

**Sherman Oaks
Neighborhood Council**

Officers

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

Board Members

Levon Baronian, 1-B
Christy Adair, 1-CI
Kira Durbin, 2-R
Hunter Laplante 3-CI
Ryan Ahari, 4-B
David Silverman 4-CI
Kylee Peña, 4-R
Christopher Maghar, 5-R
Tom Materna, 6-B
Lindsay Imber, 6-R
Jeffrey Kalban, 7-CI
Martin Stahl, 7-R

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA



**Sherman Oaks
Neighborhood Council**



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

Website:
www.ShermanOaksNC.or

Vacant

2-B
3-B
5-B
5-CI
6-B

Board Meeting:

Sherman Oaks East Valley Adult Center
5056 Van Nuys Blvd

Minutes

Monday, August 11, 2025 - 6:30pm

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. Welcome, Call to Order, and Roll Call

a. Call to Order: Howard Katchen, President, called the meeting to order at 6:38pm

b. Roll Call: EL-Bethel Debela, Secretary, called the roll

i. Present: Baronian, Adair, Durbin, Ahari, Silverman, Pena, Materna, Imber, Kalban, Jasiukonis, Hernandez, Endashaw, Harsough, Debela, Katchen (15)

ii. Absent: Maghar, Stahl, Laplante (3)

2. Administrative and Board Initiated Motions – Action Items

a. From Floor:

A motion to approve the SONC Board meeting minutes of July 14, 2025.

MOVED: Adair

SECOND: Durbin

YES: Adair, Durbin, Ahari, Silverman, Pena, Materna, Imber, Kalban, Hernandez, Endashaw, Harsough, Debela, Katchen (13)

NO: (0) / ABSTAIN: Baronian (1) / INELIGIBLE: Jasiukonis (1) / ABSENT: Maghar, Stahl, Laplante (3) /

Item 2a does not carry unanimously /13-0-1-1-3

3. Motion to Approve Consent Calendar Items -

a. Approval of the Appointment of Lance Khazei to serve on Outreach Committee

MOVED: Kalban

SECOND: Ahari

YES: Baronian, Adair, Durbin, Ahari, Silverman, Pena, Materna, Imber, Kalban, Hernandez, Endashaw, Harsough, Debela, Katchen (14)

NO: (0) / ABSENT: Maghar, Stahl, Laplante (3) / ABSTAIN: (0)/ INELIGIBLE : Jasiukonis (1)

Item 3a carries unanimously /-14-0-3-1

b. Approval of the appointment of Kira Durbin to serve on Government Affairs Committee

MOVED: Jeff Kalban

SECOND: Ryan Ahari

YES: Baronian, Adair, Durbin, Ahari, Silverman, Pena, Materna, Imber, Kalban, Hernandez, Endashaw, Harsough, Debela, Katchen (14)

NO: (0) / ABSENT: Maghar, Stahl, Laplante (3) / ABSTAIN: (0)/ INELIGIBLE : Jasiukonis (1)

Item 3b carries unanimously /-14-0-3-1

c. Approval of the appointment of Drew Johnstone as SONC representative to the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance

Current Chair: Green & Sustainability

Tom Materna – unclear who he is

Alliance supported SB79; opponents not allowed to speak

Drew's stance on SB79: unclear → public comment says he does not support it

Kira: Drew is very knowledgeable on green & sustainability

Suggestion: Talk to Drew about policies & procedures

MOVED: Durbin

SECOND: Adair

YES: Baronian, Adair, Durbin, Ahari, Silverman, Pena, Materna, Hernandez, Endashaw, Debela, Katchen (11)

NO: Imber (1) / ABSENT: Maghar, Stahl, Laplante (3) / ABSTAIN: Kalban, Hartsough (2) / INELIGIBLE: Jasiukonis (1)

Item 3c does not carry unanimously /-11-1-3-2-1

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.

LAPD Officer Romo – Senior Lead Officer, Sherman Oaks (quality of life)

- **Crime Update**
Burglaries down **13%** in Van Nuys
Sherman Oaks: burglary + assault w/ deadly weapon (suspect + girlfriend arrested for conspiracy)
- **Safety Tips**
Pick up mail promptly or request mail hold when away
- **LAUSD**
Back to school Thursday → expect more traffic & pedestrians
Drive slower, avoid distractions
- **Community Policing Academy** (Valley Bureau)
Starts Sept 11, 7 weeks, Thursdays 6:30–8:30 pm at Record Studios
Learn about detectives' work, 911 process, LAPD operations

Victor Reyes – Field Deputy for Assemblymember Schultz

Assemblymember Schultz

Attended national legislature conference in Boston
Met with state legislators to discuss best practices

Upcoming Events

Aug 16 – Community Coffee @ Backdoor Bakery
Sept 13 – Car Safety Event @ Sherman Oaks Shopping Square
Sept 20 – Community Coffee @ Jumping Java
Sept 27 – Car Seat Safety Event @ Burbank

LAFD – Chief Robert Barna (Battalion 10)

- **Vegetation Management Project (Sepulveda Basin)**
Began July 31, completed Aug 12
First time managed by LAFD (previously Parks & Rec)
Site of June 2024 fire (11 firefighters injured)

Goals:

Remove invasive species & ladder fuels
Manage brush w/ dozers

Create space for native plants
Improve safety from encampments, rubbish, hazardous materials
Bird survey conducted
Partnership: CD6, Parks & Rec, Fire Station 88
Future: extend project between Burbank & Encino Creek

- **Fire Equipment**

Fire Station 88 Monastery Committee → funded fire pump/tank for pickup trucks (for small, hard-to-reach fires)

- **Events**

Sept 5, 1 PM – Basin safety update
Aug 23, 9–11:30 AM – Fire Station 39 Pancake Breakfast

5. Scheduled Recess - Meeting called into Recess at— 7:07

Meeting reconvened at — 7:24

El-Bethel Debela, Secretary, Called the Role

Present: Baronian, Adair, Durbin, Ahari, Silverman, Pena, Materna, Imber, Kalban, Jasiukonis, Hernandez, Endashaw, Harsough, Debela, Katchen (15)

Absent: Maghar, Stahl, Laplante (3)

6. General Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items within SONC Jurisdiction

Comments from members of the public

7. President's Report.

- Board Member meeting attendance

Board members allowed **4 absences / 12 months**

At **3 absences** → warning email sent

At **4 absences** → automatic removal by board

Reinstatement option → appeal to Executive Committee; may be reinstated after reflection

- Board Member committee participation

Committee Requirement

Each board member must serve on **at least one standing committee**

Must **attend, participate, and contribute**

Members should **join a committee and contact the chair**

- **Board meeting date change: Monday, October 13th is a holiday, rescheduled to Monday, October 20th**
- **Board meeting speakers: September 8th Alison Simard, L.A. Civil Rights Department **
Plan to invite more speakers with info relevant to committee
Example: **LA Civil Rights Department** → will share updates on activities & current issues with ICE
- **2025 Empower LA Awards – Nomination deadline August 31st**

Neighborhood Councils & Community Engagement

Review SONC actions/events over past year for **EmpowerLA Awards** nomination

Deadline: Aug 31

Suggestion: 10-minute recess valuable → promotes engagement between elected officials & stakeholders

Consider adopting as a regular practice

8. Outreach Committee Social Media Plan Presentation – Leilt Endashaw & El-Bethel Debela

Social Media Update

Past month: **3,700 views, 165 interactions, 33 new followers, 12 posts shared**

Engagement up **21.4%** (accounts reached) from recent changes

Continued outreach ideas expected to grow numbers further

9. Motion to Approve Creation of Ad Hoc Committees: Board member volunteers to serve on each committee

- a. **By Laws – Review SONC’s By Laws, identify areas needing revision and propose recommendations for updates to the Board**

Ad Hoc Committee – Bylaws

Time to form new **Ad Hoc Committee** to review bylaws and propose changes

Ad Hoc Committees = temporary groups formed to address specific issues

YES: Baronian, Adair, Durbin, Ahari, Silverman, Pena, Materna, Imber, Kalban, Hernandez, Endashaw, Harsough, Debela, Katchen (14)

NO: (0) / ABSENT: Maghar, Stahl, Laplante (3) / ABSTAIN: (0)/ INELIGIBLE :

Jasiukonis (1)

Item 9a carries unanimously /-14-0-3-1

- b. Board Retreat Planning - Plan and organize a Board retreat, including determining the date, logistics, agenda, and desired strategic priorities**

MOVED: Howard

SECOND: David

YES: Baronian, Adair, Durbin, Ahari, Silverman, Pena, Materna, Imber, Kalban, Hernandez, Endashaw, Harsough, Debela, Katchen (14)

NO: (0) / ABSENT: Maghar, Stahl, Laplante (3) / ABSTAIN: (0)/ INELIGIBLE :

Jasiukonis (1)

Item 9b carries unanimously /-14-0-3-1

10. Motion to Approve Creation of a Student Committee

A. Youth Committee

Members approved by Executive Committee

Mission: engage Sherman Oaks youth in local & citywide governance + special projects

Chair: Youth Representative Board Member

Vice Chair: Alternate Youth Representative

Goal: ensure youth ideas are heard & acted on

Provides opportunities to learn about city government and increase youth involvement

MOVED: Howard

SECOND: Adair

YES: Baronian, Adair, Durbin, Ahari, Silverman, Pena, Materna, Imber, Kalban, Hernandez, Endashaw, Harsough, Debela, Katchen (14)

NO: (0) / ABSENT: Maghar, Stahl, Laplante (3) / ABSTAIN: (0)/ INELIGIBLE :

Jasiukonis (1)

Item 10a carries unanimously /-14-0-3-1

11. Government Affairs Motions & Committee Report Government Affairs Committee - Lindsay Imber, Chair. Meets on the 4th Tuesday of the Month

- a. School Safety & Protection from Illicit Federal Law Enforcement Access. Discussion and possible motion relative to CF 25-0002-S66. SB 48 (Gonzalez) / Safe Access of School Sites Act / Federal Immigration Enforcement Agents / Student Data Protection.**

Motion: 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: Government Affairs Committee
require a Second

SECOND: Committee does not

YES: Baronian, Adair, Durbin, Ahari, Silverman, Pena, Materna, Imber, Kalban, Hernandez, Endashaw, Harsough, Debela, Katchen (14)

NO: (0) / ABSENT: Maghar, Stahl, Laplante (3) / ABSTAIN: (0)/ INELIGIBLE : Jasiukonis (1)

Item 11a carries unanimously /-14-0-3-1

- b. Creation of a Budget Advisory Group & Budget Advocates Inclusion. CF 25-0314. Advisory Group on the City's Finances and Budget / Financial Crisis / Long-Term Fiscal Health.

Motion: 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: Government Affairs Committee
require a Second

SECOND: Committee does not

YES: Baronian, Adair, Durbin, Ahari, Silverman, Pena, Materna, Imber, Kalban, Hernandez, Endashaw, Harsough, Debela, Katchen (14)

NO: (0) / ABSENT: Maghar, Stahl, Laplante (3) / ABSTAIN: (0)/ INELIGIBLE : Jasiukonis (1)

Item 11b carries unanimously /-14-0-3-1

- c. Neighborhood Council Communication with Nonmunicipal Government

Motion: The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council (SONC) joins the Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council (GTLNC) in affirming their "Declaration of Commitment to Representative

Government” 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.

MOVED: Government Affairs Committee **SECOND: Committee does not require a Second**

YES: Baronian, Adair, Ahari, Silverman, Pena, Materna, Imber, Kalban, Hernandez, Endashaw, Harsough, Debela, Katchen (13)

NO: (0) / ABSENT: Maghar, Stahl, Laplante Durbin (4) / ABSTAIN: (0)/ INELIGIBLE : Jasiukonis (1)

Item 11c carries unanimously /-13-0-4-1

12. Traffic & Transportation Motions and Committee Report Traffic & Transportation Committee

- Stacey Segarra-Bohlinger, Chair. Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the Month

- a. Motion: The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council supports, if amended CF 25-0660 the efforts of The Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) and the Los Angeles Bureau of Street Services (Streets LA) in mitigating layoffs by transferring employees in positions at-risk for layoffs internally to other needed positions. We request that City Council take additional steps as necessary to reduce layoffs in these, and other departments, in order to maintain services necessary for the safety and habitability of Los Angeles; including eliminating currently vacant positions as opposed to ones that are actively filled; and transferring funds from non-essential departments, and eliminating non-essential expenditures.

MOVED: Traffic and Transportation **SECOND: comes from committee does not require a second**

YES: Baronian, Adair, Ahari, Silverman, Pena, Materna, Imber, Kalban, Hernandez, Endashaw, Harsough, Debela, Katchen (13)

NO: (0) / ABSENT: Maghar, Stahl, Laplante Durbin (4) / ABSTAIN: (0)/ INELIGIBLE : Jasiukonis (1)

Item 12a carries unanimously /-13-0-4-1

13. Finance Motions and 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 June 30, 2025.

MOVED: Finance Committee **SECOND: rom committee does not require a second**
YES: Adair, Ahari, Silverman, Pena, Materna, Imber, Kalban, Endashaw, Harsough, Katchen (10)

NO: (0) / ABSENT: Maghar, Stahl, Laplante, Durbin, Baronian, Hernandez (6) /

ABSTAIN: (0)/ INELIGIBLE : Jasiukonis, Debela (2)

Item 13a carries unanimously /-10-0-6-2

- b. Motion: 2025 Sherman Oaks Street Fair – October 19, 2025. A motion to approve the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council's (SONC) participation in the Sherman Oaks Chamber of Commerce 2025 Street Fair on October 19, 2025, and the expenditure of up to \$2,000 for booth fees and SONC outreach materials.

MOVED: Finance Committee SECOND: rom committee does not require a second

YES: Adair, Ahari, Silverman, Pena, Materna, Imber, Kalban, Endashaw, Harsough,

Katchen (10)

NO: (0) / ABSENT: Maghar, Stahl, Laplante, Durbin, Baronian, Hernandez (6) /

ABSTAIN: (0)/ INELIGIBLE : Jasiukonis, Debela (2)

Item 13a carries unanimously /-10-0-6-2

- c. Motion: 2025 RAP Fall Festival and SONC Movie Night – October 25, 2025 A motion to approve the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council's (SONC) participation in the VNSO Park's Fall Festival on October 25, 2025 and the expenditure of up to \$3,500 for SONC's Fall Movie in the Park as part of the Fall Festival. Funding will go towards film rental/licensing fees, projection services, SONC branded promotional materials, SONC printed materials, and event logistical support.

MOVED: Finance Committee SECOND: rom committee does not require a second

YES: Adair, Ahari, Silverman, Pena, Materna, Imber, Kalban, Endashaw, Harsough,

Katchen (10)

NO: (0) / ABSENT: Maghar, Stahl, Laplante, Durbin, Baronian, Hernandez (6) /

ABSTAIN: (0)/ INELIGIBLE : Jasiukonis, Debela (2)

Item 13a carries unanimously /-10-0-6-2

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

- a. **Planning & Land Use (PLUM) & Vision Committees - Jeff Kalban**

PLUM: Meets 3rd Thursday monthly

Vision: Meets 1st Thursday monthly

Meetings: Thursdays, 6:30 PM @ Library

Metro Corridor Discussion

Presentation on all 5 Sepulveda Corridor alternatives

Supervisor from Horvath's office attending

No response from CD4 to invitation

- b. **Human Services Committee, Sarah Adamski & Pamela Haris, Co-Chairs. Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the Month - No updates**

- c. **Outreach Committee - David Silverman, Chair. Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the Month**
 - Please distribute the cards from August 23 for the movies in the park so more people can come to the movies, come and join us.
- d. **Green & Sustainability Committee - Drew Johnstone, Chair. Meets as Called by the Chair**
 - No updates
- e. **Airport Committee - Tom Materna, Vice Chair. (Bob Bramen, Chair) Dormant Committee - Airport Matters May Be Heard in Traffic & Transportation Until Airport Committee Meets Again**

Will not meet; responsibilities rolled into Transportation Committee

Concerns

Alleged collusion/corruption at airport to remove citizens from Citizens Advisory Council (CAC)
Outdated 2006 Airport Plan
Proposal: remove airport hotel, add more charter jet operations, reduce air health protections
Stopped at Council → afterwards, CAC members removed (vice chair, CD5 + CD2 reps)
Removals justified by “residence requirement” → bylaws do not state this
General Manager could not cite rule supporting removals
Perception: CAC being stacked with aviation interests only

Next Steps / Issues

New CAC Chair & Vice Chair election: Sept 1
Request to discuss with CD4 → still pending, though time-sensitive
Sepulveda Transit Corridor discussion upcoming (Sept 18 or 21?)

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

Meeting tomorrow night at 6:30 virtually.
Short agenda, success stories from last meeting with self defense techniques. The CERT class is coming up. On the chopping block with the firemen's budgets.
- g. **Budget Advocates - Howard Katchen, SONC Representative**
 - DONE, ZOO, AD HOC committee join on the city charter however it relates to the budgets.

15. Board Member Announcements Closing announcements from Board Members.

Next meeting we have been asked by DONE to appoint a homelessness representative for our neighborhood council like the others
Susan Collins and Pamela Anderson are both homelessness representatives for our neighborhood council

16. Adjournment: Motion to Adjourn approved without objection at 9:34 pm

Respectfully submitted,

EL-Bethel Debela