
**Issam Najm, President; Susan Gorman-Chang, Vice President; Gabriel Khanlian, Secretary;
Andrew Krowne, Treasurer; David Balen, Signer; Asaad Alnajjar;
Jason Hector; Alex Kim; Becky Leveque; Jennifer Milbauer**

Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council

Draft Public Safety & Traffic Committee Minutes

**Asaad Alnajjar, Committee Chair (Board member), Gabriel Khanlian, Co-Chair (Board member),
David Balen (Board member), David Lasher (Stakeholder)**

Monday June 19, 2017
6:30 PM

Porter Ranch Community School
Multipurpose Room
12450 Mason Avenue, Porter Ranch, California

Porter Ranch Community School is located at the southeast corner of
Sesnon and Mason – The parking lot is accessible from Mason

Item 1- Meeting called to order at 6:30pm

Item 2- Asaad welcomed board members and approximately 10 stakeholders.

Item 3- Roll Call Alnajjar, Khanlian and Lasher were present. Balen was absent.

Item 4- Draft mission statement outline and discuss – Asaad explained what the mission statement should consist of. Discussion was made and the following statement was agreed upon. “To provide the stakeholders of PRNC community with an open forum for communicating Public Safety and Traffic Concerns and natural disaster preparation efforts, brainstorming solutions that can be implemented with LAPD, LAFD, CD12, neighborhood watch groups and coordinating neighboring Neighborhood Councils.”

Item 5- Introductions and Presentations from Official Representatives - Tabled

Item 6- Comments from Co-Chair **David Balen** on Porter Ranch ongoing issues and current community concerns for 2016-2017 - Tabled

Item 7- Finalize draft priority To-Do List of the top 10 issues to be addressed and followed upon: Gabriel started a discussion of the top ten concerns of the community:

- Speed / Racing / Reckless Driving – LAPD – Lasher brought concerns about stunt street racing clubs that block traffic to do wheelies, modified cars that make donuts on Sesnon and racing on Sesnon. He stated that there is one car that patrols the area and rarely catches the violators. He also stated that LAPD now has special modified exhaust training to pull over violators. Stake holder stated that there used to be a parked LAPD car on Sesnon for deterrence but it was removed. It should be brought back. Gabriel stated that there is a car parked in the Walmart

shopping center as well as there are under cover cars that patrol the area. He hopes to get CCTV cameras in Porter Ranch that monitors all cars going in and out of Porter Ranch to put in timeline with any crime committed in the area. Asaad stated that the first camera should be located at Mason and Sesnon. Gabriel stated that there should also be cameras on Mason and Rinaldi, Porter Ranch and Rinaldi, as well as Tampa and Rinaldi to capture all cars going in and out and to be used in time of need which can be monitored by law enforcement.

- Pedestrian Safety / Safe routes to schools / Medians – LADOT – Gabriel stated that there is a huge pedestrian safety issue between Renaissance Community and Porter Ranch Community School. Many make illegal uturns, Double Park, run lights and the cross walk on Via Paladino / Sesnon was removed when the new community was built across Renaissance and was never replaced. The goal is to make our children safer when crossing the street to get to school. Some concerns involve Castlebay Elementary. Asaad stated that LADOT needs to come and watch the location to install new signs and traffic lights / stop signs. A stakeholder stated that we should place speed bumps on Sesnon, which Gabriel replied that LAFD is against that as it prevents them from getting to an emergency as they have to drive slow over the speed bumps which cause damage to their equipment. Also, speed limits are high on Sesnon and speed bumps cannot be installed. Lasher stated that a landscape median might also be a great idea to prevent doughnuts made by cars and speeders. A stakeholder thought all the ideas are great. Asaad stated that LADOT hired consultants and are studying the streets to change limits if applicable. Gabriel stated that the issue is that LADOT regulated new speed limits by getting the average speed driven on the road and in this case if most cars travel over 50mph, there is no way that speed limit will drop. In return it can go up. Lasher stated that LADOT captured the speed all cars are driving by digital speed signs, usually provided by Councilmember Englander. Those machines not only show you the speed you are traveling but capture all the speeds all the cars are traveling. Once the data is collected, whatever the 85% mark is, becomes the speed limit. Gabriel stated that the chance of speed limits dropping in Porter Ranch is unlikely.
- RV Parking – Councilmembers Office – Gabriel stated that all the RV's were removed off of Tampa because of all the pressure he placed on the city as well as many stakeholders emailed and called, reporting the RV parking situation. At the end, signs were placed for no overnight parking which resolved the situation on Tampa, but now the RV's have move onto Corbin and other streets. By signs going up in one area, the situation moves to a different area and the only way to resolve this situation is to have all councils work together, fight together to come to a resolution. We need to find a find a resolution before it escalates to a larger scale as one RV becomes 10 RVs and 10 RVs become 100 RVs. Gabriel stated that he can not make changes because he wants to. He needs stakeholders to keep reporting issues in order for Committees, Neighborhood Councils and City Councils to have a cause to take action. Stakeholder reported that many RVs moved to Tunney st. Gabriel stated that Tunney is not in our Council area as well as mainly behind residential areas. PRNC covers North of the 118 FWY between Aliso Canyon and Mason. He stated that everyone needs to stick together and we can make changes. Gabriel also stated that Walmart allows RV parking in the shopping center. Lasher stated that it is Walmark National policy to allow them to park in front of them to gain their business. Gabriel stated that street parking is 72 hours and after 72 hours, cars and RVs can be towed. Issue with RV's is that the city cannot find tow companies that want to tow them due to the fact that it is a total loss for them and they are out of room. The homeless RVs are infected with bugs, urine, drugs and etc and are not sanitary, preventing impounded RVs to be sold on open market. Most RVs are stored for required period of time then sold for a few hundred dollars back to potentially the same owners. Lasher stated that we need to take ownership of our community and so shall the city employees. He also stated that everyone should report everything to the 311 app. The 311 app works. He had very little success with LADOT for abandoned vehicles.

My 311 app works much better. Do not report real time issues on 311. You must call the local Councilmember and LAPD. A Stake holder stated that the Porter Ranch shopping center should take full responsibility of what happens behind the center as he has seen many illegal things occur in the back including illegal parking

- Burglaries – LAPD & Councilmembers Office: Lasher stated that he was burglarized on October 2015. Gabriel stated that burglaries have increased significantly North of Rinaldi in the past few months. Also, east of Tampa. He suggests that residents should camera systems including RING cameras for real time monitoring but issue with that is if the internet or electric is cut, it defeats the purpose. He stated that there is so much chatter regarding burglaries and suspicious cars but issue with that is that many of those pictures of potential suspicious cars can be a local resident and they are being placed on blast on next door. He does not support all the posts of suspicious cars and people on nextdoor until one knows for sure it is not a company doing work on a house or your next door neighbor’s friend parking or walking the streets. Lasher stated that, due to the increase of robberies and burglaries, everyone is very paranoid and considered suspicious.
- Car Thefts – LAPD: A few stakeholders stated that their cars were broken into. Gabriel stated that most car thefts are for the criminals to get from point A to point B where the car will be abandoned. Another stakeholder had their car stolen on Rinaldi. Gabriel stated that most cars that are stolen are cars which the owners left their keys or remotes for their other cars in their cars. He suggests everyone locks their cars. Lasher stated that gated communities have the least amount of car stolen. Due to that security residents have in gated communities, many do not lock their cars and become victims for car break-ins. Gabriel stated that there are some criminals that are using key fob scanners to grab the code from your key then have full access to the car at a later time.
- Home Invasions / Transients / Squatting – LAPD: Gabriel stated that he personally knew a resident that had a transient broke into their house and lived in their house for 5-7 days when the residents were out of town. The resident did not get notified of camera and alarm alerts as they were on a cruise and had no cell coverage. The transient lived in the house, used their cloths, ate their food, colored their hair and basically lived as they owned the house. The gardner didn’t think anything was suspicious, the pool guys didn’t notice anything weird and neighbors didn’t see anything suspicious as the transient took cover in the house. Most break-ins occur from the backyard or from a second story master bedroom. Be vigilant. See something, report it. Know your neighbors. Let someone know that you are leaving town so they can check on your house.
- Homeless Issues - LAPD & Councilmembers Office: Gabriel stated that my311 app has a homeless section now to report homeless encampments. Anyone can report it. A stakeholder asked what happens after reporting. Asaad stated that LAPD and sanitation will visit the site and take appropriate action if applicable. Lasher stated that the city is having issues with lawsuits. If LAPD takes the homeless into custody for 6 hours, then their personal belongings are moved to the city for the homeless to claim their property back, even if it is deemed to be trash. Their goods are their personal property and it is illegal to dispose of it even if it is trash. The city in conjunction of ACLU has to store personal property for 60 days due to a skid row lawsuit which LA City lost. Gabriel said what is trash to us is value to the homeless.
- Graffiti - LAPD & Councilmembers Office: Gabriel stated that we do not have a lot of Graffiti in Porter Ranch other that the canyons. Lasher stated that we do not have a lot of tagging crew or gangs in the area. He stated that my311 app is great for graffiti removal. Gabriel stated that the city is on top of graffiti removal and he is very grateful for that.
- Cameras – LADOT: Gabriel suggested that we get cameras installed in all entrances of Porter Ranch. A stakeholder asked what will the cameras do. Gabriel stated that it will deter suspicious activity in the area and if something happens, the cameras can at least capture footage that LAPD

can investigate and take action. Lasher stated that most of the burglaries are done by criminals from out of the area. They can narrow down to figure out who did what in Porter Ranch if a burglary occurs based on where the car license plate is registered to. Lasher stated that LAPD has started using license plate readers to scan plates to locate stolen cars. Gabriel stated that parking enforcement has also begun using license plate readers. Gabriel asked if anyone has any objections to having cameras in Porter Ranch. No one objected to cameras and encouraged the idea. A stakeholder asked how the camera works and gets power. Asaad stated that the power comes from the street light or the electrical pole it will be mounted on. It has a gsm transmitter which transmits data back and forth. He stated that LAPD uses them a lot in downtown as well as around the orange line.

Item 8- General Public Comments on matters that are not on the Agenda:

Lasher stated that it is illegal to have trashcans in public view when it is not trash day. That is a city violation. Also, abandoned houses become an eye sore and opens the door to crime. Report them. A stakeholder from Chatsworth stated that he is a part of the Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council Disaster Preparedness and he stated that the Safety committee should be the committee that should be a part of the emergency response team. He also suggested that the board members become CERT certified. Gabriel stated that it was a great idea. Asaad stated that there are a lot of coyotes and one should call animal control. Gabriel stated that everything discussed today will become public information and minutes will be published online. Asaad said that everyone can reach us via email and we can discuss all items at our next meeting. Stakeholder stated that we need more police presence. Another stakeholder stated that we only have one car in the area and we need more. When something occurs, it takes more than 15 minutes for response, sometimes hours. Lasher stated that when he was burglarized, it took lapd over 45 minutes to respond. Officer from Foothill showed up when we have a police station 2 miles away. Officers from out of the area do not know the area. Crime is up as the laws have changed and many offenses are not punishable with jail time anymore due to overcrowding in the jails.

Item 9- Meeting Adjourned at 8:20pm