



## **Montclair Safety and Improvement Council (MSIC) Public Council Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, November 5, 2015, Montclair Presbyterian Church, 5701 Thornhill Drive

**Steering Committee Members Present:** Carolyn Winters (Chairperson), Michael Tigges (Vice Chairperson), Jim Clardy (Treasurer), Nancy Havassy (Community Appointed Representative), Doug Mosher (Community Representative), Barry Klezmer (Community Appointed Representative), Josh Shaw (Community Representative), Stan Weisner (Community Appointed Representative), and Dan Swafford (Community Representative).

**Steering Committee Members Absent:** Nick Vigilante (Secretary), Nicki Kaiser (Community Representative), Mimi Rohr (Community Representative), and Jeff Diamond (Community Appointed Representative).

**Advisory Members Present:** Patricia Rose, Oakland Police Department (OPD) Neighborhood Services Coordinator, Nayeli Maxson, Representative from the Office of Oakland Councilmember Annie Campbell-Washington, and Kristine Jurgens-Duenas, OPD Community Resources Officer (CRO).

**Other Attendees Present:** 6

The meeting commenced after a quorum of seven MSIC Steering Committee Members was achieved.

### **1. September 3 Meeting Minutes**

Chairperson Winters submitted a motion to accept the minutes from the September 3 Public Council Meeting. The motion was seconded. The motion was then voted on by the Steering Committee and the vote was unanimous to accept the minutes.

### **2. Public Safety**

CRO Jurgens-Duenas reported on the monthly crime statistics for Beat 13Z (Montclair Area):

- Auto burglaries: 23 versus 18 in the same period in 2014. Don't leave packages in cars.

- Residential burglaries: One versus 9 in 2014
- Auto theft: None
- Two robberies occurred in the vicinity of Skyline Boulevard and Grizzly Peak Road. Another robbery occurred to a cyclist on Tunnel Road. The cyclist was asked for directions and then robbed at gunpoint. The perpetrators were in a Toyota sedan with a black female driver.
- There was a carjacking by a white, six foot tall male in his 30's. This occurred at the employee parking lot at the Mash gas station on Mountain Boulevard. The driver was threatened with a pistol. The car left on Mountain Boulevard and then down Park Boulevard. The car was recovered later in the day.
- On October 19, 2015 there was a robbery at the U.S. Bank in Montclair Village. The perpetrator is described as a white male with a long pony tail wearing a "hoodie." He handed a note to the teller. A money tracing device was found near the intersection of Thornhill Drive and Moraga Avenue. Video footage of the robbery is available and a photo was posted to the MSIC Yahoo! Group.

Chairperson Winters reported that mail theft is up. Thieves are targeting gift cards at the start of the holidays. Locking mail boxes are recommended. Thieves are also following delivery trucks (i.e., United Parcel Service, Federal Express, etc...) and "sweeping-up" the delivered packages. Carolyn has consolidated sightings and is forwarding the information to CRO Jurgens-Duenas. Please report all suspicious activity to the MSIC Yahoo! Group and the information will be forwarded to OPD.

Chairperson Winters reported there was a meeting with the Traffic Engineering Section of the City of Oakland Public Works Agency (PWA), elementary school principals, Councilmember Campbell-Washington, with Chairperson Winters in attendance, to observe traffic and pedestrian activity along Thornhill Drive and Moraga Avenue during morning commute hours. Parents walking their children talked with the group. Councilmember Campbell-Washington is searching for funds for quick fixes and longer term solutions to traffic and pedestrian safety problems.

Chairperson Winters reported that CalTrans is holding a community meeting on November 8, 2015 about tree removal in the area of the Thornhill Drive on-ramp to northbound Highway 13. The work includes removal of 147 trees as preparation for the construction of a retaining wall to shore-up the crumbling on-ramp. Ramp closures are anticipated during the construction period. Please see MSIC Yahoo! Group announcements for more information.

Chairperson Winters reported that a new OPD Police Training Academy is starting up soon, and then again in Spring 2016. Attrition of Officers is hindering OPD from catching up to its desired staffing level.

### **3. New Committee Structure for MSIC**

Chairperson Winters stated that MSIC has reorganized its committee structure and functions. MSIC now has the following six committees: Crime and Traffic Safety, Fire Prevention and Vegetation Management, Montclair Organized Neighborhoods (MONS), Special Projects (beautification, fundraising, etc...), Communications, and Council Operations. Montclair residents were invited to join and participate in the committees of interest to them.

### **4. Montclair Village Development Proposal**

The developer, Mr. Basil Chrisotopoulos, stated that his Montclair Village Association (MVA) presentation the day before was well received. He started the presentation with his background growing up in Montclair, and his experience developing similar spaces in Lafayette and Walnut Creek. The building proposed is to replace the current building and parking lot next to the Safeway at the corner of Mountain Boulevard and Antioch Court. The building will consist of three stories with retail units on the ground floor facing Mountain and Antioch, the second floor will be for office space, and the third floor will be for a restaurant (which he plans to be a partner in). He stated that there was lots of excitement from retailers and professionals interested in office space in the new building. The intent is to lease the retail spaces with a focus on longer stays (not services like spas, nail salons, and the like). Representatives of the architect, Mr. John Cumbelich and Associates continued the presentation on the building design. The project replaces the current two story building and adjacent parking lot. The main design feature is a stairway facing Antioch Court. Mosaic tile work on the stairway will reflect foliage visible from the building. Materials are intended to frame views in all directions. The restaurant design is to encourage outside dining. The presentation was intended to continue neighborhood outreach in order to facilitate support and approval of the building permit request. Signage will pattern the retaining wall mural design on Mountain Boulevard.

Regarding parking, the Montclair Garage is currently at 50% capacity. The proposed new building will not accommodate a parking lot or structure. Thus, the plan is to work with managers of the Montclair Garage to accommodate parking by building tenants, employees and customers. They anticipate a need for 150 vacant spots at any time, which can be easily accommodated at the Montclair Garage. The developers will work with the City of Oakland to create disabled parking on the street near the proposed new building. The estimate is for groundbreaking to begin in Spring 2016 with the new restaurant opening in October 2018. This construction prtoject will tie-in with Antioch Court redevelopment project. The proposal will be submitted to the City of Oakland next week. Four restaurateurs have expressed interest. The developer is the major investor.

### **5. Community Projects**

**Antioch Count:** The contract is now with City of Oakland planning officials. The

civil engineers have worked on it, and a City staffer has been assigned to the project. Groundbreaking is anticipated for Spring or Summer 2016. Residents were encouraged to donate to the project by buying bricks with their names on them for the project which are available for purchase at the MVA website.

**Montclair Rail Mural:** Grant applications have been submitted and institutional fundraising is underway. So far, about \$10,000 has been promised, with Alameda County and City of Oakland funds anticipated. Ms. Maxson, a representative from Councilmember Campbell-Washington's office, stated that a City Council resolution is necessary for permission and use of City funds. Funds have been earmarked in the District 4 project budget.

**Pocket Park:** Funding was raised to rehabilitate the irrigation system. The rehabilitation work will begin on November 30, 2015. The Hillside Gardeners group will direct the work. Volunteers are needed on December 5, 2015, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to complete the landscaping work after the irrigation system is repaired. The City of Oakland will supply tools and erosion control materials, and two loads of mulch. Invasive and dead plants will be removed prior to the repair and work days.

## 6. Announcements

**Status of Proposed LePort School:** A resident reported that the permit review process continues with the City of Oakland. LePort has not submitted a second traffic study. Traffic methodology is still in process. The previous scope was inadequate. LePort continues to be determined to proceed with the proposed School, with the ultimate intent being to take it to the City of Oakland Planning Commission. Most of the process is at staff level and might lead to a final appeal to the Planning Commission. The existing building where the proposed School will be located is not being used right now, and the sale has not closed escrow yet.

**Daniel Swafford, Executive Director of the MVA:** Update on the Gateway project. This is located at the top of the Highway 13 northbound ramp and retaining wall on Mountain Boulevard. Volunteers began clearing the vegetation and prepping the wall as the first phase of the mural project. Next weekend the base coat will be applied by Skyline High School students. The later phases of the project will address the pathways and the median. Fundraising continues. Donations can be made through the MVA website. Mural maintenance will be covered for five years by the artist and the MVA.

**Thursday Night Shopping Promotion:** The intent is to encourage residents to shop in Montclair Village and support the businesses. The businesses will stay open to 8:00 p.m. through Dec 17, 2015. The restaurants in Montclair Village will have special offers on those Thursdays.

## 7. Open Forum

There were no speakers for this meeting segment.

**Minutes Prepared By:**

**Michael Tigges** (Prepared the November 5 Meeting Notes)

**Nick Vigilante** (Placement of Notes into Minutes Format)