

**Sherman Oaks
Neighborhood Council**

Officers

Howard Katchen, President, 3-R
Martin Hernandez, 1st VP, 7-B
Liebt 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
Harold Shapiro 6-B
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.org

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, December 8, 2025 - 6:30pm

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.

1. Welcome, Call to Order, and Roll Call

a. **Call to Order:** Howard Katchen, President, called the meeting to order at **6:42 pm**

b. **Pledge of Allegiance**

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

i. **Present:** Baronian, Adair, Durbin, Materna, Imber, Kalban, Stahl, Jasiukonis, Hernandez, Endashaw, Hartsough, Debela, Katchen, Shapiro **(14)**

ii. **Absent:** Silverman, Ahari, Laplante (3)

2. Administrative and Board Initiated Motions – Action Items

a. From Floor:

A motion to approve the SONC Board meeting minutes of November 10, 2025.

MOVED: Shapiro **SECOND:** Kalban

YES: Baronian, Adair, Durbin, Materna, Imber, Kalban, Stahl, Jasiukonis, Hernandez, Endashaw, Hartsough, Debela, Katchen, Shapiro (14)

NO: (0) / **ABSTAIN:** (0) / **INELIGIBLE:** (0) / **ABSENT:** Silverman, Ahari, Laplante (3)

Item 2a carries unanimously /14-0-1-0-2

3. LARPBO Update SONC Neighborhood Purposes Grant provided – Christopher Helminiak

- Last year LARPBO applied for a neighborhood purpose grant, and utilized the money to give scholarships for training classes.
- The goal for 2025 was for 50 and LARPBO got 114
- The help navigate training for dogs with programs, and complementary classes for shelter
- Special thanks for receiving the grant.

4. Comments by LAPD SLOs, Public Agencies, Officials, Staff, and Council District Office Public Comment for Public Agencies, etc.

-Pursuant to the Brown Act, there will be no discussion/back-and-forth while in session.

Taleen Keuroghlian, Field Deputy for Councilwoman Nithya Raman CD4

- As we finish 2025, if there are any events you are interested in seeing for the new year please contact Taleen
- Updates on street lights and party homes from last meeting
- Coyote sightings have increased since it is Illegal to trap and relocate coyotes in the state of California; they are native/protected species
- Contact LA Animal Services, if you encounter a coyote, keeping trash bins covered inside and out, keep landscape clean, keep fallen fruit off your properties and clean up scattered bird feed
- Watching your cats and dogs outside, and keeping them inside at night, will help protect them from coyote attacks

Emily Aaronson, Senior Librarian at Sherman Oaks Martin Pollard Branch Library

- Closed for scheduled maintenance will open on Wednesday at 10:00 AM
- Friday is friends of the library book member presale from 3:30-5:00
- For the General public the sale is Saturday from 9:30-1:30
- Music bingo for adults as well!

Scott Abrahms Chief of Staff for Congressman Brad Sherman

- Is here to assist with constituent service needs, emergency passport needs, etc
- Help with IRS, and understanding taxes
- Dec 17 is a telephone town hall meeting, widely attended by constituents, can ask the congressman what is going on in the federal government
- Wanted to Gift Howard Kathchen a flag flown over the capital. For his outstanding service, extremely thankful

Robert Barna Battalion Chief 10

- Former Valley Bureau Commander has been promoted to fire chief
- Assistant Bureau Commander is now the Acting Bureau Commander, Lue Aldana
- Please be careful with holiday decorations
- $\frac{1}{3}$ of fires from decorations are from candles
- Keep your Christmas trees watered to prevent fires
- Check your smoke alarms, share your home escape plans
- Don't use any Suspect Lights or Candles that are old, or questionable electric appliances
- For cooking related fires, please keep smokers outside, and keep anything fried outside

5. Scheduled Recess - Meeting called into Recess at—7:04

Meeting reconvened at —7:19

EL-Bethel Debela, Secretary, called the roll

Present: Baronian, Adair, Durbin, Materna, Imber, Kalban, Stahl, Jasiukonis, Endashaw, Hartsough, Debela, Katchen, Shapiro (13)

Absent: Silverman, Ahari, Laplante, Hernandez (4)

6. LAUSD Board President – Scott Schmerelson

- Attends the VANC Valley Alliance Neighborhood Council Meetings Monthly
- Has 3 terms as school board president and has 105 schools from North Hollywood to Porter Ranch
- Highly involved with parents and the most important thing is that every kid gets a good education
- Big supporter of the trades, not every student wants to go to college
- Supports 2 years of free education, take business courses along with your trades
- Parents, are vital
- PSW's are extremely important and the pandemic is over but the effects are still ongoing for many students
- Biggest problem reports are suicidal ideations, kids still have these feelings
- The pandemic effects, need more PSW's at schools

- North Hollywood High School and many others school are getting renovated and modernized
- No call goes unheard contact him at schmelerson@lausd.net
- There are many civic center permit center issues, every year there's extra restrictions
- Some new easier rules include, online availability, credit card pay
- How did you feel about the ice raids, and what are you doing to protect students?
- Holding forums with lawyers, no agents are allowed with a signed warrant
- The problem is on the way to school and they way home from school; 2 blocks away from school is a safe place
- School police does not assist ice
- LAUSD BUDGET is 8 billion dollars
- What would you spend extra money for?
- Modernization, salaries, Promethean boards, av equipment, modified lighting, overhead projectors, school improvements, and robotics

**7. Presentation – Los Angeles Homelessness Services Authority (LAHSA) – Matthew Mitnick
Bologna wetlands**

Contact for more information and slideshow!

Matthew Mitnick

Community Relations Coordinator

matthewm@lahsa.org

213-660-8128

**8. Presentation – Los Angeles World Airports – Jessica Barker, External Affairs Director, Van Nuys
Airport**

Contact information here for the slideshow and other questions!

310 292 6212

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

Public Comment from attendees

10. President's Report.

a. Vacant SONC Board Seats:

- Area 2 Business, Area 3 Business, Area 4 Residential, Area 5 Business, Area 5 Community Interest and Area 5 Residential.
- If you have an interest and are in the area please contact SONC

b. Board Member committee participation

c. Ad Hoc Committees status: Planning Board Retreat and By Laws

d. Student Committee status

e. SONC Board Meeting Speakers: January 12th Los Angeles City Attorney Hydee Feldstein-Soto

11. 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 October 31, 2025.

MOVED: Finance Committee SECOND: Imber

YES: Baronian, Adair, Materna, Imber, Kalban, Stahl, Hartsough, Katchen, Shapiro (9) **NO:**

(0) / ABSTAIN: (0) / INELIGIBLE: Jasiukonis, Debela (2) / **ABSENT:** Durbin, Ahari, Silverman, Hernandez, Endashaw, Laplante (6)

Item 11.a carries unanimously / 9-0-0-2-6

12. Traffic & Transportation Committee - Stacey Segarra-Bohlinger, Chair. Meets on the 1st Wednesday of the Month

a. Motion - VNY Specific Plan Status Report

Whereas, in November 2023 motions were presented by CD 6 Councilmember Imelda Padilla, to the Los Angeles City Council (Council File 23-1338 & CF 23- 1339) to mandate new policies for Van Nuys Airport (VNY) future aviation development projects to better protect communities, including critically needed criteria in the development of a new Specific Airport Plan for VNY which has not been updated in 20 years. As stated in the original motion, "A Specific Plan will help PROTECT the residents of CD2, CD3, CD4, CD6 and CD12 and everyone surrounding the Van Nuys Airport."

and whereas, Councilmember Raman (CD4) seconded both motions, and they were subsequently passed by City Council after passing both the Planning & Land Use Committee and the Trade, Travel and Tourism Committee.

and whereas, to date none of the criteria outlined in the motions and requested by City Council to be undertaken via its subsequent approval of these motions has been delivered. Primarily, as requested a new Specific Plan for VNY.

Therefore, the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council requests that LA City Council and respective CD6 and CD4 Council Members provide SONC and the public with a status report and update on the progress of the creation of the new VNY Specific Airport plan that was requested to be developed and undertaken by LAWA/VNY in concert with the City Planning Department and with involvement of a Citizens Advisory Committee that was to consist of "at least one local resident/stakeholder from, but not limited to, Council Districts 2, 3, 4, 6, and 12; and provide an option for Council District office staff participation", as written in the approved LA City Council motion. Information on who specifically is working on this effort, the details of which departments these resources have been assigned from or are affected, engaged or involved are requested.

And, SONC also requests that no new development or planning for projects at VNY take place until there is significant action and progress achieved on the aforementioned and cited City Councils motions.

MOVED: *Traffic and Transportation Committee* **SECOND:** *Does not require a second*
YES: Baronian, Adair, Materna, Imber, Kalban, Stahl, Debela, Katchen, Shapiro (9)
NO: (0) / **ABSTAIN:** Hartsough (1) / **INELIGIBLE:** Jasiukonis (1) / **ABSENT:** Durbin, Ahari, Silverman, Hernandez, Endashaw, Laplante (6)
Item 12.a. carries unanimously /9-0-1-1-6

b. Motion - CF-15-0002-S125

Position: FOR

The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council hereby supports City Council Motion CF15-0002-S125 (Koretz) calling for administrative action by the FAA to adopt Special Federal Aviation Regulations that would reduce helicopter noise in Los Angeles County as soon as possible. This action was approved by the LA City Council in 2016 after several years of non-action and non-response by the FAA to multiple requests. It is now again requested that the LA City Council take further action to address the continuing issue of noise pollution created by low flying helicopters that are unregulated and do not follow the designated noise corridors as approved by the FAA, or follow the designated rules for nighttime curfews, and that fly at low altitudes that interfere with residential homeowners rights to peaceful enjoyment of their property.

Excessive noise is detrimental to health and considered to be a major source of stress in urban settings; and there currently exists intrusive noise pollution from helicopters constantly flying over and hovering over residential areas in the Los Angeles area.0

Section 119D of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 (HR 3547) required the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to achieve reductions in helicopter noise throughout Los Angeles by 2015. However, 10 years after the enactment of HR 3547, the FAA is still unsuccessful in meeting the directives in the bill

MOVED: *Traffic and Transportation Committee* **SECOND:** *Does not require a second*
YES: Baronian, Adair, Materna, Imber, Kalban, Stahl, Debela, Katchen, Shapiro, Hartsough (10)
NO: (0) / **ABSTAIN:** (0) / **INELIGIBLE:** Jasiukonis (1) / **ABSENT:** Durbin, Ahari, Silverman, Hernandez, Endashaw, Laplante (6)
Item 12.b. carries unanimously /10-0-0-1-6

c. Motion - Traffic Signal at Kester and Weddington

The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council (SONC) requests the office of Council District 4 in conjunction with the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) and any other relevant agency to install a

traffic signal at the corner of Kester Avenue and Weddington Street, in addition to crosswalks crossing Kester. This intersection is considered hazardous by residents of the area, and families with children attending Kester Avenue Elementary. Installing a traffic signal at this intersection will likely reduce the number of collisions; particularly those involving pedestrians, and families walking their children to and from school.

MOVED: *Traffic and Transportation Committee* **SECOND:** *Does not require a second*
YES: Baronian, Adair, Materna, Imber, Kalban, Stahl, Debela, Katchen, Shapiro, Hartsough (10)
NO: (0) / ABSTAIN: (0) / INELIGIBLE: Jasiukonis (1) / **ABSENT:** Durbin, Ahari, Silverman, Hernandez, Endashaw, Laplante (6)
Item 12.c. carries unanimously /10-0-0-1-6

d. Motion - Hazardous conditions at Beverly Glen Boulevard and No Name Drive

The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council (SONC) requests the office of Council District 4 in conjunction with the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) and any other relevant agency to explore and implement traffic calming measures such as a speed-limit reduction and/or signage warning drivers to be aware of cross-traffic at the intersection of Beverly Glen Boulevard and No Name Drive. Residents of the area have reported excessively high speeds of vehicles traveling south bound on Beverly Glen when approaching and passing No Name Drive; and lack of awareness due to limited visibility resulting in collisions.

MOVED: *Traffic and Transportation Committee* **SECOND:** *Does not require a second*
YES: Adair, Materna, Imber, Kalban, Stahl, Debela, Katchen, Shapiro, Hartsough (9)
NO: (0) / ABSTAIN: Baronian (1) / **INELIGIBLE:** Jasiukonis (1) / **ABSENT:** Durbin, Ahari, Silverman, Hernandez, Endashaw, Laplante (6)
Item 12.d. carries unanimously /9-0-1-1-6

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

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

- Government Affairs Committee will meet on December 23rd
- Joint meeting with bylaws committee as well
- Most of it talking about the bylaws that were last amended in 2023

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

- No representatives

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

- No meeting in January
- 16th is the next meeting

d. 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

- December 18 is next PLUM meeting
- Discuss annual design awards for design projects, maybe current or past
- Reviewing the Donna Jean Restaurant that wants to extend their hours

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

- Meets tomorrow night at 6:30 pm on zoom, provide an update on the Ventura and Stern Issue
- Discuss dates for the next CERT class for Sherman Oaks to announce

f. Green & Sustainability Committee - Drew Johnstone, Co-Chair & Elizabeth Meshes Meets as Called by the Co-Chairs

- Having monthly meeting this wednesday on zoom at 6:30, agenda is posted

g. Budget Advocates - Howard Katchen, SONC Representative

- Meeting with Mayor Karen Bass, keen on homelessness, in preparation for the cities FIFA and the Olympics,
- Securing the help of the Neighborhood councils specifically with the beautification efforts
- Invited her to a Neighborhood Council meeting, hopefully within the first half of the year she will attend

14. Board Member Announcements Closing announcements from Board Members.

16. Adjournment

Adjournment: Motion to Adjourn approved without objection at 9:51 pm

Respectfully submitted,

EL-Bethel Debela