

**Arleta Neighborhood Council (ANC)
General Board Meeting MINUTES
Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.**

Location of meeting: Osborne Neighborhood Church, Fellowship Hall,
13501 Osborne St., Arleta, CA 91331

- I. Called to Order by ___President, Raymond Duran___ at ___7:37 p.m.___,
Roll Call : present –Raymond Duran, Jaime Gallo, Burton Hunter, Jesse Ramos, “Geo” Escobar,
Gary Gallon, Christiana Hartwell, Jose Pumay, Robert Yaffe**

absent – Dave Hunt, Jesus “Jesse” Torres

and Pledge of Allegiance led by ___Burton Hunter___

II. President’s Report

Happy New Year & welcome.

**III. Report from L.A.P.D. Senior Lead Officer
and Representatives from other State or City Agencies.**

LAPD Senior Lead Officer, Tracy Ware – Daytime, armed robbery occurred at Mobile Gas Station, near I-5 freeway. Grand Theft Auto has increased. Mostly Pick Up trucks, Chevy Silverado. These between afternoon and 6:00 p.m. Please secure your cars. Still a supply of “clubs” for steering wheel available at station. Ask Tracy if you want one. Mission Station one of few that is almost fully-staffed; meaning there is a staffed squad car just for Arleta during almost every shift.

Q.) Robert Yaffe – reason for thefts? A.) They strip & sell the parts.

More LAPD activities ramping-up. Planning 2 carnivals this year. Big fundraiser on May 6th.

Q.) Jaime Gallo – Notice a big increase of homeless people. A.) Affirmed; there are.

Crime is big among homeless and much crime is perpetrated by homeless. Thanks to CD-6 teams, seeing some accept services and accommodations (Implying that most don’t):They are finding among the encampments of homeless; they tend to just “bounce” between Arleta and Panorama City.

Comments from Loyce Lacson (subject Carnivals), Robert Yaffe (drug use & City spending money on homeless programs that don’t work.), Richard Serrano (Mostly GM vehicles stolen for engines & transmissions), Jose Pumay (less & less patrolling), Ray Duran – “Thanks! PD is doing a good job”.

CD-6, City Council member Imelda Padilla – 5 months in office – have put together a strong team. Imelda presented a certificate to ANC (received by President, Raymond Duran) as thanks for our partnering with them to put on the very successful, “Miracle in Mission” Christmas toy give-away event. She is planning to join our NC meetings regularly (3 or 4 times /per year). 1/2 million \$ for Graffiti-Busters projects. Their “Hope The Mission” is a special team for addressing homeless issues. She is “learning the ropes”, finding that she gets access to more resources when she takes her issues thru the Mayor’s Office.

Q.) Jesse Ramos: Sepulveda motels converted into homeless housing. CD-6 getting more than our fair share of homeless being dumped here. L.A. Family Housing has purchased a motel to house homeless that is across the street from a public school.

I.) Project developers for building housing are looking at the Valley because of our larger lots.

City needs to fill 60% of the needed beds before they are allowed to implement certain restrictions/ordinances targeting homeless.

Q.) Jesse Ramos – Concern because LA Family housing facility near Arminta is surrounded by homeless encampments. We are concerned of the possibility that we will see that here around projects for housing homeless.

I.) NHS project at Woodman & Nordhoff will house a very different, homeless, senior population within that facility. Not expecting the same kind of issues there as in other locations. Imelda suggested calling our County Representative to send a deputy to look at any of these problem issues as they come up.

Q.) Gary Gallon – Oversight needed for funds spent. A lot of money has been allocated for homeless intervention. Where and how has it been spent?

Q.) Burton Hunter.- question about \$ for projects that are overseen by non-profits. How is it spent? Does the non-profit itself get the money? or is that the amount spent directly on the projects they oversee? I.) (vague) Both.

I.) Report it, report it, report it !

Q.) Geo Escobar – Not enough oversight when it comes to these issues.

I.) Monies that Imelda raises will be funneled into CD-6 projects.

Q.) Loyce Lacson – Need accountability for \$ given to agencies for projects. Project scheduled for Sepulveda Blvd (with a walkway/bike path down the middle of the Blvd.) is senseless.

A.) “Circular thinking” is not “Logical thinking” . She wants the City to take a “linear approach” to unpacking problems that we want to address.

Q.) Richard Serrano – “Transparency” Everyone who gives an answer tells us a different story. Show us the numbers and be transparent.

Q.) To CD-6 rep – Jesse Ramos posed a question about the conditions around city homeless shelters. Encampments just move around when confronted. Have submitted requests to have “No Trespassing” signs put up to minimize encampments. Our ordinances are not working on behalf of local residents and home owners.

Luz Rivas, State Assembly office – rep. Jessica– Mentioned many events, including a Town Hall, on Friday, Feb 26th beautification project on I-5 Freeway.

Bennie Bernal – Repeal bill that allows school counselors to “kidnap” our children from their families when kids are at school.

Loyce Lacson – Governor taking money away from foster care, libraries & state parks.

Jesse Ramos – Luz Rivas supported bills that divide families and has put her support behind controversial issues. There has been a motion to take away the measures implemented by Prop 13 to protect property owners. The whole political machine is chiming-in to vote against the voters & home owners.

Senator Caroline Menjivar office representative – Hosting a town hall partnership with Luz Rivas.

Q.) Jesse Ramos – Suggesting the rep. bring back updates to us on the issues we are presenting. To work on a bill to repeal Prop. 47 back to what it used to be.

Q.) Joann Gallon – Make sure that illegal immigrants don’t get free benefits from the state that the rest of us taxpayers can’t afford for ourselves.

Q.) Jaime Gallo – Agree. Take away “Sanctuary State” wording’ we can’t even take care of our own.

Q.) Richard Serrano – Suggesting representatives concentrate on people here (district residents).

(sp?) **Mayor’s Office – Michelle Vergara** – Mayor is looking for a permanent Department of Neighborhood Empowerment General Manager (D.O.N.E., GM). Please fill out a survey of what you are expecting from someone in that position. Beginning in February, will be trying to do more events out in the S.F. Valley. Looking for volunteers for Crisis Response Teams. LA Repair Zones – City funds allocated to projects in needy areas.

Q’s. by Robert Yaffe, Jesse Ramos, Burton Hunter, “Geo”, Jesse - will attend their meeting. Richard Serrano, Comment: “Eminent Domain” – forced, legal take-over of properties in certain development areas IF owner indicates that they don’t want to sell.

- IV. Report to ANC from **Carol Salazar Loweree** about what progress & activities her **Happy House tutoring program** has accomplished. Last year ANC partnered in sponsorship/funding of the Cadet Tutoring program, as she has been continuing her work with Cadets who are in the LAPD Mission Division and the Foothill Division Station Cadets. She tutors for free – Kids in rough situations – they get HOPE. She will teach volunteers how to help tutor. Donations help her provide program supplies.
- V. **General Public Comments** on Items **Not Listed on Agenda** - California State Law (the Brown Act) requires PUBLIC COMMENT to be a **NON-DISCUSSION PERIOD (Two minutes /per Speaker)**.

Bennie Bernal – He was formerly a part of the Spanish ministry at Osborne. Running for **Congressman for the 29th District** in 2024. The 1st item on his agenda is to Repeal the Death Tax (raises taxation on homes & properties passed on in a will to children by changing the assessment value to being based on current market rates when they inherit it. Therefore, many people can't afford to keep their family homes or property

He is for 2nd Amendment rights. Against trans-gender propaganda being pushed. Secure the border. American citizens need to come first.

Richard Serrano– Write-in candidate for City Council District-6. “Shelter - Freedom – Food” (the basics). He has been in this community since 1971.

Victoria Garcia - Running for State Assembly District 43 (Luz Rivas’ office, when she runs for Senator). Stanford, Harvard – schooled. Whats to fight for this community. It should not be that a social worker can decide to take kids away from their family.

Ely De La Cruz Ayao – Running for election to City Council District 6. He has been a real estate broker & business owner in CD-6. Wants to inject new ideas. Install C.C. TV Cameras. Prioritize use of funds for communities. Public/Private Partnerships (PPP). Public safety meetings to flush-out what problems need to be addressed.

ANC’s D.O.N.E. Representative, Mario Hernandez commented:

I an ANC Board Member has a conflict of interest, that the member should first consult with the City Attorney. Recuse oneself from the portion of the meeting before the item comes up on the Agenda.

Announcing in March – Women in Leadership.

Board Of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC) approved amendments to the NC Code of Conduct.

Regarding S.B. \$11 2/3 of the NC Board must vote affirmative.

Procedure for holding hybrid meeting is being processed (worked on).

Q. Gary Gallon – Code of Conduct should apply same to all.

Q. “Geo” Who does Mario Hernandez work for? A. D.O.N.E. Jesse Ramos also had a comment.

Board Business

- I. Possible Motion/Discussion/Vote on approval of the ANC **Minutes** for the prior **General Board** meeting of November 28, 2023 – Special Board Meeting
At our Board meeting, a copy was available to view at the check-in table
Motion by Jesse Ramos . 2nd by Robert Yaffe .
Vote: Yes 8 . No 0 . Abstain 1 . Absent 2 . Ineligible 0 .
The motion **Passed**
- II. Possible Motion/Discussion/Vote on approval of **monthly financial documents** prepared by the Treasurer which have not yet been approved. (to be voted on separately)
At our Board meeting, a copy is available to view at the check-in table.
- A.) **November 2023 ANC M.E.R.s** (monthly expenditure report)
Motion by Jesse Ramos . 2nd by Jaime Gallo .
Vote: Yes 8 . No 0 . Abstain 1 . Absent 2 . Ineligible 0 .
The motion **Passed**
- B.) **December 2023 ANC M.E.R.s**
Motion by Burton . 2nd by Jesse Ramos .
Vote: Yes 8 . No 0 . Abstain 1 . Absent 2 . Ineligible 0 .
The motion **Passed**
- III. Possible Motion/Discussion/Vote to sending letter, as composed or amended, to the City Council & to any City agency that requires it, a **request to be able to meet virtually** (as in via ZOOM) **if we choose to do so**, as stated in the provisions of the CA State Senate Bill 411 that recently passed in Sacramento.
(We must have a 2/3 majority vote for this motion to pass.)
(A copy of this letter is available to view on the Sign-In table at the meeting.)
Motion by Jaime Gallo . 2nd by Robert Yaffe to **TABLE this motion**.
Vote: Yes 4 . No 3 . Abstain 1 . Absent 2 . Ineligible 0 .
The motion **TABLED** for this meeting. The item may be brought up at a future meeting.
- IV. Possible Motion/Discussion/Vote to send a letter, as composed or amended, to the L.A. City Council and to the City Attorney and the Mayor's Office stating that we are **protesting the City Attorney's restrictive interpretation of what is required for Neighborhood Councils to participate in holding virtual meetings** (as is provided by SB 411, recently passed in Sacramento.)
(A copy of this letter is available to view on the Sign-In table at the meeting.)
Motion by Christiana Hartwell . 2nd by Gary Gallon .
Vote: Yes 8 . No 0 . Abstain 1 . Absent 2 . Ineligible 0 .
The motion **Passed**
- Possible Motion/Discussion/Vote to approve to **fill each of the following open ANC Board seats**:
- A.) **Renter Representative** (1) – none applied-.
B.) **Senior Representative** (1) – none applied-.
C.) **School Representative** (1) – none applied-.
D.) **Youth Representative** (1) – none applied-.
E.) **At Large Representative** (1) – none applied-.

- V. Possible Motion/Discussion/Vote to fill any available **ANC Committee Seats**:
 - A.) **Outreach Committee** - Members – none applied-.
 - B.) **Community Improvement Committee** - Members – none applied-.
 - C.) **By Laws Committee** - Members – none applied-.

VI. **Appoint 1 new ANC Budget Representatives** to represent the NC to the LA City Budget Advocates Committee. These Advocates present our ideas to the City Council recommending what adjustments should be made to the City Budget. They often recommend programs within the City that are being over-looked when it comes to City spending.

(1st newly elected Budget Representative from Arleta NC is Robert Yaffee.)

“**Geo**” **Escobar** stepped forward to be **ANC’s 2nd Budget Representative..**

Motion to accept by Jaime Gallo. 2nd by Burton Hunter.

Vote: Yes 8. No 0. Abstain 1. Absent 2. Ineligible 0.

The motion **Passed**

VII. **Committee Reports**

Jesse Ramos needs another member on his Community Improvement Committee.
Comments on Balance of funds.

VIII. **Announcements**

In closing few brief announcements were made.

IX. **Adjournment** at 9:13 p.m.