

WINNETKA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA

Public Safety Committee

Chair JJ Popowich
Vice Chair Marilyn Robinson

Members
Dwight Burgess
Marilyn Robinson
Suzie Grinley



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To: Council Members, Public
From: J.J. Popowich, Secretary
Date: September 20, 2004
Subject: Public Safety Meeting Minutes 09/20/04

- 1. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM.**
- 2. Roll Call:** The following Public Safety Committee members were in attendance.

JJ Popowich	Marilyn Robinson	Dwight Burgess	James Valdez
			Bob Tritt - Absent

- 3. Discussion and possible action on a request by the LAPD for financial assistance for printing the "Victim's Brochure" that is sent out by the department when someone has been the victim of a crime.**

- 3.1. Mr. Popowich opened introduced the agenda item for discussion.
- 3.2. Ms. Robinson said that she had been contacted by one of the Captains and asked to support this request.
- 3.3. Mr. Burgess asked if they were asking for actual funds.
- 3.4. Ms. Robinson said that they were looking for a total of \$1300.00 form Neighborhood Councils.
- 3.5. Mr. Popowich said he had an issue providing additional funds since tax dollars already go to fund the LAPD.

- 3.6. A stakeholder said the money isn't going where it should in the LAPD.
- 3.7. Ms. Robinson said that she had raised funds in the past for the LAPD. She asked if we were even allowed to give them the money.
- 3.8. Mr. Popowich said he thinks they can since they are part of the City. We do have unassigned funds in the budget and all we can do is recommend to provide assistance or not to.
- 3.9. Mr. Valdez said that the LAPD doesn't really seem very responsive and interested in helping people. He said that he has had to call them and all he can do is leave a message.
- 3.10. A stakeholder commented that back east they have a Victims Crime Bureau. If you are a victim of a crime then you are referred to them and in some cases they even provide some financial assistance.
- 3.11. Ms. Robison commented that she has an issue with providing funds. She pointed out that we hardly have any police cars assigned to the Winnetka area.
- 3.12. A stakeholder commented that he doesn't even see one in his area. He just doesn't understand why we don't have them.
- 3.13. Mr. Popowich commented that he doesn't really see the service they are providing with the flyer.
- 3.14. Mr. Burgess stated this is not the first time they have asked for money.
- 3.15. Ms. Robinson commented they should do a fund raiser.
- 3.16. Mr. Burgess made a motion to decline support.
- 3.17. Mr. Valdez seconded the motion.
- 3.18. Mr. Popowich asked if they could amend the motion to state that the brochure did not provide any valuable reference or referrals to support agencies to actually assist the victims. Both Mr. Burgess and Mr. Valdez agreed to amend the motion.
- 3.19. Mr. Popowich called roll on the following motion:

WNC-PS-092004-1: Recommendation to decline funding for Victims Assistance Pamphlet: *The Public Safety Committee recommends that we decline the request for printing assistance for this brochure. In addition, the WNC would like to state that the brochure does not provide any valuable references or referrals to victim assistance agencies.*

The motion passed 4 – 0.

4. Discussion and possible action to address the lack of LAPD response to the widespread illegal use of fireworks during the month of July. This will include a discussion on

notification of the citizens of Winnetka about the penalties for possession and use of fireworks in the City of Los Angeles (Valdez)

- 4.1. Mr. Popowich introduced the item and turned it over to Mr. Valdez for more information.
- 4.2. Mr. Valdez explained that one of the problems he sees is the total lack of response to fireworks that are set off by citizens. He said that he has had this problem for some time and it even happens as late as 2 AM.

He went on to point out that they are a safety hazard and could cause property damage if they hit a house. They are basically an explosive device. He witnessed during July that some set off a rocket with the police just one block away, close enough to see and hear the fireworks. He attempted to report it and it took 2 hours only to be told by an officer that they had 50 calls and that he shouldn't bother calling them. He questioned why we pay taxes for this service.

- 4.3. Ms. Robinson said they are not a violent crime so you are placed way down on the list. She passed around a copy of a letter that she sent out to her neighbors with the approval of the Senior Lead Office for the Neighborhood Watch program in her area. This year they had absolutely no problems.
- 4.4. Mr. Burgess agrees with Ms. Robinson and explained how it came about and that there were not fireworks this year.
- 4.5. Mr. Valdez pointed out that it's not just kids who are setting these off but adults too. He also pointed out that you can't buy them in the area so the adults have to go get them.
- 4.6. A stakeholder said that the state should pass a fireworks ban. In his experience police protection was usually tripled during the July 4th holiday.
- 4.7. Mr. Popowich pointed out the police are busy enforcing the gun laws which are even more dangerous than the fireworks.
- 4.8. Mr. Valdez gave the example of Ventura which spent about \$70,000.00 in OVT during the holiday and picked up about \$200,000.00 in fine and ticket revenue.
- 4.9. Mr. Popowich asked Mr. Valdez what specifically he would like the WNC to do.
- 4.10. Mr. Valdez said he would like us to send a letter asking the LAPD to explain what they are doing to address the problem and enforce the laws. He would like them to provide the specifics.
- 4.11. Mr. Burgess asked Mr. Valdez what he would do with it.
- 4.12. Mr. Valdez said it's just funny they can spend time on traffic issues but can't enforce these laws.

4.13. Mr. Popowich offered to ask the SLO to come to the next PS meeting to explain what the LAPD does to prevent and enforce fireworks laws. He asked Ms. Robinson to get him the contact info since she had contacts with the LAPD.

4.14. Ms. Robinson and Mr. Valdez agreed this would be acceptable.

5. Discussion and possible action on the telephone and field response time between the LAPD West Valley and Devonshire Divisions to felonies committed in Winnetka. (Valdez)

5.1. Mr. Popowich introduced the next item and asked Mr. Valdez if we could wrap this up with the last item on the agenda.

5.2. Mr. Valdez said that would be fine. He explained that he calls and gets disconnected without any answers. In some cases he has had to call the West Valley station to be transferred to the Devonshire Division.

5.3. Mr. Popowich commented it sounds like an IVR issue with their telephone.

5.4. A stakeholder commented that he has had to call them more than one time and when he finally got through he was told there were no cars available.

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

6.1. Ms. Robinson asked if we could add an item on the agendas since Mr. Popowich left it off by accident. She would like us to vote on the remaining positions since we said we would do it last meeting in this meeting.

6.1.1. Mr. Popowich agreed that we can vote to place the item on the agenda. All agreed to place it on the agenda.

7. Discussion and possible action nominating Mr. Herbert Schwartz to the Public Safety Committee’s vacant seat.

7.1. Ms. Robinson nominated Mr. Schwartz to the vacant seat.

7.2. Mr. Burgess seconded the nomination.

7.3. Mr. Popowich called a vote and the motion passed 4 – 0.

8. Committee Business:

A. Comments on Committee Member’s own activities/ Brief announcements.

- Mr. Popowich announced that he is trying to get someone from the Measure A campaign to present the measure to the PS Committee. He hopes to have this by the next meeting.

- Mr. Popowich updated the Committee on the status of CERT in the area and the plans that he has made to improve the local battalion.
- B. Brief response to statements made or questions posed by persons exercising their general public comment rights.
- N/A
- 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.
- N/A
- D. Requests for Committee Members to research issues and report back to the Committee at a future time.
- N/A

9. Meeting adjourned.