

**Committee Members:**

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

CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
CALIFORNIA



Sherman Oaks  
Neighborhood Council



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

Website:  
[www.ShermanOaksNC.org](http://www.ShermanOaksNC.org)  
General Email:  
[SoncPScommittee@gmail.com](mailto:SoncPScommittee@gmail.com)

**Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes**  
Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 6:30pm

**Zoom Webinar ID: 872 0033 9552**

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

**Phone: 1-669-900-6833, Webinar ID: 872 0033 9552**

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 **872 0033 9552** and then press # to join the meeting - or join the meeting from Zoom’s landing page using Webinar ID: **872 0033 9552**. 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.*

### Meeting Minutes:

#### 1. **The Public Safety Committee (“PSC”) Call to Order** – Susan Collins, Chair

2. **Roll Call:** Chairwoman--Susan Collins, Co-Chairwoman--Christy Adair, Barbara McDermott, Cissy Varkey-Altamirano, Penny Johnson, Jesse Smith, Penny Gilbert  
Thelma Miracle-Absent

#### 3. **Introductions & City Updates** – Committee, City Officials and Staff – (Ryan Ahari spoke after the guest speaker)

- ❖ Updates will be recorded and posted to the SONC website

#### 8. **Guest Speakers** – (Agenda #8 taken out of order due to time restraints with the speakers)

- ❖ **Presentation:** Katherine Vlamis and Gabe Khan with Crosstown.
- ❖ Presentation by Katherine Vlamis, explaining how Crosstown gathers community specific and data. Crosstown makes this information and the analysis providing information to keep neighborhoods and City safer, healthier, and connected.
- ❖ (Recorded)
- ❖ Questions:
- ❖ Replies by Gabe Khan
- ❖ Q: Of the 20 pages of data sheets of 311 calls--which ones were calls about homeless encampments?
- ❖ A: Data about homeless can be gathered and shared.
- ❖ Q: Is there a list of all the data?
- ❖ A: Crosstown takes all the data via from the City website, which they can compile and arrange by specific time, date, etc., and then graph
- ❖ Q: How timely is the data, and how are “neighborhoods” defined?
- ❖ A: Some data is released within a few days of receipt other information can take weeks to gather. Regarding the neighborhood boundary lines: They have always been contentious. Crosstown has
- ❖ found that using both those drawn by the LA Times and the City Council work best, and with the least number of conflicts for Crosstown’s compilations.
- ❖ Q: Is there a fee for this service?
- ❖ A: Crosstown’s services, customized newsletters and reports are provided at no charge. Crosstown is a nonprofit. All they ask for in return, is that the public let them know what information is helpful for them and what information we would like to see. They ask for this information so they’re able to provide the information that is most helpful for community members.
- ❖ Q: Is the data is available to the general public? How much data, how large is the Crosstown staff?
- ❖ A: There are 3 reporters, 1 editor and group of tech people. There is a weekly newsletter available to each neighborhood (previously explained). There are 110 neighborhoods and the data is uploaded to the Crosstown website and sent via email to interested individuals. Crosstown’s goal is to provide data that can help each neighborhood determine what is important to their specific area.
- ❖ Q: A member wants specific crime data
- ❖ A: Crosstown will provide member with the data prior to each SONC, PSC meeting

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

- ❖ Ryan Ahari – Answered several questions regarding sidewalk repairs. It will take 500 years for the city to get around to fixing all the broken sidewalks. There is a rebate program that supports residents if they complete the repair process, including acquiring the permits and pay out of pocket themselves. Residents can receive reimbursement (up to \$10,000.) for the repair. The application for that program is available at Lacity.org.
- ❖ Ryan Ahari – Regarding the RV’s and encampments on Moorpark and Sylmar: CD4 has been sending outreach workers every week. Some people have been referred for housing and additional locations are being sought. Homeless issue on Lenox is currently being worked on. City Council members throughout the Valley are assisting with finding additional housing. CD4 is also working with the St. Joseph’s Center to find housing. Ryan is not certain if people who are living in the RVs are included in the Mayor’s “Inside Safe” program.
- ❖ Ryan Ahari was asked about traffic lights at crosswalks and the need to add more: He says: each signal costs a million and a half dollars and therefore money is a problem. DOT is trying to get signals for crosswalks. Some crosswalks do not have traffic lights, so in those cases the crosswalks are being removed. During COVID DOT did not schedule any work in the city. They took down their 311 request section and at present they are 6,000 requests behind.

#### 4. Sherman Oaks Senior Lead Officer Update

- ❖ Senior Lead Officers were not available to attend.

#### 5. Public Comments –

- SONC board member wants SLOs at all Board Meetings.
- Board member works with seniors in her Human Services Committee and has asked a PSC member to join her.
- PSC Co-chair wants SLOs at all the PSC meetings.

#### 6. Committee Response to Public Comment

#### 7. Social Media Mis-Information – Barbara McDermott **(Postponed)**

#### 8. Guest Speakers – (moved up on the schedule)

#### 9. Increasing the Outreach of the Public Safety Committee – Penny Gilbert

- **Presentation and discussion (Postponed)**
- **Committee agreed, we should set a date for a special meeting dedicated to this.**

#### 10. Final Committee Business and Announcements

- ❖ Christy Adair reminded everyone to encourage people to register to run for one of the 10 available seats in the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council election. Registration for candidates opened on Feb. 22, 2023, and is still open. Information on how to register is available on the SONC website.
- ❖ Recording of Ryan Ahari from January just posted on PSC site
- ❖ SONC Zoom meeting information must match Zoom meeting information posted on PSC agenda
- ❖ West Valley Disaster Fair moved to 3/25/2023

#### 11. Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 8:36pm

**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).