

Letter from the President



Howdy Hyde Park,

Welcome to the Fall (ahem... Autumn, not the other meaning)! I hope y'all are doing well during this difficult time, whether it is figuring out the ins and outs of online school instruction or how to stay engaged during the numerous Zoom calls that make up your workday. Of course, many of you are now, or have been, going into work, and I hope you are managing well through this all.

GENERAL MEETINGS

We met via Zoom on September 1st and were joined by Abbie Kamin, Council Member for District C, her chief of staff, Julia Retta, and Commander Mark Lentini of HPD Central Patrol Division. Please check out the general meeting minutes on page 2.

Our next meeting will be on Zoom on October 6th at 7 pm. Our guest will be Catherine Fraser with Environment Texas. Catherine's presentation will focus on illegal air pollution from petrochemical facilities and recent explosions at those facilities. We will also learn about Environment Texas' work, including the Neighborhood Witness website, which allows people to receive illegal air pollution email alerts for their county and report polluters to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

The login details are noted on page 3. You can join the Zoom call even if you do not have a computer. There is a dial-in number that will allow you to participate with audio only. We will also post the login information on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/HydeParkUnited>.

This meeting will be taking place of National Night Out. Please remember the local restaurants that have donated generously to our NNO event in years past by ordering takeout or delivery on October 6th!

Please note that we will delay our November general meeting to November 10th so as not to conflict with the national election.

ELECTIONS

At our November meeting, we will be electing the following positions for a two-year term:

- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Deed Restrictions Committee Position #1 (Chair)
- Deed Restrictions Committee Position #3

Current, paid civic association members are eligible to run for election, per

This Month

› Virtual Civic Association Meeting

Oct 6th @ 7pm via Zoom

Catherine Fraser from
Environment Texas

Details on page 3!

Next Month

› Dena Marks with the Anti-Defamation League

November 10th via Zoom

› Civic Association Board Elections

November 10th via Zoom

the association bylaws which can be found at hydeparkhouston.org. Voting is open to current, paid members as well. If you have any interest in any of these positions, please feel free to reach out to me at president@hydeparkhouston.org.

Please stay safe and continue to follow the guidelines on social distancing and wearing a face mask. Stay safe everyone.

See ya,

Chris Delphin, President

September 1st Civic Association Meeting Recap

Submitted by *Ellen Pollard*

The meeting, done through Zoom, was brought to order at 7:00pm by **Chris Delphin, President**. About 30 people attended, logged into the Zoom session. Our speaker was **Abbie Kamin, Council Member District C**. She was accompanied by her chief of staff, **Julia Retta**, and **Commander Mark Lentini** of HPD Central Patrol Division. **Ms. Kamin** introduced herself. She is a native, 4th generation Houstonian and represents 15 Super Neighborhoods in District C. She chairs the Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee and is Vice Chair of the Quality of Life committee. She is a member of the Budget and Fiscal Affairs, Childhood and Youth, Economic Development and Ethics, and Elections and Council Governance Committees.

Ms. Kamin said the City Council got off to a running start this year. In January, the explosion at a manufacturing business in Northwest Houston occurred. The Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee is working on upgrades to the fire codes to prevent future explosions. In March, COVID hit Houston and quickly took over as a priority for the City. The positivity rate is now going down, but Ms. Kamin still urges everyone to get tested. Minute Maid Park is one of many places to go for testing. Additionally, eviction rates are going up. Pre-COVID Montrose had the highest eviction rate in the city. Montrose Center has received money to help with this issue, but more money is needed to help the many who may face eviction. Ms. Kamin noted that the help needs to come from the State and Federal governments. You can help by reaching out to your State and Federal representatives. Ms. Kamin noted that small businesses need help as well- help from the community and from State and Federal sources. The Census was also discussed. Unfortunately, only 54% of the Houston population has completed the Census and the deadline is September 30th.

Ms. Kamin continued the meeting by answering some pre submitted questions. The first was about the Lower Westheimer Project which has been delayed beyond the 5-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). CIP money has been allocated for a water line replacement and sidewalk improvement program for Dunlavy Street between West Dallas and Peden Street. There is a chance to get the Lower Westheimer Project moving if public-private funds can be found. Additionally, it is possible the Federal Government could help. CIP meetings have been moved from the Summer to the Fall, and Ms. Kamin encouraged us to attend and share our priorities. HPCA will share more information as it becomes available.

Another question was how we can get the City to enforce our deed restrictions. As we know, the Planning Commission has approved replats for properties that are subject to the deed restrictions. Ms. Kamin wrote a letter to the Planning Commission in support of the civic association and, from now on, she or a staffer will be present at all Planning Commission meetings to monitor the situation. She stated the best tool we have is concentrating on Chapter 42, which can be used to maintain uniformity in minimum lot size and setbacks. Beyond that, hiring lawyers to go to court to interpret the Deed Restrictions would be necessary. She suggested we work with **Council Member Sallie Alcorn** (At Large) who is involved with this issue as the chair of the neighborhoods committee.

At this point Ms. Kamin turned the meeting over to **Julia Retta** and the **Commander Mark Lentini** with questions surrounding safety in the neighborhood. An incident at St Anne's Catholic Church on Westheimer was discussed, where the Pastor there was assaulted. The attacker was a homeless man who was arrested. Unfortunately, the pastor was unable to identify the man and had no memory of the incident, so the man was later released for time served. Commander Lentini stated that, because of COVID and bond reform, the City was releasing suspects from jail. Another incident was discussed about a homeless person who shot at people in a vehicle and then was chased by the police to behind Kindred Church. The shooter later was shot and killed by the SWAT team. Despite these 2 incidents, Commander Lentini told us that our neighborhood was very safe. The three main reasons for violence in the City of Houston are 1) family problems, 2) gang activity and 3) drugs. We are not seeing systematic violence in the Montrose area. One person asked Commander Lentini for his view of why Houston has been spared the violence other cities are seeing now. The Commander responded that the City has good crime prevention methods in place and has had them for a while. Several police procedures that are now being discussed are already implemented in Houston. No choke holds or kneeling on suspect are allowed. Also, Houston is a very large city, transportation is not great, and the weather is very hot right now. All these reasons cut down on very large groups forming, which can be infiltrated by bad actors.

Margaret Lynch was then introduced. She is the Community Engagement Coordinator with Harris County Precinct 1. This is Commissioner Rodney Ellis' office. She offered her help whenever necessary.

continued on page 3



HPCA Zoom Meeting Details

There are two ways to join:

Enter the following into your browser and hit return (or click the link):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82673779148>

Dial +1 346-248-7799 and follow the prompts to enter the meeting ID number followed by the pound sign (826 7377 9148 #)

The meeting ID will change each month, so make sure to check the number each time you join our monthly meetings.



Hang out with us and Catherine Fraser from Environment Texas - Oct 6th @ 7pm!



Helpful contact information:

Abbie Kamin—Abbie.Kamin@houston.gov

Julia Retta—Julia.Retta@houstontx.gov

Commander Mark Lentini—Mark.Lentini@Houstonpolice.org

Margaret Lynch—Margaret.Lynch@cp1.hctx.net

General Business Meeting

Treasurer's Report

August 1st balance--\$10,000.04

Expenses--\$650.47—includes Diagnostics for Lamar Park Irrigation and Lamar Park Maintenance)

Total Revenue--\$967.50

August 31st balance--\$10,317.17

Membership

107 members.

Deed Restrictions

Deed Restriction Committee and other Board members will meet shortly to address future Deed Restriction Committee policies.

October Meeting

In lieu of National Night Out, we will have a general meeting at 7pm on October 6th via Zoom. The speaker will be Catherine Fraser from Environment Texas. We will also postpone our November meeting to November 10th to avoid any conflict with the national election. At the November meeting, we will hear from Deena Marks from the Anti-Defamation League, speaking on hateful vandalism that has appeared in the neighborhood and elsewhere in Houston.

The meeting ended at 8:10.

HPD Crime Reports for August 2020

Submitted by Jim Pollard

Crime	Date	Address	Location
Aggravated Assault	8/26/2020 3:00	2500 BLOCK WAUGH DR	Parking Lot, Garage
All other larceny	8/25/2020	1200 BLOCK WILLARD ST	Church, Synagogue, Temple
All other larceny	8/29/2020 12:00	1100 BLOCK PEDEN	Residence, Home (Includes Apartment)
Burglary, Breaking and Entering	8/22/2020 5:00	2700 BLOCK MONTROSE BLVD	Speciality Store
Destruction, damage, vandalism	8/20/2020 10:00	2500 BLOCK YOAKUM BLVD	Parking Lot, Garage
Disorderly conduct	8/29/2020 9:00	2400 BLOCK MONTROSE BLVD	Highway, Road, Street, Alley
Driving under the influence	8/8/2020 21:00	2500 BLOCK MONTROSE BLVD	Residence, Home (Includes Apartment)
Intimidation	8/25/2020 12:00	1100 BLOCK PEDEN	Speciality Store
Intimidation	8/31/2020 4:00	1000 BLOCK WESTHEIMER RD	Other, Unknown
Robbery	8/17/2020 1:00	1300 BLOCK WESTHEIMER RD	Residence, Home (Includes Apartment)
Simple assault	8/4/2020 20:00	2500 BLOCK MONTROSE BLVD	Parking Lot, Garage
Simple assault	8/14/2020 15:00	2500 BLOCK YOAKUM BLVD	Residence, Home (Includes Apartment)
Simple assault	8/30/2020 15:00	2500 BLOCK WAUGH DR	Highway, Road, Street, Alley
Theft from motor vehicle	8/5/2020 13:00	2500 BLOCK MONTROSE BLVD	Parking Lot, Garage
Theft of motor vehicle parts or accessory	8/1/2020 18:00	1000 BLOCK WESTHEIMER RD	Restaurant
Trespass of real property	8/8/2020 3:00	1000 BLOCK WESTHEIMER RD	Drug Store, Doctors Office, Hospital
Trespass of real property	8/24/2020 23:00	1100 BLOCK WESTHEIMER RD	Restaurant

Would you like to reach out to more than 1,500 of your Hyde Park neighbors? Contact Carlos Fernandez at advertising@hydeparkhouston.org



Korean Bites with Neighbors and Friends

Submitted by Heather Almquist

In early September, residents of West Drew got together to enjoy food made by **Yong**, a delicious Korean pop up. Check out their menu on instagram @yong_htx. The food was tasty and fresh. It was accompanied by two young entrepreneurs' delicious juices! Thanks to **Sydney and Mason** for bringing the "Wow" to our socially distanced soiree. Also a big shout out to **Jayne Richardson** who coordinated it all.

Thank You

TO OUR SPONSORS

We would like to thank the following businesses for their gracious contributions to our previous National Night Out event. We would love if you could go ahead and support them this October as a neighborhood thank you!

Acadian Bakery	La Fendee
Bambolino's	La Mexicana
Barnaby's	Mike Spears
Brookstreet BBQ	Niko Niko's
Campesino Coffee	Paulies
Camp Bow Wow	Phoenicia
Capitol Beverage	Phoenix
Christy's Donuts	The Burger Joint
Cowboys and Indians	Riva's
Dogtopia	Shaw's
Flowers by Georgia	Rudyard's British Pub
Hugo's	Underbelly/Hay Merchant
Inversion Coffee	West End
Kindred	

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BOARD/COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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president@hydeparkhouston.org

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Secretary – Ellen Pollard
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Treasurer – Joe Epstein
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lamarpark@hydeparkhouston.org

Volunteer Coordinator – VACANT
volunteer@hydeparkhouston.org

Advertise with us!

Contact Carlos Fernandez at
advertising@hydeparkhouston.org

CITIZEN'S PATROL

Editor's Note: Due to the Stay Home, Work Safe order, all patrols have been temporarily suspended. Be sure to know who your neighbors are and check in on them!

Want to **join** and **benefit** from our commitment to serving Hyde Park neighbors?

Sign up on our website: hydeparkhouston.org

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

(Check one)

New

Renewal

(Check one)

Individual (\$30)

Couple (\$60)

I/We would like to make an additional donation
to the Lamar Park fundraising of

TOTAL _____

Check No: _____

Date Paid: _____

Mail form and check to:

Hyde Park Civic Association
PO Box 66422
Houston, TX 77266-6422

Or just pay online at
www.hydeparkhouston.org.

BLOCK CAPTAINS

Bomar
Greg Jeu & Jim Hurst 281-541-6756

California / Westheimer
Cecilia Kammer 832-788-1586

Commonwealth
Laura Lark 713-550-6226

2516 Commonwealth
Mark McCreary

Fairview
Irene Dahlgren 713-299-5190

Hyde Park / Hyde Park Apts.
Linda Carter 713-524-2952
Pat Courtney 832-860-1814

Hyde Park Crescent
Carlos Fernandez 713-520-7017

Hyde Park Townhomes
Clint Harbert, 832-428-0158

Indiana / Yupon
Alice McCarthy 713-521-5807

Jackson
Nelson Vergel 713-539-1978

Maryland
Finis Cowan 713-582-6066

Michigan
Tom Whitworth 713-523-8035

Missouri
OPEN

Montrose/Waugh
Carolina Sierra 713-446-8213

Peden
Lori Corwin 832-582-6520

Vermont
Peter Forbes - 832-921-3464

Welch
Scott and Lina Rigrod 713-528-2791
Cliff Jones 713-524-3055

West Drew
Mike McKann 713-526-6777

West Gray / Hazel
OPEN

Willard
Delia Isabel Cuellar 832 819-0813

Yoakum/Van Buren
Macy Bodenhamer 713-201-5810

Block captains: Notify
president@hydeparkhouston.org
of any changes in contact information.



GREAT NEW PRICE - Available

MONTROSE | 1212 Willard Street
4-6/5.5 | Offered at \$1,400,000 MLS 43525663



GREAT NEW PRICE - Available

MONTROSE | 1107 Willard Street
3/3 | Offered at \$630,000 MLS 59678791



Available

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Bail Reform

Submitted by Chris Delphin

At our September general meeting, Commander Lentini made a few statements that suggested Harris County's court-ordered bail reform was responsible for an uptick in crime in Houston and Harris County. As a supporter of bail reform, I was taken aback by the statements. Luckily, we had Margaret Lynch, a member of Commissioner Rodney Ellis's office, on the Zoom call with us and, following the meeting, I reached out to Margaret to fact-check these statements.

Like many people, I am appalled by how the "money bail" system disproportionately and adversely affects low-income communities. The for-profit bail system, like the payday loan business, preys on the desperation of people in need. Most often, it is the family of the accused that bears the brunt of the cost to support this system. And remember, the accused is innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. In my view, requiring payment by those who are unable to pay is a perverse way to incentivize the accused to adhere to the legal process.

Commander Lentini's statements about bail reform appear to be mistaken. The Texas Tribune reported on a new report by independent monitors appointed by a federal judge (<https://jad.harriscountytexas.gov/>) that states that "releasing more misdemeanor defendants from jail without requiring cash bail did not lead to an increase in arrests for reoffending." The data also shows that the gap between white and black defendants being released narrowed under the reforms.

Meet October's Speaker



Catherine Fraser is the clean air associate with Environment Texas, a non-profit organization that advocates for clean air, clean water, and open spaces. Catherine works primarily on Environment Texas' Clean Air Project, working to reduce illegal air pollution from industrial facilities, like refineries, chemical plants, and coal plants, across the state.

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Houston, TX



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2020 Monthly HPCA Meeting Schedule

Updated by Heather Almquist

Monthly meetings are open to the public and held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7pm, with the exceptions of holidays and others noted below. We anticipate meeting through Zoom for the remainder of the year.

Volunteers work to secure guest speakers of general interest to the community each month. If you have a topic that you'd like to learn more about or want to suggest a guest speaker, contact president@hydeparkhouston.org.

- October 6th
- November 10th
- December TBD Holiday Party

School is back in session - October 19th!

Many students are returning to campus on October 19th - so remember to keep an eye out for our kids and obey the school zones.

What's Happening in Lamar Park

Submitted by Melissa Zarikian

Lamar Park Phase IV is underway and we are happy to announce our sprinkler-irrigation system is operational in the park! As announced earlier in the year, our Phase IV initiative includes trimming trees to allow more sunshine on the grassy areas, install of lighting for a safer park, and a high priority to repair the irrigation system.

The hope and focus of Lamar Park Committee is to restore the park to its former glory with appealing and desirable areas for the entire Hyde Park community to enjoy. Earlier in the summer, representatives from the Houston Parks and Recreation Board met in the park with members of HPCA to view firsthand challenges the community faced in maintaining the adopted esplanade.

The city recommended and generously installed a Weather Track system capable of monitoring the amount of irrigation needed at any given time. In addition they repaired electrical outlets and installed covers over the units.

We are grateful to have partnered with Southwest Irrigation Systems to perform the repairs. A huge shout out to Ronald with SWIS and his son for their expertise and professionalism in seeing the project to fruition while working closely with the city.

The Lamar Park Committee will be focused on getting our beautiful oaks and various other trees trimmed as well as looking at options for park lighting.

Stay tuned and consider joining HPCA!

