

Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council



MINUTES

Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council

Public Safety Committee

6:30PM Mar. 3, 2010

VIVA Gallery Moorpark & Fulton

Present: Anthony St. John, Norm Beale, Janet Richmond, Alan Taylor, Max Calne,
Milt Witkin

Guest: PAt Davenport-Council Deputy CD2 for Paul Krekorian

Discussion began with the announcement that Capt. Eaton from Van Nuys Division will be the Guest Speaker at the SONC Board meeting on March 8th at Sherman Oaks Elementary School Auditorium. Anthony read an e-mail from Joan Pelico of Councilmember Paul Kortez's office regarding the possibility of cutbacks to LAPD and LAFD Depts due to the budget crisis "so far LAPD and LAFD are still being spared however, some serious decisions have to be made very soon and it is possible they will have to face reality too".

Alan Taylor brought up the fact that the need for "pushing" the concept of Self-sustainability" to Neighborhood Watch groups and people in general should be stepped up. Alan suggested that SONC start a Facebook Page as another way of communicating with the public on this. At a recent Neighborhood Watch and Chamber of Commerce meetings the phrase YOYO was mentioned. Meaning **You're On Your Own.**

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There was mention of crime along Otsego due to lack of street lighting. Pat pointed

out that the City's 50/50 Lighting Program has been scraped due to funding but that **DWP** has a **Private Lighting Program** that is well funded and provides for installation of security lighting on power poles on or near private property at a cost of \$12.00/month.

Pat gave the Committee an update on the Mulholland Drive flood damage repair. Work has begun at a cost of some \$700K and to take approx. 7 months.

There was discussion on the DOT request to raise the speed limits along Riverside Dr. and removal of crosswalks in some areas. Pat mentioned that Councilmember Krekorian tried to re-write the State traffic law that is the basis of this decision when he was in Sacramento but that the CHP, AAA and several other lobbyist groups were opposed to it. Pat told us that among the top 20 streets for accidents and fatalities in the City, the Valley has Victory Blvd., Sherman Way and Vanowen. That Riverside, Valley Vista and Moorpark have areas of shopping and schools that seem to slow traffic down no matter what the posted limit is. The DOT rationale for crosswalk removal is that sense of "implied" safety in a crosswalk is not a reality. That the Traffic Surveys show speeds exceed the posted 35mph limit now and that LAPD cannot enforce with radar as the Survey limit has expired making conviction difficult. DOT has asked for an increase to 40mph which allows for radar enforcement. It was the Committee's suggestion that this be allowed, but with a request for aggressive enforcement from LAPD Traffic and that some traffic "softening" measures such as signs and flashing lights be installed in school and shopping areas when funding becomes available. We were encouraged to call and request enforcement at specific times and places where we see the need by calling the **Capt. for Valley Traffic at (818) 644-8030**. Alan suggested that SONC and LAPD and DOT start a public information campaign similar to the successful Leave it, Loose It one for car break ins for pedestrian crosswalk safety.

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Adjournment 8PM