

**Sherman Oaks
Neighborhood Council**

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1st VP 7-B
Leilt Endashaw
2nd VP 1-R
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Vacant, 4-R
Vacant, 5-B
Vacant 5 C-I
Vacant 5-R
Harold Shapiro 6-B
Lindsay Imber 6-R
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Alternate

CITY OF LOS ANGELES



**Sherman Oaks
Neighborhood Council**

CALIFORNIA



**Sherman Oaks
Neighborhood Council**

**SONC Board Meeting Agenda:
Monday, November 10, 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 October 20, 2025.

3. 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.

4. **Scheduled Recess - *The Council will stand in Recess.***
5. **Assemblymember Nick Schultz, California 44th Assembly District**
6. **Presentation – Los Angeles County Vector Control – Raquel Trinidad**
7. **General Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items within SONC Jurisdiction**
8. **President’s Report.**
 - a. **Board Member Removal:** Christopher Maghar Area 5 Residential Representative
 - b. **Vacant SONC Board Seats:** Area 2 Business, Area 3 Business, Area 4 Residential, Area 5 Business, Area 5 Community Interest and Area 5 Residential.
 - c. **Board Member requisite** trainings and participation in SONC activities and events
 - d. **Board Member** committee participation
 - e. **Ad Hoc Committees status:** Planning Board Retreat and By Laws
 - f. **Student Committee status**
 - g. **Sherman Oaks Encino Chamber of Commerce** Planning Committee Sherman Oaks 2027 Centennial
 - h. **SONC Board Meeting Speakers:** December 8th LAUSD Board President Scott Schmerelson
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 September 30, 2025.](#)
10. **Government Affairs Motions & Committee Report Government Affairs Committee - Lindsay Imber, Chair. Meets on the 4th Tuesday of the Month**
 - a. **Motion:** [CF 25-1136](#). **Reestablishing the Neighborhood Prosecutor Program**
Position: Supports.

The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council (SONC) supports CF 25-1136 to reestablish the Neighborhood Prosecutor Program. Prior to 2023, SONC and many other neighborhood councils enjoyed a positive working relationship with local neighborhood prosecutors, through which SONC and other city agencies were able to resolve issues of public concern. Dismantling this program negatively impacted public services because many neighborhoods lost a local link to the City Attorney’s office. Reestablishing the program will restore this vital resource to our communities, thus improving public services.
 - b. **Motion:** [CF 24-1085-S1](#). **Transfer of \$150,000 from Homeless Services Account to Police Fund**
Position: Oppose.

The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council (SONC) stands in firm opposition to transferring any funding from Account 0619 - Homeless Services Account to cover overtime for the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD). While the city remains under an active emergency order relating to homelessness, in the wake of revelations on gross mismanagement of funds by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, it's unconscionable that any funding would be transferred out of accounts dedicated toward alleviating the suffering of unhoused residents. The LAPD's budget accounts for 23.6% of the total City budget for Fiscal Year 2026; the largest operating budget for any city department or agency. The funding dedicated to housing and homelessness is a small fraction of what is already dedicated to the LAPD. If CD5 is in need of additional funding for police that cannot be accounted for within their current budget, Councilmember Yaraslovsky, and other Councilmembers supporting this motion, should find that funding within their own office's operational or discretionary budgets rather than removing funding from an account that should be utilized to address the ongoing crisis relating to homelessness.

- c. **Motion:** [CF 25-1223](#). **Expenditures for Lawyers to Defend City in Suit Filed Against LAPD**
Position: Supports.

The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council (SONC) supports Council File 25-1223 and vehemently opposes any future City Council motion seeking to allocate funding to hire Best Best & Krieger, or any 3rd party law firm, to defend the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) in upcoming litigation stemming from lawsuits filed by the Los Angeles Press Club, and investigative reporting outlet Status Coup for police misconduct and use of excessive force against journalists.

- d. **Motion:** [CF 25-1221](#). **Pet Fairs & Increasing Adoption Rates**
Position: Supports.

SONC supports CF25-1221 in order for Animal Services to place animals in adoptive homes, and thus mitigate the euthanasia rate by providing animals with loving homes

- e. **Motion:** [CF 25-1181](#). **Expanding Private Use of Helipads for LA28**
Position: Oppose.

The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council (SONC) opposes Council File 25-1181, which proposes to expand existing helicopter pad inventory for private use. SONC opposes this proposal to convert or offer public property for private use, and SONC also opposes this motion in accordance with prior SONC positions regarding air traffic, namely at the Van Nuys Airport (VNY). SONC remains committed to its constituency regarding concerns over increased noise, pollution, and other disruption posed by increased air traffic, including helicopter and electric vertical takeoff/landing (EVTOL) traffic, in the skies over Sherman Oaks.

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**

- a. **Motion:** Suggested Charter Addition – Community Planning and Land Use Authority

Purpose: To preserve the integrity of Community Plans, maintain elected accountability in land use decisions, ensure professional oversight, and promote coordinated, transparent, and efficient planning and building administration.

A. Community Plans

The existing 35 Community Plans shall remain in effect, recognizing neighborhood diversity, character, geography, transit access, and history. Additionally, we suggest expanding them to 70 to better reflect individual identity and needs.

Each Community Plan shall be updated at least every 20 years.

B. Floor Area Ratio (FAR)

All Charter references to FAR are removed. Recode LA development standards shall govern citywide.

C. Project Review

Projects fully conforming to Re Code LA standards shall receive ministerial approval and proceed directly to permitting.

Deviations require discretionary review per ordinance.

Charter Section 245 is retained, preserving City Council authority to review or veto discretionary actions.

D. Time Limits and Ordinance Review

Existing Charter time limits for General Plan review are retained.

Other procedural timeframes may be set by ordinance.

Required review of proposed ordinances by the elected City Attorney is retained.

A nonelected city attorney may not be responsive to the public.

E. Council Accountability

Councilmember authority over land use decisions and appeals is retained.

Consolidation under administrative bodies alone would remove elected oversight and reduce public accountability.

F. Public Review

Public review remains required for all discretionary projects.

While Re Code LA will reduce discretionary cases, public and Council input shall be preserved where review is required.

G. Planning Commissions

The City Planning Commission shall consist of nine members, at least five with five or more years of senior professional experience in architecture, landscape architecture, planning, engineering, or land use law.

Each Area Planning Commission shall have five members, at least three with five or more years of senior professional experience in architecture, landscape architecture, planning, engineering, or land use law.

H. Community Development Department

A Community Development Department is established.

Led by a qualified manager appointed by ordinance.

It shall coordinate the Planning Department, Department of Building and Safety and other departmental reviewers for consistent, transparent decision-making.

It shall promote efficiency, accountability, and timely inter-departmental service delivery.

Suggested Charter Addition – Board of Infrastructure

Purpose: A Board of Infrastructure is created to consolidate and coordinate management of the public right-of-way and related infrastructure. It shall replace the current system of fragmented departmental authority that causes delay, inefficiency, and lack of accountability.

A. Composition and Jurisdiction.

The Board of Infrastructure shall include representation from, at minimum: the Port of Los Angeles, Los Angeles International Airport, Department of Public Works, Police Department, Los Angeles Unified School District, Department of Water and Power, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), and Department of Recreation and Parks.

Each participating entity shall have an active role in the coordinated operation, maintenance, and improvement of City infrastructure.

B. Annual Reporting.

Each entity listed in Subsection (A), and any others designated by the Board of Infrastructure, shall submit an Annual Report on Growth and

Construction identifying all projects in progress or completed during the preceding year. Reports shall be submitted no later than the end of each fiscal year.

C. Powers and Duties.

The Board of Infrastructure shall: Oversee and coordinate planning, construction, maintenance, and management of public infrastructure and the public right-of-way; Review and integrate submitted Annual Reports; Identify overlaps and inefficiencies and issue recommendations to the Mayor and Council; Ensure that infrastructure decisions align with long-term citywide goals.

D. Capital Improvement Plan.

The City shall maintain a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) under the direction of the Board. The CIP shall include a rolling five-year capital budget and a fifty-year planning horizon establishing priorities for maintenance, replacement, and expansion of infrastructure necessary for growth, safety, and sustainability.

Suggested Charter Addition - Parks Funding and Protection

The City shall establish and maintain a dedicated source of funding for the acquisition, development, maintenance, and improvement of public parks and recreational facilities with a stated goal of ensuring the growth and availability of parks stays consistent with the growth of

population in an area.

Public parks and designated open spaces shall not be sold, leased, or converted to residential or commercial housing uses, except by approval of two-thirds of the voters at a Citywide election.

The City shall give priority to the preservation and expansion of parkland as neighborhood density increases.

Suggested Charter Addition - Protection of Low-density Residential and Historic Districts

The City of Los Angeles hereby declares the preservation of single-family residential zones and designated historic districts as fundamental to the character, stability, and livability of the City. No action of the City shall diminish, eliminate, upzone, or otherwise alter the protections of such zones and districts except by a supermajority vote of four fifths of the City Council following extensive public hearings.

Suggested Charter Addition - Defense of Local Zoning Authority

The City Council, the Mayor, and the City Attorney shall have a mandatory duty to defend and uphold the City's zoning authority against any proposed State law or regulation that seeks to preempt, override, or otherwise diminish local zoning and land-use controls, including actions taken by the State under a declared emergency. The City shall immediately and aggressively pursue all available legal, legislative, and administrative remedies to protect the integrity of its Charter-based zoning powers.

City resolutions relating to pending State legislation must be heard and resolved within 90 days, or the resolution is automatically approved.

The Planning Department shall have the authority and resources to review and evaluate the impact of proposed State legislation.

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

- a. **Motion:** The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council supports the request of residents, business owners, and other stakeholders for action to address chronic unsafe and unsanitary conditions within the Colbath–Ventura–Stern “U” (extending to Moorpark St.), with Ventura & Stern as the epicenter—particularly Stern’s Draperies and the Stern Ave. sidewalk of the Ventura & Stern Shopping Center.

Area of Concern (“the U”) includes:

- 13949 Sherman Oaks Plaza & Chase Bank
- 13925 McDonald’s (Ventura Blvd.)
- 13901 Ventura & Stern Shopping Center (incl. 7-Eleven)
- 13861 Stern’s Draperies
- Residences on Stern and Colbath between Ventura and Moorpark, especially 4318 Stern Ave.

Background and Current Conditions. Residents and businesses formed the Ventura & Stern Coalition in 2021 and temporarily drove out a narcotics operation that was operating from Stern’s Draperies (13861 Ventura Blvd., Sherman Oaks, CA 91423). By 2025 (or earlier) the narcotics operation returned, and the area now endures recurring narcotics-based encampments; open-air narcotics use and dealing; biohazard accumulation (used needles, urine, feces) and noxious fumes; harassment, intimidation, episodes of drug-

induced psychosis and indecent exposure; trespass into garages and storefronts; blocked sidewalks and ADA barriers; late-night disturbances; fire hazards and combustible debris; neglected vegetation and dead/falling trees; graffiti and vandalism; and repeated thefts/shoplifting—conditions that prevent residents from living normal lives and make it difficult for nearby businesses to function.

Why the problem is acute here. An entrenched narcotics operation has identified the corridor as lucrative and is effectively allowed to operate from Stern's Draperies, with on-site use tolerated; it exploits unhoused individuals as customers, crew, and cover, using shopping carts, bikes, and backpacks as dealer tools. The coalition has amassed visual evidence and submitted it to CD4 and LAPD. Compounding this are persistent property-management failures at Stern's Draperies and a lack of adequate, sustained City action, including inconsistent enforcement, cleanup, and follow-through.

Impacts on residents and businesses. There are significant access barriers for vulnerable populations, including seniors, children, and people with disabilities in the apartments and condos on Stern Ave. A family with young children moved out last month because of the crime and degradation. A senior who does not drive will not leave her apartment at night; another resident reports driving her grandchildren 358 feet to McDonald's to avoid the threat; and a resident with an adult son with special needs chose this location for walkable access to services, but criminal activity and frequent drug-induced psychosis mean safe access is limited or unavailable. The owner of 4318 Stern Ave. reports multiple move-outs due to fear and degraded conditions, creating financial strain and undermining safety for remaining tenants. Problems typically originate on the north or west side of Stern's Draperies or along the east sidewalk of the Ventura & Stern Shopping Center and then spread to neighboring properties. The Ventura & Stern Shopping Center tenants and adjacent McDonald's are family-owned businesses struggling to function as employees feel threatened and customers stay away.

Documentation. These issues have been repeatedly documented and reported to LAPD, LAFD, Councilmember Raman's office, the City Attorney's Office, and SONC; nevertheless, no sustainable remedy has been implemented. Residents and business owners have provided extensive emails, photographs, and other evidence of ongoing conditions, including reports of a repeat offender (subject to a stay-away order) and barriers to ADA-compliant safe passage.

Therefore, SONC requests:

1. Nuisance Abatement: That Councilmember Raman, Mayor Bass, and City Attorney Hydee Feldstein-Soto work in collaboration with the Ventura & Stern Coalition and initiate proceedings to deem Stern's Draperies a nuisance property, with an enforceable plan and timeline for abatement.
2. Public Safety Resources: That Councilmember Raman, Mayor Bass, and the City Attorney provide additional resources to LAPD for focused patrols and targeted enforcement in this micro-zone, and coordinate with the District Attorney's Office to pursue appropriate actions for repeat offenders so residents and businesses can experience sustained relief and restored access to public spaces.
3. Sanitation & Biohazard Abatement (LASAN): That LASAN implement a sustained sanitation plan for the corridor—designating the Ventura & Stern hotspot for recurring

(e.g., weekly) biohazard and debris removal, sharps pickup, pressure washing, and graffiti abatement (in coordination with StreetsLA)—with priority service at Stern’s Draperies, the Ventura & Stern Shopping Center, McDonald’s, adjacent alleys/bus stop areas, and heavily impacted apartment buildings and condos on Stern such as 4325, 4333, 4334 and especially **4318 Stern Ave.** LASAN should publish the service cadence to SONC and CD4 and coordinate scheduling with LAPD for cleanup safety.

13. 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. **Traffic & Transportation Motions & Committee Report**
Traffic & Transportation Committee - Stacey Segarra-Bohlinger, Chair. Meets on the 1st Wednesday of the Month
- e. **Budget Advocates - Howard Katchen, SONC Representative.**

14. Board Member Announcements Closing announcements from Board Members.

15. 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.segarrahohlinger.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.](#)