



University City Community Association  
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### Telephonic Meeting via Zoom

## University City Community Association Meeting Minutes of October 14, 2020

**Present:** Barry Bernstein, President; Mack Langston, Vice President and Parliamentarian; Don Hotz, Treasurer; James Beshears, Secretary; Barbara Gellman, Neighborhood Watch/Beautification; Diane Ahern, Publicity and Promotions; Merle Langston, Beautification;; Deanna Ratnikova, liaison to UCSD and CPUS alternate;

**Absent:** Barbara Henshaw, Hallie Burch

**Guests:** Numerous-Listed Below

**Call to Order:** President Barry Bernstein called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

**Approval of minutes:** A motion to approve the minutes for the September 9, 2020 regular meeting was made by Diane Ahern, seconded by Deanna Ratnikova, and unanimously approved by the Board.

**Approval of Agenda:** A motion to approve the Agenda topics prepared by Barry Bernstein, was made by Deanna Ratnikova, seconded by Barbara Gellman, and unanimously approved by the Board. “

**Reports by Barry Bernstein:** The League of Women Voters has scheduled a meeting on October 16, 2020 to discuss various propositions. The time of the meeting is on the League’s website. Numerous members of the public were present to discuss the recent assault on Rabbi Yonatan Halery at the Market Place Shopping Center (Post Office and Sprouts)

### DISCUSSION REGARDING ASSAULT ON RABBI HALERY

Three members of the SDPD addressed their investigation. Captain Matt Novak explained that Rabbi Halery had been assaulted outside his synagogue located in The Market Place on Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>. He was knocked to the ground and racial epithets were made by a juvenile boy. Since the incident was under investigation, the police could not say much but would report further in the future. He also apologized for the delay in responding to the call and the manner in which the officers handled the matter. He also said there would be increased patrols in the area to prevent future incidents. .

The following people had comments regarding the incident:

1. Cheryl Creagh had questions about the identity of the suspect. The police could not answer at this time other than to say the suspect was a juvenile.
2. Myra Bressel asked about the category of the crime. Capt. Novak said it was likely assault and a hate crime.
3. Janice Deady inquired as to whether the parents of the juvenile suspect .had been contacted. Capt. Novak could not comment but said that the community was not in danger.
4. Cindy Lammens asked if other problems have been reported and if anyone was going to be monitoring the area. Capt. Novak said there would be extra patrols.
5. Ron Celona expressed concerns on anti-Semitism and is SDPD patrolling the Chabad and synagogue.
6. Officer Bognuda of the SDPD said that they had not been told prior to the incident of problems regarding harassment in the neighborhood. She said it was important for

the community to report it to SDPD via their non-emergency number (619) 531-2000 to let them know.

7. Tana Becker-Verano wanted to organize a rally in support of the synagogue and Rabbi Halevy on Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. It would be on Governor Dr. in front of the shopping center. Due to Saturday was the Sabbath, they would coordinate with the Rabbi.
8. Netanya and Karl Crawford expressed concerns regarding the incident and acts of anti-Semitism in the area.
9. Rabbi Yonatan Halevy expressed appreciation for the community response but did not want to create a community stir. He thanked Captain Novak for his follow up to the initial police response.
10. Ruth DeSantis requested the police look into a house break in by some skateboarders to see if connected to the assault on the Rabbi.
11. Tomer Rabizadeh inquired as to whether there were any long term plans to patrol the areas in question.
12. Joe LaCava appreciated Captain Novak's unhappiness with the initial police response and hoped such a response would be corrected in the future.
13. Iris Clauss asked if the police were investigating prior incidences with teenagers in the area to see if connected to the assault.
14. Officer Bognuda stated she contacted the center manager to authorize the SDPD to enter the property while on patrol.
15. Margaret Sullivan, the agent for The Market Place ownership, said they supported the Rabbi and will do what they can to ensure safety, including hiring private security.

#### **.NEW AND OLD BUSINESS**

Don Hotz submitted the Financial Report for the month of September. On motion by James W. Beshears and seconded by Barbara Gelman, the report was unanimously approved.

Diane Ahern reported that it was necessary to change most of the banners throughout the community in early November since most of the banners are seasonal. Winter holiday banners need to be put up. The banners around the Costa Verde Center have to be removed as construction starts. The cost to change/remove the banners is \$1,370.00. On motion by Diane Ahern and seconded by Don Hotz, the sum of \$1,370 to remove and change the banners was approved unanimously by the board.

#### **PUBLIC FORUM**

William Beck of the University City Fire Safe Council, indicated the Council had met and were working on a set of recommendations that people should follow to cut their fire risk. Some of those are:

1. Follow plans for an emergency exit in event of fires threatening the neighborhood;
2. Have emergency supplies in the event of fire;
3. Plan where to go and get around in the dark in case of evacuation during the night;
4. If fire in the home, cover mouth with a wet cloth, close all doors and if you cannot get out, jam wet cloths around the doors to cut down on smoke coming in where you are staying;
5. Have carbon monoxide detectors, in addition to smoke detectors, and check them monthly to make sure they are working.

Cory Briggs, candidate for City Attorney, presented his position on what he would do as City Attorney. He also told people that once the Pure Water system was operating, to make sure the appropriate rates were charged for water.

Janice Deady reported that a pipeline had been laid down the middle of the golf course off of Gullstrand owned by Willmark. Its purpose was unclear and its effect on reopening the golf course required by its permits is uncertain.

#### **LEGISLATIVE REPORTS**

Justine Murry, assistant to Councilwoman Barbara Bry, reported that the SDFD code compliance department inspected the property on Gullstrand owned by Willmark. Brush management and fire safety requirements were not being followed. SDFD sent a Notice of Violation and Willmark had 30 days to come in compliance.

**Next Board Meeting Date:** The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 14, 2020 at 6:00 pm via zoom unless changes in meeting procedures are adopted.

\*Recorded and submitted by James Beshears

\*\* Please note that various dates of future events referred to herein may be cancelled or continued as a result of the COVID-19 restrictions.