

**Minutes of the Board of Directors**

**19 June 2003**

The meeting of the Board was called to order by President Ronni Cooper at 7:34 p.m.

**Secretary's Report**

- The minutes of the 15 May 2003 meeting were approved with two corrections:
  - The table detailed crime statistics for May, not April.
  - Director Cheryl Cook did attend the May meeting of the Board.

**Treasurer's Report**

- Treasurer's Report for the month of May was approved.

**Crime and Safety**

- **Statistics.** Nancy Smith, analyst, LA Sheriff's Department, provided crime statistics for June. July and August were provided by Donna Samuels :

Crime statistics June 2003	Homicide	Rape	Robbery Weapon	Robbery: Strong Arm	Aggravated Assault	Burglary: Residence	Burglary: Other structure	Grand Theft	Grand Theft Auto	Arson	Vehicle Burglary	Petty Theft	Totals
Upper Ladera						3		1					4
Lower Ladera			1			3			1		3		8
<b>Totals</b>			1			6		1	1		3		12

Crime statistics July 2003	Homicide	Rape	Robbery Weapon	Robbery: Strong Arm	Aggravated Assault	Burglary: Residence	Burglary: Other structure	Grand Theft	Grand Theft Auto	Arson	Vehicle Burglary	Petty Theft	Totals
Upper Ladera					1	1							2
Lower Ladera		1	1		2	6	1		3		2	3	19
<b>Totals</b>													21

Crime statistics August 2003	Homicide	Rape	Robbery Weapon	Robbery: Strong Arm	Aggravated Assault	Burglary: Residence	Burglary: Other structure	Grand Theft	Grand Theft Auto	Arson	Vehicle Burglary	Petty Theft	Totals
Upper Ladera						1	4						5
Lower Ladera						6	6	1	3			4	20
<b>Totals</b>						7	10	1	3			4	25

Statistics for Lower Ladera include Ladera Center. Statistics for Lower Ladera include most of Old Ladera. Statistics supplied by Los Angeles County Sheriff.

- **CHP.** Officers reported continuing traffic problems at Parent Elementary. Radar is working Corning between 64<sup>th</sup> and Slauson. 100 citations issued during May, including four DUIs. One fatal motorcycle accident in early June on La Cienega. CHP will lose community officers as state cuts budget, starting in July; public affairs officers will now attend community meetings, if available. Also, the Community Health Team is being reassigned back to the field. CHP was not informed Culver City is installing new light at Green Valley and Slauson. LHCA President Ronni Cooper reported Culver City also did not provide public notice. Meetings with traffic engineers are now planned.

# *Ladera Heights Civic Association*

laderaheights.org

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- **LAPD.** Officer Wickes reported a decrease in robberies along La Tijera and arrest of driver of stolen car, but also seeing an increase in violent crimes. Burglary suspects are “kids, 15-20 years old, wearing skull caps and red, black and white, in the afternoon and at night, wandering Ladera Center and walking up Sherbourne.” The KFC and Chevron near 405 were both robbed, as was the Union bank in Ladera Center. ill be cut gt. Thrash reported a continuing increase in home burglaries. An “overtime” patrol car is assigned to work the burglaries. There were two shootings – one a gang member two blocks from Parent Elementary, one a homicide at the AM/PM at La Brea and Slauson. Suspects are in custody in slaying of cabbie in Lower Ladera. Thrash advised residents to report and not open doors to unknown people knocking on doors late at night. Marina Station will lose deputies as County cuts budget. LASD and Security Service Systems
- **LASD.** Sgt. Thrash reported a continuing increase in home burglaries. An “overtime” patrol car is assigned to work the burglaries. There were two shootings – one a gang member two blocks from Parent Elementary, one a homicide at the AM/PM at La Brea and Slauson. Suspects are in custody in slaying of cabbie in Lower Ladera. Thrash advised residents to report (310-823-7762) and not open doors to unknown people knocking on doors late at night. Marina Station will lose deputies as County cuts budget. The same budget crunch has statistician Nancy Smith leaving for another station on 23 July. LASD and Security Service Systems will coordinate to shift patrol times of SSS patrol car dedicated to Ladera. The Marina Station will hold an open house Saturday, 26 July. “National Night Out” is scheduled for Tuesday, 5 August, to honor the LHCA, United Homeowners, Marina merchants and many others that that supported and honored deputies.
- **Ladera Center.** Tony Rutherford of Totally Secured and Tanya Keshishian of Shelter Bay Realty reported extra security personnel are patrolling for the summer. Fatburger now stays open till 3 a.m. Friday-Sunday, and to 1 a.m. Monday-Thursday. Security report by consultant John Lacker cannot be shared by management. Posted ordinance signs are still not correct, so cannot be enforced.
- **Ladera Park.** Residents reported a drive-by shooting at Ladera Park and failure of park police to respond.

## Committee Reports

- **Vice President’s Report:** Allan Boodnick reported he met with principal, acting superintendent and members of the board of Inglewood Unified, and with state Department of Education, to discuss IUSD problems and, specifically, problems at Parent Elementary. “Parents in Ladera are discouraged. We pay all this money to live in this district but you can’t send your children to the schools.” New administrators are expected at Parent as of July. Residents are urged to attend board meetings, form a committee and find candidates to run for seats on the board, to develop a long-term plan to turn around Parent and the district, and to explore charter-school options.
- **Senior Center.** LHCA Director Charles Caballero reported the Senior Center trip to Hollywood Bowl for Ray Brown is sold out.
- **Slauson Beautification.** LHCA Alternate Director Dorothy Harris met with landscape designers, the first step in defining proposals to be submitted to Supervisors. Removal of diseased trees is started. Committee meets again 8 July. Directors and Alternates discussed using contributions from film and advertising crews to help fund beautification.

## New Business

- **Security Service Systems.** Ed Moore of SSS reported a dramatic increase in residential burglaries in several communities, including Ladera. He suspects fairly sizeable increase in unemployment, announced plans for LAPD to no longer respond to burglary alarms, and 45-minute response time of LAPD. Most suspects are “non-professional kids, or pros who know to cut phone lines to disable alarms.” Most break ins occur during day. Moore suggested lock boxes similar to those used by real estate agents, or Knox Boxes, with a special key, typically used by businesses, to give patrol officers ability to patrol back of homes. Utility companies will also install lock boxes so that their employees can read meters locked behind fences and gates. One SSS patrol car is dedicated to Ladera eight hours a day,

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and the number of subscribers is steadily increasing, with the potential to add a second eight-hour  
dedicated shift this year.

- **Neighborhood Watches.** Henry Harris reported that Heights at Ladera Neighborhood Watch is investigating ways to increase security, including selection of approved contractors to upgrade security systems, improve street and neighborhood lighting, gardeners, plumbers, and other trades, for reduced rates. A resident asked about gating Ladera, an option that would require approval of majority of residents, fees to replace county services, and required membership in homeowners association. Terry Sutherland reported re-launch of Ladera Heights Neighborhood Watch, in response to increase in home burglaries in Upper Ladera.
- **Resignation of Steve Leon.** LHCA Director and Secretary Steve Leon resigned after serving for nine years. Leon also resigned as Ladera's unofficial representative to Baldwin Hills Conservancy and as member of Citizens Advisory Committee to BHC. The Board presented a commemorative plaque.
- **New Alternate Directors and Secretary.** With resignation of Steve Leon, resident Ruth Lawrence volunteered to serve as LHCA secretary. Resident Carmen Spiva volunteered to fill Leon's post on the CAC to the BHC. Board members and alternates elected both Lawrence and Spiva to serve as LHCA alternate directors.
- **MTA Bus Center.** Director Frieda Rentie will attend 30 June hearing about the possible construction of an MTA bus center adjacent to See's Candies on La Cienega.

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The meeting adjourned at 10:17 p.m.

Board members present were Sandra Goldsmith Bennett, Allan Boodnick, Charles Caballero, Cheryl Cook, Ronni Cooper, Gene Eldridge, Steve Leon, Frieda Rentie, Phyllis Stewart and Ron Woods. Alternates Alma Fowlkes, Alease Love, Dorothy Harris and Alvetia Smith were present. Guests included Ed Moore of Security Service Systems, Tanya Keshehian of Shelter Bay Realty and Tanya Freeman of the US Postal Service. Residents signing in included Henry Harris, Joseph and Lynn Mitchell, Nancy Day, Ethel and Woodrow Guntharp, Carmen Dandridge-Spiva, Sharon Wysingen, Nancy Jo Flint, Ruth Lawrence and Terry Sullivan. With apologies for any spelling errors.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Steven J. Leon and Ruth E. Lawrence