

**Homeless Committee
of the NoHo Neighborhood Council**

Tuesday, December 19th, 2019, 6:45
 Committee Members: Peter Haderlein,
 Cheryl Tenbush, Joanna Stein, Paula Cantu,
 Lisa Kallman;
 Alternate: Cheryl Tenbush
 Ex Officio Member: Paul Storiola



Location: Entry of:
 St. Matthew’s Church
 11031 Camarillo Street,
 North Hollywood, CA 91602

Minutes

ITEM	TIME	TOPIC	RESPONSIBLE PERSON
1.	6:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call to Order.***** 	P. Haderlein
2.	1 minute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee Roll Call. • Peter Haderlein- Present • Paula Cantu- Present • Joanna Stein- Present • Lisa Kallman- Excused • Cheryl Tenbush- Present 	P. Haderlein
3.	1 minute each	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items. • TBD 	P. Haderlein
4.	Up to 10 minutes	<p>Presentation and Discussion: Updates on Initiatives Addressing Homelessness in Our Community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results of the NoHo NC Food Drive to support the Interfaith Food Pantry • Winter Shelter Openings and Hours • LA Emergency Renter’s Relief Program <p>SJ- People we serve through NoHo Home Alliance don’t make the trek to Van Nuys quite as readily. So, it's great that we have them to shelter but it does not help directly our community. So maybe having some of the conversation with them and I'm happy in my capacity with NoHo Home Alliance, I'm happy to have more conversation about transportation pick up sites.</p> <p>PH- I can contact Hope of the Valley too. For context the transportation pick-up centers are Hope of the Valley Health Center in Van Nuys, a park and ride in Pacoima on Foothill and the Burbank Metro station in Burbank. That's critical because the shelters are only open from December through March every year and this committee has I think long lamented that infrastructures like the shelter is only open during a certain period of time, but at least they’re open sometime and you can't just show up. You have to go through an intake at one of these Transportation nodes.</p> <p>SJ- It’s low threshold, but still you have to be at that pick up and you can’t be late.</p> <p>Stakeholder- And what time do people need to be at those Transportation points?</p> <p>PH- I appreciate that comment, normally we prefer it as a comment card, but it's fine. Shelters are open from 5 p.m. To 7 a.m. So, these are overnight shelters. The dates that they are open are Saturday December 1st through Sunday, March 31st. So, like I said, basically December through March. The idea is that they're open when it's the coldest. Individuals who are 18 and experiencing homelessness who are “able to manage activities of daily living ie-transfer in</p>	P. Haderlein

and out of the bed independently” is pretty much the only barrier. There are multiple shelters across LA, but there is only one in the San Fernando Valley, just this one. And again, it’s 138 beds, that will close March 31st, but is open. If you talk to somebody who desperately needs a place to sleep, we have this opportunity this season to point them in this direction.

CT- It looks like they have a 24-hour hotline, is that for us to call or for homeless people?

PH. I think it’s conceivable that people looking for information can still call that hotline but, I imagine the hotline is for people who are in desperate need who can get directed to transportation to get to the shelter. Again, those are run by LAHSA (Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority), or funded by LAHSA and run by the shelters.

CT- I'm seeing a pickup spot in Burbank. But that’s still not convenient.

JS- That’s the Metro stop, by the airport.

PH- Are there any more thoughts on the on the shelter hours? I’d like to move to the next item.

The other thing I wanted to lift up is a new program, the City's Emergency Renter’s Relief Program. If you've been following the municipal policy responses to homelessness, there is a new impetus for prevention. A proactive means of preventing folks from falling into homelessness through eviction. There was a program that was funded through Prop HHH that was routed through the different service providers. So, in our neighborhood that was LA Family Housing, who provided Rapid Rehousing, a prevention tool to provide funds to subsidize rent, to prevent you from becoming evicted. That was one pool of money, which was exhausted. LA City Council has approved the Emergency Renter’s Relief Program. This is in response to the law that passed in Sacramento that capped the percentage of rent increases that goes into effect on January 1st. There was a concern that Landlords would increase rents in the interim, so the City Council passed this Emergency Renters Relief Program, “to assist renters facing exorbitant rent increases and to prevent displacement of renters and families by providing a temporary subsidy through December 31st 2019.” So, it only goes through the end of this month. But the notion is that it would help people who might be getting served. Who is eligible to receive a subsidy? There are limitations. The building has to have been built between 1978 and 2004, the rent increases be more than 8%, income level below 80% of the area median income. Not everybody can qualify, but it’s important for the community to know about this because, sometimes we will encounter neighbors who are in danger of being evicted. This is a program that's been put in place through the end of this year, so if you happen to hear of anyone who needs it please let them know.

SJ- City Council is about to approve a motion in support of a right to counsel in eviction proceedings with a pilot project focusing on South LA. But the county is expected to match or can contribute to the expansion of the right to counsel program into the San Fernando Valley. So, starting Van Nuys, but also extending to other low-income areas. While this emergency funding program is ending December 31st, there will be a funds in place and a program in place to pick up and continue that work, along with that work to prevent evictions.

PH- I'm glad you brought that up, which would normally segue perfectly into item 5, and so I will pause for a moment in case anybody has any updates on other initiatives from our previous work we’ve done.

		<p>JS- A number of times stakeholders attended our meeting to discuss the encampment that was on Riverside, under the underpass near the freeway entrance or exit. Yesterday morning the CARE team cleaned up that encampment. Riverside and Lankershim. The one that was really intense.</p> <p>PH- For context for members of the public, the CARE teams are a new pilot program that was rolled out in October: the Comprehensive Cleaning and Rapid Engagement team. It is a shift in strategy by the LA Department of Sanitation, which has been handling the cleanups. So sometimes you might see a flyer posted on the street corner that says “individual persons who are living here have 72 hours to clean up their belongings”, and after that, a cleaning crew will come in. The way that used to be managed, is that it would be employees from sanitation and they would come and clean everything up. The city felt like those dollars maybe weren't spent the best because folks would be displaced, but then there's no place to go. They come back or they lose their belongings and they weren't really connected with the type of Outreach Services that various nonprofit Service providers are trying to employ. In order to help connect people with everything from Mental Health Services to getting your driver's license. The new approach is to bundle Outreach case managers with Department of Sanitation officials with law enforcement present. So that the interaction feels like an enforcement action and more like Community engagement. The idea is the care teams are supposed to pick particular locations in the city and return to them repeatedly, this is to develop relationships as best they can with individuals who are living in those locations over a broader period of time. They will try to actually build that sort of trust in relationships that allow people to end up getting referred to services. Our committee actually approved writing a letter to ask a city to deploy a CARE team here. That letter is not going out yet, because it just passed the Board, so it's nice to hear that it actually happened.</p> <p>JS- There were probably about two dozen people working there, maybe more.</p> <p>PH- I will follow up. Because I know that the City Council, since the program was put out in October, has asked LASAN (LA Department of Sanitation) for some numbers and metrics. When do the care teams go out? Where do they go and how many people do they talk to? What are the repeat engagements? I will ask them if that is going to be a repeat spot for them to show up? Okay. Thank you very much. I'm glad you noticed that.</p> <p>SJ- NoHo Home Alliance, who runs the drop-in program here, is going to be replicating the program starting February 7th, on the campus of the MCC Church on Cahuenga. We will have Mon., Weds., and Fri. programs, and St Charles has Thursday's, that leaves Tuesday's to be addressed. We're also looking to advocate again for a new refresh station. Studio City is particularly interested. A Refresh Station is a bathroom plus shower, a self-cleaning unit basically. They're down in skid row and there's been an effort, a desire to bring one into our area and it doesn't affect us directly. I think where we're looking at is probably closer to Studio City and Universal parking, or the Dodger parking lot over in that corner, which is in Studio City. So we'll be working with Studio City to do that. But there might be a might be an opportunity for this committee to also write a letter of support. If you feel that's a good idea, we should put it on the committee agenda next month. As it turns out, we're applying for this. There's a free shower program through the city to bring a shower truck, rather than just using the single shower we have here. That would increase the number of showers that we can make available. That company, or that organization also runs the refresh station. We're trying to leverage that relationship and bring in that resource.</p> <p>PC- Is that Shower of Hope?</p>	
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5.	Up to 10 minutes	<p>Presentation, Discussion and Possible Action: Committee to draft a community impact statement in support of Council File 18-0610, the "Right to Counsel for Tenants Facing Eviction" Ordinance and submit said letter to the NoHo NC Board for approval.</p> <p>PH- For context, and for members of the public who are new to these meetings, neighborhood councils have one particular power, which is that we can write Community Impact Statements that have to be entered into the council files for city council motions. That is one of our primary levers of direct response to city council proposals. Our Neighborhood Council appoints one to two people who have a login with the city clerk's office and we can upload Community Impact Statements with wording has been approved by the full board. So this agenda</p>	P. Haderlein

item is about if we want to support or not support a city council motion. We vote here, then we go to the full board, which would at this point be in January and it meant that if they vote to approve it, we would we file it. If you go on the city clerk's website, you can look up any motion to see all the NC's that are for and against it. That can be very I think impactful way for neighborhood councils to have a voice. This council file is about the right to counsel, and I'm going to pull it up so I can get some better wording. It's effectively the city subsidizing the legal fees of individuals who cannot afford representation in eviction court proceedings. And this is a policy that would replicate something that has been passed in other cities across America, and this would be the LA version of that.

Stakeholder- Just a point of information about the CIS, if a NC files a letter, they get protected speech time at the actual City Council meeting, up to 5 minutes, normally you can only get 1 minute.

PH- That's really good to know, I find it rare that our members make it to the bigger City Council meetings, but it's really good to know that we can do that.

PC- I go, I went to the last one a month-and-a-half ago for the homelessness being 500 feet away from a school.

PH- I will read through the city council motion, which has some Preamble and then we can discuss it.

“Recent research published by Tenants Together, a statewide tenant’s advocacy group, show an average of 166337 unlawful detainer eviction cases filed per year in California with an average of 54,000 of them in LA County. These average annualized figures are considerably higher than the number of units that are subject to the Ellis act evictions that are reported by the city's Housing Department. With the 2018 homeless count showing nearly 10,000 people experiencing homelessness for the first time in 2018, it can reasonably be concluded that the combined impacts of evictions and rental housing on affordability are contributing financially to the homelessness crisis. Tenants who are served with this notice to terminate tenancy know that they have limited rights and limited access to legal representation. In many cases, the landlord serves a notice and tenants just move out. For every tenant facing a court filed eviction, there are others displaced who do not show up in court filing data because they move by the end of the notice period. There is no statewide data on the number of notices to terminate tenancy that are served on tenants because California law does not require that those notices be filed with any government agency. In addition to calling for further tracking of the notices of court filings, tenant advocates and academic observers are promoting increased statewide protections for tenants and a basic right to counsel, to insure that legal council is available for tenants facing eviction. San Francisco approved one in June 2018, New York in 2017 and the state is encouraged to follow.”

So that was a motion that was presented by Paul Koretz, last year. Do we have any motions do discuss supporting it?

JS- Motion
PC- 2nd

PH- We can open the floor now, anybody have some thoughts on this?
JS- I would support writing a CIS to this affect.

PC- I think it's a no brainer. I mean, I don't think we really need to discuss it, I support it fully.

		<p>PH- I have a public comment card from Sam Woolf.</p> <p>Sam- I'm totally in support of this as well. One of the things that I learned when I was in a housing cohort with the Liberty Hill Foundation, which is a social justice jumping-off platform for leaders in Los Angeles, is that unequivocally people get evicted if they don't have a lawyer; without a doubt developers and landlords often have the resources to get representation.</p> <p>PH- Thank you for your comment. Are we comfortable moving to a vote?</p> <p>Stakeholder- I have a comment, I filled out a card.</p> <p>PH- Please go ahead. It is right here, my apologies.</p> <p>Stakeholder- I would agree wholeheartedly, for lack of better words it's a no-brainer. I'm an attorney, and I also handle unlawful detainers. You will be surprised at the things that attorneys and landlords even without attorneys will do to get someone evicted. The particulars needed to evict someone are very detailed. So, you know, this has to be correct, service has to be correct, if there is a rental stabilization ordinance in effect. But if you don't have an attorney and you don't know they'll send you to court, the judge will tell you to go outside and talk about it, and you will be scared. Because they'll tell you will be evicted in one week, when in reality it will take at least a month. They'll tell you that you're going to have to pay for attorney's fees and that's not always the case.</p> <p>They'll tell you that you're going to have to pay back-rent when that's not always the case. So, I think it is critical to protecting people's rights. Because sometimes all you need is an attorney to say hey, they didn't sign that document or hey, they didn't put the time right and that's all it takes and that really helps people. I think we should be in support of this. I'm all for it. I'm happy to see the city moving that way. I think it's a great thing.</p> <p>PH- Thank you for your comment. Any more comments on this item? Okay, seeing no hands. I think we can take a vote.</p> <p>4-0-0</p>	
6.	Up to 15 minutes	<p>Presentation and Discussion: The LAHSA Homeless Count for the San Fernando Valley will take place on January 21, 2020.</p> <p>PH- I will draft a letter and I will bring it to the next board meeting. Okay, moving on to agenda item 6. How many people in this room have participated in one of the homeless counts before? Okay. I did it last year for the first time. It's January every year for the past two years now. I found it to be a really productive and eye-opening experience. The way that the count is conducted and why it's important is that the city wants to know how many persons are homeless, and where they are because then the city knows where to direct funds. Proposition 8 and HHH monies are divided among service provider areas and we're in SPA2 up in the San Fernando Valley. But if we know where people are tending to congregate, then those funds can be divided amongst the service provider areas more effectively. We can also track progress with various initiatives. The count does track demographics so much as numbers of people and where. But an effective count will tell you how many people are living in vehicles vs. living in tents. That can impact policy based on where and how many safe parking lots we set up, for example. The data is incredibly valuable and every year LAHSA asks for volunteers to help go out and count. Volunteers always go in teams and never alone. There's even a training on the night of the count and it's at night because by then people have settled in. The training is very good. It was conducted last year by LA Family Housing Representatives.</p>	P. Haderlein

		<p>The meet-up last year was at the senior center. We had a really good turnout, like 60 people. They talked about how to fill out the forms, how to mark where people are on a map. It's not about engaging with persons. So, you're not conducting interviews or knocking on car doors. It's about just taking in visually where people are located. I found it to be very safe, very positive and very helpful, and they are going to need more volunteers.</p> <p>CT- Motion to amend item #6 JS- 2nds</p> <p>PH- Motion to change #6 to Presentation and Discussion: The LAHSA Homeless Count for the San Fernando Valley will take place on January 21, 2020, and to move Homelessness Committee Meeting to 1/14/20 at 6:30pm. Vote- 4-0-0</p>	
7.		<p>Presentation, Discussion, and Possible Action: Committee to organize outreach efforts to support local participation in the 2020 Census.</p> <p>PH- Item #7- We are an important zone for the local census volunteers, they really want to make sure they count exactly. I volunteered to be our Census Liaison.</p> <p>CT- Do I have to recuse myself? I am a former state employee and we're currently in a lawsuit for not getting paid. Do I need to recuse myself at the committee meetings or what?</p> <p>[Cheryl Tenbush recused herself]</p> <p>PH- I've been told that prime time for mailings are in May to June in early Summer, and I thought that our committee might be uniquely suited to help organize, especially when it comes to making sure that persons are counted. I don't know which nonprofits are part of the effort yet, but I wanted to bring that up for discussion and maybe that's something we can talk about more early in the next year.</p> <p>PC- "Everyone In" has something to do with this too.</p> <p>PC- I have a threshold of bandwidth: I have a nonprofit, I work full time and I go to school. I do this, the Arts Parks and Beautification committee. I don't know that I would have the threshold to be able to go out and do another. I'm happy to help get organized or do any paperwork or communication for this, but I don't know that I would physically be able to physically go and do the work.</p> <p>PH- I will communicate to our Outreach Committee, and I will also check in with the local nonprofits to see if we can coordinate.</p> <p>Stakeholder- Maybe get landlords involved?</p>	
8.	Up to 5 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation, Discussion and Possible Action: Review and Adopt Previous Minutes • 4-0-0 	P. Haderlein
9.	Up to 5 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee Announcements 	All
	7:50pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting Adjourned 	

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