



KALIHI – PALAMA NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 15

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING STREET ROOM 406 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813
PHONE (808) 768-3710 • FAX (808) 768-3711 • INTERNET: <http://www.honolulu.gov/nco>

DRAFT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2015 KALIHI UNION CHURCH

CALL TO ORDER – Chair Daniel Holt called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. **Quorum was established with eight (8) members present.** Note: This 13-member Board requires seven (7) members to establish quorum and to take official Board action.

Board Members Present – Theresa L. Cummings, Tom Enos, Cy Feng, Daniel Holt, Fetu Kolio, Roland Louie, Ryan Mandado, and Mar Velasco (departed the meeting at 8:19 p.m.).

Board Members Absent – Joe Dumayag, Leo Gozar, Rodolfo Ibay, and Jonie Williams.

Guests – Fire Fighter I Kelaula Kauwe (Honolulu Fire Department); Lieutenant Baron Lee and Sergeant Anson Kimura, District 1; Lieutenant Brian West and Sergeant Brent Bonnell, District 5 (Honolulu Police Department); Oryn Nakamura (Board of Water Supply); Sheri Kajiwara (Mayor Kirk Caldwell's Representative); Kaila Shimabukuro, Mitch Cabrerros, and Dennis Arakaki (Councilmember Joey Manahan's Office); BJ Ramos (Senate President Donna Mercado-Kim's Office); April Bautista (Representative Karl Rhoads Office); Carl Campgna (Representative Romy Cachola's Office); Pat Lee (Honolulu Authority on Rail Transportation); Debbie Spencer-Chun (Adult Friends for Youth); Nobu Nakamura (Kalihi Union Church); Cheryl Aiwohi, Donna Punzal, Sandy Anderson, Samson Ah Mook Sang, Kris Soares, Gary Evora, Nancy Jucaten, Gerald Chang, Nick Kalkai, Mark Kamahele, Rudy Alvarado, Debra Grofal, Ronald Higa, Ailene Barranco, Analyn Simon, Rodney Nakeshima, Firmo Dayao, Ken Silva, Daryenne Ramirez, Lisa Marie Jucaten, Cindy Aban, and Nick Kolkas (Residents); David Amodo (Videographer) and Neighborhood Assistant Neil Baarde (Neighborhood Commission Office).

PUBLIC SAFETY INPUT

Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) – No representative was present. No report was provided.

Honolulu Police Department (HPD), District 1 – Lieutenant Baron Lee reported the following:

- **February 2015 Crime Statistics** – There was 1 motor vehicle theft, 3 burglaries, 15 thefts, 5 unauthorized entries into motor vehicles (UEMV), 2 assaults, 0 sex assault, 0 graffiti and 1 drug offense for a total of 315 calls for service.
- **Burglary Prevention** – According to the FBI, a burglary occurs somewhere in the United States every 15 seconds. Use a solid core or metal door for all entrance points. Make sure the sliding glass patio doors are secured with a second lock. Use highly visible alarm decals, beware of dog decals, or security. Make sure no one can reach through an open window to unlock the door. Be a good neighbor, if anyone sees someone or anything suspicious call 911.

Questions, comments, and concerns that followed:

1. **Boundaries** – Mandado asked where District 1's boundaries are. Lieutenant Lee responded that District 1's boundaries are from Liliha Library to the Ocean.
2. **Aala Park** – Nick Kolkas raised a concern about the tents along Aala Park, and noted that there has not been a change since his initial concern was raised in November 2014. HPD was asked to make daily foot patrols at Aala Park. Lieutenant Lee responded that the stored ordinance provisions are made by the Department of Facility Maintenance (DFM) because HPD is not equipped to hold all of the items. DFM does call HPD after they clear all of the items and noted that homeless people is an island wide issue. Kolkas asked HPD to enforce the law more. Lieutenant Lee responded that patrolling Aala Park is not a high priority call. Chair Holt suggested that Kolkas work with HPD and both change their tactics.
3. **Gang Violence** – Cheryl Aiwohi noted that gang violence is on the rise and noted that she is a part of the task force and commented that there are a lot of organizations trying to find some solution. Aiwohi commented that her son and his friend were mobbed, HPD needs to be more visible in the community for everyone to feel safe. When HPD came to check on the victims, the officers that were tending to the victims were disrespecting and treating the victims like they were the suspects. Aiwohi noted that she has been targeted and commented that recently, there was a big rumble planned near her in-laws house and

the gang members threatened her elderly in-lawd. Aiwohi commented she is having a few interviews with different news stations and noted that Farrington High School and the City are trying to keep the news of gang violence quiet.

4. Feral Cats – Donna Punzal raised a concern about people coming into the area and feeding the feral cats. Punzal noted that her neighbor has a new roof and the warranty has been voided because of all of the cats pooping on top of the roof. The people were caught on camera feeding the feral cats, but HPD has told her that she needs to catch them in the act of feeding the feral cats. Lieutenant Lee responded that the community should work together on this because neighbors make good witnesses.
5. Youth Groups – Firmo Dayao noted that gangs have been a problem in the Kalihi-Palama area for 20 years and commented that it needs to be stopped at their roots. Dayao noted that the Board should create a committee that works with youth groups. Rudy Alvarado noted that the Kalihi Community Center is the new place that is trying to get more kids off of the streets and commented that the community needs to do something.

Honolulu Police Department (HPD) District 5 – Lieutenant Brian West reported the following:

- February 2015 Crime Statistics – There were 24 motor vehicle thefts, 22 burglaries, 68 thefts, and 24 unauthorized entries into motor vehicles (UEMV), for a total of 3,086 calls for service.
- Burglary Prevention – Lieutenant West added that for more security for houses with louver windows, squirt silicone glue between every other louver.

Questions, comments, and concerns that followed:

1. Accident on Kalani Street – Mandado asked if HPD can share any information regarding the bicyclist that was hit. Lieutenant West responded that HPD cannot give out the information.
2. Support – Kolio asked how supportive is HPD of the community. Lieutenant West responded that HPD supports the community and noted that HPD works together with the community. There are difficult issues that HPD needs the community's help.
3. Concern – Dennis Arakaki raised a concern about people drinking behind the service station on Richard Lane and asked if HPD can patrol that area more. Lieutenant West responded that HPD patrols the area a lot already, but will follow up with the concern.
4. Neighborhood Watch – Lieutenant West noted that Neighborhood Watch Groups that walk around together is a good tool in deterring crime.

With no objections, Chair Holt took the agenda out of order to the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD).

Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) – Fire Fighter I Kelaula Kauwe reported the following:

- February 2015 Fire Statistics – There was 11 structure fires, 2 wildland fires, 3 rubbish fires, 4 vehicle fires, 109 medical emergencies, and 62 miscellaneous calls for service. There were no major or unusual incidents.
- Cooking Safety Tips – According to the National Fire Protection Association, two (2) out of every five (5) home fires starts in the kitchen. These steps can help prevent fires: 1) Cook only when alert and not when drowsy or have been drinking. 2) Keep an eye out for the food cooking, if one is going to step away, turn the stove off. 3) Keep dish towels, paper towels, and potholders away from the stove. Avoid cooking in loose clothing because loose sleeves can easily catch fire. 4) Keep hot items away from counter or table edges. 5) If a fire occurs, go outside and call 911.

Chair Holt resumed the order of the agenda.

Board of Water Supply (BWS) – Oryn Nakamura reported the following:

- Water Main Breaks – There were no water main breaks.
- Telephone Scam – BWS customers are being targeted by a telephone scam in an attempt to fraudulently collect money. So far, BWS is aware of about a dozen incidences where a suspicious person claims customers owe a large sum of money and the balance must be paid immediately or else service would be discontinued. Victims are then urged to visit the nearest Walmart store to wire transfer (MoneyGram) the funds. The BWS encourages Oahu residents to be vigilant against telephone and email scams that may use water bills as a lure. Here are some tips to protect yourself: (A) **Know your account status.** Call BWS customer service staff at 748-5030 or sign up for online billing services for accurate information about your account. (B) **Understand BWS collection procedures.** (1) BWS does not call customers outside its business hours of Monday-Friday, 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., to request for payment. (2) BWS does not call customers, demand payment, and collect payment all in the same phone call. (3) If a

customer is contacted for overdue payment, he or she will be asked to call 748-5030 to make credit card payment. (C) **Safeguard your personal information.** Never give the credit or debit card number or other personal information to any caller or visitor without knowing their true identity. (D) **Hang up on suspicious callers.** If you feel pressured for immediate payment or personal information, hang up the phone and call BWS customer service at 748-5030. This will ensure you are speaking to a real representative. (E) BWS staff have filed multiple reports with the Honolulu Police Department, who is investigating.

- National Fix A Leak Week – Monday, March 16, 2015 starts the National Fix a Leak Week. Detect-a-Leak toilet tablets are available at the BWS main office on Beretania Street. Call 748-5051 or visit www.boardofwatersupply.com for more information.

Questions, comments, and concerns that followed:

1. Telephone Scam – Enos noted that he thought BWS had fixed the issue by hiring more people and asked how that plan is going for them. Nakamura noted that the number of bills have gone down and that only a few are estimated but noted that the community should call BWS if they are unsure about their bills.
2. Ponding – Rodney Nakashima raised a concern about ponding that is occurring along the median strip by Houghtailing Street. Chair Holt noted that the issue should be reported to the City.

RESIDENTS'/COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Gang Violence – A resident noted that HPD should talk to the different football team's coaches and staff because a lot of the gang members belong to their schools football teams and commented that students should not play if they are members of a gang. The resident noted that her nephew was mobbed and asked what can be done. Another resident commented that Farrington's football coach only suspended a player for one (1) week for fighting. The faculty and staff at Farrington High School is aware of everything that is going on, but no one is doing anything.

Awareness – Debbie Spencer-Chun from Adult Friends for Youth (AFY) noted that some people do not realize that Kalihi has a gang problem and that the community's voice is louder than AFY's. AFY is planning a community meeting to help the parents that are being affected. Chair Holt noted that getting people aware is the hardest part. Spencer-Chun commented that Mayor Caldwell never released the funding for gang help and the families are frustrated. The gangs are growing and it was noted that six (6) different groups were involved in the recent brawl. Cummings asked for the date and time of the meeting. Spencer-Chun responded that they do not have any information yet but will contact the Board as soon as the date and place is set. Darian Nemura noted that she attended the meeting on behalf of her boyfriend who was mobbed at the park while playing basketball. Pictures were shown of her boyfriend 17 hours after the mobbing on Thursday, March 12, 2015. Sandy Anderson noted that on the same night an SUV pulled up to her son and friend when they were walking to the store and jumped them. Anderson found the guy that jumped her son and called HPD. It was noted that one (1) of the leaders of the gangs is now in jail. Spencer-Chun commented that not all of the gang members are from Kalihi, some gang members come from Waipahu and go as far as Kalani High School. Another resident noted that the schools need to get involved because the issue could get worse. The resident noted that anyone can be a victim, and in time the wrong people could get hurt. Nakashima noted that he was a part of a gang in the 1970's and commented that the truant officers used to find kids and take them to school where they would do an intervention on the student, but understands that funding is an issue. Spencer-Chun noted that AFY does interventions and counseling, but what is needed is building a relationship with the kids. Mandado noted that he did see a lot of activity when he went to Farrington High School (FHS). Students listen to other students and in High School social image is important. If the student leaders can rally the other students to ban gang members at events, it would work but the students do not know how to act about it. It is the fear of retaliation that stops a lot of students and teachers from acting on the situation. Student Council should form a united group that will not allow any gang activity in the school. It was noted that social media plays a really big part in gang violence. Parents that get involved could make a difference because there are strength in numbers. Chair Holt noted that the Board could hold a special meeting if necessary.

Chair Holt called for a recess at 8:19 p.m.

Velasco departed the meeting at 8:19 p.m.; **Seven (7) members were present.**

Chair Holt called the meeting back to order at 8:21p.m.

Discussion – Chair Holt noted that the main point of holding the special meeting is to inform the faculty and principal about the gang activities at Farrington High School. Kolio noted that the issue is not having a meeting but having the people come to the meeting is the issue. Chair Holt noted that efforts are being made and he will put the item on the April 2015 agenda. A resident noted that next month is too long because some gang members are starting to target people's houses.

Youth Groups – Dayao noted that there is urgency in the community and an immediate implementation of a plan is needed. The Board could make a committee that handles youth violence in the community. Chair Holt noted that a task force was made and noted that there are meetings but no one shows up. Arakaki commented that the meetings have started in November 2014 and noted that the Principal attended some of the meetings. Arakaki noted that this is the first time that he is hearing about the football team's involvement and commented that the Board should not form another group and offered to host more meetings with the task force. A resident asked if the Board can give updates on social media. Chair Holt responded that the Board just recently started filming their meetings and commented that he will see if the Board can start a Twitter or Instagram for the Board and the activities in the area.

CITY ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor Kirk Caldwell's Representative – Director Sheri Kajiwarra reported the following:

- Aala Park – One (1) of the irrigation controllers that waters half of the park is currently not functioning properly. Maintenance is tasked to water manually, as time allows. A request has been initiated for irrigation repairs to be made throughout the park.
- Sand Island Transition Center Status – The City is currently awaiting test results from soil sample tests that were performed. The test results will determine the direction that this project takes.
- Road Repaving Schedule for Kalihi – The work for the Rehabilitation of Localized Streets Phase 12A project is anticipated to begin in April 2015.
- Container Houses – The City does not have a specific plan to use containers with the State, but is willing to have communication with the State on safe and innovative ways to provide safe, secure, and affordable housing. The Administration is looking at many different opportunities to increase the supply of affordable housing on the island. The strategy can be found on the Office of Housing website at www.honolulu.gov/housing.
- Homeless on Beretania Street – HPD noted that the officers make daily checks of Aala Park from Tuesday, March 3, 2015 to Tuesday, March 10, 2015 for violations. Although there were numerous tents on the sidewalk, they had the prescribed 36 inches clearance and there were no obstruction of sidewalk violations. The officers located a dog and transported it to the Hawaiian Humane Society. The owners of three (3) dogs found in the park were cited for violation of the park rule prohibiting dogs in the park. DFM noted that the Sidewalk Nuisance Ordinance enforcement was last done on Friday, February 6, 2015 and Wednesday, March 4, 2015. The sidewalk area was cleared of all obstructions. The next enforcement will be on Wednesday, March 25, 2015.

Questions, comments, and concerns that followed:

1. Homeless Solutions – Louie noted that there are some organizations that are buying one (1) way tickets to their home state and commented that the City should have some sort of mechanism to control the situation.
2. Kapalama Canal – Chair Holt asked if the Kapalama Canal belongs to the City. Kajiwarra responded that it does belong to the City. Chair Holt noted that someone stole from his garage and when HPD came, they suggested asking the City to put up a fence along the canal. Kajiwarra will follow up on the issue.
3. Water Testing – Dayao noted that he lives near Pauoa Stream and asked if the City can test the water because it could be hazardous from the homeless people's excrements. Nakashima noted that the homeless is the community's problem because when the City closes the parks and restrooms the homeless will move to the residential area and use the canals and streams to use their bathrooms.

Councilmember Joey Manahan – Dennis Arakaki distributed Councilmember Manahan's newsletter and reported the following:

- Pedestrian Signs – Councilmember Manahan would like to thank the Department of Transportation Services (DTS) and the Department of Facility Maintenance (DFM) for their investigation and action on North King Street and Richard Lane. The faded pedestrian signs in the area were replaced and the crosswalk at the intersection was restriped.

- Gang Task Force – Arakaki announced that there will be a meeting on Friday, March 27, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. at Jessie's Bakery. The discussion will be on what options can be taken.
- Response Times for HPD – Arakaki announced that Councilmember Manahan met with the Chief of Police and they discussed HPDs response times. It was noted that HPD will make improvements on their response time.
- City Council Update – Mitch Cabrerros noted that City Council is continuing with dealing with budget issues. It was noted that Friday, March 20, 2015 was the final date for bills. Councilmember Manahan is looking into helping the funding, but the administration has control of the budget.
- Kalakaua District Park – The funding for new playground equipment has finally been approved. The City is looking at the prices for the new equipment.

STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS

Governor David Ige's Representative – No representative was present; no report was available.

Senate President Senator Donna Mercado Kim – BJ Ramos reported the following:

- Bills – Ramos noted that it has been a busy time at the Legislation and commented that the Senate had 1029 Bills.
- Crossover – Senate Bill (SB) 322 and SB 329 were read at crossover.
- SB 286 – It would require an Inspector General for the Legislation's Administration during audits.
- Elections – SB 287 allows mail only ballots.
- SB 387 – Would help cases of domestic and/or sexual violence.
- Town Hall Meeting – Senate President Kim invites everyone to the Pearl City/Aiea Town Hall Meeting on Thursday, March 19, 2015 at Pearlridge Elementary.

Questions, comments, and concerns that followed:

1. Inspector General – Enos noted that the Inspector General Bill is a good idea because Government efficiency needs to be looked at.
2. Community Funding – Chair Holt asked if Senate President Kim can support community funding. Arakaki asked Senate President to support AFY and Weed and Seed because they are also related to the gang violence concerns.

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland – No representative was present; an information packet was made available.

Representative Karl Rhoads – April Bautista reported the following:

- House Bill 766 – HB 766 would appropriate money out of the general revenues fund for the construction of micro apartment housing units. The measure was passed by the Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing and is awaiting a Senate floor vote for Second Reading.
- Senate Bill 120 SD 2 – Authorizes the issuance of general obligations bonds and the appropriation of funds for deposit into the rental housing trust fund and the dwelling unit revolving fund to finance affordable rental housing development and infrastructure development. Appropriates funds for the construction of micro apartment housing units. Appropriates funds to the department of human services to continue to administer housing first programs for chronically homeless. The measure was passed by the House Committee on Housing and is awaiting a House floor vote for Second Reading.
- Senate Bill 155 – Appropriates \$15 Million out of the general revenues fund for the construction of micro apartment housing units. The measure missed the Final Decking deadline and is therefore dead for the Session.
- House Bill 30 – Increases the fine for noisy mufflers on motorcycles and mopeds from \$100 to a \$1000 fine. The measure missed the First Lateral deadline and is therefore dead for the session.
- Mayor Wright Homes – A board member made an update on the water temperature problem at Mayor Wright Homes. Representative Rhoads' office has not received any complaint regarding this matter in years.
- Farrington High School – \$10 million has been allocated for Fiscal Year 2016 for the plans, design, and construction to modernize the Farrington High School campus.
- Kapalama Canal Bridge – \$1,820,000 has been allocated for Fiscal Year 2016 for the design and construction for the rehabilitation of Kapalama Canal Bridge.

- Signalized Crosswalk – \$750,000 has been allocated for Fiscal Year 2016 for the plans, design, construction, and equipment for the installation of a signalized crosswalk of Kalihi Street between Ashford Street and Kahanu Street.
- Homeless Encampment – Representative Rhoads received a complaint regarding the homeless encampment along Nimitz Highway before K-Mart and across the street from the Salvation Army. The issue has been forwarded to DOT.
- Iwilei Road – Representative Rhoads received a complaint regarding mopeds with modified mufflers riding up and down Iwilei Road at all times of the day. The issue has been forwarded to HPD.
- No Dumping Sign – Representative Rhoads received a request to have a “No Dumping” sign installed at 675 North King Street. The issue has been forwarded to DFM.

Questions, comments, and concerns that followed:

1. Farrington High School – Enos asked if the \$10 million for Farrington High School is new or from the money allocated for improvements. Bautista responded that she will follow up.
2. Mayor Wright Housing – Kolio asked Bautista to elaborate on the hot water issue at Mayor Wright Housing. Bautista responded that Representative Rhoads has not received any concerns regarding Mayor Wright’s hot water issues in years.
3. Funding – Arakaki asked about a bill that would help get funding for services. Bautista responded that the bill has died. Arakaki asked Bautista to emphasize the need of AFY and Weed and Seed, when she reports to Representative Rhoads.

Representative Romy Cachola – Carl Campagna reported the following:

- Unfunded Liability – The proposed legislation is an innovative, more affordable, and less painful alternative and is the second best option to self-insurance. Taking control of our destiny and preserving the opportunities for future generations are the overriding goals of this proposal. The financial viability and future of Hawaii is at stake.
- Transportation of Filipino Remains – The gallantry of Filipino soldiers played a vital role in the Allied victory in the Pacific as their numerous guerilla actions provided United States forces with time to build and prepare for the Allied counterattack. Filipino soldiers were eventually provided with burial benefits at National and State Veteran Cemeteries at no cost similar to other veterans of the United States Armed Forces. The wish of some Filipino soldiers who are living in Hawaii was that their remains be returned to their homeland. However, this benefit of returning the remains of Filipino soldiers to their homeland was not provided to them.

UNFINISHED/ON-GOING BUSINESS

Honolulu Rail Transit Project (H RTP) – Pat Lee reported the following:

- Fare System – Rail will be an important component of Oahu’s public transit system, complementing the bus and Handi-van service. HART, DTS and OTS, the operators of the city bus system, are meeting to work on a single fare system that will consist of a multi-model smart card system. The Fare System Vendor will be responsible for design, manufacture, testing and installation of the entire system inclusive of hardware and software. The rail portion of the project will consist of Ticket Vending Machines and fare gates at stations that accept smart cards which can also be used for payment on board TheBus and facilitate a seamless transfer between modes.
- Construction Highlights – There are more than 140 columns erected, more than 205 foundations, more than 2,390 segments cast, and more than 95 spans completed. Drivers using the H-1 Freeway near Leeward Community College may notice the progress being made on the rail guideway crossing the freeway between Waipahu and Pearl City. This portion of the project is called a “balanced cantilever”. Construction crews are continuing to build the balanced cantilever from elevated platforms at the H-1 Waiawa Interchange. To reduce traffic impacts, workers are performing the work at night. The contractor will close multiple freeway lanes directly underneath where the work is taking place for safety purposes.
- Safety – For the safety of the crews and the travelling public, HART advises H-1 motorists to continue looking “ahead, not overhead” when driving through the construction area. Rail guideway work crossing the H-1 Freeway is scheduled to run until 2016. For traffic updates, meeting notices and more information, please visit the website www.honolulutransit.org, call the project hotline at 566-2299 or email a question at info@honolulutransit.org.

APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 18, 2015 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – Louie moved and Mandado seconded that the Kalihi-Palama Neighborhood Board No. 15 approve the February 18, 2015 regular meeting minutes as amended. The motion was UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED, 7-0-0 (AYE: Cummings, Enos, Feng, Holt, Kolio, Louie, and Mandado.)

Amendments as follows:

- Page 6 – Budget – first sentence should read: “Louie asked and Lee responded that there are currently five (5) people on HART’s Public Relation payroll.”
- Page 6 – Public Awareness – first sentence should read: “Enos noted that he was against, but is now for the Rail, and commented that there has been bad news about Rail and Enos commented that he is worried.”

OTHER REPORTS

Chair’s Report – Chair Holt announced that there will be a City and County Planning Kawaihoa Solar meeting at Mission Memorial Building (MMB) on Wednesday, April 1, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. The issue will be for a special use permit for photovoltaic panels.

Treasurer’s Report – Treasurer Cummings reported that \$18.45 was spent in February 2015, leaving a remaining balance of \$274.27. The report was filed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Kalakaua Middle School – Arakaki announced that there will be a graffiti clean up on Saturday, March 28, 2015 at 8:00 a.m.
- Sunrise Service – Kalihi Union Church will be holding a Sunrise Service on Sunday, April 5, 2015. A free breakfast and Easter egg hunt will be a part of the service.
- Next Meeting – The next Kalihi-Palama Neighborhood Board No. 15 meeting will be on Wednesday, April 15, 2015, 7:00 p.m., at the Kalihi Union Church, 2214 North King Street.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

Submitted by: Neil Baarde, Neighborhood Assistant
Reviewed by: Nola J. Frank, Neighborhood Assistant
Reviewed and Finalized by: Chair Daniel Holt