

**Committee Members:**

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

CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
CALIFORNIA



Sherman Oaks  
Neighborhood Council

**Public Safety Committee**

**Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, November 8, 2022 at 6:30pm



Sherman Oaks  
Neighborhood Council  
P.O. Box 5721  
Sherman Oaks, CA 91413

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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** - Christy Adair, Chair at 6:37pm

#### 2. **Roll Call** – Penny Gilbert, Secretary

- ❖ Welcome to new Committee Member – Susan Collins, SONC Board
- ❖ Present: Christy Adair, Susan Collins, Penny Gilbert, Penny Johnson, Barbara McDermott, Thelma Mericle, Jesse Smith, Cissy Varkey-Altamirano

#### 3. **Introductions & City Updates** – Committee, City Officials and Staff

Ryan Ahari – Sherman Oaks Field Deputy for Nithya Raman, CD4

Ryan addressed homeless situation indicating that Councilwoman is working on RV encampments to get these individuals into permanent housing. The goals are to get the case worker system up and running, keep in contact with homeless and find them more housing

Ryan also working on the median on Burbank and Chandler where there are 200 dead & dying plants. He noted that the CVS store also has 200+ dead plants at their location and Ryan’s team is pushing to get drip irrigation established.

Ryan noted that while he is representing 80K people in Sherman Oaks, he is always available to help people navigate city services to the betterment of Sherman Oaks. Ryan can be reached at (213) 424-2412 or [ryan.ahari@lacity.org](mailto:ryan.ahari@lacity.org)

#### 4. **Presentation – Gary Hanfling, LAFD Auxiliary Communications Service: “Radio 101”**

- ❖ Walkie Talkie’s Radios actually work well in the Valley and have a wide range for communication, especially if you know how to use and send relays.
  - If you have a Walkie you can test this –
    - Sunday morning, 10am.
    - Turn it on and go to Chanel 20
    - You will hear others in the Valley checking in.
    - This is how far a simple walkie-talkie can reach.
- ❖ Other topics discussed were components of a radio, proper radio protocols.
- ❖ To watch the full 30 min Video Presentation, visit:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2xwF77jDTeA>

#### 5. **Social Media Mis-Information** – “Commonly misunderstood types of crime” by B. McDermott

**THEFT -- ROBBERY:** both involve the taking of property, but the difference is the means.

**THEFT:** taking of property without consent, but no force or fear is involved. e.g. porch pirates

**ROBBERY:** taking of personal property from someone’s person or immediate presence, & against their will, using force or fear (e.g. a weapon, bodily force, threats)

NOTE: People are robbed, property is burglarized. One way to remember this is that ‘Rob’ is a person’s name.

**BURGLARY -- HOT PROWL BURGLARY -- HOME INVASION:** the difference is the presence of a victim, and intent.

**BURGLARY:** when someone enters a structure with the intent to commit a theft or felony - includes locked vehicles and locked trunks of locked/unlocked vehicles. e.g. a break-in when nobody is home.

**HOT PROWL BURGLARY:** occurs when both victim and suspect are at the location, but the intent is the burglary, not an encounter with the victim or occupants - e.g. burglars don't realize someone's home, or think their presence won't be known.

**HOME INVASION:** is when someone breaks into a home with the intent to harm or threaten the occupants.

NOTE: Hot Prowl Burglaries and Home Invasions are both dangerous, and a Hot Prowl has the potential to escalate to a Home Invasion.

**BURGLARY / THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE:**

**Burglary from Motor Vehicle:** property taken from a locked/secured vehicle – e.g. window was smashed, lock was picked.

**Theft from Motor Vehicle:** something taken without having to break into the vehicle – e.g. door was unlocked, window was open, or something taken from the exterior (e.g. catalytic converter).

**TRESPASS -- PROWLER:** the difference is intent.

A prowler & trespasser are both on private property without consent, but the trespasser is not on the property to commit a crime. Prowling is committed by someone who prowls or wanders on private property without visible or lawful business for the purpose of committing a crime (e.g. peeping tom, possible burglar).

Committee Members thanked Barbara McDermott for explaining these terms and asked if they could forward to local Watch Groups. A full description of these terms can be found at: <https://www.shermanoaksncc.org/assets/documents/7/committee63bdb59170c77.pdf>

**6. Sherman Oaks Senior Lead Officer Update – Barbara McDermott**

**Basic Car Updates 9A63 – Officer Romo**

Violent crime up 21.6% (Robbery, Aggravated Assault)  
Property up 6.3%

**Basic Car Updates, 9A89 – Officer Saldana**

Violent Crimes up 6.8%  
Property crimes down 6%

- Holidays fast approaching – watch out for Porch Pirates.
- When shopping, hide property in car trunk before you go to next destination and always park in well-lit areas.
- If need to drop items in the car; do it but then drive to another section of the mall & park!!  
At home, break-down high-dollar boxes in your recycle.

**7. Public Comments** – Comments by the public on non-agenda items within the Public Safety Committee’s jurisdiction.

N/A

**8. Committee Response to Public Comment**

N/A

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

- a) Motion to approve the minutes of the October 11 Public Safety Meeting.

Motion to approve minutes, as presented: Jesse Smith and Cissy Varkey-Altamirano

Voting was as follows:

- **Approve:** Christy Adair, Penny Gilbert, Penny Johnson, Barbara McDermott, Thelma Mericle, Jesse Smith, Cissy Varkey-Altamirano
- **Does Not approve:** N/A
- **Abstain:** Susan Collins

Motion Passes.

- b) Motion to Record the entire PSC meetings, going forward.

Voting was as follows:

- **Approve:** Christy Adair, Susan Collins, Penny Gilbert, Penny Johnson, Thelma Mericle, Jesse Smith
- **Does Not approve:** Barbara McDermott, Cissy Varkey-Altamirano
- **Abstain:** N/A

Motion Failed.

**10. Final Committee Business and Announcements**

- ❖ Emergency or timely items since the posting of the Agenda.
- ❖ November 13<sup>th</sup> – CERT Search & Rescue pt 2
- ❖ December 11<sup>th</sup> – CERT Medical Head to Toe Assessments

**11. Adjourn at 8:17pm**

### 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 16 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)

**PUBLIC POSTING OF AGENDAS** – Neighborhood Council Committee agendas are posted for public review at: Sherman Oaks Public Library, 14245 Moorpark Street, SO, CA 91423 and [www.ShermanOaksNC.org](http://www.ShermanOaksNC.org)

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).