

**Government Affairs  
Committee**

Gil Imber, Chair  
Kira Durbin  
Howard Katchen  
Pamela Harris  
Tom Materna



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Sherman Oaks  
Neighborhood Council

**Government Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, November 24, 2020

7:00 pm

Zoom Meeting Online or By Telephone

1. **Call to Order** - Meeting called to order at **7:01pm** by Chair Imber.
2. **Roll Call** - Present: Pamela Harris, Gil Imber, Howard Katchen, Tom Materna  
- Absent: Kira Durbin
3. **Administrative Motions**
  - a. Approval of the minutes of the October 27, 2020 meeting.  
**Moved by:** Pamela Harris. **Seconded by:** Tom Materna.  
**Yes:** Harris, Imber, Katchen, Materna  
**No: - / Absent:** Durbin  
**The minutes of the October 27 meeting were approved (4-0).**
4. **Comments by Public Officials**
5. **Chair's Report**
  - a. [CF 20-1205](#). Army Corp of Engineers / Sepulveda Basin: Adopted.
  - b. Bylaws, rules, and regular order.
6. **Action Items Which May Be Voted Upon**
  - a. [CF 20-0004-S1](#). Republic of Artsakh / Azerbaijan Military Forces / Ceasefire / Commendatory Resolution.
    - i. Possible motion and vote. Guest speaker: Avo Babian.  
Los Angeles is a sister city of Yerevan, Armenia (since 2007) and friendship city of Shushi, Artsakh (since 2013). See: [CF 13-0004-S2](#). Commendatory Resolution / Republic of Armenia / Republic of Artsakh; and [CF 14-0621](#). City of Stepanakert / Donation of Surplus Fire Hoses.

Whereas Los Angeles has recognized the Republic Artsakh since 2013 in Council File 13-0004-S2, the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council supports the Republic of Artsakh's right of self determination and supports the Council File 20-0004-S1, Republic of Artsakh / Azerbaijan Military Forces / Ceasefire / Commendatory Resolution.

**Moved by:** Gil Imber. **Seconded by:** Tom Materna.

Discussion followed.

**Yes:** Imber, Katchen, Materna

**No:** - / **Abstain:** Harris / **Absent:** Durbin

The item 6.a is adopted (3-0).

## 7. Additional Items for Discussion

- a. [CF 20-0668](#). Redistricting Process / 2020 Decennial United States Census Data.

[CF 20-0668-S1](#). 2020 Redistricting Commission / Appointments.

- Sherman Oaks is presently represented on the Los Angeles City Council (since 2011 redistricting) by Council District 4 (Councilmember David Ryu / CM-Elect Nithya Raman).
    - Ryu has nominated Councilmember Mike Woo (1985-93, LA City Council District 13) of Silver Lake to represent CD4 on the 2020 Los Angeles Redistricting Commission.
  - Sherman Oaks is presently represented on the Board of Education by Board District 3 (Board Member Scott Schmerelson).
    - Schmerelson has nominated Board Member Loraine Lundquist (2018-19, Northridge East Neighborhood Council) to represent BD3 on the 2020 Los Angeles Redistricting Commission.
1. In 2012, the redistricting of CD 4 (then-Councilmember Tom LaBonge) into Sherman Oaks [and the San Fernando Valley in general] was [deemed](#) by Councilmember Bill Rosendahl (CD11) as an "outrageous case of gerrymandering." LaBonge himself deemed the north-westerly expansion of CD4 to include Sherman Oaks as "very odd."

Incoming CM Raman has [stated](#), "It's not healthy for so much power to be concentrated among so few people -- and our current districts are simply too large to be governed effectively...We could redistrict our city in a way that's easier for residents to understand. That's a change I'll fight for if I'm elected."

This meeting's discussion will be an introduction to the redistricting concept that, at some point during a future meeting, may evolve into a comprehensive evaluation regarding appropriateness/effectiveness of Sherman Oaks and/or other neighborhood representation via CD4 and/or

BD3 vs representation through an adjacent District, such as but not limited to CD2 (Krekorian) or CD5 (Koretz) [LA City Council], to better align with other Valley communities, and/or BD4 (Melvoin) or BD6 (Gonez) [School Board].

[CF 20-0668](#) deadline is August 31, 2021.

Potential conversation with elected officials/offices.

Discussion followed.

b. Possible agenda items for next meeting.

Discussion followed.

**8. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items Within the Committee’s Jurisdiction**

**9. Closing Remarks by Committee Members**

Discussion followed.

**10. Adjournment** - Meeting adjourned via general consent at **8:18pm**.

\*All Council File (CF) items contain a hyperlink to the applicable source legislation.

**THE AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)**

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[www.ShermanOaksNC.org](http://www.ShermanOaksNC.org) or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please email: [gil.imber.sonc@gmail.com](mailto:gil.imber.sonc@gmail.com).

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