

Government Affairs Committee

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



**Sherman Oaks
Neighborhood Council**

Government Affairs

Minutes

Tuesday, May 27, 2025, 6:00 pm.

VIRTUAL - ZOOM



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

Website:
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 **6:00pm.**
- b. Stacey Segarra-Bohlinger, Secretary, called the roll.
 - i. **Present:** Materna, Imber, Segarra-Bohlinger (**3**)
 - ii. **Absent:** Katchen (**1**)

2. Administrative Motions

- a. *A motion to approve the Minutes of the April 2025 Government Affairs Committee Meeting.*

MOVED: Imber

SECOND: Materna

YES:, Materna, Imber, Segarra-Bohlinger

NO: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

ABSENT: Katchen (1)

item 2a approved unanimously

3. Comments by Elected or Appointed Officials, City Agencies, and Staff -

[Taken after item 5 at approx. 6:10]

Taleen Keuroghlian, Field Representative, Office of City Council Dist. 4 (Raman)

update on request for Council Member attendance at meeting

Unsure if Council Member (CM) Raman will be able to join in July /
perform Swearing in Ceremony, Q&A

update on CIS submitted for CF16-1104-s3

CF16-1104-S3 referred to committee “unanimously”

likely to pass when up for a vote

update re: remote / telephonic comment

Legislative team is aware of broad support /
VANC motion regarding telephonic comment
Council President unilaterally removed telephonic public comment
CM unlikely / unwilling to challenge Council President
“no update” on whether motion will be brought by CM
Field Rep. (Keuroghlian) personally supports telephonic public comment
question regarding when CM reads written comments submitted online
unsure of when the CM written public comment submissions
Indiegov database utilized to organize constituent concerns / remarks

4. Public Comment - none

5. Chairs Report

thanks to Stacey for reading CISs at City Hall
Materna: acknowledging Lindsay Imber’s recognition as Woman of the Year
from State Assembly Member Schultz

6. Committee Business and Discussion, Potential Motions

a. Update: Budget Proposal to Restore Neighborhood Council Funding

The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council (SONC) supports CF 25-0600-S7, which seeks to restore Neighborhood Council (NC) budgets to FY 24-25 levels, and in doing so amends a proposed cut in funding. NCs provide valuable representation, community engagement, support to charitable organizations, and other benefits to stakeholders as volunteer boards. NCs are a valuable service as the City’s most local form of government and, in many cases, an important connection for constituents to the City. Due to relatively low cost and high return, restoring NC funding is fiscally wise and SONC accordingly applauds CMs Park and Padilla for bringing forth this motion.

SONC also supports the Budget Advocates recommendations to implement the following:

- 1. The Four-Year General Fund Budget Outlook needs to be updated to reflect anticipated raises for City employees.*
- 2. Develop a two-year budget as recommended by the City Controller.*
- 3. Conduct open and transparent labor negotiations that require significant outreach to Angelenos before, during, and after the negotiations.*
- 4. Place a measure on the ballot that would prohibit the City from entering into any labor agreement that would create a current or future deficit. In the short term, pass an ordinance.*
- 5. Develop a long-term infrastructure plan to address deferred maintenance and future capital expenditures.*
- 6. Create a robust Reserve Fund that can only be used in declared emergencies, not to balance the budget as is the current procedure.*

7. *Establish an Office of Transparency and Accountability as recommended by the LA 2020 Commission to oversee the City's budget and finances in real time.*

MOVED: Imber

SECOND: Materna

YES: Materna, Imber, Segarra-Bohlilnger (3)

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

item 6a carries unanimously 3-0-0-1

b. Update: Proposed Addition to Quorum / Public Comment Motion

[revision of previously passed motion, updates/revisions in motion item 1]

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 presenting a Community Impact Statement (CIS) to City Council as 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. Each designee shall be granted at least 5 minutes for CIS presentation. 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:** Imber
YES: Materna, Imber, Segarra-Bohlilnger (3)
NO: (0) **ABSTAIN:** (0) **ABSENT:** Katchen (1)
item 6b carries unanimously 3-0-0-1

7. Closing Announcements-

Imber: Won't be at June's board meeting, executive committee
will be unavailable first couple weeks of June

Segarra-Bohlinger: Frustration with lack of substantive responses from CD4 rep
referencing update during item 3

8. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:46pm

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Stacy", written in dark ink.