

## City of Newport Beach July 4<sup>th</sup> West Newport Safety Committee Minutes

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**Date:** May 4, 2011  
**Time:** 5:00 p.m.  
**Location:** City Council Chambers

### 1. **Welcome/Self Introductions**

Mayor Michael F. Henn opened the meeting by welcoming everybody and inviting the attendees to introduce themselves. He mentioned steps taken in the past to help alleviate problems on the Peninsula and in West Newport, particularly creating a containment zone. He thinks people now perceive it as an “anything goes” zone. The new goal is make more changes to create a new culture where the streets are open and people are able to have fun but at the same time act respectfully. Over time, they hope to make it a family-friendly area, similar to the rest of Newport Beach on the Fourth of July. He said he and the police believe the party houses are causing a lot of the problems. He mentioned that outreach and subsequent enforcement will be needed.

#### **Committee Members present:**

Mayor Henn  
Craig Batley  
Mary Bryant  
Margie Dorney  
Paul Watkins

#### **Guests present:**

Mary Bryant  
Sharon Boles  
Meredith Cagle

#### **Staff present:**

Dave Kiff, City Manager  
Tara Finnigan, Public Information Manager  
Jay Johnson, Police Chief  
Scott McKnight, Lieutenant  
Bill Hartford, Lieutenant  
Jeff Brouwer, Lieutenant  
Kyle Rowen, Deputy City Attorney

### 2. **Family Friendly Activities**

Ms. Cagle said she has been contracted by the City to help implement a plan for a bike parade and community festival with the theme “Fourth of July is for Families.” She distributed a handout and talked about the plan:

- Parade begins at 9:00 am, with bikes, wagons, strollers, etc. decorated and dogs dressed festively;
- Boy Scouts lead the parade;

- Parade lines up at 38<sup>th</sup> Street, goes down Balboa Blvd. and ends at the Channel Place Park for a two-hour festival;
- Festival includes carnival booths, double slides, an obstacle course, inflatable bounce houses, face painting, a clown with balloons, etc.

Continuing, she said all of the details are a result of the input of the community planning group. They are currently looking for financial sponsors and food vendors to offset the cost of the event. In June they will start promoting the event.

Ms. Finnigan said some of the residents have complained that they feel trapped in their homes, their kids have nothing to do and so they leave for the entire weekend. The committee hopes these planned activities will encourage families to stay.

### **3. 2011 Road Closures, Traffic Control, Police Presence**

Lt. McKnight said they learned a lot from changes made last year when access was restricted to Balboa Blvd. and the shopping center where Jack in the Box is located. He acknowledged that some of the plans caused problems at Lido Sands and Newport Villa Marina. This year officers will be posted where trespassers came over the walls last year. Another problem area was at River and Neptune via 56<sup>th</sup> Street. There were issues with the barricades at Seashore as well.

He talked about disturbance advisement cards used to fine the party throwers and possibly the landlords. Last year they were aggressive in issuing them. He hopes it will help deter that kind of behavior this year.

Continuing he said at noon all eastbound traffic onto Balboa Blvd. will be restricted. Last year they decreased the restricted area to free up six blocks and as a result there were some problems which they hope to address this year. This year 40<sup>th</sup> Street to Coast Highway will be the new containment zone.

Lt. Brower thanked the community for showing up and helping the police department with this problem.

### **4. Community Outreach Overview**

Ms. Finnigan said the City Manager's Newsletter will be mailed out this month to all the residents and it will have information in it about the Fourth of July. All of the directly impacted community associations will be sent information about the plans. Information will be placed at the public counters at City facilities and on the City's and Police Department's websites. In June officers will visit the party houses, rental agencies and liquor stores to remind them of the rules and ask them to display posters in their windows. Last year a media campaign reached out to the inland empire to spread the word. The Safety Committee will meet again and all of this information will be presented at a City Council meeting. The City Council will discuss the Loud & Unruly Gathering Ordinance at the next meeting. At the end of the month, the impact area will receive door hangers.

### **5. Loud & Unruly Gatherings Ordinance (LUGO) Overview**

Lt. Hartford and Mr. Rowen reviewed hypothetical scenarios to demonstrate what happens when an officer responds to a LUGO call and how each situation would be handled. A lengthy discussion ensued with questions and answers. Mayor Henn

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said a draft of the ordinance would be posted with the City Council agenda on Thursday.

The meeting was adjourned.