



Regular Meeting of the BABCNC Emergency Preparedness Committee Minutes

Wednesday, January 17, 2018 7:00 pm

Bel Air Ridge Clubhouse - 2760 Claray Los Angeles, CA 90077

1. **Call to order** – Chuck Maginnis, EP Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:10pm.
2. **Roll Call & Introduction of Attendees:** Chuck called the roll at 7:11 pm; Jacqueline, Hildreth and Irene arrived soon thereafter with 11 members present and 1 absent.

Name	P	A	Name	P	A
Chuck Maginnis, BABCNC EP Committee Chair & At-Large Representative; Bel Air Rd. EP Captain; CERT	X		Michael Schlenker, Bel Air Crest EP Chair; BABCNC EP HCEC Communications Committee Chair; LAFD ACS & CERT	X	
Maureen Smith, BABCNC Religious Institutions Representative	X		Ron Cornell, Bel Air Ridge Chair EP Committee, HCEC Ham Radio Group	X	
Irene Sandler, BABCNC Bel Air Crest Master Association Representative	X		Dan Palmer, BABCNC Residents of Beverly Glen Representative, EP Chair	X	
Jacqueline Le Kennedy, BABCNC Business Rep., Treasurer & Budget Advocate	X		Hildreth Simmons, Residents of Beverly Glen (ROBG) EP Committee member	X	
Danielle Cohen, Bel Air Ridge Resident; EPAC Co-chair, Ham/ CERT	X		Seema Hassan, Doheny Sunset Plaza Neighborhood Association (DSPNA)		X
Stephanie Savage, BABCNC's LCA Rep.	X		Rob Farber, BABCNC's At-Large Youth Representative	X	

Attendees Following committee-member roll call, attendees introduced themselves as follows:

Greg Martayan, CD5 Public Safety, with LAPD/LAFD Emergency Management Department 213-505-8420 Deputy Chief Armando Hogan, LAFD 35 years; January 31, 2018, title will be Deputy Chief & Commander of Operations West Bureau Work (323) 957-4121; Cell [\(213\) 999-2180](tel:2139992180) email: armando.hogan@lacity.org

Richard Scott Mitchum, Homeland Security

Tim Pershing, Sr. Field Deputy of Richard Bloom, Public Safety in SM Mountains & Fire Safety in Topanga

James (Jim) Latham, MRCA Ranger

Semiee Park from DONE

Charles Maginnis, Resident of WLA, previously Bel Air Road

Brian Jacobs, Benedict Hills Estates Association (BHEA), resident, teaches breath work

Craig Denton, Benedict Hills HOA (BHHA), resident of newly formed EP committee

Betty Blair, Resident on Bel Air Road

Gina Martelli, Resident on Bel Air Road

Shelly Seltzer, Colina Glen HOA, EPAC

Maureen Levinson, BABCNC & Bel Air Association

Cathy Palmer, BABCNC Administrator & Minutes taker

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. **Approval of October 18, 2017 Minutes:** Moved by Michael; seconded by Daniel; passed
5. **Public Comment:** Chuck Maginnis expressed appreciation that BABCNC contributed a little less than \$5,000 toward ham radios, and that 7 of the 11 were put to good use during the Skirball Fire. He commended Michael Schlenker for his excellent After-Fire Report and that Grayce Liu felt the same, forwarding the reports to Mayor Garcetti. Chuck then relayed that Ben Park who introduced LA Emergency Management's new "Map Your Neighborhood" program last meeting, reported that materials are in print. Bill Grunfield requested rooftop water sprinklers be discussed where Chuck shared pictures

of a handmade sprinkler system from a Pacific Palisades highlands friend. Bill also suggested more attention be given to public-owned vegetation clearance. Chuck also noted that We Are Laurel Canyon email blasts have been very good on preparedness featuring a Ralph Sanchez article, a Hands-Free CPR class with Captain Jeffrey Arnold, and other subjects, as they are also doing a great job of organizing an Emergency Preparedness group. Michael Schlenker announced the upcoming town hall on the Skirball Fire, which will take place on January 31, 2018 7-9pm at Rosenfeld Auditorium in Franklin Canyon.

THE CITY RESPONDS TO SKIRBALL FIRE: Pictured from left, Scott Mitchem - Homeland Security, Tim Pershing – Office of Assemblyman Richard Bloom, James Lathan – MRCA Ranger, Chief Armando Hogan – LAFD Assistant Bureau Commander, Greg Martayan - CD5 Chief Deputy of Public Safety and missing, Lead LAPD Officer Chris Ragsdale and DONE representative Seme Park.



- 6. Skirball Fire Preparation and Assessment, Greg Martayan – CD5 Councilman Paul Koretz’s Chief Deputy of Public Safety –** Greg Martayan recalled the recent odorant leak with So Cal Gas, and that there are many public safety concerns in CD5. As to the fire, he noted that, “we had great communication from the get-go that morning.” Deputy Chief of Staff, Graham Everett of the LAFD called him between 5:00-6:00 a.m. Greg noted that the Councilmember was involved from the get-go and that Chief Hogan did an amazing job as commander. They evacuated 1600-1900 homes, which took place in coordination with their office. Greg related that he stayed with Chief Hogan all night, 2-3-4 a.m., 270 officers were deployed to protect Bel Air; that LAPD was under unified command with LAFD under Chief Hogan, and did an excellent job protecting property. Every corner there had an LAPD officer. He related that they

did not have a single civilian injury; they repopulated the area for thousands of people. He noted the sad loss of homes. Greg declared that “this unified command could go down in history as one of the most seamless unified commands ever in the City of Los Angeles.” He praised CM Koretz who, on the second day, spotted a flare-up across the mountain that was then extinguished, and for being incredibly hands on. Greg related that he has witnessed drone technology, which saves firefighters’ lives.

Below, Deputy Chief Armando Hogan, Greg Martayan report on the Skirball Fire as Lead Officer Chris Ragsdale, Seme Park, Rob Farber, Shelly Seltzer, Stephanie Savage (below), Maureen Levinson (above), Maureen Smith, Cathy Palmer, (back right) Jacqueline Le Kennedy & Guest, Danielle Cohen, Ron Cornell, Michael Schlenker, Charles Maginnis & Dan Palmer listen.



Deputy Chief Hogan echoed Greg’s sentiments; noting that they reached out to partners, e.g., LAPD. He pointed out that they had three fires going simultaneously. He handled the Skirball, where 20 homes were damaged, and six were partially or completely destroyed, mostly on Linda Flora, Casiano and Moraga Drive. Asked when they decide on evacuations, he noted that they have Chief in charge of the evacuation group. He thanked residents in the area who were cooperative and had a lot of valuable questions. He noted that “LAPD was sensational,” LAPD handles evacuation and executes the plan. From a fire standpoint, he thanked Michael Schlenker, Chuck, and their folks who were ready to put out information. He is interested in coordinating with them. Various canyon communities contacted him. He also discussed NotifyLA.

Greg Martayan interjected that an important use for the Council office was that corporations use them as a facilitator, e.g., Uber and AT&T both reached out to the Council office, and both offered assistance. He noted that, as a result of hundreds of LAPD cars and 120 fire trucks from outside of the city, all of these vehicles have to go somewhere, which is a major challenge in the city of LA. He noted that the fact that Chief Hogan could find a location... the way fire trucks and officers were coming in and out, was an amazing feat. He concluded that the Council office has the resources to facilitate that operation.

In her comments to Deputy Chief Hogan, **Maureen Levinson** from the Bel Air Association (BAA) and Bel Air District representative on the BABCNC Board thanked the LAPD, turning to Senior Lead Officer, Chris Ragsdale, of the WLA Police Station. Maureen related that the surveys done by members of the BAA community revealed overwhelming appreciation to LAPD and LAFD for the evacuation but that post evacuation information outreach needs to be tweaked. She noted that the BAA office received hundreds of calls regarding information after the evacuation, e.g. when can evacuees return home? This information was lacking and one survey said she called CD5 and was told to follow Twitter, which she does not subscribe to. She noted that the BAA's only source of information came from their direct contact with Peter Sanders, LAFD's Public Information Officer. He explained how and when road-opening decisions would be made. BAA published this information in their email blasts which was useful information for all the evacuees. She noted that the Twitter and alert feeds were not updated (that they went as long as two days without an update) and that TV coverage was at times inaccurate. **Deputy Chief Hogan** responded that they are telling folks to go to Twitter because they don't know how to reach those folks. He acknowledged Maureen's comments, and that the Field Incident Management Team will in the future include tracking. He said that you'll be able to check in with this phone number in two hours, etc.

Greg Martayan interjected that the Council office was engaged in communication with the community; that Dr. Goodman (from Bel Air) came to the Council Office and they were sending newsletters. Greg said that he is concerned about losing ability to use FB, Twitter or cell phones and that he will look at BAA's surveys. "A lot of folks don't understand that they can call their Council office. There's 24-hour access to me."

Tim Pershing related that the "Topanga Survivor Guide" shows that before something like this, "everybody in Topanga has all the information that you didn't have... county numbers, city numbers, etc." Topanga has an access card, with all the information numbers you need to have, which are updated.

Chris Ragsdale noted that the community cooperation and support was amazing.

7. Skirball Fire Communications Report / HAM update – Michael Schlenker, BABCNC Communications Chair

Michael related that the LAPD did not know that they had an incident command center, and had already sent out an alert through their own command system to their community at 5:30 a.m. He'd have liked to know where to tell them where to go. He'd have liked to be able to work with their partners. Chris Ragsdale responded that historically, Westwood /Bel Air areas are the Westwood Park Recreation Center and Cheviot Hills Park were two locations that would be used. Michael noted that main arteries were closed, and "knowing the communities and what they have in place would be very helpful."

He noted that the After Fire Report related levels of management ... in a community working as a community; and he showcased what the neighborhood council did by launching this communications subcommittee, including the donation of funds for ham radios. He described how they communicated with each other the first half hour of the fire. They had a full operation until 6:00 pm that night. He encouraged each community to have an EP chair even if they don't have radios.

Tim Pershing asked, and Michael responded that in this scenario, they had 18 ham radio operators, to encourage participation, offering to help them with the training. He encouraged CERT training, 17 hours, but "it's something you need to do."

8. Committee discussion on 2018 goals & topics of interest – Maginnis & Schlenker

Michael related that now that we are a committee, while we have always been "educational" we now have political power for the constituents, where we have representatives at the City and State level. He'd like this City to sponsor speaker series, e.g., family EP, fire, crime, make that outreach.

Some goals: Alert email and text group: Michael related that we have a dedicated email with rules specifically for passing along information. We've done work on ordinances, e.g., weed whacker. Topanga Canyon has done a fire mitigation plan, which we could make specific to our area; evacuation planning and management, fire preparedness, if there are neighborhood safe places, education on unified response, what weather warnings mean. We need to document assistance.

Armando Hogan related that they're putting community evacuation plans in place. In the past, they'd tell you what to do and expect you to do it. They are looking at involving the community. We're encouraging you all to look at the areas in your communities; what would a safe place of refuge in your area look like. They're using Laurel Canyon as a pilot, mirroring things from Topanga. Because of choke points at Kirkwood Bowl... encouraged Michael to point out their concerns. It came up why we don't use fire roads during evacuation. 1) they don't know when was the last time that road was used, 2) don't want to create an incident. They want to set up so you can see what a command post looks like. Goal is to continue to dialogue.

Discussion continues on different issues as, below from left: Danielle Cohen, Ron Cornell, Michael Schlenker, Charles Maginnis, Dan Palmer, Brian Jacobs, Craig Denton, Betty Blair, Gina Martelli, Scott Mitchem, Tim Pershing, James Lathan, Deputy Chief Armando Hogan, Greg Martayan, Rob Farber and others participate.



Chuck noted as to a question from Gina about a particular road, Chief Hogan related that because it's an unknown, they would encourage taking a look. Gina noted this road is closed off because of private gate. Greg "that's something that needs to be related very specifically to the Council office." Greg noted that he has access to plan checkers and that he, Chief Hogan and MRCA will go out to that land where there is a gate closed, and evaluate the situation.

Michael asked how do we know what is the best evacuation route? Maureen Levinson noted LABS's statement says they work closely with the LAFD. What is the Fire Department's job with Building and

Safety, when it involves a fire road? What accommodations does the FD do with LABS – as to fire roads for LAFD? Chief Hogan answered that the plan checkers review the plans, stamp approved, a temporary approval... they'll then send out a field inspector, and depending on intricacies, that will be taken under consideration. Chief Hogan added that they have “real keys” that they will rarely use during the emergency. He stated that they may use them post-incident. He offered to set something up on these roads so as to get eyes on it and Greg agreed that they should look into it. “If something went wrong, we can correct it.”

Chief Hogan asked that we have a single point of contact; make sure we cc those folks; keep everybody within that communication.

Chuck discussed the differences with regard to “red flag” noting that there are red flag streets. He has a link from a We Are Laurel Canyon that allows you to see if you live on a Red Flag street. “We just had a no-parking red flag day.”

Chief Hogan related that a survey was done on high fire severity zones. “The whole point is can we bring apparatus through that area and not create choke points.” He related that he is working with MRCA as to messaging, and who has responsibility for enforcement. Chief Hogan spoke about signage versus enforcement. He mentioned Rob Freeman and Chris Ipsen, spokesperson for Emergency Management. How can we better message?

Nixle is the software used for NotifyLA and comprise the same alert.

Chris Ragsdale related that on the day before, because of the red flag warning, they were up in the hills checking for choke points.

Tim Pershing noted that people can also sign up with the County. Per Assemblyman Richard Bloom, he was at the command center that morning, and “we followed it closely; it was exceptionally managed... the minimal amount of damage done given what everybody thought it would do.” He related that they were on evacuation notice even in Topanga. He noted that the Assemblyman is looking for additional resources for “Cal Fire” and looking at potential legislation for improvements for older homes, potentially funding, to change their vents to fire safe vents.

Michael encouraged working with city leaders to provide rebates, noting that he has just bought a mesh to go over vents at his home.

Chief Hogan noted with regard to sprinkler systems, LAFD may not endorse or do testimonials for any companies. He noted that the biggest concern is that when everyone hoses down, it lowers the water pressure. That's why they suggest using water from swimming pools

Ron Cornell asked about turning on sprinklers, which he had asked his neighbors to do, to which Chief Hogan responded that you're putting yourself in jeopardy; we don't want our police officers in the immediate life-hazard areas. If folks are taking independent action, it takes away from the goal.

Chuck asked for Goals, which include jumpstarting new EP committees in the area. Gina suggested having a map of fire roads.

Greg Martayan encouraged focusing on the bigger picture, including terrorist or biochemical attacks; having food and supplies. He encouraged the neighborhood council to do a good job of public relations. “People need to know you exist.” He noted how shocked he is that no one knows about us; that his office is a resource and HOAs should promote us.

Jacqueline Le Kennedy, BABCNC Board Treasurer and Budget Advocate, noted that the request for four reps for the EMD got pushed out of the budget. Greg promised that they are pushing hard for EMD's budget – and that they'll get resources for that type of cooperation.

Greg encouraged posting lawn signs at all entry points of the neighborhoods, for people to know that NC's are a resource, "vital during an emergency." He concluded that while 270 officers were deployed to Bel Air, if we have multiple incidents, people will have to take care of themselves.

Ron Cornell asked about liability issues that his HOA is concerned about. It would be helpful if the city would make suggestions to the HOAs, that these are things we suggest that you have in place.

Greg said that HOAs will reach out to them, and he'll facilitate meeting with the EMD. A team will come and help the HOA with a template on what to do. As to liability, Greg noted that HOAs and businesses take security very seriously, because when or if a situation happens, is when you open up to liability. Rule of thumb is secure and prepare up to the max. "We need the HOAs to best facilitate what we can do." The private-public relationship is essential. The resources are heavy on the private side.

As to the Good Samaritan rules, Tim Pershing noted that "it is a bug that's very, very hard to get out of the system." Further discussion about the liability risks was held, during this time, when we have mass disasters, "even electrical companies have to be concerned about providing medical care using equipment requiring electricity."

Irene asked about brush clearance, if they could put out a list of properties that have not cleared, to put pressure on homeowners. Chief Hogan replied with a strong "no." with which Greg concurred, as their communications need to be with the residents. Greg noted that the weed whacker motion is getting done and is coming up soon in Council.

In regard to Councilmember Paul Koretz's motion, Greg noted that the Councilmember has taken a very hard line on homeless encampments in the hillsides; that the last few sentences in his motion calls for enhanced enforcement on the hillsides. He reported that the Council office is taking a lead role, they will continue to be point agency and point Council office. If an encampment pops up they'll be there within hours. They have formulated a 24-hour system, with the agencies on the same page. "If we see tents going up – though every situation is different – we are going to act." The NCs, associations and groups need to tell your people if you see something, say something right away." 213-505-8420. Greg's. Email. Gregory.martayan@lacity.org for public safety issues. If something is elevated to a threat, call LAPD and follow up.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:02pm.

Next Meeting: Wednesday March 21, 2018 (3rd Wednesday every other month)