

Government Affairs Committee

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



**Sherman Oaks
Neighborhood Council**

**Government Affairs
Special Meeting**

Minutes

Thursday, July 24, 2025, 6:30 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 **6:31pm.**
- b. Stacey Segarra-Bohlinger, Secretary, called the roll.
 - i. **Present:** Katchen, Imber, Segarra-Bohlinger (3)
 - ii. **Absent:** Materna (1)

2. Administrative Motions

- a. *A motion to approve the Minutes of the June 2025 Government Affairs Committee Meeting.*
MOVED: Imber **SECOND:** Katchen
YES: Katchen, Imber, Segarra-Bohlinger (3)
NO: (0) **ABSTAIN:** (0) **ABSENT:** Materna (1)
item 2a approved unanimously 3-0-0-1

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

4. Public Comment - remarks from the public on non-agenda items

5. Chairs Report

New board, same committee
Vacancy on gov't affairs
Movie in the Park on Saturday 7/26, 6PM - Wild Robot

6. Committee Business and Discussion, Potential Motions

a. School Safety & Protection from Illicit Federal Law Enforcement Access

SB 48 (Gonzalez)

CF 25-0002-S66.

POSITION: FOR

The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council (SONC) supports CF 25-0002-S66 and California Senate Bill 48 to amend the Education Code to disallow access to nonpublic areas of a school site to federal immigration enforcement agents and to ensure associated data protection relative to school students. School is stressful enough as is. Adding ICE, border patrol, or other federal enforcement agents to campus while students are engaged in learning and other growth activities would contribute to negative mental health outcomes for students and, therefore, SONC supports restricting this source of stress from school

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

YES: Imber, Segarra-Bohlinger, Katchen **(3)**

NO: (0) / ABSTAIN: (0) / ABSENT: Materna **(1)**

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

b. Creation of a Budget Advisory Group & Budget Advocates Inclusion

CF 25-0314.

POSITION: FOR

The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council (SONC) supports CF 25-0314 to create a Budget Advisory Group and insist that the Advisory Group includes a member from the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates, as under the city charter section 909, the neighborhood councils can provide advice on the city budget priorities. Given the tenuous state of the city budget, there must be process change, more accountability and better stewardship of tax payers' funds and delivery of city services. Budget Advocates represent the 12 service regions of the city, possess extensive knowledge of the city budget and budget process and provide informed recommendations on the city budget, city services and city department efficiencies annually to the City Council and the Mayor in their White Paper. The inclusion of a Budget Advocate will ensure that the neighborhood councils have an important voice in shaping solutions to the city's financial challenges and will strengthen community involvement in the city's budget process and decisions.

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

YES: Imber, Katchen, Segarra-Bohlinger **(3)**

NO: (0) / ABSTAIN: (0) / ABSENT: Materna **(1)**

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

c. Neighborhood Council Communication with Nonmunicipal Government

The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council (SONC) joins the [Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council \(GTLNC\)](#) in affirming and remaining true to the conditions and obligations of elected office; SONC objects to any attempt on the part of any Los Angeles City office or agency to interfere with and constrain the collective First Amendment rights of SONC, and to abridge the communication of its resolutions and advocacy to any level of local, county, state or federal government, relevant to and on behalf of its stakeholders under its own authorized, unique, and unambiguous name.

*The City asserts it is improper for a Neighborhood Council (NC) to advocate to any agency or entity other than to the City itself, purporting that this is outside the role of NCs. The City offers an unsigned memorandum entitled *The Role of Neighborhood Councils as Advisors to City Decision Makers dated August 2020, which cannot be located online via the websites of The Los Angeles City Attorney, The Los Angeles City Clerk, or The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE). This memorandum exists online only in one obscure location: [The Northridge West NC's Web Site](#). SONC disagrees with the anonymous and unattributed opinions proclaimed in this unsigned memorandum as a limitation on its protected speech and communication as an elected representative body.*

*[The Los Angeles City Charter, Section 900, Article IX](#), in outlining the purpose of DONE relating to the NC system, states "To promote more citizen participation in government and make government more responsive to local needs, a citywide system of neighborhood councils, and a Department of Neighborhood Empowerment is created. Neighborhood councils shall include representatives of the many diverse interests in communities and **shall have an advisory role on issues of concern to the neighborhood.**" Conversely, nothing contained in the City Charter or Ordinances prohibit NCs from taking a position and advocating to noncity entities.*

SONC does not represent, nor purport to represent, the City of Los Angeles, and there is no credible evidence to the contrary. There is no likelihood of confusion between SONC and the City of Los Angeles, nor any of its departments or agencies. Any position communicated by SONC on behalf of its stakeholders to County, State, Federal, or other agency superseding or otherwise outside the jurisdiction of City of Los Angeles shall be distinguished with this clear disclaimer: "The position of SONC may not necessarily reflect the official position of the City of Los Angeles."

As its own democratically constituted body, having been duly elected by the qualified registered stakeholder voters of Sherman Oaks, and operating in

accordance with its obligations, and acceptable, reasonable, and transparent parameters, SONC shall not allow its autonomy and self determination to be interfered with or infringed upon, nor have its identity and independence diminished or subordinated.

[*THE ROLE OF NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS AS ADVISORS TO CITY DECISION-MAKERS

Los Angeles City Charter Section 900 specifies that neighborhood councils "shall have an advisory role on issues of concern to the neighborhood." Some neighborhood councils have suggested that this language allows their boards to communicate their positions directly with county, state, and/or federal legislators. However, this interpretation conflicts with the Mayor and City Council's role under the Charter.

The Charter vests the City Council with the power to establish the City's official position on local, state or federal legislation, rules, regulations and policies, subject to the Mayor's veto (Charter Section 254). Administrative Code Section 2.19 sets forth a detailed process the City must follow to take an official position. Pursuant to that Section, "No person or department affiliated with the City of Los Angeles may represent that the City of Los Angeles supports, opposes, seeks, wishes to amend or has any position regarding any legislation, rules, regulations or policies unless such position has been adopted as an official position of the City of Los Angeles." Further, the Charter confers on the Mayor the power to engage in and supervise intergovernmental relations (Charter Section 231(h)).

The Charter's specification of these roles ensures a system where the City speaks with one voice to avoid confusion on matters involving county, state or federal legislation and other issues. Neighborhood councils, in their advisory role, are permitted to send their board-approved positions to the City Council and Mayor. Also, neighborhood council board members may in their individual capacity advocate for or against county, state or federal issues as long as it is made clear that they are communicating in their private capacities and not using public resources to present their opinions. Board members may use their neighborhood council titles for identification purposes only.

Neighborhood councils serve an important role by weighing in on city business before decisions are made and are expected to bring issues of community concern to city departments and leaders. Thus, as advisory bodies by design, an effective neighborhood council can advise city decision-makers and

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present an important perspective upon which elected officials may rely. However, it is ultimately and exclusively within the elected officials' authority acting as collectively as the City Council and Mayor to determine and convey the City's position on legislation and similar policy issues.]

MOVED: Segarra-Bohlinger **SECOND:** Imber
YES: Imber, Segarra-Bohliger (2)
NO: Katchen (1) / **ABSTAIN:** (0) / **ABSENT:** Materna (1)
item 6c carries 2-1-0-1

7. Closing Announcements-
“See you saturday”

8. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:22pm

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Stacy". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.