

**Committee Members:**

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

CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
CALIFORNIA



Sherman Oaks  
Neighborhood Council



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Neighborhood Council  
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**Public Safety Committee Minutes**

Tuesday, July 12, 2022 at 7:00pm

Online: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84270408817>

In conformity with the 9/16/21 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 at this time.

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 phone, the public is requested to press \*9. If accessing by computer, public is requested to click on a "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 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 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 2 minutes per speaker unless adjusted by the presiding officer.

AB 361 Updates: Public Comment is not 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 will be recessed or adjourned.

**Notice to Paid Representatives**

If you are compensated to monitor, attend, or speak at this meeting, City law may require you to register as a lobbyist and report your activity. See Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 48.01 et seq. More information is available at [ethics.lacity.org/lobbying](http://ethics.lacity.org/lobbying). For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or [ethics.commission@lacity.org](mailto:ethics.commission@lacity.org).

*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 7:03pm- Christy Adair, Chair
  
2. **Roll Call** – Penny Gilbert, Secretary  
Present: Christy Adair, Penny Gilbert, Penny Johnson, Thelma Mericle, Jesse Smith, Cissy Varkey-Altamirano. Absent: Barbara McDermott  
SONC Board Present: Lindsay Imber, Jeffrey Hartsough, Howard Ketchum
  
3. **Introductions** – Committee, City Officials and Staff  
Ryan Ahari, CD4 Sherman Oaks Field Rep - 213/424-2412  
National Night Out is August 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  
4. **PRESENTATION** – La County Vector Control District - Anais Medina Dias  
Presentation Highlights:  
Over 1M deaths a year from mosquitos around the world  
Go from an egg to adult in 7 days or less.  
Only female bite – they need blood to make more eggs.  
**Culex:** active dusk to dawn, prefers mammals & birds, transmits West Nile.  
**Aedes:** active all day, aggressive ankle biter, prefers human blood, transmits Zika, Dengue, yellow Fever. Also causes Canine heartworm which can be prevented with medication.  
    Aedes can bite through jeans; try wearing darker clothing  
    Aedes does not like moving air – so a ceiling fan will help keep them at bay  
Other Tips/Tricks:  
Mosquito Bits / Larvicide - only affects mosquito larvae; it won’t hurt birds or dogs.  
Mosquito fish - option for a closed system pool of water  
Other: Dead Bird’s Hotline: 877-WNV-BIRD  
See full presentation at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OGW9\\_wB9W9E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OGW9_wB9W9E)  
Attendee Questions:  
Q: This is important information as her father died of West Nile Virus. Can we ask City / County to spray drains and gutters?  
    A: Yes, you can request specific neighborhood drains and gutters to be inspected but not individual homes. For a homeowner, best bet is to purchase control bacteria at hardware stores for home mosquito eradication.  
Q: Is it okay to report neighbors with green pools?  
    A: If you know of a green swimming pool; you can report it anonymously. Submit service request and Vector Control will assess and possibly help repair it. You can find your local agency on the California WNV website ([www.westnile.ca.gov](http://www.westnile.ca.gov)) on the right side under “locate your local mosquito and vector control agency” or by calling 1-877-968-2473 aka (1-877-WNV-BIRD)

Committee Questions:

Q: What was being sprayed in Ernie's Walk recently?

A: It was a natural bacterium and will not harm pets or any animals/helpful insects in the area. If Vector Control uses exterminating pesticides, they will alert neighborhood.

Q: What about using natural mosquito repellents such as Lemon and Eucalyptus oils.

A: For children over 3, oils are okay but children under 3; DEET is preferred.

Q: Is there an insect or animal that will eat mosquitos?

A: Predators usually only eat the larva not adult mosquitos.

**5. Covid-19 Crisis Update – Jesse Smith**

There is a significant uptick in cases: 18K covid cases. The County is considering an indoor mask requirement for the end of this month because there are many new variants.

*7/19/2022 Update: LA County will NOT reinstate Mask Mandate*

Website to order 8 free Covid tests: <https://www.covid.gov/tests>

**6. Sherman Oaks Senior Lead Officer Update – Penny Gilbert**

Basic Car 9A63, Mariana Romo

A rise in construction/vacant house burglaries.

- Be aware of what is going on in your own neighborhood. Find out how long a property will be vacant while it is under construction. Report any suspicious activity.

Pool Safety Tips:

- Install pool fencing. Never leave a child unattended in or around pools.
- Learn adult, child and infant CPR

Fireworks are illegal. To report fireworks activity use MyLA311 app

Basic Car 9A90, Jose Saldana

- LAPD urges neighbors to stay vigilant and report any activity that looks suspicious. Stay alert and install outdoor/indoor cameras.
- There is a slight uptick in mail thefts south of Ventura. If you are a victim call: 877-275-5273
- For information regarding homeless in your neighborhood visit: [Lahsa.org/portal/apps/la-hop](https://Lahsa.org/portal/apps/la-hop)

**7. Public Comments –** Comments by the public on non-agenda items within the Public Safety Committee's jurisdiction. No questions were asked.

**8. Committee Response to Public Comment.** No responses were needed.

**9. Administrative Motions - Action Item; Vote Required.**

- a) Motion to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2022 Public Safety Meeting.

**Motion to approve minutes, as presented:** Penny Johnson and Cissy Varkey-Altamirano

**Yay:** Christy Adair, Penny Gilbert, Penny Johnson, Thelma Mericle, Jesse Smith,  
Cissy Varkey-Altamirano

**Nay:** None

**Absent:** Barbara McDermott

**10. Final Committee Business and Announcements**

CERT Class Graduation in Sherman Oaks – August 2<sup>nd</sup>

CERT Class Graduation Van Nuys – August 19<sup>th</sup>

**11. Adjourn**

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE RESOURCES:

- For **LAFD CERT** information, check the [www.CERT-LA.com](http://www.CERT-LA.com) website
- For Emergency Preparedness Continuing Education classes, sign up at [join.ntp-la.org](http://join.ntp-la.org)
- For **Map Your Neighborhood**, contact Barbara at [Barbara.McDermott.Sonc@gmail.com](mailto:Barbara.McDermott.Sonc@gmail.com)
- For **Neighborhood Watch Groups**, contact Cissy at [Cissy.Altamirano.Sonc@gmail.com](mailto:Cissy.Altamirano.Sonc@gmail.com)
- To **SUBSCRIBE** to receive monthly meeting announcements and agendas, contact: [SoncPScommittee@gmail.com](mailto:SoncPScommittee@gmail.com)
- For **Neighborhood Watch** info, contact your local Senior Lead Officer (“SLO”). To find your SLO: <https://www.lapdonline.org/> | Your LAPD | Find Your Local Police Station
- For **LAPD volunteer opportunities**, contact Officer Jason Jimenez in the Community Relations Office at [38903@lapd.online](mailto:38903@lapd.online), or call (818) 374-5420.

ONGOING RADIO COMMUNICATIONS PRACTICE OPPORTUNITIES:

**Weekly Walkie-Talkie Radio Check-In:** Every Sunday at 10am: Channel 20 (or Ch 17 if 20 is busy), we check-in around the Valley to see how far our voices can be heard. We practice checking-in, moving locations around the home 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. 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 9am on Simplex 145.570 we have a weekly 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](mailto: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](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 the SONC Secretary at: [stacey.segarra.bohlinger.sonc@gmail.com](mailto:stacey.segarra.bohlinger.sonc@gmail.com)

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You can also receive our agendas via email by subscribing to L.A. City’s Early Notification System at <https://www.lacity.org/subscriptions>

**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](http://www.ShermanOaksNC.org).