



## **Montclair Safety and Improvement Council (MSIC) Community and Annual Election Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, May 5, 2016, Montclair Presbyterian Church

**Steering Committee Members Present:** Carolyn Winters (Chairperson), Michael Tigges (Vice Chairperson), Jim Clardy (Treasurer), Nick Vigilante (Secretary), Stan Weisner (Community Appointed Representative), and Nancy Havassy (Community Appointed Representative).

**Steering Committee Members Absent:** Nicki Kaiser (Community Representative), Doug Mosher (Community Representative), Barry Klezmer (Community Appointed Representative), Mimi Rohr (Community Representative), and Jeff Diamond (Community Appointed Representative).

**Advisory Members Present:** Patricia Rose, OPD Neighborhood Services Coordinator (NSC); Nayeli Maxson, Representative from the Office of Oakland Councilmember Annie Campbell-Washington; and Mr. Tuitama Pollard, Oakland Police Department (OPD), Community Resource Officer (CRO).

**Other Attendees Present:** 7

A quorum of MSIC Steering Committee Members was achieved at 7:10 p.m. and Chairperson Winters commenced the meeting.

### **1. Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Clardy reported that MSIC currently has \$9,528.86 in its bank account at the U.S. Bank. Last month, MSIC spent \$913.17 to finalize the irrigation repairs and improvements at the Pocket Park.

### **2. MSIC Steering Committee and Officer Elections**

The election of MSIC Steering Committee Members and Officers was conducted as specified in the bylaws. Steering Committee members were elected by range voting on paper ballots distributed to MSIC community members as they signed in. The election process was overseen and the votes tallied by two representatives from the League of Women Voters (LWV). The candidates for Steering Committee positions were required to submit applications before the election, and the applications were posted on the

MSIC website. All candidates running for Steering Committee membership were elected. Candidates for Officer positions (Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Treasurer, and Secretary) were then nominated from the newly elected Steering Committee. Nominations were accepted from the floor for Officer positions, and then hand votes were submitted from community members who were eligible to vote.

**(Officer Nominations)**

Chairperson: Carolyn Winters  
Vice Chairperson: Michael Tigges  
Treasurer: Jim Clardy  
Secretary: Nick Vigilante

**(Elected)**

Carolyn Winters  
Michael Tigges  
Jim Clardy  
Nick Vigilante

**3. Montclair Crime Reports, Priority Updates, and Mail Theft**

Chairperson Winters led a discussion about the recent mail theft problem which has been plaguing Beat 13z (Montclair) and neighboring Beat 13y (Oakland North Hills above Thornhill Dive). She noted that she has been collecting information about each mail theft from the victims and the community, and then providing that information to CRO Jurgens-Duenas and to the U.S. Postal Service. Some of the individuals committing the mail thefts are also likely committing other crimes as well.

Chairperson Winters stated that residents should consider getting sturdy locking mail boxes. Although not a guarantee against mail theft, locking mail boxes are a deterrent. Chairperson Winters encouraged residents not to ever leave outgoing mail in a mailbox and not to leave the red flag up on the mail box. This type of behavior is risky. Whenever a resident is a victim of mail theft, they should immediately complete an OPD incident report which is available at the OPD website ([www.oaklandpolice.com](http://www.oaklandpolice.com)) and can be submitted to OPD on-line. The OPD coordinates with the U.S. Postal Service on mail theft incident reports and examines the report for leads to other crimes that have been committed.

Chairperson Winters stated that residents should be watchful for strangers in their neighborhoods. If they see individuals who do not belong there behaving oddly, she encouraged residents to collect information and take pictures if possible, because the information could be useful in identifying and eventually apprehending those who are committing crimes in our neighborhoods. Residents can send the information to Chairperson Winters ([cdfwinters@yahoo.com](mailto:cdfwinters@yahoo.com)) to be forwarded to OPD, or they can forward the information directly to OPD via CRO Jurgens-Duenas ([kjurgens-duenas@oaklandnet.com](mailto:kjurgens-duenas@oaklandnet.com)).

Chairperson Winters encouraged residents to collect mail from their mail box on a daily basis to reduce the possibility of mail theft and the impact of it. She also encouraged residents not to leave newspapers and magazines on driveways, which is a clue to the “bad guys” that you are not home and thus your home is a good target for mail theft and

burglary. Have a neighbor pick up your mail and newspapers while you are away from home.

CRO Pollard, on behalf of CRO Jurgens-Duenas who was on leave, stated that there are multiple descriptions of the mail thieves in our area, and the mail theft crimes are not isolated geographically. Two of the mail theft suspects have already been caught for commission of Identity Fraud.

CRO Pollard provided the following crime statistics for Beat 13z (Montclair Area) for the period of April 1 through 28, 2016:

- Auto Burglaries: One versus 10 during the same period in 2015.
- Residential Burglaries: Three versus one during the same period in 2015
- Auto Thefts: Four versus nine during the same period in 2015
- Robberies: One versus none in the same period in 2015.

Regarding the one robbery in Beat 13z, CRO Pollard stated that the suspect chased down and beat the victim and took the victim's cellular phone. The suspect and the victim knew each other.

CRO Pollard stated that after examining 2015 and 2016 crime statistics, it was noticed that the following areas in Beat 13z have been hot spots for crimes:

1900-2100 Mountain Boulevard  
8000-8200 Snake Boulevard  
5800 Colton Drive  
6600-6800 Snake Boulevard

CRO Pollard stated that recently, groups of two have been seen casing streets in Beat 13z. One person is in a car driving it down the street, and the other person is on foot in front of the car. The person on foot examines cars, breaks into the ones which contain valuables, and then deposits the valuables in the car driven by the other person. CRO Pollard stated that whenever a resident notices this type of behavior, they should call OPD's emergency number 911 from a landline, or 777-3211 from a cellular phone, because it is likely a crime is in progress. CRO Pollard also encouraged residents to call the OPD non-emergency number, 777-3333, if they see anything suspicious going on in their neighborhood.

Chairperson Winters stated that solicitors without permits continue to be a problem in Beat 13z and in the Montclair Village in particular. OPD has been responsive when residents call in such behavior to the OPD non-emergency. The only organization that currently has a permit to solicit in our area is the Princess Lee Foundation for Child Abuse and Neglect.

#### **4. MSIC Community Project Updates**

**Montclair Mural Project:** \$8,182.09 has been raised to date for the Montclair Mural Project.

**Antioch Court Streetscape Project:** The next meeting of the Antioch Court Streetscape Committee is May 26, 2016. The purpose of that meeting is to finalize the construction plans for submission to the City of Oakland. A Spring 2017 groundbreaking is anticipated for the Project. The Committee also hopes to coordinate the Project with the planned and anticipated construction of a new, three story building to replace the current building and parking lot next to the Safeway at the corner of Mountain Boulevard and Antioch Court. Residents can donate to the Antioch Court Streetscape Project at the Montclair Village website ([www.montclairvillage.com](http://www.montclairvillage.com)).

Chairperson Winters thanked everyone who participated in the Earth Day events which took place on Saturday, April 23, 2016. MSIC members played a major role in Earth Day clean-ups at the Pocket Park located at the corner of Mountain Boulevard and Thornhill Drive, and the clean-up at the corner of Thornhill Drive and Mountain Boulevard where large amounts of vegetation were blocking the sidewalk areas. This was problematic for anyone, including children crossing the intersection and/or walking to school.

Chairperson Winters reported that as a result of removal of the vegetation on the Thornhill Drive side of the intersection with Mountain, people are now using the open sidewalk area to park their cars. Chairperson Winters recommended that “No Parking” signs be installed in the area to inform people not to park cars there. Ms. Maxson, of Councilmember Annie Campbell-Washington’s Office, stated that she would look into this matter to see what could be done to have “no parking” signs installed.

Secretary Vigilante recommended that red cones or portable “no parking” signs be placed at that location as a temporary measure until permanent “no parking” signs are installed.

Chairperson Winters thanked everyone for participation in the recent MSIC fundraising event at the Farmstead Wine and Cheese Shop which occurred on Wednesday, April 27, 2016. SCM Jeff Diamond, owner of Farmstead Wine and Cheese, graciously donated the proceeds from this event to the MSIC.

#### **5. Save Our Skies – East Bay**

Ms. Helen Kozoriz Shoemaker, Chairperson of the Save Our Skies East Bay (SOSEB) group, provided a presentation about the group’s efforts to reduce airplane noise over our area due to the recent implementation of the Federal Aviation Administration’s (FAAs) NextGen program. The FAA’s Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen) program is transforming our air traffic control system from a radar-based system with radio communication to a satellite-based one. GPS technology is being

used to shorten routes, save time and fuel, reduce traffic delays, increase capacity, and permit controllers to monitor and manage aircraft with greater safety margins. As a result of the changes in flight paths and procedures, planes take more direct routes, fly at lower altitudes, and are more concentrated in narrow flight corridors above densely populated residential areas. Unfortunately, one of the side effects of the change is increased airplane noise.

Ms. Kozoriz Shoemaker stated that the FAA's NextGen program has taken an already busy airspace and further concentrated arriving and departing San Francisco (SFO) and Oakland (OAK) flights over certain East Bay neighborhoods. Rather than acting to disperse overflights to distribute and minimize the cumulative impacts over neighborhoods, the FAA has assured maximum disturbance of certain areas.

Ms. Kozoriz Shoemaker stated that the SOSEB has written letters about the airplane noise problem to noise abatement officials at SFO and OAK and to elected officials, and SOSEB volunteers have attended noise forum meetings to discuss the issues and solutions to the noise problem.

Ms. Kozoriz Shoemaker stated that SOSEB has initiated a petition drive regarding the problem, and those who support SOSEB's efforts to reduce airplane noise can sign the petition. Ms. Kozoriz Shoemaker had a copy of the petition for those interested in reviewing and signing it. She also provided two handouts which contained guidance and information about how to contact various officials, including elected officials, about the airplane noise problem.

Ms. Kozoriz Shoemaker stated that residents have a right to file noise complaints about airplane noise. She encouraged residents to file noise complaints and write letters to elected officials if the airplane noise is bothering them. Without noise complaints and letters to elected officials, the FAA is unlikely to respond to airplane noise increases.

Ms. Kozoriz Shoemaker stated that the SOSEB has set-up a website at [www.soseastbay.org](http://www.soseastbay.org) and has a Facebook page. Information on how to file a noise complaint, sign the petition, and contact elected officials is posted on the SOSEB website. Information is also routinely posted on Nextdoor. Volunteers are always welcome. The SOSEB group can be contacted at [SaveOurSkiesEastBay@gmail.com](mailto:SaveOurSkiesEastBay@gmail.com). Volunteers are needed.

## 6. Open Forum

**Status of Proposed LePort Montessori School to be located at the current site of the Montclair Womens Club:** A resident reported that even though a "For Sale" sign has reappeared in front of the Montclair Womens Club, the conditional use application submitted by LePort to convert the building into a Montessori School is still in an active status with the City of Oakland. LePort has not withdrawn it. The property has been put back on the market for additional purchase offers. The resident stated that she has known the current owner for a long time and feels the community should do all it can to

help the current owner sell the property to someone else. The current location is best suited for residential property.

**Montclair Parking Garage:** A resident encouraged everyone to use the Montclair Parking Garage structure when in the Village. It is free on Sunday, and you can park free in the garage on any other day for the first 20 minutes. It is a great resource for Montclair which is not being fully utilized.

**Oakland Sugar Sweetened Beverage Tax:** Ms. Maxson stated that on Tuesday, May 3, 2016, the Oakland City Council voted unanimously to place a Sugar Sweetened Beverage Tax on the November 2016 ballot.

**Developer Fees for Zone One:** Ms. Maxson stated that on Tuesday, May 3, 2016, the Oakland City Council approved Citywide Impact Fees for Affordable Housing. The new ordinance permits the city to charge developers who want to build market-rate housing a one-time fee to help fund subsidized affordable housing. Fees will begin to apply to developers on September 1, 2016. The fee associated with each project will be based on the number of units in the development and where in the City the project is located. Fees will be highest in the area with the highest rents and home prices: downtown and Lake Merritt, North Oakland and the Oakland Hills (Zone 1).

**Oakland Cannabis Ordinance:** Ms. Maxson stated that on May 4, 2016, the Oakland City Council unanimously voted to approve changes to its medical cannabis regulations that will improve public health and safety by establishing a licensing structure for the full spectrum of medical cannabis activities from “seed to sale,” including cultivation, manufacturing, transportation, distribution, testing, dispensing and on-site consumption of medical cannabis. Oakland’s ordinance amendments include provisions that will provide ownership and job opportunities for Oakland residents in the burgeoning medical cannabis industry.

**Bike to Work Day:** Ms. Maxson stated that the annual Bike to Work Day in Oakland (to promote cycling as affordable transportation, to improve public health, and to curb carbon emissions) will be held on Thursday, May 12, 2016. A kick-off event will be held at City Hall from 7-9 a.m. Pancakes, prizes, and all-day valet parking await bicyclists who arrive to celebrate en route to work.

**Small Business Week from May 1 through 7, 2016:** Ms. Maxson stated that the City of Oakland will mark National Small Business Week with a variety of workshops and events. Please support your local small businesses and continue to nurture them.

**Shop Montclair and Support Your Schools – Mother and Teacher Appreciation – April 29 through May 8, 2016:** Ms. Maxson provided information and a flier about this event. Eighteen Montclair businesses are participating and a portion of proceeds from individual sales at those businesses will be donated to the participating schools of your choice (Montera, Montclair, Thornhill, Joaquin Miller, and Corpus Christi).

**Park Volunteer Program:** Ms. Maxson stated that the City of Oakland has established a Volunteer Park Patrol Program for Oakland's Parks. Volunteers will act as Ambassadors at the Parks to observe, answer questions and help people at the Parks, and report on problems and issues that may exist or occur at the Parks. The first of many four hour training classes will occur on June 23, 2016. Anyone interested in serving as a Patrol Volunteer should contact Ms. Nayeli Maxson at [nmaxson@oaklandnet.com](mailto:nmaxson@oaklandnet.com).

**OPD Open House:** NSC Rose stated that on Friday, May 13, 2016, the OPD will hold its annual Open House at the OPD Headquarters building on Jefferson Street, from 4-6 p.m.

Inasmuch as all agenda items were now completed, Chairperson Winters adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:52 p.m.

**Minutes Prepared By:**

*Nick Vigilante*

**Nick Vigilante  
MSIC Recording Secretary**