

ACONA MEETING
MAY 24th, 2011 Notes
Submitted by Nina E.K. Ehlig

7PM Elliot Gold opened meeting, greeted all & covered agenda & guest speakers

Tanganica Turner, Field Representative for Assembly Member Anthony Portantino, 626-577-9944

- Covered and shared info re: group homes.
- Exact number of homes not known
- One home every 300 feet.
- Covered info re: State issuance of licenses.
- Boarding House requirements.
- Covered Independent Living programs for 18 to 24 year olds.
- If having issues, document & report.
- These homes are operated as businesses.
- Attendee Arlene Anderson shared experiences re: homes in her neighborhood.
- Emily on Woodbury shared her experiences and questioned the number of licenses one home could hold as well as limit to homes per area.
- Natalie Salazar of the L.A.S.D. shared that citizens must make Town Council Members and city Leaders aware of communities' concerns.
- Arlene wondered how many "Group Homes" were in La Canada ("Big Bucks") compared to Altadena.
- Carlotta Martin stated she would contact the county re: too many group homes in her neighborhood, too close together.
- Holly shared the fact that the person who owns the group home in her neighborhood also owns 10 to 20 other homes in Altadena and what are the percentages in other cities in L.A. County jurisdiction.

Lt. Johnson, L.A.S.D. Altadena Station, 626-296-2102 ~ **Lt. Joe Dempsey** 626-296-2131

- Covered info re: Dispatchers handling of calls, no excuse for poor service to the community, not getting the proper service call him ASAP.
- Personnel at Crescenta Station have been reprimanded.
- Lt. has attended shift briefings at Crescenta Station.
- Every complaint is investigated by the Lt. or the Captain.
- All calls are recorded for review by Captain/Lt.
- Construction continues and one attendee asked if Altadena Station will have a Watch Commander after it is completed, answer is "no", not enough funding.
- Will have "911" lines after computer upgrades.
- Carlotta shared negative experience with Dispatcher at Crescenta Station.

Lance Hunter & Sgt. Zeke Morales, Los Angeles County Animal Control

- Barking is largest complaint.
- Will allow time extensions to resolve issues.
- Ongoing "Safe Neighborhood Program," one aspect of which is checking for proper fencing.
- Question: "Are horse owners responsible for cleaning up after their animal defecates?" Answer is YES, there are ordinances.

- Question: “Are there key words to use when reporting issues?” Answer: “The department must follow protocol and so must the public, some issues go to court therefore must have all pertinent documentation.
- Question: “Is there a maximum number of horses to the square feet of property?” Answer: “That is a zoning issue.”
- Call center records calls.
- Question/Statement from owner of Steve’s Pet Store: “What am I to do with the animals that get dumped at my store, I cannot leave my business to take the animals to the shelter in Baldwin Park.” Answer was to try and document the actions.
- Statement: Issue of dog barking as inexpensive alarm system, the owner playing the game with ordinances and reports from surrounding neighbors.

Open Q & A Session

- Arlene suggested contacting, bombarding, legislative offices/Sacramento for regulation as a whole community to curtail the group home situation. She claims she had her property taxes reduced by 10% by contacting Sacramento.
- Lt. Johnson stated to call the station, the calls can be tracked and the community can request the number of those calls to support the issue.
- Question: “Can these homes be tracked like the child molester website?” Answer: “No.”
- Natalie Salazar reminded all that “National Night Out” is on August 2, 2011 at the Equestrian Center at Loma Alta Park.