

**Sherman Oaks  
Neighborhood Council**

**Government Affairs Committee**

Lindsay Imber, Chair  
Howard Katchen  
Tom Materna  
Stacey Segarra-Bohlinger

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
CALIFORNIA**



**Sherman Oaks  
Neighborhood Council**

**Government Affairs**

**Minutes**

Tuesday, April 22, 2025, 6:30 pm.  
VIRTUAL - ZOOM



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

Website:  
[www.ShermanOaksNC.org](http://www.ShermanOaksNC.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.*

**1. Call to Order & Roll Call**

- a. Lindsay Imber, Chair, called the meeting to order at **6:32pm**.
- b. Stacey Segarra-Bohlinger, Secretary, called the roll.
  - i. **Present:** Materna, Katchen, Imber, Segarra-Bohlinger **(4)**
  - ii. **Absent:** **(0)**

**2. Administrative Motions**

- a. *A motion to approve the Minutes of the March Government Affairs Committee Meeting.*  
**Moved:** Imber                      **Second:** Katchen  
**YES:** Katchen, Materna, Imber, Segarra-Bohlinger  
**NO:** **(0)**              **ABSTAIN:** **(0)**              **ABSENT:** **(0)**  
**item 2a approved without objection by unanimous consent**

**3. Comments by Elected or Appointed Officials, City Agencies, and Staff - none**

**4. Public Comment - brief discussion followed**

**5. Chairs Report**

Budget released, State of the City Address, NC budgets reduced from 32k/yr to 25k/yr

**6. Committee Business and Discussion, Potential Motions**

- a. **Revisiting the Quorum / Public Comment Motion Adopted 2023**  
**MOTION:**

*The purpose of the Los Angeles City Council is to assist, convey and execute the best interests of any stakeholder and the public at large. Current standards and operating procedures regarding public comment period at City Council meetings convey a sense of contempt and indignance toward the very people Councilmembers swear an oath to serve.*

*It is imperative that City Council take immediate action to ensure adequate time, resources, and diligence are applied in admitting public comment during Council, Committee, and all other types of meetings and hearings within the city's jurisdiction.*

*The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council (SONC) emphatically recommends that The Los Angeles City Council implement the following rules and guidelines:*

- 1. Delineate the time granted to designated Neighborhood Council Board Members for addressing City Council on agenda items separate from the time granted to the public for comment on agenda and non agenda items. Comment period for Neighborhood Council designees shall be held before public comment period. Public comment period shall commence after all Neighborhood Council designees have been heard.*
- 2. Amend Council Rule \*Chapter II. section 7 regarding time allocated to hearing public comment; increase the minimum amount of time allocated to hearing public comment on agenda and non agenda items to a cumulative total of 150 minutes (2.5 hours), or until the speaker list is exhausted, whichever occurs first.*
- 3. Amend Council Rule \*Chapter II. section 7 regarding agenda item comment; striking the language "unless the opportunity for public comment on the item previously was provided by a Council Committee and the item has not changed substantially since that Committee's consideration of the item." All agenda items shall be considered eligible for public comment during the allocated agenda item comment period (up to 3 minutes total per speaker) in regularly scheduled City Council Meetings, regardless of whether public comment was heard during committee, public hearing, etc. Council shall not vote on any items until public comment period has concluded.*
- 4. Reinstate and maintain remote/telephonic public comment option for all public meetings and hearings. During public comment period, Council shall alternate between in-person and remote speakers to ensure equity and accessibility among members of the public wishing to speak.*

5. *Limit time spent during regularly scheduled meetings on demonstrations and/or presentations that aren't directly related to action items in said meeting (e.g. presentation of awards, staff and member recognition, holiday acknowledgements, etc.) to a cumulative total of fifteen minutes in a single meeting; excluding adjourning motions.*
6. *Confirm Council Rules in \*\*Chapter IV sections 25-29 regarding quorum; affirm that they apply to all portions of Council Meetings including and especially public comment on agenda and non-agenda items. Request that the Council President enforce quorum at all times, including and especially during public comment period(s).*
7. *Delineate the Council Chamber perimeter as to quorum and to be present.*
8. *Establish rules of decorum that require a standard of attention due to speakers during public comment period: Require City Council members present to be in or near their designated seats, and bar them from engaging in conversation with each other, staff members, and/or guests while members of the public are addressing City Council.*

*Lastly to request the Chief Legislative Analyst, with assistance from the Office of the City Administrative Officer (CAO) and in consultation with the City Attorney, to report on a draft and annual costs associated with amending the Rules of the Los Angeles City Council, Charter or other law as stated above within 60 days.*

**MOVED:** Segarra-Bohlinger      **SECOND:** Katchen  
**YES:** Katchen, Materna, Imber, Segarra-Bohlilnger (4)  
**NO:** (0)      **ABSTAIN:** (0)      **ABSENT:** (0)  
**item 6a carries unanimously 4-0-0-0**

**b. Mayor's Proposed Budget for City of Los Angeles for FY 2025-26.**

**MOTION:**

*The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council supports the work of the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates and endorses its 2025 White Paper recommendations to the City of Los Angeles. These recommendations aim to improve Departmental Functions, ensure a more effective use of taxpayer dollars, and enhance the efficient delivery of services across all communities. The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council (SONC) is deeply concerned about the City's impending structural budget deficit, projected to exceed \$900 million, and the significant impact this shortfall could have on city operations and services.*

*We urge the City to adopt a comprehensive and coherent plan to address the structural deficit and balance the FY 2025-2026 budget. This plan should include strategies to live within the City's financial means and*

*transitions from a one-year budget cycle to a more sustainable, multi-year budgeting process that ensures long-term fiscal health and service stability.*

*NC budgets have been reduced over the years while inflation has made operational costs increasingly burdensome. While NCs continue to provide valuable representation, community engagement, support to charitable organizations, and other benefits to stakeholders as volunteer boards; NCs have not contributed to the liabilities and miscalculated revenue projections that have put the city in a fiscally precarious position, and should not be expected to shoulder the burden of rectifying the city's financial status. We ask that NC budgets remain at \$32,000 per year.*

*An important matter in the city budget is whether the fire department will have funds and manpower to continue the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program. This is an essential program which trains volunteer individuals to serve communities, neighborhoods and support first responders during emergencies and catastrophic events. The city under funds emergency management, CERT budget is pennies on the dollar with a return on investment which far exceeds the cost. The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council once again voices its support to fund and keep this valuable program.*

**MOVED:** Katchen    **SECOND:** Segarra-Bohlinger

**AMENDMENT:** *[added at end of 1st paragraph of motion]*

*SONC is disturbed that layoffs are being proposed, but salary cuts for the highest-paid personnel are not under consideration.*

**MOVED:** Imber    **SECOND:** Segarra-Bohlinger

**YES:** Katchen, Materna, Imber, Segarra-Bohlilnger (4)

**NO:** (0)    **ABSTAIN:** (0)    **ABSENT:** (0)

**item 6b carries unanimously 4-0-0-0**

*Motion as Amended:*

**YES:** Katchen, Materna, Imber, Segarra-Bohlilnger (4)

**NO:** (0)    **ABSTAIN:** (0)    **ABSENT:** (0)

**item 6b carries unanimously 4-0-0-0**

## **7. Closing Announcements-**

Katchen- "now is the time to speak up about the budget"

## **8. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:30pm**

Respectfully submitted

Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council  
Government Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stacy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and a trailing flourish.