

# Super Neighborhood Alliance

## Minutes of Virtual General Meeting Held 13 June 2022



### Guests

Mark Wilfalk, SWMD Director  
Letitia Plummer, CM At-Large 4  
Alyce Coffey, SWMD  
Allison Hudson, OEM  
Teresa Geisheker, P&D  
Rhonda Sauter, DON  
Jack Valinski, DON  
Maria Bolanos, Staff for HCC Pct 2  
Jordan McGinty-Frazier, Staff for CM At-Large 5  
Gareth Morgans, Staff for CM At-Large 2  
DiDi Chavis, Staff for CM Dist K  
Joe Gatson, Staff for CM Dist K  
Travis Leamons, HTV  
Margaret Dunlap, METRO  
Sheri Cortez, HCDAO  
Mark Goldberg, Harris County ADA  
Roger Bridgewater, Staff for HCC Pct 3  
Christina Walsh, Staff for HD 148

Abner Lyons, Staff for HD 142  
Ricky Cardenas, TXDOT  
Mike Burns, H-GAC  
Kim Perry, Urban Harvest  
Deb Bonario-Martin  
Paula Parshall  
Kay Walton  
Rhonda Jones  
Roselyn Francis  
Jo August  
Alexandra del Moral Mealer  
John Geiss  
Keith Edgar  
Sakina Lanig  
Jean Worley  
George Ann Johnson  
Eleanor Bradley  
Marcy Williams

### Super Neighborhood Representatives

Philip Salerno, SNC 5  
Marie Carlisle, SNC 14  
George Frey, SNC 14  
Pedro Ayarzagotia, SNC 15  
Jeff Baker, SNC 17  
Mike VanDusen, SNC 22  
Stacie Fairchild, SNC 22  
Kay Warhol, SNC 24  
Doug Smith, SNC 25  
Barbara Quattro, SNC 25  
Sandra Rodriguez, SNC 27  
Kathie Easterly, SNC 28  
Terry Cominsky, SNC 31  
Cheryl O'Brien, SNC 32  
Naomi Ostfeld, SNC 36  
Sylvia Rivas, SNC 36

Cindy Chapman, SNC 37  
Becky Edmondson, SNC 37  
Stephen Polnaszek, SNC 38  
Huey German Wilson, SNC 48  
Roselyn Francis, SNC 49/50  
Joetta Stevenson, SNC 55  
Jim Honey, SNC 62  
Roy Lira, SNC 63  
Rosa Guzman, SNC 63  
Amy Dinn, SNC 64/88  
Gareth Morgans, SNC 65  
Kathleen O'Reilly, SNC 66  
Tomaro Bell, SNC 83  
Scott Cubbler, SNC 84  
Bart Harris, SNC 86

Meeting convened at 6:30 PM. [June 13, 2022 HTV Video Recording](#)

- I. **Acceptance of the Minutes of the May 9, 2022 General Meeting.** Stacie Fairchild made a motion to accept the May minutes as written into the record, and Tomaro Bell seconded the motion.

II. [Mark Wilfalk, City of Houston Solid Waste Management Director](#) – Director Wilfalk gave a presentation consisting of an organizational overview of Solid Waste, the department’s mission, services provided to Houstonians, its budget and major initiatives. Director Wilfalk has held every position in a solid waste department, so he understands the commitment and dedication it takes to operate and manage the department successfully. He believes the mission, vision and values are an integral part of the culture and is in the process of revamping them. The City of Houston’s SWMD is a dynamic, forward-facing department responsible for providing all types of essential solid waste services and beyond. The “beyond” includes litter abatement such as homeless encampment decommissioning. SWMD’s leadership is dedicated to getting the department to current century standards. Solid Waste is responsible for servicing 434,000 residents and 50 million house calls are made annually. Services include weekly residential waste and monthly tree/junk waste collection. The department also operates the junk waste and recycling drop-off facilities, the reuse warehouse, and handles debris management. Director Wilfalk has asked Mayor Turner for additional dollars (based on forecasting) to buy more equipment needed. One major initiative Houstonians will hear more about in the coming months is advanced recycling – it will broaden Solid Waste’s ability to expand the types of material the department can accept. Driver recruitment is under way with a new starting pay rate of 6%. Doug Smith asked for further explanation of the household sponsorships. Director Wilfalk said it’s a rather unique program for areas not serviced by the City of Houston. The city will reimburse residents up to \$6 per month towards a private service to help offset expenses. Kay Walton asked if there are any plans to put recycling centers in the downtown area. Director Wilfalk said yes that he and his team are considering opportunities to partner with private counterparts to address the challenges. Barbara Quattro asked for the director to expand on advanced recycling. The director explained the technology is now available to breakdown the molecular structure of all plastics and chemical profiles have been developed to take these chemicals from its polymer state to a monomer state and inject it into a system to close the loop on recycling. That means – in the future – SWMD will be able to accept plastic bags and rigid plastics as part of the curbside recycling program. This concept is being led by oil companies and Houston is the right market to launch this initiative. Pastor Deb Bonario asked if there is some discussion about seniors and low-income family considerations as it relates to introducing a garbage fee. Director Wilfalk said he is looking at a fee system similar to Houston Public Works water-fee structure. Discounts will be considered for seniors, the disabled and others. A rate structure will guarantee the ability to meet the need for equipment and employees. Tomaro Bell stressed the importance of having Alyce Coffey as part of the SWMD team and asked for confirmation that she isn’t going anywhere. The director assured Tomaro that Alyce is a valued part of the team. Gareth Morgans echoed Tomaro’s sentiments about Alyce Coffey. [Download SWMD Presentation here.](#)

[Allison Hudson, Office of Emergency Management](#), Disaster Preparedness – Allison encouraged everyone to have a plan when disaster hits. OEM is responsible for coordinating emergency response for the City of Houston, and the department provides information and services to residents, businesses and city departments, and coordinates Houston’s emergency response during times of disaster. The Emergency Operation Center is staffed with the relevant city departments during disasters, and the Joint Information Center has all the public information professionals. Allison stressed following through with the preparedness checklist: 1) Make and Practice your Family Emergency Plan; 2) Build an Emergency Kit; 3) Be Informed; and 4) Know your Neighbors. (See details for each on [slides 4-10.](#)) Allison reminded us that people with functional or access needs can build a support system by enlisting the help of friends, neighbors, family and caretakers. Know what

accommodations are needed daily and what special items are necessary for a disaster kit. Also, Allison recommends signing up anyone with disabilities on the State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry online at [texasstear.org](https://texasstear.org) or calling 211. You may purchase flood insurance at [FloodSmart.gov](https://FloodSmart.gov), find out your flood risk at [HarrisCountyFEMT.org](https://HarrisCountyFEMT.org) and get the latest updates on [NOAA Weather Alert Radio](https://NOAA.WeatherAlertRadio). Know your evacuation route and zone. When returning home or recovering from a disaster, see [slide 16](#) for considerations and assistance. [Slide 17](#) has a list of websites that include preparedness, emergency, recovery information and a way to report. The [OEM Disaster Guide](#) is available in multiple languages. Download the OEM [Disaster Preparedness Presentation here](#).

Mike Burns, Houston-Galveston Area Council Principal Planner – Mike shared the [2045 Regional Transportation Plan](#) and the survey to help forge a bold, new vision of transportation in the 8-county region. H-GAC will spend over \$100 million to improve safety and condition of assets, improve congestion and accommodation of all modes of travel. It will do this in a manner that's physically constrained and improves the region's economy, natural environment and cultural resources. The Plan is required to receive federal funds and gives a 20-year outlook that's updated every four years to align with Federal, State and Local vision. It evaluates performance measures and targets and assesses needs and priorities. From the input received during the vision's phase, H-GAC staff will develop a strategy to address needs and priorities. Later in the fall, H-GAC will come back with a second round of outreach in an effort to have a draft document for review and approve by April 2023 by the Transportation Policy Council.

- III. **SNA Pulse Survey** – Roy Lira, SNA Vice President, said the survey is extended through June 20, 2022 with 20 responses thus far. The results will help the SNA determine how we can help the Super Neighborhoods, and collectively find out what the Super Neighborhoods have in common to leverage resources over the next few years.
- IV. **City Budget Meetings** – Doug Smith shared that the City of Houston FY23 budget was passed last week. Two takeaways are 1) the budget did not pass unanimously, there were two no votes; 2) the city received \$370 million in [ARPA funds](#) and all of the funds went to cover the current operating expenses except for \$30 million used to increase the fund balance. The city is set to receive another \$360 million in 2023. The question is where are they going to come up with the money to make up for it.

Stacie Fairchild recognized and thanked Department of Neighborhoods director, Takasha Francis, for including the Super Neighborhood Alliance in her FY23 budget. As a result, the SNA will continue to be carried live on HTV Television for another year. Stacie thanked Mayor Turner and City Council for approving it.

- V. **Announcements** – At-Large 4 Council Member, Letitia Plummer, announced that the city administration approved eight health/habitability inspectors for apartment complexes. CM Plummer is working with City Legal to write the [Apartment Inspection Reform Ordinance](#) to address problems residents have with slum lords.

Jordan Frazier, staff for At-Large 5 Council Member Sallie Alcorn, shared that at the Regulatory and Neighborhood Affairs committee meeting on July 12 there would include presentations and

discussion about prohibited yard parking of junk motor vehicles and 18-wheelers parking on neighborhood streets. [Scroll to July 12, 2022 for the agenda and many presentations.](#)

Sheri Cortez, staff for HCDAO, reminded everyone to look before you lock your vehicle. This year, 23 children have died from being left in hot vehicles. It only takes three minutes for brain injury to occur. [Download the flyer to share here.](#) Sheri also reminded everyone to not store guns in vehicles. On average, 10 guns are stolen every day out of vehicles.

Harris County ADA, [Mark Goldberg](#), who works in the Environmental Crimes Division anyone who knows of an area where chronic illegal dumping is occurring on public property to please send him the location, the license plate and before-and-after photos (if possible) as evidence. He will follow up and can put up cameras if needed. As a result, Mark is having success with prosecutions because once the violator is confronted with the evidence, they typically accept the punishment. Email Mark at [Goldberg\\_mark@dao.hctx.net](mailto:Goldberg_mark@dao.hctx.net) to report or ask questions.

Joe Gaston, staff for VMPT Martha Castex-Tatum, invited everyone to attend the Juneteenth 6-mile celebration bike ride starting at 9:00 AM at the HPD Southwest Command Station.

Roger Bridgewater, staff for Harris County Precinct 3 Commissioner Tom Ramsey, shared that because of redistricting, the commissioner wants to engage with new constituents. Roger asked for all Super Neighborhoods in Precinct 3 to reach out to him at [Roger.Bridgewater@pct3.hctx.net](mailto:Roger.Bridgewater@pct3.hctx.net).

Christina Walsh, staff for HD 148 State Representative, Penny Morales Shaw, said the representative is conducting a series of backpack events, visits to senior homes and looking forward to the next session in 2023.

Gareth Morgans, staff for At-Large 2 Council Member David Robinson, shared that the Transportation, Technology and Infrastructure committee meeting on June 17 at 10:00 AM will include discussing a variety of code changes including the national electric code. [June 17 Agenda](#) and [Houston Permitting Code Development presentation](#).

Mario Bolanos, staff for Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia, said Precinct 2 is handing out free hot spots, and all you need to do is call (713) 274-2222 to pre-register. If you have slow or no internet at home, you qualify.

Alexandra del Moral Mealer, political candidate running for Harris County Judge, said that she's focused on improving efficiency, delivering basic services such as public safety and infrastructure. She is happy to speak with anyone individually and asked that we visit her website for more information: <https://alexandramealer.com>

Sheri Cortez shared that Cindy Chapman received a Life Achievement Award from Houston Community College.

Tomaro Bell shared she was going back to City Council this week to thank them for standing with her Riverside community. Tomaro stressed the importance of keep the At-Large positions and the Riverside historic district proposal is a good example of the At-Large council members stepping in to support the community.

Roy Lira reminded everyone that the redistricting process is still open at [letstalkhouston.org/redistricting](http://letstalkhouston.org/redistricting) and supported Tomaro Bell's comments about the importance of keeping the City Council At-Large positions.

**VI. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.