fleet by replacing @ 7-8% of the vehicles each year. The recently passed bond initiative is expected to provide \$10M per year for fleet maintenance for each of the next 5 years. HFD needs \$10M per year every year to maintain the fleet properly.

One of HFD's long term goals is to deploy better technology to insure that vehicles responding to emergency calls are matched to the need. Today, the goal is to respond to a call for service within 6 minutes. To achieve this goal the closest vehicles are deployed regardless of the need. This practice wastes resources by deploying fire trucks to calls for medical assistance. HFD receives 900-1,000 calls per day, @ 80% of which are for medical emergencies including vehicular collisions. Approximately 60% of the calls are for basic life support and @ 25% are "frequent fliers," i.e., people who call 3 or more times per year. Working to route "frequent flyers" to better primary healthcare services promises to reduce both call volume and response cost. Chief Pena said that in the last budget every city department was required to shoulder a 15% cut. HFD's annual budget is @ \$481M, 85% of which is wages and benefits,

and 15% equipment.

In response to questions from the audience, Chief Pena said that HFD has entered mutual response agreements with departments in other area jurisdictions, but that in events like Hurricane Harvey those agreements are not helpful because all available resources are in high demand. He said that before the storm hit HFD tried to deploy rescue equipment to areas most likely to flood, e.g., Meyerland and Greenspoint, but because flooding occurred throughout the city there just weren't enough resources. He said that citizen-owned resources proved to be very helpful but acknowledged that the citizen-assisted response was ad hoc, and that an organized Community Emergency Response Team ("CERT") approach like that taken in other places could be helpful in the future. He noted, however, that there were examples of citizen rescuers who needed to be rescued themselves and that some died trying to help others.

IV. New Business

- A. Nominating Committee:** Chairman Huffmaster reported that Doug Parrish (SNC 17) was unable to serve on the nominating committee and that Tomaro Bell agreed to serve in his place. Thus the nominating committee consisted of Cindy Chapman (SNC 37), Albert Coleman (SNC 49/50), and Tomaro Bell (SNC 83). Tomaro Bell reported the committee's nominations for 2018 officer positions as follows: Chairman-Michael Huffmaster (SNC 18); Vice-President-Juan Sorto (SNC 49/50) and Secretary-Jane West (SNC 22). Elections will be held at the January 8, 2018, meeting. Ms. Bell called for additional nominations from the floor but none were made.
- B. Dockless Bike Pilot Program:** Mike Van Dusen (SNC 22) reported that members of the SNA's Executive Committee met with Maria Irshad from the COH's Parking Management Division on December 2nd to review the administration's proposal to pass an ordinance that creates a pilot program allowing the COH to license operators of dockless bike sharing services. Dockless bike sharing is a service in which bicycles are made available for shared use on a short-term basis. Bikes can be borrowed at point A and left at point B. Dockless bikeshare bicycles are generally located and paid for via a smart phone app. Cities such as Seattle, Washington, D.C., Durham, and Charlotte, N.C. have launched programs for this alternative mode of transportation. The city's proposed ordinance which was reviewed at the November meeting of City Council's Transportation, Technology, and Infrastructure committee, would create a 12-month pilot program that would allow the city to permit private operators while ensuring appropriate management of the public right-of-way, minimum safety standards, and relocation of bicycles as needed. The administration had planned to present a draft ordinance to City Council in December, but decided instead, to continue studying the issues. Issues of concern discussed with Ms. Irshad include: (1) Risk that riding and parking of large numbers of bicycles on sidewalks will impeded pedestrian traffic; (2) Risk that parking bicycles in the street along the curb at no cost will create conflict with drivers of motor vehicles who have to pay for curbside parking; (3) Risk that the proposed permitting and other fees are not sufficient to motivate operators to act responsibly or to cover potential costs to the city (e.g., for removing bicycles wrongfully parked); (4) Risk that the proposed ordinance allows use of public resources (i.e., streets and sidewalks) for private gain; and (5) Risk that Parking Management lacks sufficient resources to oversee thousands of bicycles that dockless bike sharing companies could deploy and that bicycles will become a nuisance not a benefit. For additional information including a copy of the draft ordinance and frequently asked questions see: <http://www.houstontx.gov/feedback-docklessbikeshare.html> Questions and comments may be sent to the following email address: parking@houstontx.gov.

District I CM Robert Gallegos expressed additional concerns about the administration's proposal to create a dockless bike sharing pilot program, e.g., (1) the ordinance requires bikes parked on sidewalks in a manner that leaves at least 6 ft. of clearance for pedestrians, but most city sidewalks are less than 6 ft. wide and many areas of the city do not have any sidewalks at all so leaving at

least 6 ft. of clearance will not be possible. (2) The proposed ordinance would allow each vendor to deploy 750 bicycles the first month of operation and 200 additional bicycles per month thereafter; the number of vendors is no limited so thousands of bicycles could be deployed; the large numbers of bicycles deployed in some places around the world create public nuisances. Dallas is an example of a city that was pleased to introduce dockless bike sharing but is no experiencing a public nuisance caused by bicycles left sprawled across sidewalks creating hazards for pedestrians and the disabled. CM Gallegos compared the potential public nuisance to that caused by abandoned shopping carts. CM Gallegos and CM Laster each use some of their council district service funds to pick up abandoned shopping carts. In the last six months alone, over 1,600 shopping carts have been picked up in District I, and over 3,000 have been picked up in District J. (3) The city lacks the resources needed to handle abandoned shopping carts and stray dogs; the city cannot reasonably be expected to have deploy resources sufficient to manage stray bicycles. (4) Deployment of dockless bike sharing bicycles in the center of the city threatens to undermine the city's investment in the B-Cycle or docked bike sharing program.

V. Old Business

A. Standing Committees

1. Liveability (Transportation and Parks; Steve Ashy): No report.
2. Infrastructure (Flooding and Drainage, Mark Klein):

Infrastructure Committee Chairman Mark Klein lead brief discussion of proposed Flood Mitigation Resolution which has expanded in scope from the 8-point document distributed in November to the current 16-point document attached hereto. Mr. Klein announced that the next meetings of the task force headed by Stephen Costello will be Wednesday, Dec. 13th and Wednesday, December 20th, from 3:30-5:50 p.m. at 601 Sawyer, Houston, TX 77007.

3. Growth and Economic Development (Ivory Mayhorn): No report.
4. Health, Public Safety, and Finance (Tomaro Bell): No report.
5. Transitions and Regulatory Affairs (Jane West): No report.

B. Advisory Committee Updates

1. Complete Communities: The website with relevant information including links to individual meetings and Neighborhood Support Teams (NSTs): www.houstontx.gov/completenesscommunities/
2. Walkable Places: No update.
3. Complete Streets: No update.
4. H-GAC Mobility: No update.

VI. Announcements and Open Comments (5 minutes)

Chairman Huffmaster announced that the next meeting will be January 8, 2018, and that an invitation has been extended to Mayor Turner to speak.

VII. Adjournment: 8:00 p.m. followed by holiday reception and refreshments hosted by CM Michael Kubosh and staff.