

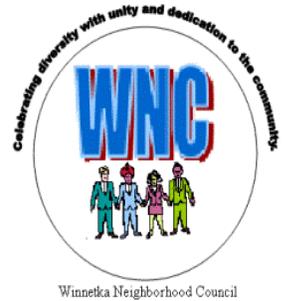


# WINNETKA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

PO Box 3692, Winnetka, CA 91306

(818) 648-6219

[www.winnetkanc.com](http://www.winnetkanc.com)



## PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

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JJ Popowich

Vice Chair

Marilyn  
Robinson

Committee Members

Dwight  
Burgess

Herbie  
Schwartz

Open

Open

Open

To: Council Members, Public

From: J.J. Popowich, Secretary

Date: April 18, 2005

Subject: Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes 04/18/05

### 1. Call to Order and Committee Members Roll Call.

JJ Popowich	Marilyn Robinson	Dwight Burgess	Herbie Schwartz
			James Valdez – Resigned

### 2. Approval of minutes.

2.1. Mr. Popowich tabled this until the next meeting so all members could have a chance to review and comment.

### 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. Senior Lead Officer (SLO) Rodriguez introduced herself. She brought a copy of the current crime distribution map to hand out to everyone. She said that so far crime is down about 13.5% from 2004-2005 in the West Valley and about 30% across the Valley. Burglary thefts from autos are still the largest crime bucket especially across the West Valley. SLO Rodriguez pointed out that usually the cars that are broken into have items that are very visible (i.e. stereos, lap tops, purses and other items left on seats). A majority of these tend to happen around Roscoe and Sherman Way and in apartments areas. These thefts usually occur late at night and in the early morning hours.

She recommended everyone not leave of any items of any value in the car. She even suggested that we leave the glove boxes open showing there is nothing of value in the car. There are a few air bag burglaries, but not a lot of them. She suggested motion sensor lighting if you live in a single family dwelling that goes off when someone comes by. Alarms are somewhat beneficial as they can scare some thieves away. Stolen vehicles are also is a problem throughout the area.

Overall burglaries [home] are down across the West Valley. She said that these are usually during the day.

SLO Rodriguez announced the grand opening of the West Valley station last week. She also let us know that it should be fully operational by the first week of May. Once they move into the new office she will distribute new phone numbers, because they are all going to change. Each SLO will have their own lines and extension.

3.2. A stakeholder said he lives on Saticoy and Oakdale and has a business. He said that sometimes he parks a trailer in front of this house. He has had a problem in that area. A few months ago he parked his son's car in front of his house and it was car was broken into. A few weeks later a van was broken into. Last Saturday he said the police caught someone in the alley stealing stereos. Last night he parked a trailer on the street and the entire trailer was stolen. He believes that it may be a neighbor who doesn't like him parking the trailer.

3.2.1. SLO R said she doesn't really think it's the neighbor. She spoke about the parking issues that are around trailers and boats on the street. She said the law is that it has to be moved every two days and it has to be moved at least one mile. She said as long as you do that you won't have a problem. She said that the property crime in the West Valley is the major problem. She said that because we have a lot of property here, people come from out of the area to steal the property. She

recommended the more theft prevention you can do ahead of time the better the chance of preventing it. The police will do everything they can to catch the perpetrators.

3.3. Ms. Robinson said a neighbor caught two kids in the wash painting graffiti. They could not get through to 911, so the neighbor went down to the police station. They police did come out and catch them and one had an outstanding warrant for a concealed weapon.

3.3.1. Mr. Popowich said that he had tried to reach 911 for a mobile home fire and could not get through or even get a line.

3.3.2. SLO Rodriguez suggested that in the case of 911 is not working, you can call the non-emergency dispatch at 1-877-ASK LAPD, and they can connect you to the emergency line. In addition, you can also use 311 and they can connect you over. She noted that 311 works from cell phones as well. That number will also go through to any city entity. She went on to say that she also brought the most recent copy of the Neighborhood Watch newsletter.

3.4. Mr. Burgess the stakeholder who's trailer was stolen if he had Lojack mounted on their his trailer.

3.4.1. SLO Rodriguez said Lojack and OnStar are good services. However she went on to say that in cases of OnStar can be disabled (**Secretary Note: I have omitted how this can be done**). Lojack allows us to triangulate the signal and we can locate it ourselves. OnStar is done by Satellite and relayed to the Police. Both are pretty good systems.

3.5. Mr. Popowich asked if she knows if any the graffiti is tracked and entered into a database.

3.5.1. SLO Rodriguez said pictures are taken in some cases. The West Valley Alliance will photograph it and send it to SLO Ray Rodriguez if you request it. You do have to sign a waiver to have it painted over so that is when you would request it. SLO Ray Rodriguez can be contacted directly and he will work with the school and other entities to try and find the tagger. If you think its gang related then you can call him (SLO Ray Rodriguez: 818-756-8541). If they can determine the person they will take the person to court as well as his parents. This has seen some great success.

**4. Discussion and possible action on purchasing a camera's for the CHP school parking taskforce. CHP Officer Leland Tang will be presenting the details of his program and how we can assist them.**

4.1. Mr. Popowich introduced the item.

4.2. California Highway Patrol (CHP) Public Information Officer (PIO) Leland Tang mentioned that Cingular and AT&T have merged and are working on their networks so that may be the cause of some of the problems in the area.

4.3. PIO Tang announced that the CHP has a new dispatch center that is all state of the art being built at the intersection of the 134 & the 2 freeways. It will be three floors, one and a half floors devoted to 911 for LA County and the other for CHP officers. The new center is still in the works but they have some contractor problems. It was scheduled to be completed last July. In addition there are some contractor law suits and fines that are being worked on. It has been promised by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

4.4. PIO Tang spoke about the reason for the camera request. He commented that the program's goal is to reduce parking problems and thereby safety issues at local schools. He has brought a copy of the camera that has been approved by the courts and the LAUSD. He commented that Reseda Public Safety Chair, Nancy Sweeney had done a lot of legwork and found the camera at Sears for a much lower cost then what the city can pay for them. This was something that Panasonic had produced, but stopped making. He said that Reseda has bought two and Canoga Park has bought two, and if Winnetka buys two then we will have all the coverage ability we will need. He commented that any cameras purchased in Council District 3, will remain in that District. He went on to say that they have 22 officers who are trained to use these cameras.

The program has an arrangement with the courts and the LAUSD District Office. The CHP sends a letter to the school that the local community has identified a problem area. The principal has one of two options: 1) Send a plan to Office of Environmental Health and Safety 2) If they choose not to do create a plan then the District Director will step in. If this happens they will send a letter home to all the parents and notify them that a task force will be at the school in a certain month. The CHP will pick a day, usually a Thursday, which seems to be the best day for LAPD, School Police and CHP to meet. At around 7:00 AM they will survey the area. They will introduce themselves to the principal. This is done because they know that a lot of parents will complain so they want to prepare the principal. They will usually set up around the school and at the stop signs. They are all in uniform. The cameras will

usually be stationed at the opposite end of the school. For example at Sutter Middle School it would be at Winnetka facing north and on Valerio facing south. The camera will be on record and they will just look for parking violations. The parking enforcement officer will then review the tapes and write the tapes later at the office.

A single parking ticket may take about 10-15 minutes per ticket. So a program like this can get a lot done. If the person moves or sells the car, then the violations go with the car if they are unpaid. So it's not a way to get around it. The good thing is the violators get penalized and the community can see some immediate impact. It's also a great educational issue for the parents. After the event the principal will receive a report on how many parents, residents and staff received tickets. This allows the principal to be involved and take actions after the fact. The principal really does have the ultimate responsibility.

The Superintendent has made it clear that they principal is no longer responsible for just the property line. They now go from curb to curb. His direction is that the principals have to be good neighbors so that neighbors are happy with the school. This helps later to get more schools. He has also added two motorcycles to patrol the valley. Two west of the 405 and two east of the 405 freeway. One of those officers lives here in CD 3. He also sees things in the area and they keep in contact.

With two additional cameras he feels that we can have really good coverage. He also brought up item 5 which has an issue with drop offs. During session there is to be only one drop off session. When school is not in session they can have as many openings as they can. They are even encouraged to have staggered drop off times and locations so that the impact is lower to the community. He has worked with the principals and sometimes they say they don't know. He said that you can remind them that he was even at the District meeting where it was read. He commented that the principals that he works with are really very responsive. El Camino, Taft, Chatsworth High, and Sutter Middle School are all very open and responsive. The only really difficult school seems to be Birmingham School.

This program is a joint effort between the LAPD, School Police, DOT, and CHP. He commented that the two council members are very involved and attend almost all the meetings. They are always looking for new schools to be targeted. If you have schools that are a problem, please bring it to this committee and he will get it on the calendar. April 28<sup>th</sup> is the next meeting. These meetings are closed, but the group will discuss the school and apply the resources.

Another program they do is going into the schools in uniform with the LAPD and talk to the kids. Usually this is a classroom that they go to and they will talk directly to the kids and let them know what they can and can not do. Those that attend these meetings are made aware that what they do now can impact their ability to get a driver's license.

He feels this is a great program and it's fair. It's not Big Brother. It's fair because everyone is involved and made aware of it. He said that we should suggest we discuss this with Council member Zine to see if this can be employed in business districts as well. He said this is something that this committee can look into and propose out of Winnetka. This is something that hasn't been addressed in other NC's.

4.5. Mr. Burgess asked how they find out who is breaking the law.

4.5.1. PIO said they do zoom into the license. They get warning from the letter.

4.5.2. Ms. Robinson said that that cost is minimal.

4.6. Mr. Popowich made the following motion:

***“WNC-PS-041805-1: The WNC Public Safety Committee requests the WNC Board authorize the purchase of two Panasonic Palmcorder MultiCam Camcorder (model no: PV-L452 or PV-L652) to be gifted to the California Highway Patrol school parking taskforce use. Furthermore it is understood these cameras will only be used in the CD-3 area. The cost of this purchase is not to exceed \$500 total. (Popowich-Burgess)”***

4.6.1. Mr. Burgess 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

4.6.2. Mr. Popowich called for a vote and the motion passed 4-0.

4.7. A stakeholder asked about Sunnybrae School.

4.8. PIO Tang said he was not aware of any problems at that school.

**5. Discussion and possible action on assisting SLO Rodriguez with her efforts to establish a new pick up and drop off point for Sutter Middle School behind the school.**

5.1. SLO Rodriguez said that about a year ago she met with Principal James Smith to let him know about the problems. She said that Sutter has a drop off on Winnetka and they enter the school. There are some problems there, but not a lot. However in the afternoon they do have some problems. They have two dismissal exits, Winnetka and Quakertown. The curb on Winnetka is red curb. There are lots of problems with parking in the red, and lots of gridlock. Kids dart out into traffic or between cars.

When she met with the principal she asked him to work with her. She said on Lubao they have two or three gates on Lubao with no red curbs. This will allow easier pick up. The principal said that he didn't feel it would work because they don't want the kids to go through the faculty parking lot because he's concerned about vandalism. He suggested that she just do more parking enforcement. She informed him that they can't write enough tickets to change the behavior. She said at the Parking Town Hall she thought that maybe we can write a letter to the school asking them to change the pick up location and because it's coming from the community and we may get more response.

This way it's from the community and we'll see if we can get a good response. If not then we can work with CHP to do it. The Councilman will also get involved.

5.2. Ms. Robinson asked if it was the same principal.

5.3. SLO Rodriguez said yes. She has spoken to other community members and has heard he is not really responsive to new ideas.

5.4. Mr. Schwartz said a lot of the time it takes tragedy for something to happen.

5.5. Mr. Burgess asked about the dismissal time

5.6. SLO Rodriguez suggested that we ask for the closure of the Quakertown and Valerio gate. This is an all red zone as well. Recommend just the gates on Lubao. Parents swoop in and out and it's dangerous. She mentioned it was just pandemonium. She says that she is constantly on the speaker phone. She cited one lady who even went through the red zone and despite seeing her there; she left her car in the red zone and started to go in before she caught her.

5.7. Mr. Schwartz commented that it's too bad we can't just tow them off.

5.8. Mr. Popowich motion to write letter.

*WNC-PS-041805-2: The WNC Public Safety Committee will draft a letter specifically requesting that Sutter Middle School work with the Senior Lead Officer for Winnetka and open up the gates along Lubao Street and close the gates at Quakertown & Valerio intersection for afternoon exit from the school. The letter should state this request is being made in the interests of concern for the safety of the children due to hazards caused by parking violations. (Popowich-Robinson)"*

5.9. Ms. Robinson seconded.

5.10. A stakeholder recommended that we put the details in letter about other options.

5.11. SLO Rodriguez suggested that the author of the letter survey the area first to see what other options there are. She said that her suggestion is really nothing on Valerio. If it's critical to have one on Valerio then the areas past the Quakertown exit.

5.12. Mr. Burgess brought up the parents parking across the street in the Franciscan Park II alley.

5.13. SLO Rodriguez said that she did hear about that at the parking town hall, but no one from FP II has brought it up to her directly.

**6. Discussion and possible action on creating a letter to either support or oppose California State Assembly Bill AB35, in regards to Megan's Law: sex offender information. This letter from the Winnetka Council would be forwarded to the Authors of the Bill (AB35) and to the Assembly members on the Assembly Public Safety Committee showing the Neighborhoods support or opposition of this bill. The Secretary would be allowed to forward as such letter to other public figures as he/she sees fit.**

6.1.1. Pointed that the proponent of this agenda item is not here we are going to table the item.

6.1.2. Mr. Sims suggested we talk about this tonight.

6.1.3. Will do this next week.

**7. Update and discussion on the issues surrounding the problems at Runnymede Park. A representative of the Parks & Recreation Maintenance has been invited to attend.**

7.1. Announced that the Park & Rec did not show.

**8. Committee Business –**

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

Mr. Schwartz commented that when the electric vault blew up he could not see the traffic control officers. He suggested that the DOT be issued traffic wands. He pointed out that he observed a traffic control officer almost struck by a car who yelled out he didn’t see the officer’s hand despite the white gloves.

Mr. Burgess said it should be standard issue.

Mr. Popowich said we will add this to the next agenda.

Mr. Sims brought up a comment about 4 hour parking signs in an area. He would like to know if we plan to move forward on 4 hour parking signs in his area Quartz St. He said there are new motor homes on his street. This causes problems with being able to see new signs. He said that he had spoken to SLO R.

Ms. Robinson said that Ms. Espinoza was working on that issue she believes.

Mr. Popowich said that he would add it to the next agenda and we can explain what needs to be done. He said he believes it has to be through a petition and everyone agrees with it.

Mr. Burgess asked if we were going to open this up.

Ms. Robinson asked if we want to wait.

Mr. Popowich said that he would like to see more stakeholders.

Mr. Sims said he would. Mr. Dante said he would.

Mr. Popowich said he would add that to the next agenda.

- 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.**

**9. Adjournment**