

Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council  
Vision Committee  
November 6, 2025  
Library @ 6:30 p.m.

- 1.) Call to order: 6:30 p.m.
- 2.) Roll Call: Jeff Kalban, Chair; all present except Tom Glick and Sue Steinberg
- 3.) Minutes: Mikie Maloney, seconded by Jeffrey Hartsough. Passed unanimously
- 4.) Elected Officials: none
- 5.) PRB Report: none
- 6.) Chair's Report: Next Vision meeting January 8, 2026. Next PLUM meeting Nov 20 is cancelled. PLUM December 18 meeting discussion on community awards presentation.
- 7.) Committee Meeting: Vision's LA Charter Reform ideas that were presented to the Charter Reform committee now presented at Vision for approval to go before the full Neighborhood Council. See attachment.  
  
Motion: to present reform ideas to Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council. Passed unanimously
- 8.) Public form: none
- 9.) Committee Business: none
- 10.) Adjourned 8:00 p.m. Minutes: mpkalban

# **City Charter Reform Suggestions for Planning and Infrastructure**

## **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.