

Super Neighborhood Alliance

Minutes of Virtual General Meeting Held 8 August 2022



Guests

Kim Ogg, Harris County District Attorney
Sallie Alcorn, Council Member At-Large 5
Alyce Coffey, SWMD
Teresa Geisheker, Planning & Development
Rhonda Sauter, Mayor's Assistance Office
Jack Valinski, Mayor's Assistance Office
Maria Bolanos, Staff for HCC Pct 2
Jordan McGinty-Frazier, Staff for CM At-Large 5
DiDi Chavis, Staff for CM Dist K
Travis Leamons, HTV
Luis Garcia, METRO
Margaret Dunlap, METRO
Sheri Cortez, HCDAO
C.O. "Brad" Bradford, HCDAO
Anna Carpenter, HCDAO
Nathan Beedle, HCDAO
Stephanie Villanueva, Staff for HCC Pct 1
Roger Bridgewater, Staff for HCC Pct 3
Christina Walsh, Staff for HD 148
Abner Lyons, Staff for HD 142

Ashley Johnson, LINK Houston
Samantha Salas, Lonestar Legal Aid
Caroline Crow, Lonestar Legal Aid
Deb Bonario-Martin
Rhonda Jones
Kyle Scott
Shiv Srivastava
Katherine Thomas
Tonya Debose
Angela Graves-Harrington
Nixon Crockrom
Porscha Brown
Melissa Morris
Latosha Payne
James Horwitz
Josh Hill
Linda M. Dunson
Shannon Baldwin
Julian Ramirez
John Geiss

Super Neighborhood Representatives

Philip Salerno, SNC 5
Ricky Miller, SNC 5
Mark Klein, SNC 12
Marie Carlisle, 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
Kay Swint, SNC 31
Cheryl O'Brien, SNC 32

Naomi Ostfeld, SNC 36
Sylvia Rivas, SNC 36
Cindy Chapman, SNC 37
Stephen Polnaszek, SNC 38
Huey German Wilson, SNC 48
Vicky Martin, SNC 49/50
Denise Morales, SNC 55
Roy Lira, SNC 63
Amy Dinn, SNC 64/88
Priscilla Argueta, 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. [August 8, 2022 HTV Video Recording](#)

- I. **Acceptance of the Minutes of the June 13, 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. **Kim Ogg, Harris County District Attorney** – DA Ogg gave an update on the Harris County criminal justice system with a focus on the jail, the backlog and what is being done about it. The Harris County District Attorney Office is dedicated to making our community safer through evidence-based prosecution and equal justice for all. This means guaranteeing a fair process to obtain a just result for the victim, the accused, and the community in every case. The criminal justice system is like an assembly line. A crime happens, the police are called, they call the prosecution and they work together to craft and file a case. The accused is given a bail hearing and appointed a defense lawyer. Judges are neutral arbitrators of the court and oversee bail hearings and trials and pleas in court. Prison, probation and alternative solutions are all potential outcomes, but there is a chronological order to each case. The County jail is full and prisoners are being shipped out of county which the HCDAO does not support. As of June 2022, there were 8,878 people awaiting trial in the County jail. This means they are not ready to plead guilty; their lawyers don't have the discovery needed from police, or they may be contesting it. Some people have sat in jail for up to seven years awaiting trial. In terms of the backlog, there are about 135,000 cases and 95,000 of those are active meaning the defendants are either in jail or out on bail. 55% are felonies and 45 are misdemeanors.
- III. **SNA Pulse Survey** – Roy Lira, SNA Vice President, shared that the SNA is a forum for Support, Education, Networking and Advocacy. The survey leveraged the SWOT analysis conducted in 2019 and 21 current SNC leaders' feedback in June 2022 to create and implement near and midterm objectives. The SNA is a very tenured group with a lot of knowledge and now we have an opportunity to bring in younger leaders with less experience to mentor. The results will help the SNA develop individual Super Neighborhoods, and collectively find out what the Super Neighborhoods have in common to leverage resources over the next few years. Pulse Survey updates will be provided every six months and as needed.
- IV. **Lone Star Legal Aid Deed Restriction Project** – Amy Dinn, SNC 64/88 – Greater Eastwood, Lawndale and Wayside President, is a full-time attorney for Lone Star Legal Aid and works with communities to litigate environmental justice issues in a 72-county area. Amy files Title VI complaints on the Department of Justice regarding illegal dumping and concrete batch plants. However, tonight Amy's presentation focuses on the importance of having deed restrictions in Houston because of no zoning. Environmental injustice is the location of industrial and nuisance facilities too close to a neighborhood that disproportionately negatively impact the population such as severe health impacts. No zoning creates these unique problems. Examples are tank farms, truck yards, concrete batch plants; all of which create health hazards for the neighborhoods they're next to. Deed restrictions is a legal solution to no zoning. They are written agreements filed in public records, and anyone who buys land subject to deed restrictions is bound by those deed restrictions. Deed restrictions preserve the character of a subdivision, stabilizes property values and prevents use of property in a subdivision that may be harmful to residents. They also prevent real estate speculation. Deed restrictions are a long-term community solution. Over the last 18 months, Legal Aid has protected almost 1,000 homes in Houston; most are in northeast Houston.

Stacie Fairchild shared that the SNA is working on a Harris County Judge Forum in the October timeframe. Super Neighborhoods should submit questions no later than mid-September.

- V. **Adjournment** - The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.