

Committee Members:

Christy Adair – Chair
Penny Gilbert - Secretary
Penny Johnson
Barbara McDermott
Jesse Smith
Cissy Varkey-Altamirano

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA



Sherman Oaks
Neighborhood Council



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Public Safety Committee Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 9, 2021
6:30pm

Zoom Webinar ID: 842 7040 8817

In conformity with the September 16, 2021 enactment of California Assembly Bill 361 (Rivas) and due to concerns over Covid-19, the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council’s Public Safety Committee meetings will be conducted entirely with a Call-In option or Internet-Based Service option until further notice.

Every person wishing to address the Committee must either dial 1-669-900-6833 and then enter 842 7040 8817 and then press # to join the meeting - or join the meeting from Zoom’s landing page using Webinar ID: 842 7040 8817. If the public wishes to address the Committee on any agenda item before the Committee takes an action on an item, the Public will wait to be addressed by the presiding officer before commenting. If accessing the meeting by telephone, the public is requested to press *9. If accessing the meeting by computer, the public is requested to click on the “raise hand” button. Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Committee’s jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Committee is prevented from acting on a matter that the public brings to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become an item on a future committee meeting agenda. Public Comment is limited to two minutes per speaker unless adjusted by the presiding officer.

AB 361 Updates: Public comment cannot be required to be submitted in advance of the meeting, only real-time public comment is required. If there are any broadcasting interruptions that prevent the public from observing or hearing the meeting, the meeting must be recessed or adjourned. If members of the public are unable to provide public comment or be heard due to issues within the Committee’s control, the meeting must be recessed or adjourned.

The Neighborhood Council system enables meaningful civic participation for all Angelenos and serves as a voice for improving government responsiveness to local communities and their needs.

We are an advisory body to the City of Los Angeles, comprised of stakeholder volunteers who are devoted to the mission of improving our communities.

AGENDA

1. The Public Safety Committee (“PSC”) Call to Order at 6:32pm by Christy Adair, Chair

2. Roll Call – Penny Gilbert, Secretary

Present: Chair; Christy Adair, Secretary; Penny Gilbert, Penny Johnson, Barbara McDermott, Jesse Smith, Cissy Varkey-Altamirano **Absent:** none.

3. Introductions - Committee members, elected officials and staff.

4. LAPD Communications Division Community Relations Unit Presentation

The LAPD Communications Division’s Valley and Metropolitan Dispatch Centers are the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP), aka 911 call centers, for the City of Los Angeles. Police Services Representatives (the official title of 911 operators) are civilian employees with LAPD’s Communications Division. They are the *first*, First Responders, the voices on the other end of the phone when you call 911 and LAPD non-emergency dispatch (1-877-ASK-LAPD), and the other side of the radio for police officers in the field.

Jackie Aguilera and Brandi Holley, Police Service Representatives with LAPD Communications Division Community Relations Unit provided an inside look into what happens when you call police in the City of Los Angeles. It was an extremely important and informative presentation and included information on calling 911 vs non-emergency dispatch, text-to-911, the importance of knowing your location when calling, and other important information.

[LAPD - 911 How it works and when to use it!](#)

5. Covid-19 Crisis Update – Jesse Smith

Testing Average is 128,832. 7-day positivity rate is 1.08%. Hospitalization are down

The LA County Department of Public Health (Public Health) encourages parents to protect their children and prevent transmission of COVID-19 by getting everyone in their family vaccinated who is eligible. Now that Los Angeles County vaccine providers are administering Pfizer vaccine to children 5 to 11 years old, anyone five years and older living or working in L.A. County can get vaccinated.

Similar to making a COVID-19 vaccine appointment for adults and teens, parents can make an appointment for their children by using [MyTurn.CA.gov](#) or the County website at [VaccinateLACounty.com](#) and for more information about vaccinations. Also on [VaccinateLACounty.com](#), is a list and a map that allows people to click to find a pediatric vaccination site near them.

On November 8, 2021, the City of Los Angeles launched SafePassLA, which requires proof of a full COVID-19 vaccination at various indoor and outdoor businesses, venues, and events in the City of Los Angeles. Note that establishments and event organizers can make their own rules in addition to the Public Health and city requirements. Check with the business, event organizer, or venue about their rules before buying a ticket or visiting.

Indoor venues include:

- Events
- Mega Events
- Bars, Wineries, Nightclubs
- Gyms, Fitness Venues
- Personal Care Establishments

Outdoor venues are all Mega events between 100 and 10,000 plus.

- Los Angeles Covid Memorial will be 3 days of honoring those affected by Covid=19.
The “Strength & Love” LA’s Covid Memorial: November 18th 19th 20th
Day 1: Honor those who helped during the pandemic
Day 2: Remember the lives we've lost
Day 3: Mobilize to build more resilient communities.
Visit LAMayor.org/COVIDMemorial

6. Social Media MisInformation – Barbara McDermott

A viral post encouraging people who are lost or stranded to change their outgoing voicemail message on their cell phones with their location and instructions to call 911 has been slammed by law enforcement and search and rescue (SAR) organizations who warn against doing this, and point out that this post spreads life-threatening *misinformation*. ***Always look for what the actual experts say before passing along a viral post, even if it sounds smart on the surface.***

What the experts DO advise:

- Before you go, leave an itinerary including the time you plan to return with someone you can trust to notify authorities if you don’t return on time.
- Pack a solar battery charger for backcountry use.

If you’re lost or stranded with a low cellphone battery:

- ***Dial 911.*** This can be done even without service, and initiates a rescue right then rather than hoping somebody needs to call you in the near future to hear your outgoing message.
- You can’t change your voicemail without a signal, and if your battery is low don’t waste battery life calling your voicemail or friend/relative - ***call 9-1-1.***
- ***If your battery is too low or the signal too weak for a call, text 9-1-1.*** Texts use less power and automatically retry in areas with spotty signals. You can compose and hit send on a text, then get your phone as high as possible to improve the chances of getting the message out. **NOTE:** Most, but not all, 911 services accept text messages, so you may have to decide whether to text 911 or send your text to a personal contact you trust with instructions to call 911.
- Be succinct in your text, but make sure to include your name, location, information on injuries, and any other critical information. The shorter the message, the less data is needed for it to push through the cell network.
- If you have enough battery/signal, get GPS coordinates for your text message, then turn off GPS.

- To maximize battery life, turn off everything you don't need – close all apps, turn off WiFi and Bluetooth, and don't scroll social media or call your friends and family while waiting for rescue.
- Don't use your cell phone as a GPS/map device (other than to get coordinates for a text) and especially do not use the compass as this feature in some phones is a serious battery drain. Pull out your map and compass and/or use a dedicated GPS unit.
- In cold weather, keep your phone just a little warm with a hand-warmer or with body heat next to your skin.
- Stay put unless you have to move for safety reasons. Changing your location makes rescue teams' jobs much more difficult. It's much harder to find a moving target.
- **Answer your phone, even if you don't recognize the number, because it might be the search and rescue team calling!**

7. No-Burn Season November 1 through February 28 – South Coast AQMD is providing several resources to increase public awareness about No-Burn Days - Christy Adair

- **E-Mail Notification Program** - Sign up to receive [Air Alerts](#) on air quality and to be notified when a mandatory No-Burn alert has been issued for your neighborhood.
- **Check Before You Burn Map** - Visit the [Check Before You Burn map](#) on our website for daily forecast information.
- **Toll-Free Phone Number** - 866-966-3293 for daily Check Before You Burn
- **Mobile App** - Download the [South Coast AQMD app](#) to check local air quality and receive notifications when No-Burn Days are called.

8. Sherman Oaks Senior Lead Officer Update – Barbara McDermott

- To learn about or join a Neighborhood Watch in your area or to start a Neighborhood Watch group if one doesn't exist, contact your local Senior Lead Officer (“SLO”).
- To find your SLO, go to <https://www.lapdonline.org/>, then "Your LAPD" and "Find Your Local Police Station."
- For LAPD volunteer opportunities, contact Officer Jason Jimenez in the Community Relations Office at 38903@lapd.online, or call (818) 374-5420.

Current Topics: package thefts, safety while shopping, empty boxes in trash advertising purchased items

9. Public Comments – Comments by the public on non-agenda items within the Public Safety Committee's jurisdiction.

- No comments presented

10. Committee Response to Public Comment

- No responses were needed.

11. Administrative Motions - Action Item; Vote Required.

- a) Motion to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2021 Public Safety Meeting.

Approved: Christy Adair, Penny Gilbert, Penny Johnson, Barbara McDermott, Cissy Varkey-Altamirano **Opposed:** None. **Abstained:** None. **Absent:** Jesse Smith

- b) Motion to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2021 Public Safety Meeting.

Approved: Christy Adair, Penny Gilbert, Penny Johnson, Barbara McDermott, Cissy Varkey-Altamirano **Opposed:** None. **Abstained:** None. **Absent:** Jesse Smith

12. Final Business and Announcements

- a. Committee Business – no announcements.
b. Ideas for Committee to Address in Sherman Oaks – no suggestions.

13. Adjourn at 8:09pm

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE RESOURCES:

- For **LAFD CERT** information, check the www.CERT-LA.com website
- For Emergency Preparedness Continuing Education classes, sign up at join.ntp-la.org
- For **Map Your Neighborhood**, contact Barbara at Barbara.McDermott.Sonc@gmail.com
- For **Neighborhood Watch Groups**, contact Cissy at Cissy.Altamirano.Sonc@gmail.com
- To **SUBSCRIBE** to receive monthly meeting announcements and agendas, contact: SoncPScommittee@gmail.com

ONGOING RADIO COMMUNICATIONS PRACTICE OPPORTUNITIES:

Weekly FRS / GMRS / Walkie-Talkie Radio Check-In: Every Sunday at 10:00 to 10:15am, Channel 15 or Channel 17 if 15 is busy. Around the Valley, we check-in to see how far our individual transmissions can be heard. We practice checking-in, moving locations around the home (inside and out) until someone can hear us. Simple radios are a good source of emergency communication with your immediate area which could help if we experience a valley-wide disaster (power outage, evacuation, brush fire, earthquake). The PSC suggests you pull-out a walkie, put in fresh batteries, and listen to next Sunday's net to see if you can hear anyone.

Weekly Sunday Morning Lake Balboa Amateur Radio Net: Every Sunday at 9:00am to 10:00am on Simplex 145.570. This is a weekly simplex net for Ham Radio Operators transmitting around the SF Valley and beyond. It is a formal, but friendly, net where information is exchanged on a variety of topics. It is especially great net for NEW Hams.

THE AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT

As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate based on disability and upon request will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities. Sign language interpreters, assisted listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least 3 business days (72 hours) prior to the meeting by contacting the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment by calling (213) 978-1551 or email: NCsupport@lacity.org

PUBLIC ACCESS OF RECORDS

In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board in advance of a meeting may be viewed at our website: 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 the SONC Secretary at: stacey.segarra.bohlinger.sonc@gmail.com

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RECONSIDERATION AND GRIEVANCE PROCESS -- For information on the NC's process for committee action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy, or any other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the NC Bylaws. The Bylaws are available at our Board meetings and our website www.ShermanOaksNC.org.