

# Super Neighborhood Alliance

## Minutes of Virtual General Meeting Held 11 October 2021



### Guests

David Robinson, CM At-Large 2  
Martha Castex-Tatum, CM Dist K  
Steven James, Staff for CM Dist D  
Jordan McGinty, Staff for CM At-Large 5  
Jakob Jenkins, Staff for CM Dist A  
DiDi Chavis, Staff for CM Dist K  
Nick Arcos, Office of the Mayor  
Abe Cazares, Office of the Mayor  
Louise Molinar, Office of the Mayor  
Jack Valinski, DoN  
Rhonda Sauter, DoN  
Teresa Geisheker, P&D

Roger Bridgewater, Staff for HCC Pct 3  
Scott Packard, HHD  
Francisco Castillo, Staff for HCC Pct 2  
Abner Lyons, Staff for State HD 142  
Christina Walsh, Staff for State HD 148  
Alyce Coffee, SWD  
Desmine Allen, SWD  
Christine Moreno-Conner, METRO  
Linda Trevino, METRO  
Linda Scurlock  
Ashley Johnson, LINK Houston

### Super Neighborhood Representatives

Philip Salerno, SNC 05  
Mark Klein, SNC 12  
Pedro Ayazagoitia, SNC 15  
Jeff Baker, SNC 17  
Stacie Fairchild, SNC 22  
Mike VanDusen, SNC 22  
Barbara Quattro, SNC 25  
Doug Smith, SNC 25  
Sandra Rodriguez, SNC 27  
Terry Cominsky, SNC 31  
Sylvia Rivas, SNC 36  
Stephen Polnaszek, SNC 38

Mike Ballare, SNC 41  
Rhonda Jones, SNC 41  
Jesus DeAnda, SNC 45  
Paula Parshall, SNC 45  
Juan Antonio Sorto, SNC 49, 50  
Terah Isaacson, SNC 51  
Joetta Stevenson, SNC 55  
Bridgette Murray, SNC 57  
Roy Lira, SNC 63  
Kathleen O'Reilly, SNC 66  
Tomaro Bell, SNC 83  
Scott Cubbler, SNC 84

### Meeting convened at 6:30pm.

- I. **Minutes of the September 13 General Meeting** – A motion to accept was made by Kathleen O'Reilly. Minutes were approved without amendment.
- II. **Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities Presentation by Gabe Cazares** – The mission of the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities is to advocate for Houstonians and visitors with disabilities. The department focuses on issues that impact people with disabilities, with a particular focus on safe sidewalks.

People with disabilities make up over 9% (about 215,000) of the Houston population, and walking or rolling is a common mode of transportation for this population segment. To further the goal of safer streets, the department administers the Pedestrian Accessibility Review (PAR) program. This program can provide up 1,500 feet of sidewalk accessibility for people with disabilities in high risk areas.

The program allows a person with disabilities to report a lack of safe transit in a location. The PAR staff reviews the request and determines the eligibility of the request. Eligible requests are

forwarded to the Public Works department (HPW) for future action, usually within the next 6 to 24 months.

Mr. Cazares showed a heat map of car-on-pedestrian crashes which showed a correlation with PAR request locations. Next, he showed a table of 78 PARs in process, with breakouts by council district and costs. A table was also shown that shows PARs by complete communities.

Next, Mr. Cazares explained how a person with disabilities could make a PAR application, and showed some examples of past PARs projects. For more information on the PAR program, refer to the city website (<https://www.houstontx.gov/disabilities/sidewalksafety.html>).

Juan Sorto asked if HPW provides safe alternative transportation routes for persons with disabilities when a street or sidewalk project begins construction. Mr. Cazares indicated his department would investigate the issue and respond in writing. Kathleen O'Reilly asked if hospitals and medical facilities could submit PAR applications. Gabe responded that his office tends to focus on the areas shown in the presentation. Scott Cubbler asked if permeable sidewalk materials are being used by the city. Teresa Geishekar asked Gabe to distinguish between PARs projects and other sidewalk project being undertaken by other city departments. Gabe reiterated that PARs projects only address accessibility issues for persons with disabilities. Other programs are Safe Routes to School Zones and the Major Thoroughfare program. A chat question asked if PAR projects help address access to the system of hike and bike trails in Houston. Mr. Cazares said that his offices works with other departments and organizations in the planning stage to help insure access for people with disabilities.

III. **City of Houston Police Chief, Troy Finner** – Chief Finner said he looks forward to working with super neighborhoods in Houston. Juan Sorto asked for two questions for Mr. Finner. Stacey Fairchild thanked Chief Finner for his engagement regarding issues SN22 residents are having on Washington Avenue. She also announced that CM Abbie Kamin will host quarterly meetings between Chief Finner and the SNA.

IV. **Houston Solid Waste Department Phone App** – Desmine Allen and Alyce Coffee made a presentation on the “HTX Collects” phone app. Mr. Allen walked attendees through installation of the app on a personal mobile device.

The app has 3 main features: 1) Collection Calendar, 2) Waste Wizard, and 3) Waste Sorting Game. The Calendar shows the collection schedule for your location, and allows notifications to be received by text, email, on phone call. The Waste Wizard is a searchable database that indicates how to dispose of items, where drop-off sites are located, and mapping information. The Sorting Game is designed to be an educational tool.

Doug Smith asked if the app supports notification of delayed services. Desmine indicated notifications can be sent, if enabled. Stacey Fairchild asked if SWD would be willing to make this presentation to individual SNs and neighborhood organizations. Mr. Allen responded they would.

V. **Update on COVID-19 Testing and Vaccine Distribution** – Houston Health Department Communications Officer, Scott Packard, showed the positivity rate for COVID-19 has dropped from the surge experienced in early September. This is also reflected in the number of hospitalizations. Mr. Packard showed almost 77% of eligible Houstonians have at least the first dose off vaccine, and 65% are fully vaccinated.

He indicated that 20,000 people received \$100 first dose gift cards, and can get an additional \$50 when they receive their second dose. Scott mentioned the availability of third vaccine shots for individuals with compromised immune systems, and booster shots that are becoming available.

Mr. Packard announced the city's Trusted Health Ambassador program to assist with community engagement.

Christina Walsh asked for details of the in-home vaccinations for seniors. Scott responded that the Area Agency on Aging can assist home-bound individuals. Linda Scurlock asked for more details on the ambassador program. Scott suggested contacting the Houston Health department and filling out the screening questionnaire. He did indicate the goal was for an ambassador to reach out to a certain number of individuals each month.

- VI. **Super Neighborhood Alliance Executive Elections** – Juan Sorto announced election of new chair, vice chair, and secretary will occur in January 2022. Anyone interested in being nominated should email a resume and letter of interest to the Alliance mailbox: [snacoh@gmail.com](mailto:snacoh@gmail.com). Tomaro Bell indicated candidates for the chair position must be president of their local super neighborhood council.
- VII. **Open Comments** – Pedro Ayazagoitia mentioned that Proctor Plaza Park will host a Halloween party, sponsored by State Rep Penny Shaw. Tomaro Bell encouraged everyone to get to the polls and vote. Ashley Johnson mentioned the city's sidewalk summit is available for viewing on YouTube. He also said the FHA is planning to come to Houston look at the North Houston Highway Improvement Project. Roy Lira said that Magnolia Park will have a Dia de los Muertos activity on October 30. Roy also mentioned the East End is having problems with train stoppages, and that it is a bigger problem because children are back in school. He encouraged everyone having similar problems to report the crossing stoppages to the FRA. Francisco Castillo indicated Precinct 2 Commissioner, Adrian Garcia, wants to thank everyone who participated in Hispanic Heritage month, and that the commissioner will be making a presentation on county parks on the coming Thursday. Barbara Quattro mentioned the Alief SN would be planting trees on November 13 and 20 at the corner of Kirkwood and Bissonnet, and that anyone wanting to participate is welcome. As a follow-up to the value of the super neighborhood program, Tomaro Bell mentioned the influence the Alliance has had on issues of drainage, densification, transportation, etc in the City of Houston.
- VIII. **Adjournment**  
The meeting adjourned at 7:58pm.