



**SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Gus Velasco Neighborhood Center
Tuesday, February 8, 2022
Via Zoom Teleconference**

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson Janie Aguirre called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Dolores Duran

3. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Gilbert Aguirre, Janie Aguirre, Dolores Duran, Bonnie Fox, Sally Gaitan, Nancy Krueger, Elena Lopez, Astrid Shesterkin, Dr. Linda Vallejo, Hilda Zamora

Members Absent: Lorena Huitron, Josephina Lara, Paul Nakamura, Yoko Nakamura, Martha Villanueva

Staff: Ed Ramirez, Family and Human Services Manager
Jose Carrillo, Community Services Supervisor/Executive Secretary

Guests: Sargeant Escobedo, Whittier Police Department

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Sally Gaitan and seconded by Gilbert Aguirre to approve the Minutes of March 10, 2020, as amended as follows.

Item No. 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Header to read:

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - No Flag Available

Item No. 10. NEW BUSINESS; Paragraph **a)** to read:

a) Nominees for Chairperson are Linda Vallejo, declined; Janie Aguirre, accepted; Hilda Zamora, declined; Sally Gaitan, declined; Paul Nakamura, declined;

In a majority zoom vote, the Committee elected Janie Aguirre as Chairperson for 2022.

Item No. 12. MEMBERS COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Paul Nakamura inquired about whether the Zumba class will resume at a later date.
- Gilbert Aguirre inquired about whether the Safe Neighborhood Team meetings will resume at a later date.

6. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

Committee members inquired why there was no Councilmember appointed. Mr. Ramirez stated that he would follow up with the City Clerk and provide the Committee an update.

7. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT

a. Whittier Police Department/Santa Fe Springs Crime Statistics Presentation

Sargeant Escobedo of the Whittier Police Department briefed the Advisory of the following:

The Crime Analyst Unit reported that in the years 2020 to 2021, there was an increase in overall crime by 20%. In homicides, there was an increase of 150%. In 2020 there were two homicides, and in 2021 there were five. Of the five, one was a domestic violence homicide, and the other four were gang on gang retaliation homicides-all five were solved.

There was a decrease in robberies by 13%, a decrease in aggravated assaults by 9%, a decrease in burglaries by 5%, and residential burglaries by 2%. However, there was an increase in auto and commercial burglaries, and believes this is due to Los Angeles District Attorneys directive last year making several misdemeanor crimes nullified. This directive allows a perpetrator to be released on his recognizance and not serve any time at all for the crimes they commit. Sergeant Escobedo provided an example of a local criminal who committed over 25 crimes and continued to be released on his recognizance.

Sergeant Escobedo reported an increase in telephone scams and provided an example in which you may receive a phone call where someone will tell you they are holding a family member hostage and ask for ransom money.

Lastly, there has been an increase in dating website scams. An example provided was one in which two people get to know each other and exchange nude pictures, and then one of the individuals states they are a minor and will threaten to inform the police unless money is obtained. Whittier Police Department is proactive in providing valuable information to the community and that he is available from Tuesday through Friday at the Police Servies Center.

8. DIVISION PROGRAM/PROJECT UPDATES

a. **Older Adult Program Updates**

Mr. Carrillo gave a recap on the Older Adult Programs in the Senior Advisory Committee packet to include bingo, exercise, craft classes and upcoming social events. Members were encouraged to refer back to the report for more information.

9. OLD BUSINESS

None.

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. **VITA Program**

Mr. Carrillo provided a brief overview on the VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program which kicked off on January 24, 2022, for residents and on January 31, 2022, for non-residents. He informed members the program is a pick up and drop off service, which was successful in preventing the spread of Covid-19 and allows staff to provide a more efficient service. For individuals who need tax assistance, they can call the Gus Velasco Neighborhood Center.

11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

12. MEMBERS COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Gilbert Aguirre commented on the zoom meetings, inquiring why we don't have in-person meetings.
- Committee member Linda Vallejo commented on the committee meetings, inquiring that when the committee return to in-person meetings can members who are unable to attend in person still attend via zoom.
- Nancy Krueger reported that the Woman's club will be having a Quatermania fundraiser at Town Center Hall on Sunday, March 13, 2022, at 10 a.m. to fund scholarships for high school seniors in Santa Fe Springs. Tickets are \$20.00.

13. ADJOURNMENT – CHAIRPERSON JANIE AGUIRRE

Chairperson Janie Aguirre adjourned the meeting at 10:23 a.m.

The Next Meeting of the Senior Advisory Committee will be held via Zoom teleconferencing on March 8, 2022.

Virginia Magana

Prepared By: Virginia Magana

Jose Carrillo

Jose Carrillo, Executive Secretary