

# CHEVIOT HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

**P.O. Box 64458, Los Angeles, CA 90064**    [www.cheviothills.org](http://www.cheviothills.org)

## **Minutes for the General/Elections Meeting June 9, 2025 Griffin Club**

Directors present: Bob Keehn (President), Marty Bischoff (Treasurer), Cindy Kane (Secretary), Renee Dernburg, Ellen Doyle, Mat Grubman, Steve Herman, Marcie Newby, Greg Pulis, Mark Sedlander

Directors not present: Jim Gilbert (Vice President), Margaret Gillespie, Mike Mandel, Andrew Oelz, Larry Tabb

Guests: Parliamentarian James Stewart and  $\approx$  110 neighborhood residents

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

#### **1. Welcome Remarks:**

President Bob Keehn introduced himself and ran through the agenda

#### **2. Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky (CD5)**

Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky from CD5 addressed the community first, acknowledging the leadership of the association. She introduced her field representative Vanessa, encouraging residents to connect with her as the liaison between the neighborhood and City Hall. Katy provided updates on current events in Los Angeles, including immigration raids and protests, expressing concern about the situation and encouraging residents to know their rights.

Katy, who chairs the city's budget committee, discussed the recently signed city budget. She explained how they transformed a proposed budget that would have cut 1,600 jobs into one that protects core city services and avoids about 1,000 layoffs. The budget restored street repairs, sidewalk fixes, and public safety positions while building oversight for homeless spending. She mentioned challenges with labor negotiations and the need to increase LAPD class sizes.

On public safety funding, Katy explained that they chose to restore LAPD civilian roles first rather than funding new academy classes, as these civilians provide essential support for solving crimes. She assured that the LAPD budget increased by \$15 million and the Fire Department's budget by over \$50 million.

Regarding planning and housing, Katy discussed her position on focusing density on commercial corridors near metro stations rather than upzoning single-family neighborhoods. She expressed opposition to SB 79, which would significantly upzone areas near metro stations and rapid bus lines, undermining local planning control.

Katy provided updates on interim housing projects at Midvale (opening in early July) and Terraza (expected to open by year-end), emphasizing their commitment to ensuring residents follow rules and

don't disrupt the community. She also discussed public safety initiatives in Cheviot Hills, including \$200,000 in police overtime funding and efforts to update the basic car plan to get more patrol cars in the neighborhood.

Regarding Rancho Park, Katy explained that the Parks Department has assumed responsibility for renovating the project after the former concessionaire couldn't proceed. An architect is developing revised floor plans, and a request for proposals for a new food and beverage operator will be released soon. She also addressed the issue of oil drilling at the site, noting that the City Council is working to re-adopt an oil drilling ban ordinance.

### **3. SLO Baker (via video) and Detective Carrillo (via video)**

Senior Lead Officer Baker from LAPD provided a video message update to the Cheviot Hills community, apologizing for missing the annual meeting.

Officer Baker addressed the ongoing burglary issue in Cheviot Hills that has persisted for about a year. He noted that while there's a downward trend in burglaries, the police are not satisfied with the current situation and will continue deploying resources to further reduce these incidents. He mentioned that an assessment will be conducted soon to determine what additional security measures are needed for the summer.

Officer Baker expressed gratitude to the community for their partnership with the LAPD, specifically thanking residents for donating to license plate reader cameras, increasing security patrols (which he described as a "force multiplier"), and participating in the neighborhood watch program. He gave special thanks to the block captains for their challenging work.

Regarding home security, Officer Baker offered to conduct home assessments when available. Based on data analysis, he explained that most residential break-ins in Cheviot Hills occur through rear access rather than front doors. He advised residents to focus on restricting access to backyards by ensuring pedestrian gates are adequately high and secure, and checking that garages are safe.

Officer Baker urged residents to verify that all security equipment is functioning properly, including video cameras, lighting, and alarm systems. He noted that during investigations, he often discovers that residents' video camera systems aren't working when footage is needed.

With summer approaching, Officer Baker offered to perform vacation checks for residents who will be away. He requested that residents email him their vacation dates so he or his partners can check on their homes.

Officer Baker encouraged community vigilance, asking residents to be observant while walking through the neighborhood. He provided guidance on when to call 911 (for imminent crimes or suspicious individuals in ski masks) versus when to contact Post Patrol (for less urgent concerns like unfamiliar vehicles). The dispatch number is 626-254-2975.

Officer Baker addressed recent incidents involving Vista Del Mar, which have required significant police resources including officers and helicopters. He explained that police policy requires these resources when dealing with missing or runaway juveniles with developmental issues. He mentioned ongoing discussions with Vista Del Mar about better securing their facility and asked for the community's patience with these situations.

In closing, Officer Baker apologized again for his absence, expressed his fondness for the community, and assured residents that he and his team are working hard despite the challenging year. He provided his email address (39796@lapd.online) as the best contact method and mentioned he would be away for all of June, returning in July "with a reset battery" to continue his work.

### **Burglary Detective Carlos Carrillo's Video Summary**

Cindy took the opportunity to interview Burglary Detective Carlos Carrillo from West LAPD about the usage of ALPR (Automated License Plate Recognition) cameras funded by the community.

Detective Carrillo explained that the ALPR cameras are being used in two ways: real-time monitoring and after-the-fact investigations. For real-time monitoring, patrol officers can access the Flock app on their phones or digital mobile computers. When driving through areas with cameras, they receive alerts about vehicles of interest, such as those connected to felony investigations or burglaries. This allows officers to respond quickly to suspicious vehicles in the area.

For investigations, Detective Carrillo described how detectives work backwards using stored footage and license plate data. When a residential burglary occurs, they review video from the burglarized residence and neighboring houses to determine the make and model of suspect vehicles. They then use the Flock cameras to identify these vehicles, which has been working effectively for their investigations.

Detective Carrillo shared a success story from May 30th where proactive officers received an alert notification about a felony vehicle in the Manning/Rountree area. Within 30 minutes, they located and stopped the vehicle, arresting a suspect wanted for a robbery in a different division. He also described how they've been able to identify vehicles with stolen license plates ("cold plates") by using unique vehicle characteristics. In one case, they identified a white BMW with distinctive features including black rims, tinted windows, and a missing rear reflector, which was connected to multiple burglaries across different communities.

Regarding unplate vehicles and those with dark tinted windows, Detective Carrillo explained that LAPD's policy allows for two types of stops: traffic enforcement stops with a public safety nexus and investigative stops for vehicles potentially connected to higher-level crimes. While heavily tinted windows alone may not justify a traffic stop, if the vehicle matches one used in burglaries or robberies, officers can investigate further. He mentions they're now working with Flock to create alerts for vehicles without license plates entering the community.

Detective Carrillo also discussed the challenge of plate hidiers - devices that can conceal license plates during crimes. These devices are identifiable by their thick plate frames, which helps detectives track these vehicles through the Flock system. He notes they've identified rental vehicles used by suspects through this method.

When asked how the neighborhood could maximize the effectiveness of their camera network (currently 8 cameras with plans for 18), Detective Carrillo recommended more residents install cameras on their properties. The lack of residential cameras makes investigations harder as they can't see what suspects look like or what they're driving. He also mentioned the increasing trend of people using AirTags, which help investigations by allowing them to track suspect vehicles when combined with ALPR data.

#### **4. Gina Post-Franco, Post Alarm**

Gina Post-Franco from Post Alarm introduced herself and thanked the community for their warm welcome. She reported that the first 24-hour dedicated patrol car has been operating since May 5th. Gina explained that the first month involved officers getting to know the community's rhythm, residents' houses, and who belongs. The patrol has been responding to calls about suspicious people, vehicles, and transients, as well as providing alarm response and vacation patrol services. She announced plans to deploy a second patrol car within the next three to four weeks, initially for eight-hour shifts. She emphasized that having two cars would be a 'game changer' for response times and deterrence. Gina introduced Sergeant Jackson, who oversees patrol operations in Cheviot Hills, describing him as 'extremely passionate about this community' and available to speak with residents during his shift hours (2pm-10pm, Tuesday through Saturday). She opened it up to Q&A. She explained that patrol routes are randomized through their proprietary software to avoid creating predictable patterns. She discussed how residents can integrate Post Alarm with their existing security systems and the different subscription levels available. Gina also mentioned their rigorous vetting process for officers, including pre-employment polygraph tests. Residents asked questions about patrol speed, use of lights on patrol cars, and recent security incidents in the area. Anyone interested in signing up for patrol can reach out to [cheviotthills@postalarm.com](mailto:cheviotthills@postalarm.com). The dispatch number for Cheviot Hills is 626-254-2975.

#### **5. Elections**

Our Parliamentarian James Stewart was present to oversee the election process. Candidates were introduced. President Bob Keehn asked for any nominations from the floor. Following no additional nominations, ballots were collected. The ballots were tallied. All candidates were voted in for a two-year term.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.