



## KALIHI – PALAMA NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 15

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING STREET ROOM 406 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813  
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### REGULAR MEETING MINUTES WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2008 KAPALAMA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Bernie Young called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. with a quorum present.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** John Dell, Cardy Fang, Ken Harding, Rodolfo Ibay, Florendo “Fuji” Juan (elected at this meeting), Fetu Kolio, Calvin Konno, Roland Louie, Jesusa Rone, Alyn Vasquez. David Yaw, Shane Yaw and Bernadette Young,

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Ken Akamine and Jennifer D. Waihe’e.

**VACANCIES:** One vacancy in Sub-District 2 and four vacancies in Sub-District 3.

**GUESTS:** Senator Gordon Trimble, Kristi Sue-Ako and Elenoa Fuka (Senator Trimble’s office); Ross Tsukenjo (Senator Donna Mercado Kim’s office), Dennis Arakaki (Senator Chun Oakland’s office), Representative Karl Rhoads, Colette Devou (Representative Corinne Ching’s office), Allan Garcia (Representative Joey Manahan’s office), Ross Tanimoto (Mayor Mufi Hannemann’s representative), Councilmember Romy Cachola, Dennis Galolo (Councilmember Romy Cachola’s office), Firefighter Francis Andrews (Honolulu Fire Department), Officer Aaron Amimoto and Sgt. Caesar Pires (Honolulu Police Department), Ted Sarabay (Board of Water Supply), Pat Lee (Honolulu High Capacity Transit Corridor Project), Darryl Tamanaha, Kenneth Kami, Eleanor Kolio, Jadelyn Neal, Donald Guerrero, Darryn Ng, Carlos Tavares, and Mary Chanel-Benjamin (Neighborhood Commission Office Staff).

**VOTE TO FILL THE VACANCY IN SUBDISTRICT 2: Dell nominated Florendo (Fuji) Juan, D. Yaw nominated Jadelyn Neal to fill the vacancy in Subdistrict 2.** No second is necessary. Both candidates were present and introduced themselves. The roll call vote resulted in 10 votes for F. Juan (Dell, Fang, Harding, Ibay, Kolio, Konno, Louie, Rone, Vasquez and Young) and 2 votes for J. Neal (D.Yaw and S. Yaw). **F. Juan was elected to fill the vacancy in Subdistrict 2.** Neighborhood Assistant Chanel-Benjamin administered the Oath of Office to Florendo “Fuji” Juan, who took his seat on the Board.

### COMMUNITY REPORTS:

#### Honolulu Police Department (HPD) – Honolulu District 1, Beat 150 –

Officer Aaron Ahmata reported 3 robberies, 3 unauthorized entry into motor vehicles (UEMV), 1 assault, 1 property damage, 22 motor vehicle collisions, 1 driving under influence (DUI), 1 drug offense and 26 miscellaneous service calls.

**Kalihi District 5 - Sgt. Pires reported.**

- 1) 265 arguments, 33 assaults, 29 burglaries, 3 narcotic arrest, 5 DUI, 10 family offenses, 2 homicides, 16 motor vehicle thefts, 221 motor vehicle collisions, 47 property damage, 7 robberies, 70 thefts, 48 UEMV.
- 2) HPD continues to monitor speeding on Kamehameha IV Road.

#### Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) – Fire Fighter Francis Andrews reported.

- 1) 109 emergency calls.
- 2) Fire Safety Tip: Ensure smoke alarms are functioning properly by testing them regularly in the presence of all household members. Practice the escape route plan together.

**Board of Water Supply (BWS) -Ted Sarabay reported.**

- 1) BWS wishes everyone a very Happy New Year.



- 2) The 2008 BWS calendar "Conserving Water Starts With Me!" has suggestions about conservation of one of Oahu's most precious resources and is illustrated by talented student artists, whose art was chosen during last year's annual Water Conservation Poster Contest. Each month features simple tips on how to save water. The calendars are available to the public in the lobby at the Beretania location and on the BWS website at [www.boardofwatersupply.com](http://www.boardofwatersupply.com).
- 3) Water Savings Tip: Operate automatic dishwashers and clothes washers only when they are fully loaded or properly set the water level for the size of the load. When washing dishes by hand, fill one sink or basin with soapy water. Quickly rinse under a slow-moving stream from the faucet.
- 4) There are roadwork currently on Mokuea, School and Kalihi Streets.
- 5) BWS's Kalihi Water System Improvement part two phase B project to replace water mains on Mokuea Street between Nimitz Highway and Dillingham Boulevard, as well as on several neighboring streets, is not completed yet. The contractor is working on several punch list items before final inspection. If you could identify specifically where the concerns are, the inspector can check it out.
- 6) BWS also replaced a 53-year old water main on Kamehameha IV Road between North School Street and Kini Place. This project is scheduled to be completed by the end of January 2008.
- 7) Although the BWS owns the Lo'i Kalo Park, Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) manages the property and is responsible for maintaining the pond and surrounding area. According to the park superintendent, there are four "no swimming" signs posted at the pond. Further questions can be directed to DPR.

**Mayor Mufi Hanneman's representative - Ross Tanimoto reported.**

The Sand Island sewage treatment plant construction is underway and increased sewer fees are expected. A public hearing is scheduled at Washington Intermediate School on February 15, 2008. Written statements are welcomed.

Questions and concerns followed.

- 1) A resident of Hao Street reported many alleged "drug deals" and "public alcohol drinking" taking place at the nearby park. HPD will do a follow up.
- 2) Juan asked Sarabay to schedule a meeting with an inspector regarding the Kalihi Street re-pavement project. Sarabay will follow-up with Juan.
- 3) Juan suggested the Board write a letter to business owners regarding the trash problem littering sidewalks in the School and Middle Streets blocks.
- 4) Ng asked Tanimoto why the Sand Island treatment plant public hearing is not held in the district so citizens can attend closer to home. Tanimoto said due to facility rental fees and availability of meeting places. He said testimonies can be accepted in a letter or e-mail form without attending.
- 5) Fang requested a closure sign for Banyan Mall since there is alleged "public drinking" going on usually from 10:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. and without the signs HPD cannot take enforcement action. Kalolo said he will follow up with signs. Vasquez was upset with this request since homeless people reside in the area over night with no other place to sleep and she feels HPD does not help the situation as they do not enforce the rules anyway. Tavares is a resident of Banyan Street and witnessed a "drug bust" by HPD about a month ago. He said he witnessed too many drive-by "drug exchange" traffic all night and day long. He said the signs would help with HPD enforcement. Dell said once the signs go up, the Board can form a study group to follow up. P. Lee said the Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) should investigate more and do the study once the signs are posted. Galolo said he believes the sign posted now reads "prohibited" instead of any closure notice. He said ordered closure signs may take about one month to order and be placed.

**RESIDENTS' CONCERNS:** Kolio encouraged Board members to attend monthly Board meetings to keep quorum.

**APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES.**

**October 17, 2007** - Dell moved and Juan seconded to defer the October 17, 2007 regular meeting minutes since it was not received by the Board on time due to Neighborhood Commission Office relocation and mail delays.

**November 21, 2007** - The November 21, 2007 regular meeting minutes are still in the review process.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Young appointed Fang as Treasurer. Fang reported the total appropriated balance is \$3,333.46. The operating account balance is \$1,287.46. The publicity account balance is \$1,926.00. The refreshments account balance is \$120.00. The Treasurer's report was filed.

**OLD AGENDA BUSINESS:**

**Kalakaua Park** - Juan reported: DPR painted over graffiti and continues to monitor the park weekly, especially when schools are not in session, the citizens' patrol last night not a problem. A month ago 30 to 40 members of students and teachers from district leadership classes helped remove graffiti and assisted with general cleaning of the park. He added there were 22 burnt-out light bulbs before DPR replaced all but 2 of them, which has made a big difference in the community park. He commended DPR and John Hall for assisting the community which heavily depends on the park facilities. One night he counted 56 people utilizing the park and said some community members have been satisfied with posted park closure hours; which have helped decrease graffiti as well.

**Lo'i Kalo Park** – Ng said the trash that was left by the last community clean up of the park was taken care of by the community since the City failed to remove it in a timely matter. Young asked Tanimoto to be sure to pass the information on trash pick-up to the correct City department. Tanimoto will follow up.

**Kuhio Park Terrace (KPT)** – Tsukenjo reported: Building B underwent elevator safety testing and only one elevator is working. HUD will clarify who will maintain testing in the future to maintain working status to prevent breakdowns. Annual testing should be maintained. Building A has three elevators working, in all only four out of six elevators are currently working at KPT. Over \$5 million will be needed to modernize the 30 year-old elevators. The elevators themselves are outdated; technicians are forced to salvage one to save another to get it up and running again.

Comments followed.

Young was concerned about the safety for elders and handicapped, as she was told the "wait period" for KPT could take up to 20 minutes for an elevator and wants to keep the issue on the agenda.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS:**

**Governor Linda Lingle's representative** - No representative present.

**Councilmember Romy Cachola** -

Dennis Galolo circulated Councilmember Cachola's newsletter and reported.

1) City Council transitioned into a new network-based cost-saving phone system. The new office number is 808-768-5007.

2) The City introduced a prescription drug discount card National Association of Counties sponsored offering 20% off the retail price of commonly prescribed drugs. The card may be used by all Oahu residents regardless of age, income or existing health coverage but is not health insurance. There is no enrollment or fee involved. Cards are available at the City Council office and at 10 Satellite City Halls. Information can be obtained by calling 1-877-321-2652 or 808-768-7701 or by visiting: <http://www.honolulu.gov>.

3) The Department of Environmental Services has spent over \$ 1 billion in daily fines, litigation, lawyer's fees as well as council spending several millions of tax payer's dollars. Public awareness and right to testify and hear complaints at public hearings are vital, public is urged to attend meetings and assist with passing resolutions. All Hawaii tax payers will be affected however; city needs to convert to modern treatment plants to be sustainable.

**Senator Gordon Trimble -**

Senator Trimble reported.

- 1) He is seeking tax relief by eliminating State General Excise Tax (GET) tax on food.
- 2) Honolulu continues to become a safe state with more DUI convictions.
- 3) He introduced his staff members, Kristi Sue-Ako and Elenoa Fuka, who will take calls to his office.

**Senator Donna Mercado Kim -**

R. Tsukenjo circulated Senator Kim's monthly report and reported.

- 1) The State Senate has adopted a "paperless" process initiative, beginning with the 2008 legislative session. This measure was taken in keeping with the sustainability theme and improving management of the waste stream. Source reduction can reduce the over 4 million sheets of paper, used this past legislative session. All legislative documents are available on the state website: [www.capital.hawaii.gov](http://www.capital.hawaii.gov). The Senate is also requesting diskettes from the departments.
- 2) The Farrington principal has announced the swimming pool will cost over \$3 million to update and she will close the pool indefinitely. The improvement is too costly. Instead, a much-needed girl's locker room will be built.

**Representative Corinne Ching -**

Colette Devou introduced herself, she distributed Representative Ching's report and reported.

- 1) Opening day was a success and she wished everyone a Happy New Year.
- 2) Karen's Law was celebrated yesterday at the Capitol. This law created tougher penalties for violent juvenile offenders. Karen Ertell, for whom the law is named, was brutally raped and murdered by her 15 year-old neighbor.
- 3) A 2008 Legislative Session Questionnaire can be filled out and sent or faxed to Representative Ching's office at 586-9421.

**Representative Karl Rhoads -**

Representative Rhoads reported.

- 1) He has introduced House Bill 1985, adding language to the criminal trespassing in the first degree statute to include a person who enters or remains unlawfully in or upon the premises of public housing project after forewarning by police or housing authorities. House Bill 1985 also includes a warning or request to leave a public housing project shall not be necessary between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m.
- 2) He also introduced House Bill 1984, relating to public housing, would prohibit the consumption of liquor on any public sidewalk or common area within public housing project. This law should help alleviate alcohol related problems such as shootings, stabbings and other neighborhood disturbances.

- 3) He still receives complaints from residents of 215 North King Street, regarding the noise generated by the Hawaii Superferry's generators. Hawaii Superferry notified him it took measures to correct the need for generators. He could not find any department responsible for noise regulation at the harbor; he introduced House Bill 2263 which required the director of the Department of Transportation to adopt rules that will regulate harbor noise. House Bill 2263 has a deadline date of January 23, 2008 for any input.

Questions and concerns followed.

Harding was concerned about what will happen to students that are seeking Swimmer Scholarships. Without a pool for practice these athletes are at a disadvantage in competing for scholarships. This is another disadvantage to the Kalihi community. D. Arakaki said the school has been making joint efforts to use other park swimming pools for athletes.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization Citizens Advisory Committee (OMPOCAC) –**

S. Yaw reported an investigation report showed proposed public in favor of toll roads. What roads are targeted and how many lanes may be tolled are yet to be decided.

**Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) –**

Kolio reported: Mayor Wrights Housing celebrated an "Adopt a Block" campaign to support the community in policing and cleaning around the housing development. He will have more to report after a meeting in February.

**NEW BUSINESS AND LAST ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

- 1) Harding shared a flyer from local schools asking for volunteers to contact each individual school.
- 2) Young reads a letter from the Department of Transportation Services, regarding a parking restriction on Bannister Street between Laumaka Street and Bannister Place. After an investigation found Bannister Street to be too narrow, this restriction will improve traffic flow. Parking restriction signs will be installed after legal notice is published. Any questions can be directed to Alton Mitsuyuki at 768-8330.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Submitted by:  
Mary Chanel-Benjamin, NA

Reviewed by:  
Chair Young