



West of Twin Peaks Central Council

A Resource for Neighborhood Organizations West of Twin Peaks in San Francisco since 1936

PO Box 27112
San Francisco, CA 94127

<http://www.westoftwinpeaks.org/>

Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday May 23, 2016

Time: 7:30pm – 9:00pm

Location: [Forest Hill Clubhouse](#)
[381 Magellan Avenue](#)
[San Francisco, CA 94127](#)

Associations:	Those Present shown in bold	
	Balboa Terrace Roger Ritter	Monterey Heights Marco Magallon Susan Zurinaga Paul Anderson Steve Roditti
	Forest Hill Dena Aslanian William Gus Guibert	Mount Sutro Homeowners
	Forest Knolls Herbert Dunmeyer Kristine Zaback	Pine Lake Park David Golden
	Ingleside Terrace Paul Conroy Carolyn + Bob Karis Mark -	Saint Francis Woods Carolyn Squeri, Paul Hill
	Golden Gate Heights Sally Stephens	Sherwood Forest
	Greater West Avrum Shepard Portal Matt Chamberlain Lee Hsu	Sunnyside Lisa Spinali Estelle Smith
	Lakeshore Acres Barbara Chionsini Bill Chionsini,	The Woods Judy Clarke
	Lakeside Property Owners Joyce Richardson,	Twin Peaks Denise LaPoint
	Merced Manor Mike Garcia	Westwood Highlands Bhushan Mudbhary Dave Bisho
	Midtown Terrace George Wooding	
	Miraloma Park Karen Breslin	
Officers Present:	President – Roger Ritter Vice President- Sally Stephens	Treasurer- Carolyn Squeri Secretary – David Golden Parliamentarian - Lee Hsu
Guests	Herbert W. Dunmeyer	

Present:	Carl Wendorf Blue Mudbhary Kathy Montague	
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Roll Call and Minutes Review:

Meeting called to order:

Roll Call: 10 members present at start of meeting. With the arrival of Denise La Point that makes a11, and we have a quorum.

Minutes: Karen to motion, Mark, seconds. Approval of April Minutes passes.

Officer Reports:

President / Roger Ritter: Differing Reports to the end of the meeting.

Vice President / Sally Stephens:

Secretary / David Golden:

Treasurer / Carolyn Squeri:

Parliamentarian / Lee Hsu:

Committee Reports:

Planning and Land Use / Estelle Smith:

Technology / Avrum Shepard:

Public Health / George Wooding:

Open Space & Parks / Sally Stephens:

Transportation / Avrum Shepard:

Public Safety / Barbara Chionsini: SF PD Officers

Reports (20 min)

Featured Speakers and Q&A on Crime in the Neighborhoods (45 min) ·

SF Public Defender Jeff Adachi: Thanks the audience and is honored to be here. He makes clear he is not here to defend auto burglary. He wants to work with the individuals who are charged to limit their negative activities. By working with individuals he wants to explain why there is an increase in crime. Very difficult to tie crimes to specific laws or trends. People commit crimes because they are poor, they want what ever they are stealing. They steal these things to survive. He acknowledges that people steal because of a poor moral judgment. Speculates if stiffer penalties would limit the amount of crime. Notes that in some countries the penalty for stealing is still cutting off hands. Moves on to give an example about young people stealing cell phones. Suggests that cell phones which can be disarmed if stolen, has resulted in a significant decrease in the theft of cell

phones. Now that phones can be disarmed, the theft of cell phones has dropped considerably. This was a good law that faced significant resistance from the cell phone manufacturers who wanted to keep selling more new phones. Explains what he's learned talking with young people who were stealing phones. Noted that they began to educate young people through a process called "pathways" that informed violators of the impact of their actions on their own lives and moral issues related to theft. The program lasts one year, requiring weekly engagement with the kids. The first class has just occurred. Defender Adachi believes the program has been transformative.

The program has worked well for kids, but may not be as effective with older criminals. When you look at city surveillance program, which was implemented in 2004... it had a significant reduction in property crime. The reason why we have so many property thefts is do to the number of poor people. He acknowledges there are a wide variety of reasons why people steal. Not all theft is related to poverty, some is due to individuals who desire valuables that are not their own. Asks what is it about a neighborhood that induces theft? Gives an example of an alley which is dark and screened from view, and notes that block is a high risk location for crime.

Preventative, if you leave property in your car in plain view, the likelihood your car will be broken into is much much higher. Notes that we should be careful to avoid showing tempting targets. Gives an example of his brother traveling in japan whose cell phone was returned a week later, after he left it on the train... feels something like that would be unlikely to happen here in San Francisco. Notes that "a lot has been made of proposition 47 reducing the penalties for certain crimes, including burglary." Adachi notes that car theft would still be charged as a felony. The reality is that car break-ins are very hard to prosecute, unless there is an eye witness. Says he's "heard" that only 4% of auto burglary is prosecuted. 12% of our population lives below the federal poverty level. We do see theft that is committed by individuals who do not have the means to eat. The number of cases we see in court for auto burglary is very small considering the number of cases that occur. If you are arrested for auto burglary you will go to court, the process will commence to begin a trail. The case can be resolved by either a plea or a jury trial. One challenge is finding juries since 80% of the SF residences are victims of auto burglary.

Defender Adachi shares our concern regarding the increase in auto burglaries. We have 95 attorneys, and represent about 22,000 cases a year. Given the population it's a heavy load for our department. About 25% of the individuals we represent are mentally ill, many more are addicted to drugs. We have many success stories of working with individuals to rehabilitate themselves. We often work with the court to clear the record of individuals who have reformed themselves. Speaks to the importance of a fair trial, even if the individual is guilty of the crime. We work hard to reduce the expenses related to incarceration. 85% of the youth we work never come back if we work effectively with them. Since prop 47 passed only 18 months ago, there is not a lot of data yet to draw specific conclusions regarding. Defender Adachi sites a few of the limited examples where crime has dropped, but acknowledges that property crime in cities has risen. San Diego is an example with numerous "petitions under prop 47" that has actual had a decrease in crime.

Question: We had our house broken into recently. Speculates that the crime was "gang related." Have you had any experience with gang related crime? We added cameras, we had an alarm, but it only went off when they left out the front door." **Answer:** We have not seen an increase in gang related trials. That said, we would only know if it was charged that way.

Question: If I were to put a camera there, is that admissible in "court of law." **Answer:** Yes, both individual cameras, and public cameras are admissible. The revolution in camera technology and higher quality cameras is admissible.

Question: We appreciate your efforts to rehabilitate individuals. But laws are a different matter. Smash and grab penalty are higher in San Mateo, but here in San Francisco, its only

10 days. Answer: In San Mateo you are looking at 2 or 3 times the penalty. They have much higher costs for people in jail. Adachi believes you can be in jail much longer than 10 days. The penalties are much less here in San Francisco. The prosecutor has a good deal of discretion in San Francisco to determine how they will charge the individual. Many of the people they work with are addicted to drugs, and that makes a huge difference. Since cell phones have been disarmed, auto burglaries have seen a dramatic increase. Car theft is very tempting. It was similar in the 1980 related to car radios. Now that car radios have no resale value. Cameras have been shown to make a dramatic decrease in crime. In the UK there are hundreds of cameras, and it makes a huge difference, particularly if its obvious the individuals are being watches.

Question: Property crime may be a “small thing” but it effects us on quality of life issues, some of the other issues related to poverty, drugs are so big, we could debate them for a long time, suggest we need an “overhaul” of our laws, and that we, here in the west of twin peaks, are probably more aligned with San Mateo, then the rest of San Francisco. Answer: Adachi notes how different things are now in San Francisco, then they were when he started. Rape, murder, assault are all prosecuted at a much higher rate, then they were when I started in the late 1980’s.

Jeff Adachi passes out a flyer related to a workshop they are sponsoring.

Captain Denise Flaherty & Captain Joe McFadden

Captain Flaherty will talk to us about what she expects of her officers, and also of the community. Constantly asked about

Robberies

Burglaries

Auto Break-ins

No crime is too small.

Captain Flaherty looks at the overall crime rates and the rates here in the neighborhood. Discusses a peak in car break-ins, and how its been decreasing as a result of the analysis we are doing. They track the location, time, day of the week, etc... adds a high visible presence when there was a spike in crime in some particular locations. Yes, your question is accurate, we have seen an increase in gang related crime. These crimes are more organized. We used to methamphetamines users committing crimes. Now we see a much more sophisticated approach to committing these crimes.

Cameras are a great use. We track who on the block has cameras, and then attempt to track a criminal in multiple videos. Notes an example when an individual was seen committing 3 crimes and was prosecuted for all 3 crimes.

Notes how difficult it is to cover the entire neighborhood. Its too big for officers to cover all the blocks. Suggests that neighbors keep their eyes out for suspicious behavior. Repeats a request that we call police for any suspicious. Captain Flaherty, agrees with Public Defender Adachi to take away the tempting items that can leave in crime.

There is a big difference between burglaries where the home owner is home at the time of the crime. Refers to the crimes as “hot prowls” Arresting a few individuals can make a big impact in reducing the “hot prowls.” Talks about the benefit of the police coordinating activities between districts. Further elaborates on how a neighborhood crime watch made a huge impact on reducing the number of crimes. The neighborhood effort was supported by the activity of the police. The coordinated effort made a huge difference. She notes that crimes are starting to drop, and speculates on benefit of neighborhood involvement.

Questions: I'm scared. What can I do if someone comes into my house? **Answer:** If you are home, get into a safe room, barricade yourself into safe room, and call the police. Notes we don't see a great deal of confrontational hot prowls. Mostly the prowler gets discovered and exits.

Question: What is done track down stolen items, do you go to pawnshops? **Answer:** Suggests that if you have valuable jewelry, take a picture. Is there a detail to follow-up?

Answer: We used to have that, but we now have decentralized that effort.

Question: Are there statics on the status of the citizenship? **Answer:** No, we don't we are a sanctuary city.

Question: How many investigators do you have? **Answer:** Captain Flaherty says she has 6, the McFadden says he has 8.

Question: There was an issue related to home invasion at gun point? **Answer:** Most often the home invasions are related to someone who is doing something wrong. They are typically not random. The crimes are most often against people who are involved in illegal activities themselves.

Question: I have lived here since 1986, but I have never been a victim of a crime. Thursday night my son answered the door to a police officer who knocked on my door, and noted to me that my car headlights were still on. I am very impressed with care we the SFPD does to take care of the community. **Answer:** the police in my station are very committed to taking care of you and your neighborhoods.

Question: Returning to the example of auto break-ins. Here in my neighborhood, there were a series of auto crimes. Notes that there were teams of 2, one individual who breaks into cars, and then a second individual who takes the items from in the car. **Answer:** No, we really don't see that much of that.

Question: Its great that you want to know who and where cameras are located. Is it ok for us to put a notice out to that effect in the neighborhood news letter? **Answer:** Yes, its absolutely ok. We love having camera footage. Often its not the criminal activity we need, but even just footage of the individual at a particular location and time. When you call in to give an example of a suspicious activity, please be as specific as possible.

Question: My neighborhood was very opposed to the AirBnB legislation. Now, we don't know who is coming going, its changing our neighborhood. We pay a lot of money for the police and public defenders, etc... Notes that there is a corrosiveness to the quality of our neighborhoods, and believes the cameras are degenerating the quality of life in our neighborhoods. **Answer:** We are not requiring you to do our job. Its really up to you, you can engage your neighbors, and there can be some benefit. **Question:** Sex trafficking is on the rise, I hope as police officers that when you catch these people, you do a lot to curtail this activity in this part of town. **Answer:** A lot of progress we make on these crimes comes from tips from neighbors when they see suspicious activity such as a van with 10 women unloaded and the blinds are closed. We work with both Supervisor Tang, and Supervisor Yee, to make these crimes a priority.

Discussion: Wants to see statistics on what would happen if we reversed Prop 47, and how that would effect crime. The Captain speculates that crime would dramatically drop. He has individuals with numerous repeat offenders with 18 repeat crimes, and no significant actions is taken.

Question: The only thing that I heard positive Adachi, was the program he put in place rehabilitate individuals. The frustrating part to me is that our kids don't get the education they need to survive in our society. We need to force these kids to back into the classroom, so they get an education. Until we get kids educated, they have no other way to live? **Answer:** You

brought up the “gang thing.” My precinct broke up 3 gangs. To be part of some gangs, the individuals need to bring in dollars to the crime. Its very tough to prove the “gang” affiliation. You have to prove both the individual is in the gang, and that the crime was related to supporting the gang. You can’t just book someone who is in a gang who was caught stealing. You have to prove the activity was related to support gang. Captain McFadden, notes that he is against any laws that soften enforcement of crimes, and weakens penalties against offenders.

Lee Hsu has been nominated to SFMTA by Mayor, Roger asks for a motion to support a Hsu’s nomination and approval to the board. Karen Breslin moves Dave Bisho seconds. Measure passes unanimously.

Asst. DA Archie Wong (Can’t Come)
Senior Police Officers
Supervisor Norman Yee and/or members of his staff

Report of the Nominating Committee for the June Election: Dave Bisho nominates the current board of

Carolyn Squeri- Treasurer
David Golden- Secretary
Roger Ritter- President
Sally Stephens- Vice President

To serve another term. As of this date there have been no new nominees to serve on the board.

Nominations from the Delegates

Reminder: District 7 Supervisorial Candidates’ Forum--Saturday, September 10th, from 10:00 a.m. to Noon, at the Forest Hill Clubhouse

9:00 pm Adjourn + Social : Karen motions to Adjourn. We are adjourned.

Adjourned.
Minutes by David Golden