

Neighborhoods Commission (NC), Oct. 14, 2015  
informal notes by L. Ames

**Agenda:** >[link](#)<

**Liaison Report:** new contact: Andrea Hyde: [Andrea.Hyde@SanJoseCA.gov](mailto:Andrea.Hyde@SanJoseCA.gov); 408/535-4975; aide to Councilmember Don Rocha, replaces Jackie Joanino: reassigned office responsibilities.

### **Homelessness:**

#### ***Report-out by ad hoc Cmte chair Norma Callender:***

Cmte held multiple mtgs & discussions, and learned a lot:

- there's lots to be done
- there's little that the NC can do, other than raise awareness & communicate w/ the community.

**Presentation by Michelle Covert**, City of SJ: [Michelle.Covert@SanJoseCA.gov](mailto:Michelle.Covert@SanJoseCA.gov) on behalf of Ray Bramson [ray.bramson@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:ray.bramson@sanjoseca.gov), [www.sjhousing.org](http://www.sjhousing.org); 408/535.8234. Presentation to be posted on NC website (<http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?nid=376>).

- ~4,000 homeless in SJ (2015); 15% less than in 2013
- 2,800 unsheltered; 500 Vets (half unsheltered)
- 500 Youth, 32 minors
- 1,400 chronic homeless
- 69% can't afford rent; 57% have insufficient income to rent; 21% have a pet; 14% live in vehicle
- Destination: Home has goal of housing 1,000 – are getting close.
- SJ has a tight rental market: ~4% vacancy rate.
- \$40M for perm. housing: 600 units.

#### ***Comments by Cmsnrs, Staff & homeless advocates in the audience:***

If one finds a homeless encampment, one can contact [Outreach@HomeFirstSCC.org](mailto:Outreach@HomeFirstSCC.org), or call 408/510-7600.

Q: it that fair? They're humans, down on their luck: "whack-a-mole" move them to another site?

Q: if we provide better services, will more homeless move here to use them? A: no – 84% were here before they became homeless; they didn't just move here.

Anticipating heavy rains this season due to el Niño: we all can foresee the coming disaster. We are not prepared: there's insufficient shelter.

NC can help by sharing information. Individual Commissioners can promote outreach in their districts: help defuse the NIMBYism.

Part of the outreach is showing the movie: "Exodus from the Jungle". To be shown in Community Centers or churches across the city: Cmsnrs can help work w/ nghbrhd assoc's, activists & Councilmembers to arrange showings.

>> Coming soon to D6: Willow Glen Methodist Church 1420 Newport at Minnesota Oct 24, 2 PM. (Free, but material goods & donations appreciated.)

### **NC Mtg Protocols:**

Discussion by Chair on how to keep mtg on agenda. Cmsn workings are now much improved w/ Staff Michelle McGurk: minutes, reports, work plans, and audio now posted online

(<http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?nid=376>).

- We do have to be careful w/ ad hoc cmtes: Cmsnrs can't just join an ad hoc cmte without first checking w/ Staff & Chair: don't want to exceed a quorum in violation of the Brown Act.

### **Crime-Free Multi Housing (CFMH):**

#### ***Report by Chair:***

The Rules Cmte raised the CFMH issue last week, just after they had approved the NC's 2015-16 Work Plan and acknowledging that it was full.

CFMH is a controversial topic: many from the public spoke in favor or against the issue.

"Devil is in the details" – great potential for unintended consequences.

The Rules Cmte directed that the issue be heard by other Council Cmtes, and then asked if the NC might be willing to help collect public comment on the CFMH proposal. As NC Chair, I replied that I'd check w/ the Cmsn and then reply back.

#### ***Extensive Cmsn discussion:***

it would be lots of work; question as to whether our input would be incorporated;

Appears to be a Civil matter rather than legislative: it's between landlords and tenants – unclear how the City gets involved; what would be the purpose of NC suggestions?

Seems more appropriate for Housing Cmsn; in fact, we understand that they've studied similar matters a few years back.

Full City Council should discuss matter, not shunt it to NC.

Also, there's landlord training by Tri-County Landlord Assoc.

On the other hand, this is NC's chance to help shape the discussion: adjust the proposed language so as to better protect tenants from improper eviction;

There could be impacts on homelessness: would an offense get an entire family banned from all housing?

Can of worms; very legalistic; NC not well versed in tenant/landlord rules: not suited to tackle the issue.

***Motion*** to decline invitation to become involved: passed 12 to 3.

There was some follow-up discussion as to whether to make recommendations to Council regarding the policy, but then it was pointed out that the motion wasn't to decline to host mtgs, it was to not to become involved.

Chair was directed to report the decision to the Rules Cmte. ([Letter](#) submitted 10/16/15)

### **Next NC Mtg:**

Nov. 18th (shifted a week because of 11/11/15 holiday). Several Cmsnrs state that they won't be able to attend.

- Illegal Fireworks, Police Body Cameras, refine/confirm the NC Caucus process, & "Nghbrhd Safety"; Request made that the discussion on Caucus process be held towards the end of mtg so that a tentative late-arrival may still participate.
- Request: include excerpt from Work Plan on the agenda to remind Cmsnrs what's scheduled for the coming month's mtg.
- Request: next month, start the setup of various ad hoc cmtes so that they can begin their advance work on their topics.

***Adjourn*** at 8:58 PM.

~Larry Ames, 10/16/15