

9.1.25

Resident

A cousin of mine lived there on Stern (southeast corner of Moorpark and Stern) for over 20 years. Two years ago, she sold her condo due to the stress of the Ventura Stern homeless and their "frightening" and never-ending activities.

Before she left, she walked into Sterns Draperies to speak with Kevin Stern and was astonished as "it looked like a fire hazard", with so many drapes and carpets piled high next to each other, so close as it'd be impossible to select one. Also, "there was barely enough room to move around". How he passes fire inspections is a mystery to me, as just from how crowded it looks from his front door.

She (my cousin) also wondered if "the place is a front for some other possibly illegal business" hence the drug activity and his reluctance to get involved. Have you all ever noticed that he never has customers in the store, no cars are ever in the parking lot when he's open, no trucks delivering orders from the store, etc. plus the store not having a website in this day and age is highly suspicious, combined with everything else, yet he's been open for decades.

In addition to the KSMYB neighborhood campaign, we could also (en masse) visit and video (contact the media!) our visit to Sterns Draperies as "concerned customers".

Thanks for listening ;-)

9.7.25 1:50 PM

Resident

Hi all,

They have armchairs and recliners now, and have slept outside there the past few nights, smoking and blocking the sidewalk.

Any progress with that meeting?

9.7.25 2:10 PM

Resident

I took these around 7pm last night [photos of furniture setup at Stern's draperies in September 2025 slide deck]. A literal community of vermin having a leisurely annoying (for us) evening, and there was also a few of them asleep in McDonalds (I am boycotting that location from now on), truly disgusting ordering food amongst the overpowering odor of the homeless, ironically McD's has a "we have the right to refuse service" sign, prominently displayed which of course is never put into effect.

The (very) few times over the years that they have been cleared out, they come right back in full force, why this area, with more than enough overwhelming proof of illegal and horrendous activity, year after year is allowed to continue is mind boggling, no explanation (and I've heard them all) makes any logical,

rational or common sense, especially in a city like ShermO with more than enough miillionaires (them not us, up in the hills, lol) paying more than enough in taxes to have a permanent solution put in place. It's just one block!

Also, I notice our neighbors in Encino and Studio City never have this problem at their mini malls.

Sterns Draperies needs to go!

SONC Stacey
9.8.25 4:03 PM

While I acknowledge the safety issues and quality of life concerns stemming from the intermittent resurgence of unhoused residents engaging in illegal activity in this area; and support this coalition in working with local representatives and agencies to attempt to remedy this ongoing nuisance; I resent the use of the term "vermin" to describe human beings.

I understand the frustration, and desire to ensure the safety of nearby businesses, homes, workers, residents, etc. But the dehumanizing language is uncalled for, regardless of whether these individuals are engaging in illicit and/or illegal acts.

Thanks for the continued efforts on the part of the leaders of Stern Coalition. I sincerely hope that a solution is met swiftly that creates security and comfort for all parties involved.

In Solidarity

Stacey Segarra-Bohlinger
Chair, SONC Traffic & Transportation Committee

9.8.25 4:25 PM
Resident

Hi Stacey, thanks for chiming in. As a former Sherman Oaks council board member, could you suggest any way to help us resolve this ongoing issue?

Today a woman kicked a can at my girlfriend and I as we crossed the street to 7-11.

9.8.25 4:58 PM
Resident

I agree with Z, any suggestions on ways to resolve our ongoing problems from someone with your experience Stacey! Maybe you can come down and meet some of our unhoused, drug addicted, permanent sidewalk residence. We would really appreciate your assistance.

9.8.25 5:12 PM
SONC Stacey

Z,

This is unfortunate and certainly not what you want to hear, but one of the biggest lessons I learned serving as a SONC board member is how little our paid elected officials and city leaders care about anything they can't leverage toward their political career. I imagine if anyone on this coalition had made a substantial donation to the reelection campaign of the Councilmember currently serving in CD4 that more would be done about this persistent issue that is causing concern to so many.

That said, here are a couple of recommendations: City Council meetings are public record; they're broadcast live on Channel 35 and streamed on multiple YouTube channels. If you can get as many coalition members as possible together to attend a City Council meeting (City Hall, 200 N. Spring Street - Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, at 10am) and use general public comment period to convey a unified message of concern highlighting the length of time this issue has persisted, that may spur CD4's office to be more proactive. You might also consider reaching out to a local news outlet and see if they'd be interested in running a story on the coalition. When a lot of eyes are on a problem, and it looks bad on the part of the elected official involved, it's more likely to be addressed.

If you haven't already, you could also consider reaching out to SONC's Public Safety Committee Chair Susan Collins (susan.collins.SONC@gmail.com) to see if they could put a motion on an upcoming meeting agenda for SONC to consider that would provide an official means of communication (again, in the public record) on the issue from the community to CD4's office. Though, this is less likely to achieve the desired result than getting the press involved or making a big showing at a City Council meeting IMO. But it wouldn't hurt and could provide traceable communication with CD4 on the matter for reference.

To whomever said this: "Evidently you've never been attacked like I have by one of these drug addicted delusional animals. You can try and humanize them all you want but the bottom line here is that our safety is in jeopardy and these animals need to go." I walk down Stern between Ventura and Moorpark multiple times a week. I frequent the 7-11. I've been assaulted/accosted/threatened by transients in Los Angeles multiple times in the decade I've lived here. I haven't allowed the negative experiences I've had to cause me to lose my humanity. I'd never refer to another human being as "vermin" or an "animal" regardless of how abhorrent or disgusting their behavior-- including people who use such repugnant, dehumanizing language as you have here. You might want to consider whether such a revolting attitude serves the overall goal of this coalition.

Be assured that I have first-hand experience relating to this encampment and share many of the concerns expressed by members of this coalition regarding safety and distribution / use of illegal substances.

If anyone has questions about the logistics of attending a City Council meeting, needs help getting in touch with SONC's public safety committee, or thinks of any other way I might be of assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Thank you again to the coalition members who have gone above and beyond what any local resident should have to do in order to get due attention and service from the elected officials and agencies whose

operating budgets and salaries our tax dollars fund. I understand, and share your frustration. I hope we find a permanent resolution sooner rather than later.

In Solidarity

-Stacey Segarra-Bohlinger
Chair, SONC Traffic & Transportation Committee

9.8.25 5:18 PM

Resident

I would call the police so there is record.

9.8.25 5:52 PM

Resident

Hi Stacey

I appreciate your insight and suggested options however, due to many of our work schedules I think attending a city council meeting during the week would prove challenging.

As for reaching out to local news stations I will say there have been suggestions for this story however, due to how local this is it's a challenging pitch. There are however tip lines many of the news stations have that use investigative reporting. Possibly if this is framed as challenges cities are facing ahead of the Olympics or lack of personnel staffing it may get picked up. Our household try this avenue but are not able to do so because of associations with the field.

Has anyone been successful with the police or circle?

9.8.25 6:35 PM

Resident

Hi Stacey, have you ever written a petition? You seem like a great writer and very educated on the topic. Maybe you could help us write one?

I'd be happy to help get signatures and deliver the petition to city hall personally the fourth Friday this month, others welcome & encouraged to join.

There's the option to submit a complaint to the city about Stern Draperies...

- Legal action: If a business is causing a public nuisance (e.g., creating excessive noise, pollution, or traffic), residents can organize and present their case to the city council. In some cases, the city may file an abatement order or other legal action against the business.

... And also request anti-loitering architecture (poles and bastions) installed in the widened sidewalks where they camp.

Does this approach make sense? Has it all been tried before? Would people be willing to sign and/or include a statement?

9.8.25 7:12 PM
C&S Apartments Veronica

Thank you so much Stacey, I echo your sentiments regarding language. I have been in healthcare for 40 years and mental health for 25 years, so I completely agree with your approach.

I am currently out of state until the end of the month, but I really appreciate your recommendations and will do my best to follow through when I return to California.

I do encourage our tenants at 4318 Stern Ave to do the same. Because I am not there, doesn't mean other tenants cannot take the reins with C and S Apartments blessing to also follow through.

Other businesses in the area do seem complacent, but if that is not the case, please let's band together and not just talk about it, but actually put action to your words. We must get in front of the necessary people to get the the wheels turning starting with the City Council and the media. We already have a media contact, so that wouldn't be too difficult to arrange.

9.8.25
SONC Stacey

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9.8.25
Resident

Hi Everyone,

The essential question we have is this: Should 6 or 8 people have the right to make the lives of 50 other people utterly miserable every day, every night, for months on end? A few other questions:

Is flagrant and documented drug cooking, using and selling okay?
Has male and female nudity in front of children become acceptable?
When did people having psychotic breaks in public become normal?
Does fighting, sprawling on sidewalks, spewing invective at, and intimidating neighbors count for anything?

Those activities take place amid the squalor of a homeless encampment, not under a freeway overpass or a derelict parking lot; it's all over Stern and Ventura.

Of course, the businesses (save one), hate this problem, too. City leaders and public service employees don't like the intractable homeless problem either.

Well, it's good everyone agrees this is terrible, but guess what?
All those folks get to go home and enjoy their peaceful environments. We can't!
Why? Because we have to call 311, or 911 or the SLO, or CD4, or photograph or video what's happening, in case somebody - anybody - can help us have a nice day or a quiet night.

So, one more question for the people who can end this nightmare: Are you all going to do it? If not, just tell us so.

9.9.25
Resident

Here, here, G! Absolutely!

9.9.25 2:09 PM
Resident

Interesting how the use of the term "vermin" to describe the homeless at Ventura/Stern has wrinkled a few delicate feathers, I wish we all were as equally offended by the ongoing illegal turmoil happening daily by the verminesque presence infecting the area. But since certain people find certain words objectionable, PC friendly language has been called for despite the offensive and repugnant activity happening daily at the Homeless Hovel. Now, let's not have a back and forth on the appropriate verbiage rules and who can say what and how, we've made our statements (vermin is verboten!) and in the words of that great thinker Elsa...let it go.

Oh, BTW and FYI, according to Websters... "The word vermin can also refer to a disgustingly objectionable person".

9.9.25 3:20 PM

SONC Stacey

I've never written a petition before. I find the process arduous, cumbersome, and generally elected bodies have authority to overrule petition mandates. If this Coalition is interested in creating a petition, however, I'm happy to assist with language.

I don't know how far you would get requesting bollards or poles to create more narrow sidewalks because of ADA requirements. And I'm not sure what level of liability Stern's draperies carries with regard to people loitering on their property.

At last night's SONC board meeting CD4's field rep did mention that this is on their radar and that they're working with LAPD/narcotics enforcement. Our SLO was not in attendance.

-Stacey Segarra-Bohlinger
Chair, SONC Traffic & Transportation Committee

9.9.25 3:58 PM
Resident

Sorry what's SLO stand for? If it's on the radar, should we call the LAPD anytime we see something illegal? Maybe they will get annoyed of our calls?

9.9.25 6:03 PM
Resident

Hey Stacey,

I understand it's cumbersome, but it's gotta be easier than having Skid Row develop across the street.

Does this coalition think a petition would help? I'll go to city hall Friday September 26 at 10am, (date can change if more people show interest) hopefully with a petition of signatures and statements from affected parties.

I appreciate the rousing testimonies appearing in my feed. I'll use these if allowed.

9.9.25 6:22 PM
C&S Apartments: Veronica

To Resident Ra - Senior Lead Officer

9.10.25 3:17 PM
C&S Apartments: Veronica

To my knowledge we have not had petitions actually signed, but I could be wrong. The last time we had this issue a couple of years ago, most of the surrounding businesses, tenants from multiple apartment buildings, LAPD reps, Council Reps, and Reps from Raman's office all attended a big meeting at McDonald's to curtail the issue.

CandS apartments also footed the monthly bill for a security guard so that the unhoused could not loiter, defecate, urinate, or use illicit drugs around our building and the surrounding areas.

The guard was a key component, but it would be completely unfair to ask CandS to do that again with no monetary help from the surrounding businesses.

The key is community involvement and using our voices in the correct manner in which Stacey recommended to get not only the ball rolling, but to get things done effectively.

My two cents,

9.11.25 5:43 AM
Ventura Stern

Dear Taleen,

Things are terrible here at Ventura and Stern. You were supposed to send me potential meeting dates for August to meet with the businesses here, but you did not. We are almost halfway into September. Please provide meeting dates and times.

9.11.25 10:07 AM
CD4 Taleen

Good morning,

Apologies for not sending dates earlier, I am attempting to find dates that would also work for those on our homelessness outreach team as they are most informed on this area. I will follow up with them right now and hope to have dates to send you by end of day today.

9.11.25 4:02 PM
CD4 Taleen

Please know I am coordinating with both our office and LAPD to ensure officers can join to help answer questions related to public safety and drug use. I will update you as soon as I hear back from the Officers. Many thanks for your patience!

9.13 7:55 PM
Resident

Hi Neighbors

Extremely disappointing news, although I am fully aware this is not new but, the alley by Stern Draperies is where there is a drive-up spot for Jay and the blonde women's operation.

I bore witness to a car deal and a pedestrian deal. This is now happening in obvious broad daylight without any regard. How and when can this community meeting happen. This is past the point of out of control.

Additionally, these unwanted neighbors are not leaving, in fact it looks more like they are moving in.

Please I urge the city and community to do something before this brings other bad elements.

9.16.25 8:07 AM

Ventura Stern

Dear Taleen,

The narcotics-operation encampment at Ventura and Stern is expanding and the situation is becoming more dangerous. **Residents are moving out** specifically because of it.

Jay the street dealer thug and his white-guys-on-bikes **fantanyl operation owns the corner**. They have a set and **obvious routine** that I have explained. Nobody can understand why it is allowed to go on. If you got rid of the narcotics operation, the encampment would go away.

Conditions are **increasingly dangerous**: addicts are frequently out of their minds, yelling, and aggressive while under the influence—many on top of untreated mental illness. On one recent evening, Troy was running around for hours ranting and fully exposed. Now they are on both sides of the street, so you can no longer walk around; you literally must walk through the encampment. The filth, the stench, the biohazards, and the actual physical danger of being assaulted by unpredictable mentally ill people under the influence or hard-core criminal drug dealers are overwhelming. One neighbor nearly stepped on a discarded needle while wearing sandals.

We are literally trapped in buildings, some without sleep at night due to the screaming and yelling outside their windows. People cannot come to our homes if we cannot provide parking in our garage. We cannot walk outside or take our pets out to go to the bathroom. People are using pee pads instead. The hazards for women and children are particularly acute. Recently I told someone where I lived and they said "Oh, you mean the Ventura and Stern slum."

I cannot meet this week, but we **must meet** with the business and property owners, the city, LAPD, LASAN, and **someone who can give clear direction on collective trespassing authorizations** next week or the following week.

In the meantime:

1. LAPD needs to identify the **white-guys-on-bikes** who do **regular narcotics drop offs at Stern's Draperies**, determine where they are coming from, and **arrest the source**. If they need access to

an effective observation point, we can provide that. **The same operation with the same routine has been operating openly on this corner for years.** Why is this allowed?

2. Has Officer Saldana been able to obtain **Kevin Stern's** signature on the **trespassing agreement**? Or is Kevin Stern refusing?
3. **LA Sanitation** needs to be dispatched weekly to clean the sidewalks.

I continue to believe that the only way to address this is 1. LAPD Narcotics to rid this corner of the white-guys-on-bikes narcotics operation and 2. Coordinated effort among the business and property owners. The business and property owners are waiting for our meeting date, which was supposed to be in August. I know you are working on it, Taleen, but increasingly the residents and businesses are asking me why they are not hearing from me. So, this puts everyone on notice that they are not hearing from me for two reasons 1. This is the busiest time of year for my work, and I must prioritize my job, 2. I am still waiting for the "August" meeting time from the city. I cannot meet this week, but next week works except Wednesday after 2:00 PM.

Here is an email from a resident:

Hi Everyone,

The essential question we have is this: Should 6 or 8 people have the right to make the lives of 50 other people utterly miserable every day, every night, for months on end? A few other questions:

Is flagrant and documented drug cooking, using and selling okay?
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Those activities take place amid the squalor of a homeless encampment, not under a freeway overpass or a derelict parking lot; it's all over Stern and Ventura. Of course, the businesses (save one), hate this problem, too. City leaders and public service employees don't like the intractable homeless problem either.

Well, it's good everyone agrees this is terrible, but guess what?
All those folks get to go home and enjoy their peaceful environments. We can't!
Why? Because we have to call 311, or 911 or the SLO, or CD4, or photograph or video what's happening, in case somebody - anybody - can help us have a nice day or a quiet night.

So, one more question for the people who can end this nightmare: Are you all going to do it? If not, just tell us so.

9.16.25 8:16 AM
Resident

And I've said it a million times, misters need to be installed on the sidewall of 7-Eleven so that water comes down at all times, day and night. Kevin Stearns drapery needs to be reported to building and

safety, fire department, police department because I believe he might be involved as well. Him not being involved speaks volumes on what he may be involved in.

9.16 9:08 AM
Ventura Stern

Dear Community,

I wanted everybody to know that Taleen has been in touch. Most recently (9/11) she sent me an email informing me that:

"Please know I am coordinating with both our office and LAPD to ensure officers can join to help answer questions related to public safety and drug use. I will update you as soon as I hear back from the Officers. Many thanks for your patience!"

So, we will get this meeting together.

9.16 9:58 AM
CD4 Taleen

Hi all,

Please know I am coordinating with LAPD to see when Officers are available to join and will let you know once I have confirmation on which dates work for them. I hope to have dates by end of day today or tomorrow. Additionally, myself and our homelessness deputy will be present at the meeting. I also wanted to let folks know that I had communication with Kevin Stern and sent his trespass letter to LAPD. I also know that folks have had concerns regarding Stern's Draperies/Kevin Stern being involved in issues at this location, so please know I have spoken to the City Attorney's office regarding this matter and they've let me know that the narcotics division can look further into these concerns so long as we can gather evidence and a "basis" for them to look into this, such as any photos or videos or proof of any kind. I've spoken to some of you in person and you'd let me know there may be video evidence so please begin to compile a document with said evidence, so that I may send this to the narcotics division and ask that they investigate the matter further per your community concerns and evidence. Many thanks in advance and I'll be in touch with you all regarding meeting dates asap! Thanks again!

9.16 11:36 AM
VS to CD4 Taleen and Officers Verdin and Saldana

Dear Taleen and Officers Verdin and Saldana,

Please see this photo and description of the current "upgraded" operation at Stern's Draperies. Residents report watching dealing and using all day long from the SUV. If you send a single plain clothes officer for 3 days to watch from the 4318 Stern Ave terrace, I guarantee you that you will see at least one

delivery and the narcotics operation in action. The delivery usually occurs mid-morning. It is a routine. I am happy to walk you through it. It looks like they are leveling up to an SUV.

We have residents who are capable of bringing media attention to the situation. I have been speaking against it, telling them they will just be advertising Ventura and Stern as the place to come buy fentanyl/heroin. But since they don't see an end to it, I believe they are going to move forward. A routine fentanyl/heroin backpack delivery by white-guys-on-bikes to Stern's Draperies to be sold and used openly on a daily basis is not a good look.

Taleen, you mentioned that you delivered Kevin Stern's trespassing document to LAPD. Was it signed? Or is Officer Saldana is still trying to get it signed? Once it is signed, can officers act on anybody reporting trespassing on the property? Or does Kevin Stern himself need to make the call? Or does Kevin Stern just need to answer the call if someone else reports it and officers call him? Please clearly explain how this works. Officer Saldana answered once before, but I still was not clear on exactly what the process is based on his response.

George Stern owned Stern's Draperies property and he recently passed. Who owns the property now? How can we find out? If the property passed to the brother, maybe we can talk to him for some intervention. If the property passed to Kevin, then a different course of action will be necessary.

9.16. 12:37 PM

CD4 Taleen

To VS and CC Officers Saldana and Verdin

Hello!

Thank you for your reply. I am unfortunately not seeing a photo attachment- would it be possible to re-send this to me? I do think it is a great idea to have LAPD patrol the area, however, I do believe they need a 'basis' to do so such as video or photo evidence or concerns. Happy to have a phone call today or tomorrow with you, if you'd like to further detail what you've seen on site so that i can take additional notes!

Yes, the letter was signed and handed to me by Kevin. I'd sent it to Officer Saldana but I have not heard back yet, however, it is in his possession and we can certainly follow up on this during our meeting! I'll follow up with him via email on my end as well. I am not sure of the exact process of this, or what happens next, but again I think Officer Saldana can assist us in answering these questions as he is with LAPD and much more knowledgeable on these matters than myself. I'll follow up as well to see if he can give me a bit more info on this process prior to the meeting!

And, I am not aware of George Stern but I am sorry to hear of his passing. As far as I know, Kevin is the owner of the store as this is what he verbalized to me.

Additionally, I just want to add, that our office does not take this matter lightly. And, I know how frustrating this is to you all, as someone who lives in area heavily inundated with encampments myself. I know first hand how gravely this can affect our way of life and I just wanted to say that I deeply empathize with your experiences and this is very much a priority to myself and our office. I greatly appreciate your patience as we've been working on this matter on the back-end and look forward to our

next meeting so that I may further hear from you all. As mentioned before, Patrick Siggins from our homelessness outreach team will be joining the meeting and can provide homelessness related updates and information/answer your questions.

Thank you all again for being so engaged and I look forward to speaking soon.

9.16 11:56 AM
Resident

I actually took lengthy video yesterday. There was a van parked out and the African American guy was sharing a pipe with the person. Then the blonde lady came out and was trying to do something with a can she kept turning her back so not sure what. I can cut the video up or if you are at 4318 ever I can air drop it.

9.16 1:24 PM
VS to Resident

Hi Ra,

Can you please send it to Taleen, Officer Verdin and Officer Saldana? The African American dealer is Jay.

9.16 5:11 PM
Resident

So this happened today around 4pm. [4 pics on September slide deck] He was screaming as they wheeled him into the paramedics wagon, so I could only assume it was an overdose of some kind. Of course his cronies across the street never left in spite of seven police officers being there (and while I was there the cops did not speak with them). You gotta appreciate the bureaucratic consistency though, we can be rest assured that the only thing that will be done to permanently rid of us of this blight is...nothing.

9.16 5:19 PM
Resident

Oh good I called the police because he was sitting there half naked when I left the building today.

9.16 5:24 PM
Resident

Hi! I rolled up to a completely naked man on a drug induced rant half of an hour ago right on our street corner. (Stern and the alley) There were children present walking down the street and sadly witnessed all of it. Thank goodness the police were present and did their jobs wonderfully. We all are so tired of this...I'm so tired of it. Let's all band together and get rid of this situation.

9.16 5:26

Ventura Stern

That's Troy. He is the one Jay loves to give fentanyl/heroin to and then watch him lose his mind. It is a gladiator sport for Jay. It would be a good idea, now that they have him in custody, to ask him who gives him all the drugs. Ask him what goes on here. He grew up here.

9.17 9:59 AM

Ventura Stern

Dear Community,

Updates for the day.

Please see the **attached PDF** to understand how the **narcotics organization** works here.

Trevor Lynch - Sanu and Shristi, co-owners of 7-Eleven had Trevor Lynch arrested for shoplifting and went to Trevor's hearing Monday. Because of this and priors, Trevor. The judge ordered him to stay **25 yards away from the 7-Eleven** and he's also on **probation for his substance abuse** habits so he has to report to his probation officer. Sanu and Shristi believe he has to stay in the **county jail for about 37 days** depending on his behavior, and then he'll be on probation for about a year or two. If you see him near the 7-Eleven, call the police. For those of you who do not know who he is, I will post pictures later. We appreciate you Sanu and Shristi! One of LAPD's frustrations is people call them to help with criminals but do not show up in court.

Troy: was taken away handcuffed to a gurney in a full substance induced naked psychotic breakdown yesterday. Please see attached slide show to see **Jay's part** in this. Jay and John watched from the shopping center wall.

Taleen got **Kevin Stern** to sign a **trespassing agreement** and she delivered it to **Senior Lead Officer José Saldana**. We are waiting to hear from Officer Saldana about exactly how we can use it.

McDonald's is under new ownership. He has already taken several steps to reduce the problem here and is committed to improving the area with us. He is waiting for the meeting to determine how we can best move forward. Someone mentioned boycotting that restaurant. I encourage the opposite. He wants to be a community center for us. We need to support and work with the owners of 7-Eleven and McDonald's. They are really nice people who are suffering from this too and are committed to the community.

If you see narcotics dealing report it to Narcotics Officer José Verdin 323.217.3054, 31536@lapd.online.

If you have pictures or video clearly showing narcotics activity, particularly dealing, at Stern's Draperies, send them to taleen.keuroghlian@lacity.org.

Can anybody find out who the ownership of the Stern's Draperies property went to upon George Stern's recent passing?

Taleen and I are organizing the meeting with the city, LAPD, business and property owners, and some residential reps. It will happen soon. Taleen has promised some date and time possibilities. We are hoping for a **collective trespassing agreement** and **increased security**, among other things.

Key Individuals:

- **Michael (Supervisor) – White male** on a **bike**, in his 50's or 60's, hangs out on bus bench in front of shopping center, comes to Stern's Draperies for drops. Never touches product or money, leaves after drop. Not unhoused.
- Bike delivery guy - always a white male on a bike with a backpack. They used to hand the backpack directly to Jay. Now he drops it at Stern's Draperies for Jay to pick up. Jay's paces around anxiously for about 10-15 minutes before picking it up.
- **Jay (Primary Dealer on and off since 2021) – Black male.** Bikes or walks in daily. Not unhoused. Dominates the crew.
- **Trevor Lynch – White male.** Working the corner on and off since 2021. Multiple arrests. **Incarcerated, stay away order for 7-Eleven**
- **John – White male.** Bushy black beard, Artist. Sleeps at Ventura and Stern. Both a user and dealer. Frequent drug-induced psychosis probably in addition to mental illness. Becomes highly agitated, rapidly pacing and speaking to people who are not there.
- **"Blondie" – White female**, gray pallor, blond wig. Longtime presence at the bus stop. Sleeps at Ventura and Stern. User. Helps Jay with dealing. Frequent drug-induced psychosis.
- **Crew** – Includes John, Joshua, and "Skater." All **white males**.
- **Troy** – Local, heavily addicted, **white male**. Jay enjoys giving Troy repeated hits of fentanyl and watching Troy twitch and writhe. Frequent drug-induced psychosis. Takes his clothes off. **Hospitalized.**
- **Pregnant black woman.** Active user, often mistaken for male. Jay uses her as a lookout. (Seems to be off the street. I hope so. Well-done community.)

9.17

Resident

Thank you so much for this.

The blond lady seems to have gone somewhere to clean up last two days she has had different outfits on.

I'll send my videos today.

9.17 10:29 AM

CD4 Taleen to community

Hi all,

I hope you're all doing well.

I wanted to suggest a time for a virtual meeting that Officer Saldana has let me know would work for him, and would work for our homelessness deputy as well. Would this coming Friday, September 19th, at 12:00 or 12:30 PM work for others? Please let me know if this works, and if it does not, I can work to provide additional dates for the following week. Thank you greatly in advance and all the best.

9.17 11:34 AM
VS to CD4 Taleen

Dear Taleen,

We'll take this for the entire community. Please also privately send me a time for next week on Thursday the 23rd or Friday 24th for the business and property owners. Please make certain both SLO Saldana and Narcotics Officer Verdin can attend.

9.17 12:06 PM
Ventura Stern to CD4 Taleen

Hi Taleen,

Can you please call me at xxx-xxx-xxxx? I am in a meeting from 1:00 to 3:00 today but otherwise available.

9.17 12:07
CD4 Taleen

Hi VS,

I apologize i'm in meetings most of the day but can call around 3:30/4 if that works for you!

9.17 1:52 PM
VS

Sounds good

9.17 2:43 PM
C&S Apartments: Veronica

In case anyone wants to submit a question or voice the issues at Brad Sherman's town hall tonight via Zoom.

9.17 4:36 PM
CD4 Taleen

Hi VS,

My apologies, my engagements are running a bit later than expected. I will try my best to reach you before end of day, and if I'm unable to, will ring you first thing tomorrow morning. Thank you.

9.17 5:03 PM
VS

Okay. I am available tomorrow at 8:00 to 9:00 AM, 11:00 to 11:30 AM, 12:00 to 1:30 PM.

9.18 10:32 AM
CD4 Taleen

Wonderful, I'll call you between 12-1:30

9.18 10:35 AM
CD4 Taleen to community

Hello all,

Please let me know if you are able to access the link below for tomorrow's virtual meeting. If you are unable to, I will work to add all to the link individually. Thank you.

Ventura/Stern Meeting
Friday, September 19 · 12:00 – 12:30pm
Time zone: America/Los_Angeles
Google Meet joining info
Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/mph-vvou-puz>
Or dial: (US) +1 347-384-7924 PIN: 728 521 351#
More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/mph-vvou-puz?pin=4316497870844>

9.18 11:10 AM
Resident

Yes, works for me.

9.18 2:09 PM
CD4 Taleen to community

Hello again all,

Officer Saldana has let me know he will be unable to make tomorrow's meeting. Would next Tuesday perhaps work for folks instead?

9.20 9:17 AM
Resident

Works for me.

9.22 11:39 AM
Hi VS!

Officer Saldana says anytime between 11-1 would work for him for tomorrow's meeting (i only just heard back from him on this). I wanted to run this by you to see when you think the best time for folks would be?

9.22 10:09 PM
Ventura Stern

Dear Taleen,

Okay. This does not give people enough notice, but we will do our best. Then while we are on, we will schedule a meeting for the business/property owners.

You can call me when it is time sensitive like this.

Let's say 11:00 AM.

Will you send the Zoom link to the list?

9.22 10:13 PM
VS

Dear Community,

I apologize for the lack of notice. Taleen emailed earlier today and informed me that Officer Saldana said he would be available between 11:00 and 1:00 tomorrow. I just picked up the Proton emails tonight. I hope as many of you can join as possible. She should send the link in the morning. We will do our best to ask the right questions and get the answers out to you. We will also schedule the follow-up meeting with the major business and property owners with the city and LAPD.

9.22 10:19 PM

Resident

I walked into Stearns drapery the other day to speak with Kevin and what I saw was appalling. His office was like a hoarder's den and the merchandise from floor to ceiling is a complete fire hazard. You can't even walk through there to even see what you're looking for. I think the fire department needs to inspect that premises again and force him to clean it up. I told Kevin that these people were living on his property at night, and he threw his hands up in the air and said I'm done I'm not cooperating with anyone. His office looked like it had just been hit by a tornado files all over the floor, garbage everywhere. I still think that my idea of putting misters on the wall of 7-Eleven on Stern Avenue would be a great deterrent for these drug addicted mental cases to rid them of our area.

9.22 10:36 PM

Midori Sushi

Thank you for letting me know.

9.22 10:38 PM

CD4 to VS

Our homelessness team let me know 12-1 would actually be best! If it's too short notice we can definitely reschedule as well.

9.23 10:09 AM

CD4 Taleen, only to Ventura Stern

Hello,

Yes, the zoom link is:

Ventura/Stern Meeting

Tuesday, September 23 · 11:00 – 11:30am

Time zone: America/Los_Angeles

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/jha-gpsg-wfs>

Or dial: (US) +1 443-738-4552 PIN: 147 254 867#

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/jha-gpsg-wfs?pin=3442310131024>

9.23 10:46 AM

Resident

Has this meeting been scheduled?

9.23 10:49 AM

Resident

I haven't received a link.

9.23 11:04 AM

CD4 to VS

Hi VS,

Myself, Officer Saldana, and Sergeant Pedroza are on the call if you or anyone else would like to join.

9.23 11:05

VS to CD4 Taleen

Do you have a link for noon to 1:00?

9.23 11:06 AM

CD4 to VS

Hi again VS,

Patrick from our homelessness team is also on the call now. We will wait until about 11:10/11:15 and if no one joins, we will begin the work of rescheduling.

9.23 11:09 [So sorry everybody! I thought she was going to send it to the community!]

VS to community

Ventura/Stern Meeting

Tuesday, September 23 · 11:00 – 11:30am

Time zone: America/Los_Angeles

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/jha-gpsg-wfs>

Or dial: (US) +1 443-738-4552 PIN: 147 254 867#

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/jha-gpsg-wfs?pin=3442310131024>

9.23 12:34 PM

Resident

I couldn't make the call. How did it go?

9.23. 12:55 PM

Resident

Hi everyone,

Today while exiting the garage, I noticed someone slip in before the gate closed. I reversed and asked if they lived in the building, though I knew they did not. They claimed they did, and I told them I would be calling the police. I've attached a photo of the individual for awareness. [photo on slide deck]

This isn't the first time something like this has happened. For everyone's safety and security, I strongly suggest that we all wait until the garage gate is fully closed before driving away to make sure no unauthorized individuals enter.

9.23 12:57 PM

Did you stay until the police came?!

9.23 1:06 PM

Resident

Yes! I def stay at night but will start staying in the day too. Thanks for the heads up and calling the police!

9.23 1:34 PM

Past Resident K, moved with family due to situation outside

My love to all of you. Can you please take me off this mailing list as I no longer live in the building.

Thank you,

K

9.23 7:39 PM

Resident

Hi All,

On Wednesday I ran across a man in the staircase next to the 7 Eleven who was masturbating (this is not the first time I've seen this unfortunately). I texted this video to Sanu's daughter who was working at the time. I've got him on film zipping up, told me he would knock me out in gibberish and walked away.

I'm trying really hard to not let this upset me, but it's been so long running for this drug deal situation to go on. We cannot deal with this any longer. There are more people now that I've never seen before, and Troy is back again.

9.23 7:50 PM

Resident

Omg! Be careful. It's in full force tonight. So many of them. I haven't seen this many before either.

9.23 8:31 PM

Resident

This is insane! Somebody is going to get hurt and there is going to be a giant lawsuit with the City. And with all the effort the citizens are making to get resolution and the documenting of events, it's huge liability for all the city entities involved.

9.24 9:59 AM

Resident

Happening now [photo on slide deck of man spraying graffiti on Conex box. Arrested for vandalism.]

9.24 10:27 AM

Resident

Pleased to say the person is being arrested currently. [Photo on slide deck of graffiti guy being arrested.] Also wanted to share this from Monday with a car I have seen before I believe doing their regular deal. It was an older white-haired lady driving the car. [photo on September slide deck]

9.24 10:30 AM

Resident

And is that Kevin Stern's car in the background?

9.24 10:33 AM

Resident

Yes the Mercedes in the background is Kevin's. He was not present during the deal that I could see.

The women drives thru the ally honks and calls Jay to her window. They exchange some kind of money and then the drugs. I have seen it before but didn't take a photo previous times.

9.24 10:33 AM

Resident

What is taking so long? [the arrest]

9.24 10:45 AM

Resident

Great, glad I called. Let's keep calling 911 on any crime. 🍌

The cops came in 5 minutes and the others not only left, they cleaned up all the trash before scrambling. Win win.

9.24 10:58

Resident

Great Job everyone they took him away in a cop car. They also took his backpack hopefully he has drugs in there from Jay.

9.24 11:35 PM

Resident

The more we see, document, complain, organize, contact, etc, etc, etc, the situation just keeps getting worse, not just day after day, but also year after year.

Logic, rational thought and common sense are clearly lacking. The buck keeps getting passed from one agency to another while the overtaxed taxpayers continually suffer the vile, reprehensible and illegal activity of those who clearly feel no threat from the authorities.

When and if someone is (hopefully not) attacked, probability states that then and only then will every agency join hands in unity and descend upon Stern/Ventura to affect permanent change. So far, the open use and sale of illegal drugs, prostitution, public masturbating, urinating, defecating, nonsensical screaming, violent threats, piles of trash and debris, (all documented) etc. isn't enough for anyone or any group in charge to take full and permanent responsibility.

9.24 1:38 PM

Resident

100 .

I'm new to this thread. I own a condo on Stern. Can anyone share what has been done?

Last week I reported all their garbage and furniture for pick up on the 311 app. Nothing.

I emailed our congressman and city council. The city council rep drove by the encampment and sent a video of it to 311. She also suggested email Senior Lead Officer Mariana Romo.

I considered buying no loitering signs, but I doubt they'd listen. I'm also afraid of them seeing me I did it and then coming after me.

Are our efforts duplicative and still not enough? What else can we do?

9.28 5:16 PM
Resident

Hello Everyone,

Friday, 9/26, at about 10:30 am, three young men in black shirts, wearing what appeared to be ID lanyards, were seen engaging with the homeless group at Stern's Fabric Shop. They chatted for a while, and the blond lady subsequently got up, walked across Stern Ave. accompanied by one of the three men, got into a silver compact car that pulled up from the 7-Eleven lot, waved to that man and was driven away. (She has not been here since.)

The three young men then drove off in a black jeep. Whoever they were, (CD4? LACAHS? Homeless Advocates?), we thank them profusely for not only helping an unfortunate woman but making our lives one degree better.

Now, can they please come back for the four homeless, impaired men scaring the wits out of people visiting 4318 Stern on Sunday?

Good grief. The young children were upset, and the parent was furious. "How can these guys and a pile of garbage on wheels just squat there? What are you doing about this?"

Enough said, Neighbors, you know the rest.

9.30.25 7:31 AM
Ventura Stern

Dear An2,

Thank you for letting us know. I will reinforce waiting until the gate closes to drive away.

Which one of the people in this photo is the one who came into the garage?

Take care!

9.30.25
Resident

The one on the left

9.30.25

VS

Hi K,


Will do. We miss you, but I'm sure you don't miss this!

We hope you and your lovely family have found peace and safety in your new home.

Take good care. Hugs all around and stay in touch!

9.30.25

Past Resident K

Thank you!!! 

9.30.25

VS to LAPD Narcotics José Verdin, LAPD Senior Lead Officer José Saldana, LAPD Captain Christopher Zine

Hi,

I hope you are all doing well. I am sending out the September newsletter. Can you please tell me what progress LAPD made this month? Arrests? Trespassing documents? Stay away orders? Court appearances? Etc.?

Any advice to the residents and businesses?

Here is one of the PDFs of the dealing operations that I told Captain Zine I would send.

Thank you for everything you are doing here.

9.30.25 1:21 PM

Hello,

This month we had two arrests one for vandalism and one for a naked man radio call that turned out to be a use of force arrest. This email is the best way to reach Captain Zine.

Thank you,

Senior Lead Officer Jose Saldana