



**DRAFT MINUTES**

**Emergency Preparedness Committee Virtual Meeting**

**Wednesday, May 19, 2021 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm**

**Phone: Dial (888) 475 4499 & Webinar ID: 856 2405 7772**

**[tiny.cc/BABCNCEPMeeting](https://tiny.cc/BABCNCEPMeeting)**

EP Committee Member Name	P	A	EP Committee Member Name	P	A
Chuck Maginnis, BABCNC EP Committee Chair & At-Large Representative; Bel Air Rd. EP Captain; CERT	X		Robin Greenberg, BABCNC President Bel Air Hills Association Representative	X	
Maureen Smith, BABCNC Franklin-Coldwater Representative	X		Ron Cornell, Bel Air Ridge EP Committee, HCEC HAM Radio Group, LAFD ACS & CERT		X
Irene Sandler, BABCNC Bel Air Crest Master Assn. Representative; Traffic Committee Chair	X		Dan Palmer, BABCNC Residents of Beverly Glen Representative, RoBG EP Chair	X	
Jacqueline Le Kennedy BABCNC Business Rep & Treasurer		X	Bill Kabaker, Bel Air Ridge EPAC, CERT Battalion 10, HAM Radio operator, HCEC		X
Robert Schlesinger, BABCNC Planning & Land Use Committee Chair	X		Luisa Bottari, Doheny Sunset Plaza Neighborhood Association (DSPNA)	X	
Maureen Levinson, Bel Air Association, HCEC Communications; C-PAB	X		Robinson Farber, Bel Air Resident, BABCNC Alternate	X	

1. Call to order – Chuck Maginnis, Chair called the meeting to order at 5:06 pm.
2. Flag Salute
3. Roll Call of Committee Members – Chuck called the roll with 6 present initially. Irene arrived at 5:13pm at arrived for a total of 7; Bob S shortly thereafter, & Robinson at 6pm for 9 people present,
4. Introduction of Attendees
  - Marlene Hirshfield aka Marlene Hakakha, guest speaker this evening
  - Grant Graves was invited by Renato
  - Renato Ackerman related that Grant Graves is his guest
  - Captain Jonathan Tom, guest speaker this evening
  - Richard Scott Mitchem, guest speaker this evening
  - Senior Lead Officer Pete Ojeda, WLA Police Station, guest speaker this evening
5. Motion: To approve February 17, 2021 Minutes (Circulated with the agenda)  
Moved by Maureen S., seconded by Chuck; 7-0-0 passed
6. Public Comment: None. Attention was turned to Captain Tom, Item #9. (SLO Pete Ojeda would come later.)
7. Discussion & Possible Motion: Searching for a new head of this EP Committee as Chuck is stepping down. Dan Palmer noted that he doesn't have the time, would love to, and noted that Chuck has put in so many hours. Renato will send a CV of someone interested; however, he is not a board member. He was welcomed to come to the meetings.

8. **Marlene Hakakha or Hirshfield** is on the Bel Air Park Board. She will discuss potential wildfire cameras funded by FEMA in Hogg Canyon near Roscomare Rd. and opportunities for other HOAs to apply for this.

Marlene related that she is a ham radio license holder, got involved in the fire cameras, which she learned of from Judie Hulett. She contacted a person at UCSD, who seems to be in charge of this. He sent her photos and they discussed where they could go. This program is funded by FEMA among other places.

Marlene screen shared showing a canyon east of Beverly Crest, where we have had a lot of our fires. She noted that Beverly Crest has been recommended as a camera site by Assistant Captain Zipperman and Michael Schlenker. She has found spots that would work. She noted that there is a fire road at the bottom of Bel Air Crest where the camera could turn in different directions to see all of the canyon. The reservoir is covered by DWP with a gate and they are aware of what is going on there, but she noted that we could put a camera at Mulholland (above there) as well. She brought up various photos with some of views including but not limited to Duomo Via Street at the top of a canyon, Roscomare Road South, bottom of a Linda Flora cul-de-sac, as well as the fire road. She noted that Assistant Captain Zimmerman agreed with her on this. She asked if she placed one at the Roscomare Road Elementary site, who has that area? She heard on the radio recently that half of the fires in LA are due to homeless encampments, and we have had many in that spot by the 405 and the Getty Center and Leo Baeck Temple. Chuck asked her to show images of the camera and equipment. She noted Dr. Drischell sent her the photos of the cameras.

Renato Ackerman asked if she is talking about Alert Wildfire program, she said yes. He is a trained volunteer for the program, and could put her in contact with the head of the program, noting that if she needs a location for a camera, talk to him. She pointed out that the Alert Wildfire website shows the cameras. She showed Mountain Gate one and Mountain Gate 2 cameras.

Maureen related that 1) there is a property on Orum Road near Linda Flora that contains an antenna, and that she contacted the owner three years ago, who said it was too expensive to take down. She believes it is still up and worth looking at that as a potential camera site. 2) They spoke to Manuel Dickerson, tactical flight officer, who said how valuable infrared cameras were, and asked if these cameras have infrared capacity. That was how they caught the person who was apprehended for lighting fires in our recent fire.

Nickie asked if it would be to our advantage to have fire detection cameras in Benedict Canyon, and asked what the price is or how many we'd need to cover Benedict Canyon.

Marlene discussed the program, noting if approved, there is no charge to us. She'll ask if you can buy these on your own. Nickie would be interested to know more about the program, with fire safety on our minds, and on a rise, and people living in the canyons illegally, as well as transient people with airbnb.

Marlene showed the photos of the cameras. Nickie opined that they could be easily vandalized. Marlene noted that they are placed at high peak areas, not low down though she understood Nickie's point. She doesn't know that people are hiking to those locations. Bob thinks there is a way of securing them. She emailed Chuck. Luisa, Chuck and committee members thanked her and noted that her presentation was excellent. Send questions to Chuck. She'll send more information to Chuck that she can find. Maureen will send her the Orum Road info. She thanked us all because we do important things for the community.

9. **LAPD Captain Tom & Senior Lead Officer Pete Ojeda** came to discuss crime, manpower and current morale as national reports show this at an all-time low, and what we can do to support these individuals. Chuck introduced Captain Tom, who returned to this neighborhood council. Chuck provided him a long list of questions, which he addressed. He noted that Pete Ojeda would be coming soon. Captain Tom related that he is the Commanding Officer at WLA Police Station, which covers an area of 65 square miles within LA. He grew up in LA, and his family has been here since 1875. He attended the local school district, USC, and is WLA Acting Assistant Commanding Officer for West Bureau.

He gave crime statistics, without comparison to other cities, in the aftermath of defunding the police and other high crime. Overall, he noted that the city is at a 6% reduction of homicides, rapes, robberies, aggravated assaults, burglaries, Grand Theft Auto (GTA), burglary thefts and vehicle thefts; however, what we hear in the

news regarding crime increases is the increases in homicides and shootings. We are up in those categories, along with other major cities, especially cities that have experienced defunding or lowering of police forces. There have been 129 homicides year to date (YTD), which is 25 more than previous year, a 24% increase in homicides, and have a 12.4% increase in aggravated assaults; we have 759 more aggravated assaults this year, at the same year to date. We have had 431 additional shots fired in LA, a 56% increase we have had a 67-1/2% in the number of victims hit, 210 additional victims struck by gunfire in the City of LA YTD.

In WLA, last year at this time there was one homicide, while this year there were none. For the entire year of 2020 there were four homicides; an anomaly. Overall, we are 1.8% to almost 2% reduction in \_\_ crime. Numbers in WLA are small. There were 10 shots fired incidents this year. It could be reported were shots fired in the air or at someone; an indication of the use of guns in an area, 10 this year versus five (5) last year; the number of victims hit was four (4), the same as last year.

Morale: Productivity was up as compared to last year. If you were at our CPAB meeting, we feel pretty fortunate that WLA is somewhat an island, in that the community shows support of law enforcement. Some expressions of that support include signs that people have made; beautiful handmade shadow boxes that families put together; donations of food, and officers out into the field have random people thanking them for their service. Those things combined help motivate our officers.

Up 29% in auto theft arrests, up 15% in aggravated assaults arrests and 16% in burglaries arrests, including knock-knock or distraction burglaries, with 10 arrests and a reduction in those types of burglaries. We were seeing 4-5-6 in the hills of WLA and these numbers are dropping off significantly; curtailed to some extent due to the good work by our police officers. They have publicized the reasons for these burglaries and have created a burglary task force with officers dedicated to tracking down those burglary raids.

Asked about police morale, how does WLA differ from the rest of the country where police morale is down? He noted that in the last 40 days, we have had five (5) police officers recently announced that they are quitting. That's a big number for a small division like his. Five officers who are not eligible for retirement, decided to go to other agencies or quit. Several others retired early; losing young energetic officers and tenured people. Morale is an issue; overall we are getting beat up in a lot of ways, mentally, physically and allegorically, all the negative media attention impacts us. Police officers have emotions and families. He is concerned that we have young people who are not interested in doing this job. It was always hard to recruit people and is getting harder to recruit people. Morale is down; they're doing what they can to lift their spirits. Community helps.

Asked about early releases of criminals, how does this affect LA? He noted that a lot of the early releases and delayed trials (for six months) and minimized sentences, etc., are negatively impacting the homicide rate and shootings. He gave an example, where they arrested a drug dealer within the last couple of months; that person had a loaded and firearm on his person. His criminal history showed that the same suspect has been arrested four times in 12 months for the same charge of carrying a loaded and concealed firearm. This is the same suspect who has been arrested five times with five different guns in four weeks. He would be cited out and released. This person got photographed, booked, released likely within 24 hours; did whatever they did and got arrested and repeated that cycle five times. This is a case study showing the way the system is working. They used to go to trial in weeks or months, but now they are pending trial for six months, and continue to do the things that they're going to do in society. There is very little reason for them not to continue their activities when there are no ramifications.

Asked if LA being a sanctuary city affect LAPD or just ICE. He noted that they do not comment on the City of LA and doesn't think there is an official designation for LA as a sanctuary city. LAPD doesn't work directly with ICE unless a pre-designated task force at the airport where there are ICE agents and there may be an LAPD officer assigned to the task force; they definitely do not work with ICE on a regular basis.

Asked if open borders allowing drugs into the country, and how is this affecting LA? He doesn't know but knows we have had a 47% increase in number of people arrested for possession of drugs. There has also been a minimization of the charge for the amount of time people serve for possession narcotics; some decriminalized; the time served has been less and less for sure.

Asked about the survey re calls for domestic violence: He thinks there is good reasoning to have unarmed not police officers, but unarmed people to respond to certain types of calls. Don't need a police officer to take a burglary report, as an example, but to send an unarmed person to a domestic violence calls and traffic calls is a bad idea. Traffic enforcement and domestic violence calls are two of the most dangerous for police officers. Need to have an ability to know what is going on. Most notoriously dangerous to affect police officers; no idea what a person was involved in. If the person was a criminal, wanted, running from the scene of a crime, and they don't know that they are being pulled over only for a traffic infraction, they have shot the officer.

He noted that even domestic violence victims have harmed officers trying to arrest their abuser. He wouldn't send an unarmed person to one of these calls or for calls regarding mentally ill. He thinks it is fine to have them come after the police is gone and there is no danger and that there are people more qualified to give psychological help than a police officer; however, in general it is a great to have additional people doing jobs that are not as dangerous.

Asked what are the largest obstacles in WLA protecting citizens? He noted that there is some politics behind some of the issues increasing homelessness and reduction in sentencing, and he noted that they try their best to be apolitical as a police department. He likes the saying that "elections have consequences." He thinks it is important to be thoughtful about these upcoming elections and all elections. Are they going to look for the best interest to all the communities or just a small percentage? He hears from the people in the community he speaks to that not everyone has the same value system that is being pushed politically. He noted people focus more on local elections than the big national ones, because they realize it's the councilmen and mayor that impacts their quality of life, more than who the president is. He noted that this is a reversal in the attention to larger elections versus city elected.

Asked, what can we do to support WLA officers? He noted that there are many things, e.g., volunteer with the station, join PACT, Police and Community Together, they raise money and have a list of items that they prioritize for purchase and distribution to officers. They have had some community members that donated money to them, and someone built them a patio to eat at. That was great, especially during COVID, to eat outdoors. That money was raised and they built that. Someone bought a power washer to clean the station. Little things like that go a long way. Any donations that come to the department go through the donation process; the donation has to be vetted and approved by the Board of Police Commissioners. They like to go through the PACT because there is a oversight panel who reviews and approves those donations.

Maureen Levinson thanked Captain Tom and let him know she observed the WRAC meeting and Chief Moore spoke and called out the WLA Division for their response time and how well they're doing. She thanked him that she can call and will get a response, and that he has been very helpful to her area.

Bob asked considering "defunding" and more people leaving law enforcement at this point, has there been any discussion in the city to draw a line, to hire more people? Captain Tom noted that in the latest budget the Mayor provided a 3% increase in their budget. If that is approved by City Council, it will open them up to hire academy recruits; and that's part of the dissatisfaction that people have is that they have people working out of class. He is doing two jobs with no additional pay; it's happening throughout the department, at different levels. If approved, it will open promotion to 100 detectives and 600-700 police officers being hired under the new budget and several promotions. It is really needed. With the defunding and the prohibition in hiring, that set us back and will take about two to three years for the department to get back where it was. You don't just create police officers out of the blue.

Nicole thanked the Captain for the Burglary Task Force, and thanked and praised him for all he does. Chuck thanked Captain Tom and to send his best to Pete Ojeda and Chris Ragsdale. He noted that the Captain represents us beautifully. He can be reached by email at [32993@lapd.online](mailto:32993@lapd.online)

**SLO Pete Ojeda** joined the meeting and noted that they are gearing up for a protest at the Federal Building Sunday; and advised avoiding Wilshire and Veteran. He related that they are still getting some burglaries, mostly construction site burglaries as well as bike thefts. A resident went into the property, smashed a rear window and was caught on Ring. Two took bike and statues in back yard. Crime stats looking pretty good.

He spoke on theft by trickery and spoofing. Off of Bellagio Road, a victim was approached on the street who wanted to sell AV for \$300 and gave them a credit card number. People call up on the phone saying they are from Spectrum or some organization. On Basil Lane, there was a suspect described a male black, 6'2" 220, 44 years old; Brandon Ash, knocked on a door and demanded package. If you get packages and are not familiar; call the police. Be careful of scammers coming up on your property.

Nickie asked, noting that we are all concerned about the proliferation of marauding people beating up Jewish and Asian people. She has never seen such wanton uncivilized behavior, at a terrible time. What is there to be done during a time with a revolving door? He noted that we are not lessening up. The patrol plan is what it is; we don't have the violent crime for the city to believe that we need more officers; that comes from peer pressure from the communities. If you see something, help out a person, make it known that you are watching. Call 911 and tell them exactly what you are seeing that way they can respond faster.

Bob related a story about a suspicious person who turned out to be a guard at the community. Officer Ojeda noted that if you see suspicious person, call it in and report it; "let us figure it out." He noted that the nonemergency line is not the greatest. It took him 20 minutes to get through in the middle of the day, to see how long it takes.

Dan Palmer asked, Beverly Glen, North of Sunset, there is a chain-linked property on vacant land. He called the realtor who took down a sign. He asked, what's a citizen to do? SLO Ojeda asked for the address and told him that City Attorney Veronica de la Cruz, Neighborhood Prosecutor (NP) can contact the property owner and say if anything happens, you are liable. The NP will give the person proper notice and tell them they're not allowed to be on the property.

Asked, with COVID being over (loosened but not over), what is the status of short term rentals (STRs) and party houses. We will have to go back to addressing the problem of loud and raucous noise. He has the officers trained to cite. If it is a STR problem, take it back to NP for noise and abatement. Officers like to write citations because it is easier, but we have to take a stance "release from custody" It's a misdemeanor. [36393@lapd.online](mailto:36393@lapd.online)

Chuck thanked SLO Ojeda for everything he does, and all of the officers do, and keep up the good work. Hopefully we can fight against all the different situations you are facing. He thanked Chuck, noting that they do what they can and won't do less.

10. **West Chief of Homeland Security Scott Mitchem**, gave update us on how cyber security fits in with HS and the other top threats to consider including ransom ware. Chuck introduced Scott, Chief of Protective Security for Region 9, AZ, CA, HA, NV, and \_\_ for cyber security & infrastructure.

Richard Scott Mitchem introduced himself and thanked Chuck for the partnership that they have had. He works with a cyber-security advising team that looks at physical and cyber threats against the nation's infrastructure. He noted that they look at critical infrastructure and try to determine if there will be cascading impacts, e.g., of the fire, which the local fire police and government officials are already looking at. They try to work together to help mitigate threats to the nation's infrastructure.

Asked to address ransom ware, he noted that he is not an expert but could talk about some high points: They put out alerts to businesses good for private owners and operators. He noted it is disheartening, the biggest threat to cyber is people, like you and me; it is laziness, not doing anti-virus update, and doing things like picking up a thumb drive from a parking lot and putting it your computer or clicked on a link shouldn't have. There are bad actors out there looking to take advantage of our human weaknesses. Their mission in life is to find gaps, use the vulnerabilities out there, and take over your computer, look at stealing all your information, locking it and telling you they'll unlock it for a price or blackmail you; it may be days, weeks or months later, when you suddenly realize that they say we now own your computer. He noted that it is important that everybody takes a look at it; not just government or big corporations. He referred to the recent Colonial Pipeline' hacking, where bad guys could be selling malware to other people or using it themselves.

It could be at your own home computer, your business, big or small, or could be something that impacts the nation. CISA is working with the FBI, pushing out publication alerts, warnings, constantly monitoring, and if they can determine something is compromise, they'll reach out to the owners and let them know. You'll see some notices from Microsoft that says they've identified something. If you get an alert that says update needed, check your settings to see if you need to update, then update. They try to help prevent.. If there is a common theme like software, Solar Winds, or energy sector, they try to work with those partners, build them up and make them stronger. It is important that you understand that there are threats out there and there are b and people. IT folks have to protect thousand computers everyday but the bad guy just needs to find one vulnerability. The vulnerability is people, "us." Make sure your anti-virus is set up, activate fire wall, and periodically change passwords. And work with anyone else connected with my Wi-Fi, e.g., family member, so he talks to them to talk about what else they are connected to, to not carry anything bad malware to his system.

He talks to people with businesses to see if they have a private set up or open to the public. There are precautions for that: Go through phone setting to make sure it's set up to not automatically connect. Every little bit helps to prevent these larger attacks. The big threats especially with ransom ware, they are looking for second layer. Everyone with Target card had been hacked; they lost their credit card information. They didn't hack Target, but the banking system that set up the card scanners. They went through a second party and hacked them. You could be really strong but you're allowing one group in. Make sure everyone is secure in that manner.

CIS is getting better that the public has what they need to look at. He noted that they want everybody to be "situationally aware." When he switched from android to apple, he stopped being as concerned about android threats, but because people with android come to his house, he had to be aware of those threats.

He used to hack government systems, using the CD, running a program on a thumb drive, as a ruse, he'd go into an office and say he is in IT, ... You have to understand what your baseline system is, need to know how the system you're working on normally operates, and noted that if government, it is really slow.

He recommends that everyone periodically run backups on your computers so you have it. Now he has external hard drives and backs up periodically to not lose everything, e.g., photos. He has a plan of with work and family where they ask what they would do if hacked. Colonial has no direct connection to California. Build a response plan for what if questions. He encourages everyone to think about these things.

Nickie asked for steps to take to avoid malware, for those of us who are small business owners or are personally concerned about our computers. Scott related that he can send some general information, recommendations, for anybody who wants to do it. The webpage has a lot of information. One of the key things is have up-to-date antivirus program. If you have firewall set up on your router or on your Wi-Fi devices, set those up so that they are optimized for you and your use. Move away from default passwords. Change those. He loaned out his printer and when it was brought back, it went to original default password, which he had closed off in the past. Periodically check your passwords, keep them set up, away from factory defaults; have antivirus programs. He noted that Microsoft generally has a decent set up for the antivirus but it is not as robust as what you'll get from other vendors who take a more proactive approach in updating your software. Set up your threat protection, set the firewall up, and go through the bare minimums of it so that not everybody can log on to your computer, put a password on it, facial scan, etc. He tends to make a lot of his stuff more difficult than he needs to. He has things he can provide, for a minimum. He noted that usually they do a drive by, looking for a connection. Pay attention to your neighborhood, suspicious cars.

Maureen Levinson related that she loves watching Scam Baiters and has learned a lot from that. She asked, what is spoofing and what is a VPN; is it worth considering having one? He noted that VPN is a virtual private network; think of it as a tunnel that if you don't have the right keys to, it won't let you in. You see a lot of VPNs; it adds an extra layer; some of the extra steps are security steps, designed to protect your privacy. It almost creates a barrier for you. Not a bad thing to have. Definitely good if you're thinking about traveling abroad, helps to protect your privacy and anonymity. If you're thinking about traveling, don't buy it overseas, buy it here, a bit more secure. It's good to have. His daughter had a problem with it overseas because it was very slow. Some of his partners swear by VPNs on all devices, like another firewall; masks who you are.

Asked, how do people spoof telephone numbers? Is there a way to tell if your number has been spoofed? He noted that if they do it right, it will show up as a legitimate number. There are a few different ways that they do it. You can use some type of computer system to program it in, so it sends that number out. They could be on a computer, and run it through a VPN and mask where really coming from. There are a few different techniques for spoofing. He got a call from “anonymous” that went off on his desk. It is designed to ruin caller ID information. Maureen noted that they are spoofing Microsoft Headquarters number. He noted that they are doing that through computer software. Bob noted that he doesn’t answer unknown numbers. Scott learned a tip, try not to say “yes” if they ask to verify your name, they can use it later as part of the scam. To get your voice and record it saying “yes.” He also lets calls go.

Chuck and Scott talked about scammers, e.g., callers who say they are from Pasadena Water & Power. Chuck thanked Scot and Scott thanked us.

11. Good of the Order: Robin thanked Chuck for all he has done over the years. Chuck noted that the neighborhood council has meant a lot to him, and working with us has been tremendous. He thanked all committee members. Members thanked him for all he does.

12. Adjournment 7:02pm

Next Meeting: TBD