

Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA



Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council



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

Website:
[www.ShermanOaksN
C.or](http://www.ShermanOaksN.C.or)

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

Officers

Howard Katchen, President, 3-R
Martin Hernandez, 1st VP, 7-B
Lielt 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
Tom Materna, 6-B
Lindsay Imber, 6-R
Harold Shapiro 6-B
Jeffrey Kalban, 7-CI
Martin Stahl, 7-R
Martin Hernandez

Board Meeting:

Sherman Oaks East Valley Adult Center
5056 Van Nuys Blvd

Minutes

Monday, January 12, 2026 - 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: Adair, Durbin, Ahari, Silverman, Materna, Imber, Stahl, Hartsough, Debela. Katchen, Shapiro (11)

ii. Absent: Baronian, Kalban, Jasiukonis, Endashaw, Laplante, Hernandez (6)

- Levon Baronian Arrived at 7:44
- Kesavan Korand was Sworn In at this meeting

2. Administrative and Board Initiated Motions – Action Items

a. From Floor:

A motion to approve the SONC Board meeting minutes of December 8, 2025 and December 23, 2025.

MOVED: Ahari **SECOND:** Shapiro

YES: Adair, Ahari, Silverman, Materna, Imber, Stahl, Hartsough, Debela. Katchen, Shapiro (10)

NO: (0) / **ABSTAIN:** Durbin (1) / **INELIGIBLE:** (0) / **ABSENT:** Baronian, Kalban, Jasiukonis, Endashaw, Laplante, Hernandez (6)

Item 2a carries unanimously /10-0-1-0-6

3. Motion to Approve Consent Calendar Items – President’s appointments

a. Green & Sustainability Committee appointment – Hana Weinstein and Martin Stahl

YES: Adair, Durbin, Ahari, Silverman, Materna, Stahl, Hartsough, Debela. Katchen, Shapiro (10)

NO: (0) / **ABSTAIN:** Imber (1) / **INELIGIBLE:** (0) / **ABSENT:** Baronian, Kalban, Jasiukonis, Endashaw, Laplante, Hernandez (6)

Item 3a carries unanimously /10-0-1-0-6

b. Board Seat appointment – Kesavan Korand, Area 4 Residential Representative

YES: Adair, Durbin, Ahari, Silverman, Materna, Imber, Stahl, Hartsough, Debela. Katchen, Shapiro (11)

NO: (0) / **ABSTAIN:** (0) / **INELIGIBLE:** (0) / **ABSENT:** Baronian, Kalban, Jasiukonis, Endashaw, Laplante, Hernandez (6)

Item 3b carries unanimously /11-0-0-0-6

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.

Jesse De La Cruz Battalion 10 Chief Platoon B

- There will be a CPR and first aid free workshop on February 7th from 1PM to 4PM
- If you want a CPR certification card it costs 30\$
- Increase in fire activity in the last month in Van Nuys and Lake Balboa
- Since rain subsided no major emergencies have happened
- Commercial structure fires have happened within the month

Anthony Thornton Field Deputy for Assembly Member Nick Shultz

- Sacramento legislative session opened January 5
- The Bill Introduction deadline is on February 20
- The Governors budget is 3 billion to 18 billion dollars and has a 3 billion dollar deficit
- A recent bill Assembly Member Shultz has brought forth is AB1546 which allows Prosecutors to charge a third DUI conviction as a Felony
- The district office is willing to help and offer service to constituents
- Some contact information is
- Office Number: 8185583043
- Email: anthony.thornton@asm.ca.gov
- Social Media: @asmnickshultz

Katie Abrams Lindsey Horvath Field Deputy

- This week was the 1 year anniversary for the Palisades Fire, and the Supervisor invited the community to the One Year Community Rising Picnic at Pepperdine on Saturday
- The Youth Climate Coalition will be having their first meeting on Wednesday January 21st from 6-7 pm on zoom
- LA County Declared January 2026 as Human Trafficking Prevention Month
- Emergency Preparedness will be in February in San Fernando: more details to come
- The Emergency Rent Relief Program Deadline is on February 23rd, at 4:59 PM PST
- Over the holidays storms and rain ravaged LA County, if you need emergency updates from the county go to lacounty.gov/emergency or ready.lacounty.gov to sign up for alerts
- LA County Public Works Dispatch : 1-800-675-4357

5. Scheduled Recess - Meeting called into Recess at—7:11

Meeting reconvened at —7:24

EL-Bethel Debela, Secretary, called the roll

Present: Adair, Durbin, Ahari, Silverman, Materna, Imber, Stahl, Hartsough, Debela. Katchen, Shapiro **(11)**

Absent: Baronian, Kalban, Jasiukonis, Endashaw, Laplante, Hernandez, **(6)**

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

Public Comment from attendees

7. Presentation – LA28 Olympics – Michael Menjivar, Director of Community Relations

- michael.menjivar@la28.org

8. Presentation – Los Angeles Charter Reform Initiative – Carla Fuentes, Charter Reform Commissioner

- carla.fuentes@lacity.org

9. President's Report.

a. SONC Board action SB 411 and SB 707 virtual meetings

- Brief meeting held on Dec 23 to correct an error that happened 2 years ago
- Allows us to utilize senate bill 707 that took effect on January 7th

b. Martin Hernandez resigned as First Vice President

- Board election following the president's report for the Second Vice President

c. Vacant SONC Board Seats: Area 2 Business, Area 3 Business, Area 5 Business, Area 5 Community Interest and Area 5 Residential.

- Seats are still Vacant, please reach out if you are interested

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

- By laws Committee had 1 meeting

e. Student Committee status

- Is in the process of being created, speaking with Valley Village Youth Committee Members

f. SONC Board Meeting Speakers: February 9th Los Angeles City Attorney Hydee Feldstein-Soto

- Cannot present in February the presentation will be deferred to our March meeting

10. Election of 1st Vice President Term 2026 – 2027. Call for nominations from Board Members

- Kira Durbin Nominated Lindsay Imber
- Lindsay Imber Accepted the Nomination
- Martin Stahl Nominated Kesavand Korand
- Kesavand Korand Declined the Nomination

Yes: Adair, Durbin, Ahari, Silverman, Materna, Imber, Stahl, Hartsough, Debela, Katchen, Shapiro, Baronian (12)

No: (0) **Abstain:** (0) **Ineligible:** Korand (1) **Absent:** Kalban, Jasiukonis, Endashaw, Laplante Hernandez (5)

Item 10a carries unanimously /12-0-0-1-5

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 November 30, 2025.

MOVED: *Hartsough* **SECOND:** *Shapiro*

YES: Adair, Durbin, Ahari, Silverman, Materna, Imber, Stahl, Hartsough, Katchen, Shapiro, Baronian (11)

NO: (0) / **ABSTAIN:** (0) / **INELIGIBLE:** Debela, Korand (2) / **ABSENT:** Kalban, Jasiukonis, Endashaw, Laplante, Hernandez (5)

Item 11.a carries unanimously / 11-0-0-2-5

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

a. Motion – Support: CF 25-1514 Van Nuys Airport Citizens Advisory Council (VNY CAC) / Compiled Bylaws / Appointments

The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council (SONC) supports CF 25-1514 that City Council is in charge of its Van Nuys Airport Citizen's Advisory Council (VNY CAC) appointees, as written in the CAC founding documents. SONC opposes efforts by Board of Airport Commissioners (BOAC) or Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) to unilaterally reduce or eliminate Councilmembers' ability to appoint pre-existing seats, in conformance with the original intent of the structure of what CAC's original vision was, as created by Councilmember Ferraro at its initial phase of creation.

MOVED: *Government Affairs Committee* **SECOND:** *Does not require a second*

YES: Adair, Durbin, Ahari, Silverman, Materna, Imber, Stahl, Hartsough, Katchen, Debela, Shapiro, Baronian (12) **NO:** (0) / **ABSTAIN:** (0) / **INELIGIBLE:** Korand (1) /

ABSENT: Kalban, Jasiukonis, Endashaw, Laplante, Hernandez (5)

Item 12.a. carries unanimously /12-0-0-1-5

b. Motion from the floor, requires a second

Support: CF 25-0639. Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE) Raids / Workplace / Worker Detentions / Inhumane Immigration Tactics / Use-of-Force Incidents / Los Angeles Police Department Response.

CF 25-0694. Civil Rights Protection / Unconstitutional Searches, Seizures, and Detentions / Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

CF 25-0695. Department Protocols / Federal Immigration Activity / Constitutional Rights Violations / Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council (SONC) supports CF 25-0639 and condemns Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) operations in Sherman Oaks and Los Angeles that violate due process, constitutional protections, and the safety of individuals in our community. These operations have caused fear and trauma among residents, particularly immigrant communities, regardless of citizenship status. Such actions raise serious concerns about violations of constitutional protections, including the Fourth Amendment right against unreasonable searches and seizures and the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments guaranteeing due process of law.

SONC is particularly concerned with use-of-force incidents in connection with ICE operations and associated protests, and joins other Neighborhood Councils in urging our city officials, including CD Councilmember Nithya Raman, Mayor Karen Bass, City Attorney Hydee Feldstein Soto and Police Chief Jim McDonnell to investigate and oppose any ICE activities that undermine civil liberties, and to provide support and legal resources for affected residents.

MOVED: Adair **SECOND:** Ahari

YES: Adair, Durbin, Ahari, Silverman, Materna, Imber, Stahl, Hartsough, Katchen, Debela, Shapiro, Baronian (12) **NO:** (0) / **ABSTAIN:** (0) / **INELIGIBLE:** Korand (1) /

ABSENT: Kalban, Jasiukonis, Endashaw, Laplante, Hernandez (5)

Item 12.b. carries unanimously /12-0-0-1-5

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

- a. *Motion*** – The Green & Sustainability Committee recommends that when SONC purchases branded merchandise for public giveaways at community events—such as Movies in the Park, the Spring Tree Giveaway, and the Sherman Oaks Street Fair—these items should be made of biodegradable or recycled materials whenever possible, and be free of toxic or hazardous substances to people or the environment. All items should include clear labels indicating whether they are made of recycled content, whether they are considered safe, and free of any potential hazards.

MOVED: *Green & Sustainability Committee* **SECOND:** *Does not require a second*

YES: Adair, Durbin, Ahari, Silverman, Materna, Imber, Stahl, Hartsough, Katchen, Debela, Shapiro, Baronian (12) **NO:** (0) / **ABSTAIN:** (0) / **INELIGIBLE:** Korand (1) /

ABSENT: Kalban, Jasiukonis, Endashaw, Laplante Hernandez(5)

Item 13.a. carries unanimously /12-0-0-1-5

- b. *Motion*** – Support CF 25-0962 ShadeLA / Shade Expansion / Heat Action and Resilience Plan and the Sustainability Plan.

The planting of additional shade trees and the implementation of shade structures by the City of

Los Angeles is an essential and impactful undertaking for several key reasons: 1) **Temperature Regulation:** Shade trees reduce ambient temperatures by blocking direct sunlight and releasing moisture through transpiration, creating cooler and more comfortable environments across neighborhoods. 2) **Energy Savings:** Well-placed shade trees help lower cooling costs for homes and businesses by reducing heat absorption, decreasing reliance on air conditioning, and ultimately reducing utility expenses. 3) **Wildlife Habitat:** Trees play a vital role in supporting local biodiversity by providing shelter, nesting sites, and food sources for birds, insects, and other wildlife. 4) **Air Quality Improvement:** Trees absorb carbon dioxide and airborne pollutants while releasing oxygen, contributing to cleaner, healthier air for residents. 5) **Soil Conservation:** Strong root systems stabilize soil, reduce erosion, and enhance groundwater retention, improving the health of local ecosystems. 6) **Aesthetic and Community Value:** Shade trees add beauty, structure, and character to streetscapes and public spaces, enriching the visual appeal and overall livability of our neighborhoods. 7) **Climate and Community Resilience:** Investing in shade trees and shade infrastructure strengthens the City's ability to adapt to rising temperatures, supports long-term sustainability goals, and creates safer, more resilient communities.

MOVED: *Green & Sustainability Committee* **SECOND:** *Does not require a second*

YES: Adair, Durbin, Ahari, Silverman, Materna, Imber, Stahl, Hartsough, Katchen, Debela, Shapiro, Baronian (12) **NO:** (0) / **ABSTAIN:** (0) / **INELIGIBLE:** Korand (1) /

ABSENT: Kalban, Jasiukonis, Endashaw, Laplante, Hernandez (5)

Item 13.b. carries unanimously /12-0-0-1-5

***14. Traffic & Transportation Committee Motions & Committee Report - Stacey Segarra Bohlinger, Chair.
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of the Month***

- a. ***Motion*** - Whereas, in 2020 the Los Angeles City Council approved a motion (Council File: 20-1267) submitted by Council Member Paul Krekorian and seconded by Council Member Mitch O'Farrell to have the City Council "INSTRUCT the Chief Legislative Analyst, in concert with the Los Angeles Police Department and the Office of the City Attorney to report on possible ways to more effectively limit the use of modified mufflers, especially in noise-sensitive areas."

And whereas, a muffler noise problem still exists and the regulations for modified mufflers are not currently being heavily enforced in many areas of Los Angeles and this situation jeopardizes the public safety and quality-of-life that modified mufflers pose for our communities and users of the right-of-way.

And whereas, the original approved motion asked for the regulations for modified mufflers to be more heavily enforced, and asked the City Council to assess and consider whether local laws were sufficiently strong enough to address both public safety and quality of life issues that modified mufflers pose in L.A.'s neighborhoods. And whereas, there is no record within the LA City File

system (CFS) indicating that further action was actually taken by any city agency after the original motion was approved.

It is now formally requested that: The above-mentioned agencies authorize and undertake a project to test out and evaluate the implementation of several varieties of "Noise Cameras," and to begin the deployment of an unknown number of these devices at strategically sited locations along public streets, especially in areas that are experiencing an abundance of vehicle noise pollution from modified mufflers illegally installed on vehicles. These noise cameras should only be deployed in a manner so that they are not used for any other purposes other than capturing the license plate numbers on any vehicles that are found to be exceeding safe decibel levels. The cameras should not be deployed in any manner that would violate an individual's rights to privacy. The agencies mentioned are to provide a full status report covering this issue, the enforcement of the current statutes that apply, and the methods that have been undertaken in an attempt to reduce the noise pollution, to the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council (SONC) and its community stakeholders.

MOVED: *Traffic & Transportation Committee* **SECOND:** *Does not require a second*
YES: Adair, Ahari, Silverman, Materna, Imber, Stahl, Hartsough, Katchen, Debela, Shapiro, Baronian (11) **NO:** (0) / **ABSTAIN:** (0) / **INELIGIBLE:** Korand (1) / **ABSENT:** Durbin, Kalban, Jasiukonis, Endashaw, Laplante, Hernandez (6)

Item 14.a. carries unanimously /11-0-0-1-5

15 . 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

- Please sign up for the homeless count on January 20 with LAHSA
- During 7 pm at Church of the chimes
- Learn your rights, know where you are safe
- Many indigenous people do not carry passports or birth certificates, but have citizenship cards

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

- Tree Giveaway in March
- Next meeting moved to January 21st due to the Homeless count on the 20th

c . 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

- Had a good discussion with the LA riverway people, given feedback
- The number of things we review at PLUM has diminished
- Vision Committee: Sepulveda Transit Corridor, Jeff Kalban worked to support a modified proposal of the technology of plan 5, but the location/route of plan 6. Metro is considering this modified route in 2 days on January 14 on Wednesday at 11:AM. Considering a locally Preferred Alternative due to what SONC Proposed
- Round of applause to SONC, and a big thanks to Supervisor Lindsey Horvath
- Encourage your friends and family to go to that meeting and say that it is your preferred alternative

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

- Meeting On Jan 13th virtually

e. Budget Advocates - Howard Katchen, SONC Representative

16. Board Member Announcements Closing announcements from Board Members.

- Current state of Government should, encourage everyone to email their local electeds
- We all need to be speaking and talking to our neighbors and electeds to express our beliefs
- The BONC has lost one of their members, Joy Atkinson who was a truly committed civil servant
- Take a moment of silence and adjourn the meeting in her memory

17. Adjournment

Adjournment: Motion to Adjourn approved without objection at 9:40 pm

Respectfully submitted,

EL-Bethel Debela