

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA

PUBLIC SAFETY
COMMITTEE

CHAIR VICE CHAIR
JJ Popowich Marilyn Robinson

MEMBERS

Dwight Burgess
Herbert Schwartz
James Valdez



WINNETKA
NEIGHBORHOOD
COUNCIL

Mailing Address:
Winnetka Neighborhood Council
PO Box 3692
Winnetka, CA 91396

TELEPHONE: 818-781-0016
FAX: 818-781-0929

www.winnetkaneighborhoodcouncil.org

WINNETKA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

To: Council Members, Public
From: J.J. Popowich, Secretary
Date: January 24, 2005
Subject: Public Safety Meeting Minutes 01/17/05

1. Call to Order and Committee Members Roll Call.

JJ Popowich	Marilyn Robinson	Dwight Burgess	James Valdez
Herbie Schwartz: Excused			

2. Approval of minutes.

2.1. Deferred to next meeting

3. State and local government representatives' updates: LAPD, Fire, and any other local, state, or federal officials that wish to attend to discuss items of importance to the Public Safety Committee.

3.1. Mr. Popowich announced that he had sent an email to Councilmember Smith's office asking for someone to come to our meeting to discuss his proposal. Unfortunately he said he has not received any response to his inquiry.

4. Presentation, discussion and possible action on a request for recognition and support by Mr. Ed Castillo in his efforts to establish a Medical Reserve Corp team for Winnetka & surrounding areas.

4.1. Mr. Popowich said he would defer since Mr. Castillo failed to show up for the meeting.

5. Discussion and possible action on deciding whether the Public Safety Committee will support one of the three public safety initiatives that are being discussed by City officials for the March and May Ballots.

- Mayor Hahn's "Safer Communities Measure" which proposes raising sales tax rates in Los Angeles by 1/2 cent to cover the cost of hiring more police and fire personnel.
- Councilmember Smith's proposal to find additional funds within the City's current budget.
- A possible proposal by Councilmember Padilla that calls for a sales tax increase, but relegates the money to the general fund.

Each will be discussed and the Committee will take a position on each.

5.1. Mr. Popowich opened the discussion and passed out various emails and information pertaining to the proposals.

5.2. Ms. Robinson stated that she feels that we shouldn't be taxed anymore.

5.3. Mr. Valdez agreed. He said that he finds it funny that they are going to set up a community oversight committee to manage the funds.

- 5.4. Ms. Robinson said that the NC's shouldn't be used for this.
- 5.5. Mr. Valdez said he is tired of hearing about the Mayor using money.
- 5.6. A stakeholder commented that we should clarify how much money goes to each community. He said it might be worth it if we are going to see a return to this area, but if it goes to other areas than it's a problem.
- 5.7. Ms. Robinson wondered how many new police officers they would hire.
- 5.8. A stakeholder asked if it wouldn't be better to use bonds for this.
- 5.9. Mr. Popowich stated that he likes Councilmember Smith's proposal to find money that can be saved in the budget and redistributed into a special fund.
- 5.10. Ms. Robinson said she also didn't like the idea funds going to the General Fund.
- 5.11. Mr. Valdez commented that they should use the funds they collect from violations which are routed to the General Fund now.
- 5.12. Mr. Popowich said he would like to draft a letter to go out to all the City Council representatives that states we don't support a sales tax increase, nor do we support a measure placing funds into the General Fund.
- 5.13. Ms. Robinson said she would like to state that there are other ways to do this.
- 5.14. Mr. Popowich made the following motion:

WNC-PS-011705-1: "I move that the WNC Public Safety Committee draft a letter to go to all City Council members and Mayor Hahn stating that we do not support his 1/2 cent sales tax increase, and we certainly object to any sales tax increases that add funds to the General Fund. Furthermore that we believe any tax increase should specifically state the benefits in terms of resources, numbers of police, and the general communities they will be assigned to. In addition the letter will state that we recommend that Councilmember Smith's recommendation to find resources within the budget through efficiencies and set up a specific fund for police and fire only."

- 5.15. Ms. Robinson seconded the motion.
- 5.16. Mr. Popowich called roll and the motion passed 4 – 0.

6. Discussion and possible action about issuing a statement to D.O.N.E., the media, and other NC's regarding the appropriateness of D.O.N.E.s efforts to educate the NCs about the Mayor's "Safer Communities" measure.

- 6.1. Mr. Popowich read the original email that started the controversy on this issue as well as the Charter which he said indicated that part of D.O.N.E.'s responsibility was to educate and facilitate communication between NC's and City departments.
- 6.2. Ms. Robinson stated that based on what Mr. Popowich read it sounded like they were within their boundaries. She said she believes the Mayor overstepped his boundaries, but D.O.N.E. is within theirs.
- 6.3. Mr. Valdez said they are supposed to present contrary opinions.
- 6.4. Ms. Robinson said she thinks that they were wrong after all and the Mayor misused his authority. She said that's not what we are set up to do.
- 6.5. Mr. Burgess had no comment.
- 6.6. Mr. Valdez said he thinks D.O.N.E. is there to support and set up NC's, not to push things downwards. He said their primary job is to report issues up to City Hall.
- 6.7. Mr. Popowich explained that he felt the previous major issues were decided in private and the NC's were not included (and he referred to IZ and other issues). For the first time the City is coming to us first.

- 6.8. A stakeholder said the Mayor should use D.O.N.E. to present info not to push his agenda.
- 6.9. Ms. Robinson said there are a lot of issues that will be decided. We should find money in the government that is already there. She went on to comment that the City Council and other departments are not going to share their power.
- 6.10. Mr. Valdez asked if they would be using the info they collect at the forums to place it on the ballot.
- 6.11. Mr. Popowich said the opportunity exists for the NC's to take the power, but the NC has to step up and do it. He said that as long as he is on this NC he will work to make sure that we take the power and use it. He then proposed the following motion:
- WNC-PS-011705-2: The WNC Public Safety Committee will issue a letter stating that we encourage D.O.N.E. to bring issues before the NC's with balanced panels for educational purposes only. In addition we feel that Mayor Hahn overstepped his bounds and misused his authority to push his agenda.*
- 6.12. Mr. Burgess seconded the motion.
- 6.13. Mr. Popowich asked for objections and the motion was passed 4 -0.

7. Discussion and possible action on how to reach out to the Neighborhood Watch program and work with them.

- 7.1. Mr. Popowich introduced the next item and said he would like to see more outreach to the NW groups. He announced that thanks to SLO Rodriguez the NW newsletter is now posted on the web site. He asked others present what we can do to reach out.
- 7.2. Ms. Robinson asked if this wasn't something the Outreach & Events Committee shouldn't deal with.
- 7.2.1. Mr. Popowich said that since it's a committee specific item he would like to deal with it here.
- 7.3. Ms. Robinson suggested we create a flyer to be handed out at the NW meetings.
- 7.4. Mr. Burgess asked who would print the flyers.
- 7.5. Ms. Robinson asked if we were reaching out to only those who attend the meetings.
- 7.6. Mr. Popowich confirmed he wants to reach out to all of Winnetka. He went on to say that he envisions the NW as being the eyes and ears of this committee. He said as we move to do more public works projects, events and so on we need their input so we know what areas to address.
- 7.7. Ms. Robinson commented that Runnymede Park has problems with gambling and drugs.
- 7.8. Mr. Valdez asked about property crime and said it seems like the police don't focus on that.
- 7.9. Ms. Robinson said that when they worked with the police in their area and created a strong NW they were able to clear out Quimby Park.
- 7.10. Mr. Valdez commented that the homeless problem is increasing.
- 7.11. Ms. Robinson said we need more block captains.
- 7.12. Mr. Popowich asked to bring the subject back on track. He again asked how we got the folks to come back to us and bring their issues. For example he said if we didn't have an active NW here at Quimby Park he wouldn't have known about their problems. Which is why we need their input.
- 7.13. Stakeholders asked are trying to get more people to join.
- 7.13.1. Mr. Popowich commented that they were not trying to get additional members, but we do want feedback.
- 7.14. A brief discussion followed about how to set up an NW in a specific area.
- 7.15. Mr. Popowich introduced the following motion:

WNC-PS-011705-3: The WNC Public Safety Committee should issue a letter to each SLO covering portions of Winnetka and ask that they attend our meetings if possible and ask their NW group to attend our meetings and let us know their concerns in the community.

7.16. Mr. Burgess asked if the SLO would be getting volunteers and let us knows.

7.17. Mr. Popowich said we could ask them to have a rep here each week.

7.18. Mr. Valdez commented that it was good to see more people. He would like to see the police come to our meetings. He explained that he thinks the best way to find out information is to get the police to come.

7.19. Mr. Valdez seconded the motion and Mr. Popowich called roll. Motion passed 4-0

8. Public Comments – Comments from the public on non-agenda items within the Committee’s subject matter jurisdiction.

A stakeholder commented about setting up a NW in his area. A brief discussion about his area, the process for setting up an NW and related items.

9. Committee Business –

- A. Comments on Committee Member’s own activities/ brief announcements.
- B. Brief response to statements made or questions posed by persons exercising their general public comment rights.
- C. Introduction of any new issues for consideration by the Committee at its next meeting/request that the item be placed on the next meeting’s agenda.
- D. Requests for Committee Members to research issues and report back to the Committee at a future time.

6. Adjournment