

SEASIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION and RIVIERA HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING

September 20, 2017
Call to Order: 7:05 pm

Richardson Middle School
Adjourned: 9:30 pm

This meeting was co-hosted by Riviera HOA and SNA.

Julian Chasen of RHA opened the meeting by greeting both associations and introducing SNA Acting President **Melissa Wright**. Melissa described the focuses of the SNA, including the weeding project at Seaside Heroes Park, the Holiday Lights awards, and Scholarships given to High School Seniors. She emphasized the need for volunteers. She then introduced **John and Tricia Blanco**, who talked about a committee to return street sweeping to the pre- Optimized Street Sweeping days. Julian then introduced **Pete Verenkoff**, who presented a detailed summary of the Butcher Hill Project. Interested people may sign up at a website, B-Shollywoodriviera.org, to receive updates and reminders.

Julian then presented RHA former President, **Judy Brunetti**. She recounted how, after Mayor Scotto wasn't awarded a grant, Torrance-based Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi acquired the funding (\$850,000.) needed to complete the PCH divider work of putting up the fence and putting in greenery. Judy displayed before and after photos of the project, and gifted Al Muratsuchi with a RHA t-shirt and a certificate. Then she invited him to speak to our group.

Guest speaker and Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi centered his remarks on 3 issues: the economy, education and traffic. *The Economy-* He said that California is the 6th largest economy in the world, and that it offers good jobs and a healthy living environment.

Education- 50 of the top public universities in the world are in California. He has been a trustee of SCROC since 1967, and facilitated a 10 million dollar allocation to SCROC. As Administrative costs go up, and California is one of the states

with the lowest per-pupil spending, it's a big priority to find ways to increase school funding.

Traffic- Traffic is getting worse in the South Bay. Muratsuchi considers getting a Metro green line to run from the airport to the South Bay before the 2028 Olympics a top priority.

Questions from the Audience-

The Torrance Refinery- About 9% of the City's revenues come from the Torrance Refinery. Torrance has emitted more toxins than the other 6 South Bay refineries combined. The group FLARE is heightening public awareness of the fact that 'modified' HFA isn't really any safer than simple HFA, which was never banned because a lawsuit against the Mobil Refinery was thrown out. A bill to ban it is in a legislative committee now. Some safety improvements he mentioned that are in place include air quality monitors installed around the perimeter of the refinery; effective community alert system; inter-agency task force when problems occur; and bill to ban HFA. He stated "I'm not trying to shut down the refinery, just make it safer."

Bruce Szeles said that PCH needs improvements and some serious financing. Muratsuchi said that Torrance has tried to get Cal Trans to relinquish control of PCH. If passed, a gas tax increase, the first increase in about 20 years, would provide over 50 billion in funding for repairs of California's roads. Torrance Chamber of Commerce is in favor of gas tax increase.

Assembly Bill SB35- Muratsuchi said this is a part of a package of bills to address the State's housing crisis. It would take away local control regarding overdevelopment. Because of qualifiers on the bill, Muratsuchi broke ranks with his party and voted NO. Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) aims to provide shelter for low-income residents, but NIMBY-ism fights that. In 2013, Torrance counted 1450 RHNA properties.

State pension reform- State passed PERS (Public Employees) pension reform in 2012, while teachers' STRS fund was reformed

in 2014. There is an independent oversight body for this.
Treasurer decides which projects get funding first.

Submitted by Tricia Blanco, secretary, SNA