CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 3:06 pm by Co-Chair Moises Gomez in the Commander Matthew Blake Community Room, Olympic Station.

INTRODUCTION OF OFFICERS.

FLAG SALUTE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES from 1 August as corrected.

CAPTAIN’S REMARKS. Captain Ponce announced that Olympic Division crime statistics have improved to 6th in the City. He noted that the City has allowed increased funding of programs for the homeless, gangs and recruitment. He attended the Chief’s Forum for the API community last night and expects a successful Faith & Blue even this Saturday.

Captain Ponce announced the recognition of Kareen Sandoval as Olympic Division Volunteer of the Year (2022-2023) at the Volunteer Summit last Saturday. The presentation was by Chief Moore.

SPEAKER. Detective Sam Soto, Olympic Robbery/Burglary/Theft desk. As response priority depends on the correct classification, Det. Soto distinguished among Burglary (taking of property from an unoccupied vehicle or home), Robbery (taking of property by force, threat of force or fear), and Grand Theft Person (taking of property without threat, as snatching a phone). Dt. Soto stated that thefts in the Olympic Division have decreased compared to last year, but that many incidents occur in businesses, such as clubs. He reported that there has been a change in the list of five top items stolen: ‘Clothing From Retail Establishments’ has replaced ‘Purses’ at #5. These are the invasion and overwhelming of store staff by ‘flash mobs.’ The Department has formed special investigative units to combat this crime, joining units focused on parts (vehicle and phone), prostitution and others. He concluded by noting the usefulness of video but warned about making yourself a target by filming.

SLO REPORT. SLO Dikran Melkonian (Area 39, North-east corner) recounted his observations on the re-emergence of gangs and gang activity in the area, especially the parks. This may be related to changing legal procedures, such as the ending of ‘gang enhancements’ and prevention of public association of known gang members. He emphasized the importance of getting ahead of this issue, such as by contacting Council members and members of the legislature to toughen laws, and identifying children at risk to provide alternatives and options, such as community organizations. Member comments confirmed the increase in gang activity, citing more than 100 calls to 311 for graffiti in the last month.

PUBLIC COMMENT. None.

Meeting adjourned 4:00 pm.

NEW SCHEDULE FOR NEXT MEETING, Thursday, 9 November 2023 6:00 pm, Olympic Station.

Submitted by Robert Reeves, Secretary. Comments and suggestions should be made through the Olympic CRO.