

**Sherman Oaks
Neighborhood Council**

Executive Officers

Howard Katchen,
President 3-R
Martin Hernandez,
1st VP 7-B
Leilt Endashaw
2nd VP 1-R
Jeffrey Hartsough,
Treasurer 2-CI
El-Bethel Debela,
Secretary, Youth Representative

Board Members

Levon Baronian, 1-B
Christy Adair, 1-CI
Vacant, 2-B
Kira Durbin 2-R
Vacant, 3-B
Hunter Laplante, 3-CI
Ryan Ahari, 4-B
David Silverman, 4-CI
Kylee Peña, 4-R
Vacant, 5-B
Vacant 5 C-I
Chris Maghar 5-R
Vacant 6-B
Lindsay Imber 6-R
Tom Materna, 6-CI
Jeffrey Kalban, 7-CI
Martin Stahl 7-R
Devon Jasiukonis,
Youth Representative
Alternate

CITY OF LOS ANGELES



**Sherman Oaks
Neighborhood Council**

CALIFORNIA



**Sherman Oaks
Neighborhood Council**

**SONC Board Meeting Agenda:
Monday, September 8, 2025, 6:30 pm**

In-Person Meeting

Sherman Oaks East Valley Adult Center
5056 Van Nuys Blvd



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

Website:
www.ShermanOaksNC.org

Public Comments: Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered, and prior to voting. 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 on Non-Agenda Items within SONC Jurisdiction 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, issues raised by the public may become the subject of a future Board meeting. Public comment is limited to one minute per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the Board.

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.

Agenda Note: All items containing motions, at the time of agenda posting, are listed in **blue, bold text**.

- 1. Welcome, Call to Order, and Roll Call**
 - a. Welcome and Call to Order.
 - b. Pledge of Allegiance
 - c. Roll Call and the Establishment of Quorum.
- 2. Administrative and Board Initiated Motions – Action Items**
 - a. A motion to approve the SONC Board meeting minutes of the August 11, 2025.
- 3. Motion to Approve Consent Calendar Items -**
 - Green & Sustainability appointment – Elizabeth Meshes as Co-Chair
 - Homelessness Liaison appointment – Pamela Harris
 - Community Impact Statement Filers – Jeffrey Hartsough, Lindsay Imber and Howard M. Katchen
 - Regional Grievance Panelist – Howard M. Katchen

4. **Comments by LAPD SLOs, Public Agencies, Officials, Staff, and Council District Office**
Public Comment for Public Agencies, etc.
Pursuant to Brown Act, there will be no discussion/back-and-forth while in session.
5. **Scheduled Recess - *The Council will stand in Recess.***
6. **Presentation – Alison Simard, Public Information Director, LA Civil Rights + Human Rights and Equity Department**
7. **General Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items within SONC Jurisdiction**
8. **President’s Report.**
 - Board Member meeting attendance
 - Board Member committee participation
 - Ad Hoc Committees status: Planning Board Retreat and By Laws
 - Board meeting speakers: October 20th Assemblymember Nick Schultz and FilmLA, December 8th Scott Schmerelson, President – LAUSD School Board
 - 2025 Empower LA Awards – Nomination SONC Vision Committee
 - Idea to Create a SONC Community Recognition Award
9. **Finance Motions & Committee Report Finance Committee - Jeffrey Hartsough, 2023-25 Chair. Meets on the 4th Wednesday of the Month**
 - a. **Motion:** Approve the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council’s (SONC) [Monthly Expenditure Report \(MER\) for the period ending July 31, 2025.](#)
10. **Government Affairs Motions & Committee Report Government Affairs Committee - Lindsay Imber, Chair. Meets on the 4th Tuesday of the Month**
 - a. **Motion:** [CF 25-0749](#). Goat Utilization / Brush Clearance / High Fire Severity Zones.

The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council (SONC) **supports** CF 25-0749 and the innovative approach of utilizing goats for brush clearance in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. In 2022, SONC adopted a motion to support [CF 22-0600-S61](#), a since-expired budget motion proposing the use of goats to perform park brush clearance on Department of Recreation and Parks land. SONC reiterates its support for the adoption of such a program in the City of Los Angeles, the benefits of which include fiscal savings, wildfire prevention, and nature sustainability.
 - b. **Motion:** [CF 25-331](#). Unarmed Crisis Response / Single City-Wide Program / Crisis and Incident Response Through Community Led Engagement (CIRCLE) / Unarmed Model of Crisis Response (UMCR)

The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council (SONC) **supports** CF 25-331 to explore an optimal pathway to create a single city-wide program for unarmed crisis response, such

as the Crisis and Incident Response Through Community Led Engagement (CIRCLE) Program.

c. Charter Reform Commission – Community Impact Statement

Motion: *While Neighborhood Councils (NCs) are supposed to be the closest form of government to the people, the system has been eroded in myriad ways from its original intent as set forth by the previous Charter Commission. Recognizing that current standards are systemically and intentionally divorced from the purpose of the Neighborhood Council (NC) system as defined in [section 900 of the Charter*](#), The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council (SONC) implores the Charter Reform Commission to include the following changes to the charter relating to NCs:*

*1. Codify better standards outlining the way in which NCs provide input to City Council (currently detailed in [section 9.07 of the Charter**](#).) Presently, NCs are not afforded a reasonable opportunity to present a Community Impact Statement (CIS) commensurate with the time and effort spent by NCs to file them. NC Designees have reportedly been told in commission meetings that presenting a CIS on behalf of a Neighborhood Council cedes the individual's right to personal public comment. Current operating procedure for City Council meetings does not delineate CIS Presentation from public comment, despite [policy adopted by the City Council](#) stating that CIS presentation "shall be considered separate from the public comment process"; furthermore, time allotted for CIS presentation is counted against time allotted for public comment period, and often fluctuates as it is granted at the discretion of the presiding officer. NC designees should be granted, at minimum, five minutes as a standard for CIS presentation during City Council meetings. CIS presentation should be clearly separate from public comment period, with City Council providing the same attention and respect to NC designees as they would representatives of any City Department or Agency. NCs designees should be able to present a CIS before the full City Council body regardless of whether public comment was satisfied under the Brown Act during a committee meeting. Also, include adequate time, at least 60 days, from inception of a council file until City Council holds a vote, barring emergencies or time-sensitive matters, to ensure the NCs have ample opportunity to deliberate through committee, seek stakeholder input, and properly move an item through the full NC board, and present a CIS to City Council during designated NC presentation period for CISs.*

2. Modify [section 9.02 of the City Charter](#) regarding the appointing authority of Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC). At present, all BONC appointments are made by the Mayor. Commissioners with little to no experience working with Neighborhood Councils, or who have been actively hostile to Neighborhood Council advocacy, have been appointed to BONC. Active NC board members deserve to have a role in the appointment of at least four BONC commissioners, if not the entirety of BONC. This would ensure that NCs would always have adequate representation that would carry a genuine and earnest understanding of the work performed and challenges faced by NCs. It has also been reported that commissioners of BONC, and other commissions, have been required by the Mayor to sign and submit undated letters of resignation. There should be a blanket ban of this practice that applies to not only BONC, but to any commission for which this has been standard procedure. This is an intimidation tactic that gives the appointing authority ongoing political control over commissions, which makes it impossible for commissioners to operate independently and objectively.

3. Modify language in [section 2.19 of the Charter](#) regarding intergovernmental relations to explicitly allow NCs to communicate with Government Offices and Agencies operating separate from or superseding the jurisdiction of the Mayor and City Council. While it is not explicitly disallowed, the City Attorney and previous Mayoral administrations have communicated to NCs that making direct correspondence to any office or agency other than the Los Angeles City Mayor and City Council would be considered as representing the City of Los Angeles (L.A.), and thus forbidden. There may be a caveat that NCs must clearly state that their position does not necessarily represent that of the City of L.A.; but it is necessary for NCs to have the prerogative to communicate with any office or agency as an independent, elected body, so as to adequately represent their stakeholders.

4. Amend guidelines as currently outlined in [Charter section 9.11](#) to restore and maintain funding for NCs that is, at a minimum, \$50,000 per NC per fiscal year, which was the initial amount allocated at the inception of the NC system. NCs now direct half the funding they had when they were first created; compounded with inflation, this has significantly impacted NCs ability to cover operating costs while providing other benefits to the community such as awarding Neighborhood Purposes Grants, hosting events, and executing neighborhood improvement projects. When the City faces a fiscal crisis, NCs incur disproportionate cuts, but have never seen our funding restored when the fiscal situation improves. Our largest Neighborhood Councils have only \$25,000 a year to serve and inform over 100,000 constituents. The pattern of offsetting fiscal restraints, in part, by reducing the overall NC budget is not sustainable; and seems designed to limit and constrain the power and impact of NCs even further.

5. Amend guidelines as set forth by [Charter Section 218](#) that dictates salary guidelines for the Mayor, City Council, and others. Currently, the standard is that “Members of the City Council shall be paid a salary equal to that prescribed by law for judges of the Municipal Court of the Los Angeles Judicial District or its successor in the event that court is dissolved or reconstituted” with the Controller, City Attorney, and Mayor awarded amounts in excess of this standard in increments of 10%, 20%, and 30% respectively. This standard is excessive relative to the Median, and Average wages of City Workers and Angelenos at large. It is not fiscally sustainable, nor does it allow for elected officials to maintain an ongoing understanding of the economic challenges faced by the vast majority of the constituents they serve. The standard guideline should be based on one, or an amalgamation of the following: An amount not to exceed the highest annual salary earned by a teacher working in the Los Angeles Unified School District; or double the median income of the population of the City of L.A.; or triple the lowest salary of workers employed by the City of L.A. Furthermore, in the event that the City of L.A. is under a declaration of a Fiscal Emergency, City Councilmembers should be put under a furlough that reduces their regular salary payments to an equivalent of \$60,000 annually until the Fiscal Emergency declaration has ended. Also, consider reducing the number of meetings a member of City Council may miss, consecutively or sporadically, while being awarded their salary in full.

Los Angeles City Charter, Sec. 900. Purpose.

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.

** Los Angeles City Charter, Sec. 907. Early Warning System.

The Regulations shall establish procedures for receiving input from neighborhood councils prior to decisions by the City Council, City Council Committees and boards and commissions. The procedures shall include, but need not be limited to, notice to neighborhood councils as soon as practical, and a reasonable opportunity to provide input before decisions are made. Notices to be provided include matters to be considered by the City Council, City Council Committees, and City boards or commissions.

11. Planning & Land Use (PLUM) & Vision Committees - Jeff Kalban, Chair. PLUM Meets on the 3rd Thursday of the Month Vision Meets on the 1st Thursday of the Month

[Motion:](#) Metro Sepulveda Transit Corridor Alternative Transportation Modes

The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council strongly supports a *hybrid alternative* to Alternative 6, specifically Alternative 6R, which would combine the route of Alternative 6 with the technology of Alternative 5.

Alternative 6R would encourage much-needed development near the Van Nuys Civic Center, link up to the East San Fernando Valley Light Rail, support the growth of the Sherman Oaks community through its more central location, and provide more direct access to UCLA than

other alternatives.

We also support Alternative 5, if engineering studies successfully address the risks associated with the 96" high-pressure water line under Sepulveda Boulevard and include further analysis to determine appropriate station locations, plaza design, and parking capacity.

12. Public Safety Motions & Committee - Christy Adair & Susan Collins, Co-Chairs. Meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the Month

Motion: [20-0263-S3](#) LA Alliance for Human Rights, et al. v. City of Los Angeles, et al. / Outside Counsel / Appropriation

The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council requests the City Council, in coordination with Mayor Karen Bass, and the City Attorney, Hydee Feldstein-Soto, to immediately cease all additional funding for the legal action to dispute the findings and proposed remedy resulting from the assessment performed by Alavarez & Marsal (A&M) at the direction of U.S. District Judge David O. Carter. The assessment performed by A & M was in response to the L.A. Alliance lawsuit. A & M found as much as \$2.3 billion spent by LAHSA and the City were unaccounted for, and there was a significant lack of transparency, poor or nonexistent tracking systems, and the inability to provide accurate data. Those findings resulted in Judge Carter ordering a third-party monitor to review and verify the data being produced by the city on its goals to reduce homeless encampments and the number of people experiencing homelessness.

In an effort to overturn Judge Carter's decision, the City Council approved a three-year contract with the law firm of Gibson and Dunn with a budget of \$900,000. If additional funds were required, they were to be submitted by the City Attorney's office to the City Council for prior approval. Currently, the City Attorney's office has provided payment to Gibson & Dunn in the amount of \$1,800,000. for two weeks of legal services, which is double the amount approved by the City Council for three years of representation. The City Attorney's office did not seek or receive prior approval for the overage. Bear in mind the City is spending these funds to dispute the findings and remedy of the A & M assessment which the City approved prior to its start, paid for, participated in, and which resulted in the removal of funding from the County of Los Angeles and aided in the resignation of LAHSA's CEO, Va Lecia Adams-Keller.

More importantly, it should be noted attorneys for Gibson and Dunn produced no evidence to dispute A & M's findings but rather spent a good deal of the \$1.8 million incessantly objecting to questions from Alliance attorneys and trying to besmirch the professionalism of an audit firm the City itself agreed to hire. It would be quite an understatement to say the City and its taxpayers did not get their money's worth.

The City of Los Angeles is in the midst of a financial crisis resulting in a need to lay off hundreds of city workers, reducing city services such as sidewalk repairs, park services, street lighting repairs, sanitation, etc. Residents are increasingly concerned about the city's inability to provide enough crime mitigation measures to ensure their safety.

The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council requests an immediate termination of funding for this lawsuit and any other action to oppose greater accountability of homeless housing funding and homeless service providers funding. We respectfully request that those funds

are redistributed to fund improvement in quality-of-life issues and decreasing crime such as retaining civilian positions within LAPD, updating / repairing LAFD equipment, fire mitigation efforts, inspecting and repairing fire hydrants and water infrastructure, license plate readers, drone surveillance and other crime mitigation efforts.

The residents of Los Angeles deserve accountability and safety. Spending of this magnitude to avoid having measures implemented on programs found to be expensive and ineffective is foolish and serves to create greater division and mistrust in our governmental agencies. We respectfully request that your offices end all funding to oppose Judge Carter's ruling, comply with the oversight and redirect funds to the above-mentioned programs.

13. Traffic & Transportation Motions & Committee Report **Traffic & Transportation Committee - Stacey Segarra-Bohlinger, Chair. Meets on the 1st Wednesday of the Month**

a. **Motion:** Parking Issues

The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council requests the office of Council District 4 (Raman) in conjunction with the Department of Transportation and Parking Enforcement to perform oversight and seek remedies relating to the following persistent issues regarding parking:

Double parking for loading, pick-up, drop-off, etc.

Parking along red-curbs and in fire lanes.

Parking on sidewalks.

Parking in driveway entrances in a way that blocks sidewalks.

Parking at bus-stops

Idling while parked

Congestion during school drop-off / pick-up

Some potential solutions may include but aren't limited to:

- *Create White-curb load-zones*

3-minutes for pick-up/drop off

10-minutes for load/unload

- **Augment the number of accessible/handicap street parking spaces**

- **Increased enforcement of parking violations**

- **Increase fines and penalties for violations by courier / delivery services**

[Amazon, FedEx, UPS, etc.]

Enhanced programs to report parking violations

rewards for reports that result in fines

● “Park & Walk”

low or no-cost public parking garages in dense, high-traffic areas with limited parking options

● Public-Private-Partnerships with owners of private business with large parking lots / structures to allow for public usage during hours of non-operation

● Minimum parking requirements for new construction that isn’t 100% affordable housing in areas with limited street parking

SONC encourages creative solutions to mitigate parking issues to serve the needs of the community, enhance public safety, and maintain quality of life for residents and stakeholders

14. Committee Reports with No Motion [2 Minutes for Each Report]

a. Human Services Committee, Sarah Adamski & Pamela Haris, Co-Chairs. Meets on the 1st Monday of the Month

b. Outreach Committee - David Silverman, Chair. Meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the Month

c. Green & Sustainability Committee - Drew Johnstone, Chair. Meets as Called by the Chair

d. Airport Committee - Dormant Committee - Airport Matters May Be Heard in Traffic & Transportation Until This Committee Meets Again

e. Budget Advocates - Howard Katchen, SONC Representative.

15. Board Member Announcements Closing announcements from Board Members.

16. Adjournment

Motions are introduced either by the Committee from which they were adopted, in which case the motion requires no second (denoted by “from committee”); or by an individual board member (“from floor”), in which case the motion requires a second. Items initiated via Consent Calendar are considered and voted on as one motion; members may request to take an item out of Calendar to consider said item individually.

The Americans With Disabilities Act As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of 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: stacey.segarrahling@sonc@gmail.com.

Public Posting of Agendas Neighborhood Council agendas are posted for public review as follows: ● Sherman Oaks Public Library, 14245 Moorpark St, Sherman Oaks, CA 91423. ● 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>.

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. For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or ethics.commission@lacity.org.

Reconsideration and Grievance Process For information on the NC's process for board 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.

[Meeting supporting documents are available at ShermanOaksNC.org.](http://www.ShermanOaksNC.org)

