

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
General Email:
SoncPScommittee@gmail.com

May 27, 2023 Public Safety Committee Meeting

MINUTES

***Please Note: Meeting Dates and Times for the Public Safety Committee Meeting will vary each month. Please check the SONC calendar located on the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council Website for updated date, time and location**

Si requiere servicios de traducción, favor de avisar al Concejo Vecinal 3 días de trabajo (72 horas) antes del evento. Por favor contacte Stacey Segarra-Bohlinger, Secretária, al stacey.segarabohlinger.sonc@gmail.com para avisar al Concejo Vecinal. 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.

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Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Board's jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Board is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future Board meeting. Public comment is limited to **2 minutes** per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the Board.

MINUTES :

1.Public Safety Committee (“PSC”) Call to Order – Susan Collins, Chair: Susan Collins-
Read the Preamble.

Called Meeting to Order-9:04am

2.Roll Call – Penny Gilbert, Secretary

Christy Adair-Present
Susan Collins-Present,
Penny Gilbert-Absent
Penny Johnson – Present
Barbara McDermott-Present
Thelma Mericle-Absent
Jesse Smith-Present
Cissy Varkey-Altamirano-Present
(Quorum)

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes from PSC Meetings on March 14, 2023 and March 29, 2023: Approval of Minutes:

Roll call vote motion to approve minutes of 3/14/23 Meeting:
Susan, Cissy, Christy, Penny J, Jesse S. Barbara M. - **All Approved**

4. Introductions & City Updates – Committee, City Officials and Staff:

Susan, Cissy, Christy, Penny J, Jesse, Barbara

Ryan Ahari:

-Noted Christy Adair’s award for all her work with the community.
-Library Square Update
-Street Lights-lights added in some areas and need more light in other areas.
-CIRCLE (Crisis and Incident Response through Community Led Engagement)-divert non-emergency calls to homeless in front of businesses-1 million invested in the Ventura corridor.
Attendee Question-How can more light poles be added in areas that need lights?
Ryan- Light poles cost about 20K. CD4 is trying to find alternative options instead of neighbors paying for 1 light pole. One option is DWP's Utility Lighting program which installs lighting on existing DWP wooden utility poles. Alert CD4 office if lights are dim or defective.

Susan- long wait times for 877-ASK-LAPD.

Barbara - The 911 & non-emergency operators are the same personnel, rotated depending on internal needs for the day. Currently, they are short-staffed. They are hiring, but the process takes a long time. It's paid on-the-job training with benefits, and training takes about a year.

Attendee Comment (Alan Scher) - CIRCLE is currently only implemented in certain zip codes.

Ryan- Let CD4 know if there is a location that needs attention.

Jesse- CIRCLE is serviced by mental health professionals rather than police.

Susan- Trees in the park need trimming. Branches falling on people.

Ryan- Currently only a 14-person park maintenance crew & is short staffed to address all maintenance needs quickly.

Attendee Comment- Attendee-pool of water in some areas of park.

Ryan- Park Maintenance Crew responsible for park

Penny J- Announced SONC Public Safety Committee Website information for Youtube videos. Ryan's past presentations on streetlights, etc are on the website for viewing.

Susan- Thanked Starbucks Managers (Carina & Francis) for hosting.

5. Sherman Oaks Senior Lead Officer Updates

SLO Saldana- Covers South part of Sherman Oaks, property crimes, vehicle break-in burglary South of the Ventura Bl, some businesses had smash and grab break-in. Crime incidence is similar to last year, with a slight rise this year..

SLO Romo- Covers area Northern Part of Sherman Oaks-mostly property crime, catalytic converters, mall incidents at Bloomingdales and Macy's (one person arrested). Be a Good witness, and call for assistance. Don't interact & compromise your safety.

6. Public Comments – Comments by the public on non-agenda items within the Public Safety Committees Jurisdiction:

Attendee (Francis) Starbucks Manager- Situation at location has been getting better in the last 5 months. Long wait for non-emergency number.

SLO Saldana- Low staffed, less 600 911 operators, no other number currently, not enough staff. City is in the process of hiring.

SLO Romo- Long wait times is the biggest complaint from neighborhoods.

Attendee Question/Suggestion- Where do parking violation fees go? Suggested using parking violation funds for additional support resources. Who do you call for parking violations such as people parking in the red zone, fire hydrant, blocking driveways, etc?

SLO Saldana- Call DOT for parking violation issues.

SLO Romo- Also call SLO, we will try to help with any parking enforcement.

Attendee Comment (Stacy) - Asked SLOs to come to the full Neighborhood Council Board Meetings, then asked the officers if they know what the Hatch Act-Law is? She told them it's a federal law prohibiting law enforcement officers from talking about politics while on duty. She states violations are a federal offense.

Attendee Question (Bill)- How can you address squatters? Will no trespassing sign help?

SLOs Saldana/Romo- Put a No Trespassing sign on property. Owner of the property can sign a Trespass Arrest Authorization and have it on file with the police department.

Barbara- You can tell the 911 or non-emergency operator during the call that you would like to meet with the responding officers or ask that the responding officers call you.

Attendee Question- So many people running red lights. Is there a plan to increase monitoring?

SLO Saldana- No plan in place currently because there is a shortage of officers.

Penny J- Question referred to Ryan Ahari for later- How are you going to mitigate traffic when Citrus Commons opens on Riverside/Van Nuys for new traffic. Can there be White Gloves directing traffic at the congested intersection?

SLO Saldana- DOT responsibility, and question for DOT.

7. Committee Response to Public Comments:

Attendee Comment (Alan Scher)- Need Volunteers to help LAPD, Announced Sean Kurzweil, Susan Collins are on CPAB Committee. Meet with the police captain 1x/mo. CHP needs volunteers, Police station needs donations.

Attendee Comment (Jeffrey Hartsough) - Neighborhood Council elections is on June 22nd. The Summer Movies in the Park starts June 24th.

Attendee Comment- Taxes are increasing, but still not enough services provided. It seems the population doesn't respect law.

Attendee Comment (Lucie Volotzky)- The police officers need community support. We cannot defame all of the police. Announced she is running for State Senate.

Cissy- Senior Services for age 50+ available at the Sherman Oaks Adult Center. Valley Intercommunity Council offers free services for seniors such as meals on-site (\$3 donation or free), meal delivery for homebound seniors, classes, case management, social activities, and

transportation. LA City Parks and Recreation offers social activities, games, and classes (\$2/class or \$5/mo).

Susan- LA Parks and Recs offering classes. Swim at the Park \$10 tickets for summer for minors under the age of 18 yrs old. They must be accompanied by an adult. Adults who accompany children 7 years of age and under will be admitted without a fee / charge.

Christy- LAFD Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)-RSVP at www.CERT-LA.com/eventbrite. Free 7 topic class by LAFD. Join classes at various locations at your convenience. You can take the classes out of order. Learn activities such as how to Stop a Bleed & get a certificate as well as learn “Hands Only CPR”, Patient Assessment, etc. Classes include Search and Rescue, Disaster Preparedness, Disaster Fire Suppression, Disaster Medical Operations, Light Search and Rescue, Disaster Psychology, Terrorism. Learn various emergency responses for the neighborhood.

Attendee Comment (Alan Scher)- LAPD Citizen’s Academy

Attendee (Tammy Scher)- Introduction of Sherman Oaks Chamber of Commerce, will now also include Encino.

8. LAFD / CERT Updates: Christy Adair:

Provided comment in #7 Committee Response to Public Comments

9. Final Committee Business and Announcements: *Emergency or timely items since the posting the agenda.:

Final "Thank You" to Starbucks as hosts, and attendees for coming and participating.

10. ADJOURNMENT: 10:00am

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
- 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, 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

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

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

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.