



## WAIKIKI NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 9

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING STREET ROOM 400 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813  
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### MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 11, 2007 WAIKIKI COMMUNITY CENTER

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Finley at 7:00 p.m.

**ESTABLISH A QUORUM:** A quorum was present. Chair Finley noted that Simpson would not be able to attend the meeting.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jo-Ann Adams, Les Among, Helen Carroll, Ray Gruntz, Jim Poole, Jeff Apaka, Louis Erteschik, Bob Finley, Walt Flood, Robert Martin, Richard Personius, Bert Benevento, David Chen, Jeff Merz, Mike Peters, Mark Smith.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mary Simpson.

**GUESTS:** Bob Farrell and Ivonne Cardenas ([makakilo.com](http://makakilo.com)), Lori Wingard (Councilmember Charles Djou's Office), Councilmember Charles Djou, Candice Van Buren (Representative Scott Nishimoto's Office), Corey Dillman, Emily Reid, Bill Cooper (Horbon/Ena Road Organization for Safety), Stefan, Capt. J. Richards (HPD), Sgt. D. Nihei (HPD), Helen Sweat, Dawn Ward, Mary Cowing, Capt. R. Iwami (HFD-Waikiki Station), Kawehi Yim (Hawaiian Humane Society), Joan Nawawa (WCC), Representative Tom Brower, Rick Egged (Waikiki Improvement Association), John Whalen (Plan Pacific), Jan Bappe, Krisiti Sue Ako (Senator Gordon Trimble's Office), Kevin McDonald, Kani Kondo, Marsha Weinert (Governor's Office), Dean Chu (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Deferred to later in the meeting.

**CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Chair Finley reported the following:

He participated in the Mayor's Remembrance Walk, this past Sunday, marking the September 11, 2001 attacks, and encouraged others to participate in future walks. A moment of silence was observed at this time.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Chen reported for the month of August, the Operating Account's previous balance was \$1431.75, the current month's were \$137.12, leaving a balance of \$1294.33; the Publicity Account's previous balance was \$2500, the current month's expenses were \$209.52 for video taping, leaving a balance of \$2290.48, the Refreshment Account had no expenses leaving a balance of \$120.00. The Treasurer's Report was accepted.

**CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED:**

The next meeting will focus on homeless issues, and the regular business items will be deferred.

**VOTE TO RECESS IN DECEMBER - The Board normally recesses its December meeting. Among moved and Apaka seconded that the Board recess its December meeting. The motion carried, 15-1. Flood opposed the motion.**

**CITY AGENCIES:**

**HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT** – Capt. Iwami, from the Waikiki Station, reported the following:

1. Last month the station responded to: 10 building and 1 rubbish fire, 97 medical emergencies, 4 search and rescue.

The station responded to two major incidents: a) the Kaimiki Chop Suey fire, where the fire started in a kitchen vent; and b) a fire on Wilhelmina Rise that damaged two homes, the cause is still under investigation.



There was a response to a fire with an unusual origin where a magnifying glass on a stand which was left on a stairway ignited the stairway.

2. The National Fire Protection Association has selected "Practice Your Escape Plan" as the theme for Fire Prevention Week, which will be on October 7 - 13, 2007. Signs will be displayed at all fire stations, and demonstrations will be conducted at various schools and shopping centers around the island. The 2007 Fire Fighter's Safety Guide will also be distributed to all elementary schools.
3. In addition, the Honolulu Fire Department would like to take this opportunity to remind the community that the provisions of the traffic code regulating the operation, parking and standing of vehicles does not apply to emergency vehicles responding to emergencies, provided the driver of the vehicle sounds a siren, bell or exhaust whistle and displays a lighted red lamp. These warning devices help to ensure the safety of the public as well as the safety of the emergency responder.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Smith commended the discretionary use of sirens, such as at night along Ala Wai Boulevard. Capt Iwami noted that this is done with safety as a priority and that in some situations only lights might be used.
2. In response to Smith, it was noted that there does not seem to be any greater driver awareness about yielding to emergency vehicles despite a recent article in the newspaper.

Capt. Iwami was thanked for attending the meeting

**HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT** – Capt. Richards reported there will be special safety procedures in place for the Air Force Thunderbirds' performances this Thursday and Saturday. Various Federal, State, and City agencies have been involved in preparation of the safety plan. It is anticipated people will call 911 to complain about noise from the airplanes during the performance, and dispatchers will have a telephone number to direct calls. After the Thunderbirds performance on Saturday, special attention will be given to managing traffic.

This Saturday the Aloha Festivals Flora Parade will go through Ala Moana and Waikiki prior to the Thunderbirds' performance.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. In response to Among, the increase in arrests for thefts seen in the statistics report distributed earlier in the meeting may be due to the use of 4th Watch officers - those still in training, working in Waikiki, including on the beaches.
2. Smith provided a flyer printed in Japanese believed to be advertising motorcycles for rent that promote them as ones that 'make lots of noise', to Capt. Richards. Follow up will be done.
3. In response to Merz, follow up will be done about tour buses are being parked at Paki Avenue and Monsarrat Street.
4. In response to Merz who noted an increase in graffiti, in meetings with other district commanders information on taggers is shared and some offenders have been found to be tagging in different districts. Graffiti can be reported to police.
5. In response to Merz, follow up will be done about mopeds are being parked on the sidewalks.
6. In response to Flood who inquired about emergency back up power for the Waikiki Station, several alternatives have been considered including a capital improvement project for permanent generators, or bringing in portable backup generators as needed to provide power for essential services, such as maintaining communication, otherwise the station has to be closed.

7. In response to Stefan who requested taking action to deal with noisy motorcycles, responses to requests for services have to be prioritized. At certain times officers are deployed to deal with higher priorities such problems when bars close.
8. In response to Among, the illegal parking of motorcycles on sidewalks is addressed. It was noted rental companies may be contributing to the problem.
9. Smith suggested the use of motorcycle officers to address problems such as noisy motorcycles. Follow up will be done.
10. In response to Erteschik, work is done to address chronic complaints such as noisy motorcycles, loud music, illegal camping, etc.
11. In response to Erteschik, it is a challenging balancing act to deal with the various types of problems needing attention.
12. Carroll suggested safety inspection stations be held accountable if they pass motorcycles later found to have noisy mufflers. Follow up will be done.

A written statistics report was distributed earlier in the meeting. An oral report by Sgt. Nihei was deferred. Capt. Richards and Sgt. Nihei were thanked for attending the meeting.

7:30 p.m.

**BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY** – Chair Finley reported a written report was received and available for interested persons to review.

**COMMUNITY CONCERNS:**

**TRAFFIC CONCERNS FOR AREA BOUNDED BY ALA MOANA BOULEVARD, ALA WAI BOULEVARD, ENA ROAD, AND HOBRON LANE** - Bill Cooper, Horbon Lane/Ena Road Organization for Safety, reported receipt of a letter from the Department of Transportation Services (DTS), in response to the Organization's suggestions for traffic improvements in this area. DTS replied: a) it does not recommend the installation of a left turn phase on mauka bound Ala Wai Boulevard in front of the Pacific News Building, b) separate left and right turn lanes on mauka bound Ena Road fronting the 7-Eleven, are being designed by the traffic consultant for the Allure project, c) a lengthened right turn lane on makai bound Hobron Lane at Ala Moana Boulevard is being addressed by the traffic consultant for the Waikiki Palms project, d) An all way stop for Ena Road and Hobron Lane is being addressed by the traffic consultant for the Allure project, and the City will install a 'Do Not Block Intersection' sign on Ena Road, to improve mauka bound traffic, e) the department will evaluate the need to extend the right turn lane on Hobron Lane at Ena Road once the Watermark, Allure, and Waikiki Palms projects are completed and their traffic improvements implemented. Cooper noted they are not pursuing further action at this time. Chair Finley reported the Board supported the organization's proposals.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS RESPONSES** – Merz reported he responded on behalf of the Board to requests for comments on the environmental assessments for the Royal Hawaiian/Sheraton Hotels expansion project, and the Ala Wai Garden residential project.

**URBAN LAND INSTITUTE INFRASTRUCTURE SEMINAR** – Merz reported last week he attended the seminar on the development of infrastructure; on behalf of the Board and made copies of his written report available. Topics covered included: infrastructure development for rural areas, and who pays for infrastructure, both old and new.

**CORRECTING STREET NAME SIGNS FOR KA'IULANI STREET** – A resident and Apaka noted street name signs for Ka'iulani Street are inconsistent in the correct use of Hawaiian pronunciation symbols. Keith Rollman, representing the Mayor's Office, will follow up.

**ALOHA FESTIVAL FLORAL PARADE** – It was noted the parade is this Saturday, beginning at 9:00 a.m., through Ala Moana and Waikiki, and the ho'olaule'a is September 21, 6:00 – 11:00 p.m.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS:**

**MAYOR'S OFFICE** – Rollman reported the City Sustainability Plan, prepared by the Mayor's Energy and Sustainability Task Force, has been issued. A copy was provided to the Board and is available on the City web site, including a link via the Mayor's web page. This plan differs from the State's 2050 Sustainability Plan, as it addresses day-to-day issues, where the State plan is more theoretical.

Rollman reported the following in response to questions from the last meeting:

1. Trash and bulky items have been removed from Cleghorn Street. This is an ongoing problem often created by people not putting out items just before the designated collection date. If the items are put out too late they will not be collected until the next scheduled collection date.
2. Regarding resurfacing Kuhio Avenue, the portion between Seaside Avenue to Ka'ulani Street was last resurfaced in 2004 and is in good condition. The sections between Kalakaua Avenue to Seaside Avenue, and between Ka'ulani Street to Kapahulu Avenue were constructed in 1982 and 1983 of concrete and are in generally fair condition, there are no plans for reconstruction at this time.
3. A malfunctioning traffic signal light at Kuhio and Liliuokalani avenues was repaired.
4. Aloha Drive Park will remain a contractor's yard for the sewer improvement project for another four to six years.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Apaka requested highway signs also be corrected to reflect the correct Hawaiian pronunciation diacritical symbols. Follow up will be done.
2. Apaka requested an update on the Arluis wedding chapel project on Kaiolu Street and Kuhio Avenue. Follow up will be done.
3. Erteschik commended the Mayor for work on attracting professional sports and Olympic teams to Honolulu for training.
4. In response to Erteschik, it was noted that the City does not plan to remove trees on Magic Island to accommodate a stage for festival next year as was reported in an Outdoor Circle letter to the editor.
5. In response to Peters and Benevento, additional lane markings are being installed on Ala Wai Boulevard to more clearly define the bicycle lane. Also, no markings for individual stalls will be installed as has been suggested.
6. In response to Gruntz, follow up will be done on how much revenue the City received from a carnival held on Magic Island and what that revenue will be used for in this park.
7. Adams requested a date on when portions of Kuhio Avenue where construction projects are in progress will be resurfaced. Follow up will be done.
8. Adams noted seeing cracks and small potholes on Ala Wai Boulevard and that proactive action be taken before the rainy season. Rollman noted that if these are in the newly resurfaced sections, repairs will be covered under a warranty.
9. Cowling suggested uninsured drivers should have their vehicles' license plates seized as is done in other states, as doing so here would help reduce traffic congestion. Rollman noted that even if police

catch a driver without proof of insurance, any punitive action requires a ruling by a judge. Changes to law would have to be made by the legislature.

10. Carroll requested an update on when construction projects on Kapiolani Boulevard would be completed. Follow up will be done.
11. In response to Apaka, follow up will be done about sewer odor being detected in the Ala Wai Boulevard, Seaside Avenue, Ka'iulani Avenue, area.

Rollman was thanked for attending the meeting.

8:00 p.m.

**COUNCILMEMBER CHARLES DJOU** – Councilmember Djou reported the following:

1. He continues to support the implementation of island wide curbside recycling, taking issue with the City's plans for more pilot projects when such projects have already been done in Mililani and Kailua.
2. There is no action before the City Council relating to a zone change for 2121 Kuhio Avenue.
3. The Kapiolani Park Master Plan is available on the City web site.
4. His office also receives complaints about noisy motorcycles.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. In response to Flood, it was noted that there is an ordinance that allows street performers to use boom boxes and other equipment, but does place limits on the sound level. Erteschik suggested changing the law to address concerns about excessive noise from this source. Martin noted that in other states street performers have to meet certain qualifications to obtain a permit. It was noted that good performers attract crowds which block sidewalks. Sword suggested there be a law to prohibit blocking the sidewalk. Councilmember Djou noted a bill was passed by the Council to do this, but the bill was vetoed by Mayor Hannemann.
2. In response to Among, legislation to allow someone to have their building permits expedited for an extra fee, is progressing.
3. Adams thanked Djou's Office for their handling of requests to have pot holes patched.
4. Merz supported expediting building permits for an extra fee and noted the fees here are low compared to other states, and questioned if the fees cover operational costs. Councilmember Djou noted at this time processing fees go into a general fund and not specifically to the department processing the permit.
5. In response to a question, Councilmember Djou noted that a bill to increase parking fees for City employees will die in committee due to opposition by the HGEA.

Councilmember Djou was thanked for attending the meeting.

8:20 p.m.

**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE** - Marsha Weinert, representing the Governor's Office, reported the following:

1. For safety reasons, the State Department of Land and Natural Resources is closing Diamond Head Crater and the Ala Wai Small Board Harbor and channel during performances by the Air Force Thunderbirds this Thursday and Saturday.

2. Hurricane Flossie served as a reminder for everyone to have an emergency plan and kit, and to know the location of the nearest evacuation shelter.
3. Spending by visitors is up six tenths of one percent in July, August figures are being determined.
4. Follow up will be done with the State Department of Transportation on the correct use of Hawaiian pronunciation symbols on its signs.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. In response to Smith, visitor spending statistics reflect the choice visitors have in accommodations, including increases in cruise ships, time share units, and condominiums, and decreases in use of hotels.
2. In response to Adams, it was noted resurfacing work has started on Ala Moana Boulevard.

Weinert was thanked for attending the meeting.

8:30 p.m.

**SENATOR GORDON TRIMBLE** – Kristi Sue Ako, from Senator Trimble's Office, distributed the monthly report, and highlighted/added the following:

1. Senator Trimble is in China, teaching for a semester.
2. The office has received loud music and noise complaints about Dave and Busters in the Ward Center. She used a decibel meter to check the sound levels of Dave and Busters and other sources of noise for comparison. The information was provided to the State Department of Health.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. In response to Merz, the loud music and noise from Dave and Busters comes from an outside area and impacts nearby residential buildings. Metz noted the sound levels may be a hazard to employees.

In response to Erteschik, it was noted the State Department of Health and City Liquor Commission both have jurisdiction on this matter. Smith noted some businesses have, and others do not have the resources to control noises; some businesses may be using loud music to attract customers, and enforcement is an issue.

2. Among suggested Senator Trimble teach in Honolulu instead of China.
3. Carroll noted a noise problem coming from a gift shop near her building on Ena Road.

Ako was thanked for attending the meeting.

**REPRESENTATIVE TOM BROWER** – Representative Brower reported the following:

1. Children and Youth Day is October 7.
2. He introduced legislation last session to address concerns about uninsured drivers, but it did not pass, and he will work on pursuing the legislation next session. The legislation included the use of stickers on vehicles.
3. Information on Bill 600, relating to exempt from taxation, 100 percent of capital gains realized during taxable years 2008 – 2012 from the sale of leased fee interest in condominium units to association of apartment owners or residential cooperatives; was mailed to members for their information.

4. He has created a computer program to help identify, and has notified some 5,000 persons who are owed small to very large amounts of money from the State's Unclaimed Property Fund which has some \$130 million in it.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

Gruntz also noted other states can seize the license plates of drivers without insurance and suggested Representative Brower work on such a bill.

Representative Brower was thanked for attending the meeting.

**REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT NISHIMOTO** – Candace Van Buren, from Representative Nishimoto's Office, distributed the monthly report and was available for questions.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

Follow up will be done on requests to the problem with uninsured drivers and noisy mopeds.

8:42 p.m.

**WAIKIKI IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION** – Rick Egged, from the Waikiki Improvement Association, reported the following:

1. They are working with the Board's Permitted Interaction Group on seeking revisions to City ordinances relating to second floor signage.
2. In response to a past question, star-shaped markers on Kalakaua Avenue, between Royal Hawaiian Avenue and Seaside Avenue, are actually on private property.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. The next Sunset on the Beach will be in October.
2. Follow up will be done about businesses within a shopping complex in the area of Beachwalk and Lewers Street, possibly illegally extending outside of their premises.

Egged was thanked for his report.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

**SECOND FLOOR SIGNAGE DISCUSSION** – Egged, and John Whalen from Plan Pacific, reviewed a proposal to revise the City's Land Use Ordinance (LUO) as it relates to second floor signage in Waikiki. They reported that signage in Waikiki is limited to one-third the size of other areas such as neighboring Kakaako. This size limitation along with setback requirements and landscaping can make it difficult for persons to find places they are seeking from across or even the same side of the street. A proposed revision to the LUO would allow signs to be increased to two-thirds the size of those allowed in other areas such as neighboring Kakaako, allow illuminated channelized signs, allow interactive video screen directories, allow signs that identify a building's parking structure, etc., and create a sign master plan for Waikiki. The changes would help improve the visibility of businesses which want changes, but do not want signs as large as those in Kakaako. The master plan would be flexible, allow third floor signage.

**Peters moved and Among seconded that the Board support the concept of second floor signage as proposed by the Waikiki Improvement Association.** Discussion followed.

1. In response to Flood, there would be a maximum size allowed.

2. Personius requested, and Egged and Whalen noted work is being done on more specific language on the proposals.
3. Poole supported the concept, and the present size of signs, and it was noted that channelized signs are back lit.
4. Erteschik supported the concept, and it was noted the changes would not affect just second floor signage, but all signage in Waikiki.
5. In response to Apaka, there is a ordinance that requires signs be printed in English.
6. Gruntz noted problems with missing address numbers and suggested numbers be allowed on curbs instead. Whalen, former director of the City Department of Land Utilization, noted that address numbers are required on buildings and missing numbers is a common violation, and putting address numbers on curbs is allowed.
7. Peters thanked the PIG for its work and noted that he will monitor the proposed revisions through the City's processes which will benefit businesses.
8. In response to Benevento, it was noted the signage master plan will address second and third floor signage, and that the changes to the law would only affect buildings in Waikiki with more than one tenant. The current signs are too small.
9. Smith requested information on alternatives if the change is not allowed.
10. Adams supported the use of interactive video screen building directories and suggested there be standardization on software, location, etc. It was noted that these type of devices are classified as illuminated signs and subject to sign ordinances.
11. Merz noted seeing signs in other areas where colors of even nationally known companies are muted.

**The motion carried, 14-1-1.** Martin opposed, Carroll abstained.

Egged and Whalen were thanked for attending the meeting and will keep the Board updated.

9:20 p.m.

**HAWAIIAN HUMANE SOCIETY** – Kawehi Yim, from the Hawaiian Humane Society, reported one of the Humane Society's duties is serving as the City's animal control contractor. Some of their programs include providing volunteers to foster pets of deployed military personnel, and working to make more residential buildings more pet friendly.

Copies of their Pet Emergency Preparedness brochure were distributed. It includes information on being prepared for natural disasters, such as Hurricane Flossie, by having an emergency kit for pets including a two-week supply of food, medicine, etc. Pets taken to shelters would have to be kept in a pet carrier or crate. Currently, in case of emergency evacuations there are no pet friendly civil defense shelters designated, and work is being done with the State on this matter.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. In response to Peters, it was acknowledged there is a problem with feral cats such as they are killing desirable birds. The Humane Society does work with cat caretakers, and does have traps available.
2. In response to Gruntz, the recent \$5 microchip program has just ended, but the cost is included in adoption fees. Private veterinarians can also implant the microchips.

Yim was thanked for attending the meeting.

**PERMITTED INTERACTION GROUP REPORTS:**

**HOMELESS ISSUES** – No report.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE AUGUST 14, 2007 REGULAR MEETING** – The following corrections were made:

Page 2, under Honolulu Police Department, question number 4 should read "...within a gift shop on Ena Road, near Ala Moana Boulevard."

Page 5, under Air Force Week, September 9 – 15, it should read "Col. J.J. Torres, commander of the..."

Page 5, under Air Force Week, question number 2 should read "...a disturbance at 4:30 a.m."

The minutes were approved as corrected.

**CHAIR'S REPORT:** Chair Finley reported the following:

1. It was requested the creation of a permitted interaction group on noise, be placed on the agenda.
2. The Niketown 5K Run/Walk is September 23, 7:00 a.m. There will be street closures.
3. At the August 27 Neighborhood Commission meeting approximately 100 changes were discussed on the City Corporation Counsel's review proposed revisions to the Neighborhood Plan. It was announced the public hearings on the proposed revisions will be held in November. The Plan is available on the Neighborhood Commission Office website, and runs 143 pages.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dean Chu  
Neighborhood Assistant