



## PALOLO NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 6

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING STREET ROOM 400 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813  
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### REGULAR MEETING MINUTES WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2006 PALOLO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Rachel Orange called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with a quorum of eight (8) members present.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Traver Carroll, Darlene Nakayama, Rachel Orange, Joshua Stanbro, Earl Shiraki, Erin Sonsona, Gregory Pentecost, Doug Wong, Owen Nakao, Gladys Hayes-Gerlich, Michael Weinstein.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Carolyn Walther.

**GUESTS:** Joan Camara, Pat Cabrab, Desiree Kumano, Tashiana Castillo, Pauline Hirahato, Rus Mirakami, Fire Fighter D. Mau (Honolulu Fire Department), Captain R. Green, Lt. M. Asato, Sergeant L. Dabaluz and Officer J. Hendricks (Honolulu Police Department), Joe Yasutake (Department of Parks and Recreation), Martin Okabe (Mayor's Representative), Representative Calvin Say, Senator Les Ihara, Councilmember Ann Kobayashi, Jeff Mikuluna (Vice Chair, Honolulu City Charter Commission), Ms. Malama, Sandra Lee, Yoshi Kanekuni, Roger Smith, Dorothy and Beverly Mau, Julia Allen, James Dedot, Mr. Nekota, Howard Ishida, Rus Murakami, Dave Gonzales (Olelo Videographer), Richard Wells (Honolulu Community Action Program, Leahi District Director), Wesley Fong (President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Palolo Chinese Homes), Susan Kamida (Palolo Chinese Homes), Marie Richardson and Jamal Siddiqui (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

**BOARD VACANCIES:** There were no interests at this time to fill the one vacancy in Sub District 3.

#### CITY SERVICES:

**HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT (HFD):** Fire Fighter D. Mau distributed the monthly report with the following: (1) October's statistics: 1 structure fire, 24 medical emergencies and 3 miscellaneous. (2) Fire Safety Tip: When selecting Halloween costumes, ensure that they are flame-resistant, made of lightweight fabric, brightly colored, and clearly visible to motorists. Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape. Keep the length of costumes short to prevent tripping. A natural mask of cosmetics is better than a mask that may restrict breathing or obscure vision. Children should carry flashlights to light their way.

**HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT (HPD):** Lt. M. Asato distributed the monthly report with the following: (1) crime was down this month. (2) Mentioned various Halloween Safety Tips for trick-or-treaters including carrying a flashlight; walk, don't run; stay on sidewalks, obey traffic signals, stay in familiar neighborhoods, wear a watch you can read, wear clothing with reflective markings or tape, and approach only houses that are lit, and stay away from and don't pet animals you don't know.

Questions and answers followed:

1. Carroll inquired for an explanation to specifically why burglaries are down. Lt. Asato did not give a definitive answer.
2. Sonsona read a letter from a concerned resident regarding illegally retrofitted mopeds making excessive noise riding mauka on Palolo Avenue and going makai from the vicinity of Carlos Long Avenue. Therefore, is it possible for residents to call the police watch commander, instead of 911 which can be used to report life and death situation.
3. Shiraki commented that at 2:00 p.m. everyday on Date Street in Kapahulu, he hears loud retrofitted moped noise and asked why HPD does not respond. Lt. Asato replied that it depends whether the officers are available (may be working on a case that involves life and death).
4. A resident inquired if HPD does citations if they catch those riding illegally retrofitted mopeds. Lt. Asato replied yes. However, Lt. Asato noted that HPD does not have decibel meters that measures noise, including illegally retrofitted mopeds.

Stanbro arrived at 7:05 p.m. 9 members present.



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**BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY (BWS):** Stephanie Kimura was not present at the meeting. However, Chair Orange received and read the water main break report: There was one water main break for the month of September 2006: It occurred on September 15, 2006 on Maluhia Street and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, to a six-inch cast iron pipe that was 79 years old. As the useful lifespan of our current water mains ends, BWS is spending millions of dollars to replace them to insure reliable water service and help prevent main breaks. This is just one of the many ways we continue to be the stewards of Oahu's precious water.

**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION (DPR):** DPR Representative Joe Yasutake reported the following: (1) Fall Program commences September 18, 2006. Classes will include tai chi and karaoke lessons on Friday mornings. (2) Palolo Pride was a tremendous success. (3) Make a Difference Day is Saturday, October 28, 2006. (3) Preparing for the annual Food Drive in November 2006 and the Christmas Basketball Tournament.

Pentecost arrived at 7:15 p.m. 10 members present.

Questions and comments followed:

1. Board member Sonsona inquired on the status of the area tennis courts that are in such terrible shape. DPR Representative Yasutake commented he has no control in terms of scheduling repairing area tennis courts.
2. Board member Sonsona noted that for the past 10 years in Kalihi Valley, a non-profit organization had funded and organized a successful area tennis program that helps area kids stay out of trouble. DPR Representative Yasutake replied that he has made numerous efforts over the years to set up tennis programs in Palolo, however there is no enthusiasm. In contrast, Jarrett Middle School fields six volleyball teams.
3. A resident suggested that the Board write a letter to the DPR Director to requesting repairing area tennis courts.
4. Yasutake stated that the Palolo area parks have been hit hard with graffiti. One of the ways the community is addressing this problem is to have the area parks closed by 10:00 p.m. every night.
5. Board member Wong inquired about the status in constructing a skateboard park in Kaimuki. Yasutake replied that the Kaimuki Neighborhood Board No. 4 has rejected having the skateboard park where it would invite unruly elements into their neighborhood. Wong asked if DPR polled Jarrett Middle School if they support having a skate park in Palolo. DPR Representative Yasutake replied that the student replied yes in support of having a skateboard park in their community.

Weinstein arrived at 7:20 p.m. 11 members present.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS:**

**Mayor's Report:** Martin Okabe gave the following responses to concerns raised at last month's meeting: (1) Installation of an independent/delayed left turn signal from 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue onto Waiialae Avenue – The Department of Transportation Services (DTS) annually evaluates the priority of traffic signal installation modifications due to funding limitations. The earlier DTS can schedule this installation is fiscal year 2009. (2) Installing speed bumps on 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue near 2459 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue to deter speeding on the back of Palolo Valley – The matter is being referred to the Department of Design and Construction (DDC). (3) The entire Lamaku Street is one giant pothole – Crews from the Department of Facility Maintenance (DFM) filled holes on Lamaku Street and adjacent streets. (4) The sliding down of the mauka hillside of Waiomao Road below Kuaheha Street repair project – A consultant has been engaged to develop alternatives for slope stabilization measures to address damages incurred to Kuaheha Street including the mauka hillside of Waiomao Road from the March 2006 rains. The City will estimate that development and evaluation of alternatives will be towards the end of this year. (5) Area streets needing to be repaved this fiscal year and a repaving schedule – DDC has programmed the reconstruction of roads for contract resurfacing as funds become available: entire lengths of Palolo Avenue, 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Waiomao Road and Kauhana Street and Waiialae Avenue (Old Waianae Road to 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue). Okabe also mentioned the following roadways that have been resurfaced for the past two years: 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Palolo Avenue), Orchid Street (Palolo Avenue to Ginger Street), Ginger Street, (Orchid Street to Gardenia Street), Gardenia Street (Carlos Long Street to makai end), Myrtle Street (Carlos Long Street to makai end), Narcissus Street (Carlos Long Street to Myrtle Street), Narcissus Place (Narcissus Street to end) and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Palolo Avenue to Harding Avenue). (6) Is there a clause grandfathering—in older apartment complexes and their tenants from having some kind of trash collection service or an onsite trash bin. Okabe replied that apartment complexes with less than 24 units would be serviced by the City's

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manual pickup upon request. As for apartment complexes with more than 24 units, would be serviced upon request by the City's front-end loader service provided there is enough operational area within the apartment complex.

Questions and comments followed:

1. Chair Orange stated that a resident mentioned to her the recent heavy rains that damaged La'i Road. Mayor's Representative Martin Okabe replied that he would follow up on it.
2. Chair Orange reported that a resident informed her that he has seen wild pigs running in his yard. Board member Stanbro? replied that that resident should call 643-DLNR to have DLNR address this problem.
3. A resident asked that the City has not kept its promise to repave Palolo Avenue.
4. Board member Nakayama reported that the bridge on Palolo Avenue is in dire need of repair.
5. Board member Carroll suggested that the City install solar lights in area City parks.

**Councilmember Ann Kobayashi:** Councilmember Kobayashi distributed her report and highlighted the following: (1) The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Recycle Day Clean Up is taking place October 14, 2006, Kaimuki High School Parking Lot from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The site is accepting metals, newspapers, cardboard, old tires, green waste, car batteries, etc., to raise funds for Kaimuki High School, Kapahulu Center and Moiliili Community Center. (2) The proposed Transit System/Light Rail Report will be submitted to the Honolulu City Council on November 1, 2006. (3) The City and County of Honolulu would no longer be in the affordable housing business by selling its affordable units in order for the City to pay off its debt. However, the buyer must sign a contract that these housing units remain affordable in perpetuity. (4) A tremendous amount of work is being done to repair La'i Road in the aftermath of the heavy rains that occurred recently. (5) BWS is working to replace the existing waterline pipes with new water pipes before the existing pipes expire.

Questions and comments followed:

1. Board member Sonsona expressed concern with the proposed widening of La'i Road that would be cost prohibited.
2. Board member Shiraki expressed concern that with the City selling its affordable housing units, where the proceeds would go. Councilmember Kobayashi replied that the proceeds from the sale would be used for the City to pay off its debt. She noted that there is a proviso where the buyer cannot raise the price of the affordable units to market level prices.
3. Board member Stanbro suggested that the City sell their affordable housing units to a non-profit organization. Councilmember Kobayashi agreed with Board member Stanbro's sentiments.

**Representative Calvin Say:** Representative Say distributed his report and highlighted the following: (1) In the wake of recent reports regarding mopeds racing throughout Palolo Valley, Representative Say suggested that the Board adopt a resolution to urge both the City Council and State Legislature to pass legislation prohibiting unlicensed mopeds on the streets. (2) The State Legislature has appropriated funds to repair Kuahea Street and Place. (3) The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Recycle Day Clean Up is taking place October 14, 2006, Kaimuki High School Parking Lot from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Questions and comments followed: A resident commented that these mopeds are considered bicycles and should not go beyond 40 miles per hour.

**Senator Les Ihara:** Senator Ihara reported the following: (1) Citizens Against Noise will be meeting in the State Capitol on Wednesday, October 18, 2006, 2:00 p.m. to discuss moped noise. (2) The legislature's Kupuna Caucus listened to a recent presentation from Board member Darlene Nakayama regarding elder care services provided by the Palolo Chinese Home. The presentation was very well received. The Kupuna Caucus is currently working on a legislative package for the upcoming 2007 session.

Questions and comments followed:

1. Board member Hayes stated that HPD need noise decibel meters to monitor moped noise. Senator Ihara replied that he would work to help fund purchases of noise decibel meters for HPD to more accurately monitor moped noise.

2. Richard Wells commented that in the wake of the proliferation of wild pigs penetrating Palolo Valley, he knows an individual who is a licensed pig hunter who uses humane means to catch these wild pigs by setting traps.

**Governor's Report:** No representative was present to provide a report.

### **RESIDENTS' ISSUES AND CONCERNS**

**Concern regarding the Palolo Chinese Home construction:** (1) Susan Kamida, representing Palolo Chinese Home, reported that there will be a future community meeting regarding the renovation of the Palolo Chinese Home. (2) Wesley Fong, President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) informed the Board that Palolo Chinese Home, is working on its second phase to repair this facility. In addition, Palolo Chinese Home plans to construct a three-story skilled nursing facility.

### **NEW BUSINESS/PRESENTATIONS**

**Request to run an Adult Day Care Center from a residence:** Rus Murakami informed the Board that he is applying for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) application to operate an adult day care facility in his residence located off the third parcel of Hinahina Street and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, specifically at 3514 Hinahina Street. Murakami stated that he sent letters to residents living within 300 feet of the proposed facility. The proposed facility is 1,300 square feet and has two restrooms. This would house 12 participants during their day program. There is ample parking for facility employees. The operating hours are from 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Questions and comments followed:

1. A resident expressed concern that in having a proposed facility located right in the middle of a residential neighborhood would create traffic congestion including lack of adequate space for a Handi-Van to move in and out of the facility during drop off and pick up times. More importantly, with existing facilities like the Palolo Chinese Home, Central Union Church and Leahi Hospital, why build a facility in a residential neighborhood. Another concern is construction noise from sawdust will negatively impact affected residents.
2. Board member Wong inquired to why choose a residential area for a proposed adult day care facility. Murakami replied that he looked at other areas but that the rent at other proposed sites was too expensive for him to afford. Wong further asked if the proposed facility would be operated as a non-profit organization. Murakami replied that it would not be non-profit but that he wants to keep costs as low as possible and plans to charge \$45.00 per day per participant.
3. Board member Pentecost noted that there are other area houses where they do operate similar adult day care facilities.
4. Board member Shiraki suggested to Murakami that apply for a variance for the proposed adult care facility to be approved.
5. Sensing the concerns, Chair Orange suggested to Murakami that he continue talking to area neighbors for further input to address concerns prior to returning to give another presentation in a future Board meeting.

**Explanations of Proposed Charter Amendments:** Jeff Mikulina, Vice Chair of the Honolulu City Charter Commission, reported that the Honolulu City Charter Commission held 35 meeting island wide where after much public input was ensued, the commission agreed to place on the November 7, 2006 General Election ballot 12 proposed amendments to the Honolulu City Charter:

1. Should the City Council term limits be replaced by Alternative A or B below; and separately to address concerns relating to election of City Council members caused by reapportionment every 10 years, should staggered terms be replaced by Alternative A or B below?
2. If Charter Question 1 is approved, which proposal relating to Councilmember terms should be adopted?
  - ALTERNATIVE A: Term Limits for Council members and the staggering of Council members terms shall be eliminated.
  - ALTERNATIVE B: Council members shall be limited to serving a maximum of three consecutive four-year terms, and the staggering of Councilmember terms shall be eliminated.
3. Should one percent of annual property tax revenues be appropriated to funds for land conservation and affordable housing?

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4. Should the powers, duties and functions of the Director of Environmental Services include comprehensive curbside recycling?
5. Should the Ethics Commission have the authority to impose civil fines on elected officials for ethics violations?
6. Should races with only two candidates be held in the General Election instead of the Primary Election?
7. Should the City Council's power to reject Salary Commission recommendations be eliminated?
8. Should one of the priorities of the Department of Transportation Services be to make Honolulu a pedestrian and bicycle friendly city and should the powers, duties and functions of the Director of Transportation Services include bikeway systems?
9. Should the Liquor Administrator, Deputy Administrator and Secretary be exempt for civil service positions?
10. Should the Charter be amended to state additional services currently being provided by the Director of Emergency Services and by the Fire Chief?
11. Should capital budget appropriations lapse 12 months after the fiscal year, instead of the current 6 months?
12. Should the Charter be amended to also provide public notice by electronic medium and for housekeeping amendments (1) to conform to current functions and operation, (2) to conform to legal requirements, (3) to correct an inadvertent omission and (4) for clarity?

For further information of the proposed 12 City Charter Amendments, Mikulina referred to the City Charter Commission website at [www.honolulu.gov/chc](http://www.honolulu.gov/chc).

Questions and comments followed:

1. Board member Sonsona inquired if Charter Question #4 with reference to the Ethics Commission refers to placing civil fines in punishing City elected officials with fiscal irresponsibility/misuse of public funds. Mikulina replied that the amendment if passed would give the Ethics Commission the power to impose civil monetary fines against elected officials. The amount of fines would be established by ordinance.
2. Board member Shiraki asked who wrote and approved the language of the proposed 12 City Charter Amendments. Mikulina replied Charter Commission staff researchers and attorneys wrote the language of the proposed charter amendments. The language was approved by the staff supervisor.

**City Charter Amendment #3:** Ms. Malama, a University of Hawaii Law School student, urged Board Members and the community to vote yes on Charter Question #3 that set asides one percent of annual property tax revenues be appropriated to funds for land conservation (preserving open space land) and constructing and maintaining affordable housing? The funds are from existing property tax revenues where .5% is allocated to land conservation while the remaining .5% is allocated to affordable housing. Support for this proposed amendment comes from a variety of organizations including Catholic Charities, Hawaii Farm Bureau, Audubon Society, etc.

Questions and comments followed: Board member Stanbro commented that with the City getting out of the affordable housing business, this proposal is needed to provide affordable housing and preserve open space. He noted that both Kauai and Maui Counties with similar policies that has been working for the past few years.

**CHAIR'S REPORT, MAIL AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Chair Orange made the following announcements: (1) Olelo Broadcast Slots: Aired on Channel 54 on the first and third Thursdays of every month at 9:00 p.m. For schedule and information, call 834-0007, extension 133. (2) Bulky Trash Pick-Up; Take out by the morning of October 18, 2006 (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of every month).

**APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 9, 2006 AND SEPTEMBER 13, 2006:** Hayes moved and Carroll seconded that the minutes of August 9, 2006 and September 13, 2006 be approved as distributed. Without objections, the minutes were approved for filing.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Board Treasurer Weinstein read the following statement for September 2006: (1) The previous operating account balance was 1,296.71, current expenses was \$84.80 (breakdown - \$12.40 in printing the October 2006 Agenda/September 2006 Minutes, \$28.08 in mailing out the October 2006 Agenda/September 2006 Minutes and \$44.32 for renting Palolo Elementary School as venue for Board meetings), current operating account balance to date is \$1,211.91. (2) The previous publicity account balance was \$702.00; \$150.00 was allocated for videotaping Board meetings for future broadcast on Olelo Channel 54, the remaining publicity account balance to date is \$552.00. (3) There being no expenditures, the refreshment account balance remains at \$120.00. **Without objections, the Treasurer's Report was approved for filing subject to audit.**

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Questions and comments followed: Chair Orange reported that she received an email from the City stating that they have increased funds in the publicity accounts for all 32 Neighborhood Board to utilize to publicize Board meetings.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Without objections, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Submitted by,  
Jamal Siddiqui  
Neighborhood Assistant