

## 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<br/>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

### **Board Meeting:**

Sherman Oaks East Valley Adult Center  
5056 Van Nuys Blvd

### **Minutes**

Monday, February 9, 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, composed 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 **6:40 pm**

**b. Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**i. Present:** Baronian, Durbin, Silverman, Imber, Kalban, Stahl, Endashaw, Hartsough, Debela, Katchen, Shapiro, Korand **(12)**

**ii. Absent:** Adair, Ahari, Materna, Jasiukonis, Laplante, Hernandez **(6)**

## **2. Administrative and Board Initiated Motions – Action Items**

**a. From Floor:**

*A motion to approve the SONC Board meeting minutes of January 12, 2026.*

**MOVED:** Silverman **SECOND:** Hartsough

**YES:** Baronian, Durbin, Silverman, Imber, Kalban, Stahl, Hartsough, Debela, Katchen, Shapiro, Korand (11)

**NO:** (0) / **ABSTAIN:** Endashaw (1) / **INELIGIBLE:** (0) / **ABSENT:** Adair, Ahari, Materna, Jasiukonis, Laplante, Hernandez (6)

**Item 2a carries unanimously /11-0-1-0-6**

***Amendment: Add Martin Hernandez and revise it to BONC.***

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

*Public Comment from Attendees*

**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.*

***Emily Aarison Martin Pollard Library Librarian***

- Friends of the Library book sale, Saturday 9:30–1:30
- Inexpensive books and other items
- Walking Book Club at 10 AM to talk about books
- Music Bingo on the 21st, 11 AM–12 PM
- Branch newsletter
- Programs that started last year are continuing: hygiene kits and cycle kits

***Captain Robert Barna, Battalion 10 Chief***

- Serves all of Sherman Oaks and Encino
- Two days ago in this room there was the first community CPR class
- Organized by Christy Adair, who oversees CERT in the Valley
- Jason Laurence donated his time
- Tremendous turnout
- Importance of CPR: a hiker down on Dirt Mulholland had bystanders initiate CPR and a life was saved
- Early CPR is extremely beneficial
- Discontinued vegetation management activities; have to respect and encourage natural habitat
- Can see all the way across Burbank into the dam area; nice hike and safe, no camping
- Helps park rangers enforce parking in the area
- Zone 11 is 95% complete; 80% of Zone 12 is complete
- Happy about the impact on the community
- Now is the chance to join the LAFD
- Webinar from 7–8 PM; all can apply
- Two park rangers in the basin

***Anthony Thornton Field Deputy for Assembly Member Nick Shultz***

- Sacramento updates
- Governor said there will be a 3 billion deficit in the state budget
- Assembly member is finalizing his legislative packet
- New bill ab1546 stronger DUI enforcement for repeat offenders, 3 DUI instead of the 4th
- New bill Ensures courts can correct wrongful convictions
- Anthony.thornton@asm.ca.gov

***Katie Abrams Lindsey Horvath Field Deputy***

- Project Angel Food has tripled the number of meals they can provide to the community
- Thank you to everyone who attended the Stay Ready Emergency Preparedness Fair
- Emergency Rent Relief Program has reopened and will expand who will be able to apply
- Tenants can apply instead of landowners starting Wednesday, March 11
- LA Family Housing will be involved, Department of Economic Opportunity

***Jason Buckley Executive Director of Northern Valley of Red Cross***

- Chapter shop: come stop by at the office to see what they do and say hello
- Here responding to home fires, providing free smoke alarms, and supporting military families
- Collects 40% of our national supply
- Severe national blood shortage, with a 35% drop
- A particularly challenging flu season has worsened the blood shortage
- Community blood drive at our Sherman Oaks office

***Officer Romo Senior lead officer***

- Crime stats
- Residential burglaries are down 61%
- Crime increases are due to last year's fire; resources are back on the streets
- Cameras are being placed
- Volunteer surveillance team: eyes and ears for the community, then call the police to handle issues
- Thefts and vehicle burglaries are down 12%
- Coffee with a Cop on Wednesday, Feb 25, 9:00–10:30 AM at Ministry of Coffee
- Senior Lead Officer Saldana recently retired; currently have someone on loan working in the area

***Taleen Kreugolian Field Deputy CD4***

- Nithya Raman is running for mayor, and the campaign office is happy to hear from all of you
- [www.nithyaforcity.com](http://www.nithyaforcity.com)
- Street lights are placed on the priority list and are being pushed as quickly as possible
- Locations mentioned: Van Nuys & Riverside, and Valley Glen & Woodman

- If you would like to report someone facing homelessness, please feel free to reach out to the office

## 5. Scheduled Recess - Meeting called into Recess at—7:19

Meeting reconvened at —7:32

EL-Bethel Debela, Secretary, called the roll

**Present:** Baronian, Durbin, Silverman, Imber, Kalban, Stahl, Endashaw, Hartsough, Debela, Katchen, Shapiro, Korand (12)

**Absent:** Adair, Ahari, Materna, Jasiukonis, Laplante, Hernandez (6)

## 6. President's Report.

- **New schedule regular meeting agenda posting through DONE to ENS.**

Agendas had to be submitted by 2 PM on Friday to cover meetings scheduled Monday through Wednesday.

Staff are now assigned on weekends.

Agendas can still be posted 72 hours in advance if they are submitted to DUNN for ENS posting by 2 PM on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday.

Allowing Saturday and Sunday submissions reduces the pressure to submit everything by Friday.

- **Board Member requisite trainings and participation in SONC committee**

Board members are responsible for completing all required training to remain on the board and stay current.

The training link has been shared again so members can monitor their own status.

Two trainings must be repeated every two years: Ethics (about a 2-hour course) and Funding (about a 15-minute online course).

Please take personal responsibility for staying compliant with these training requirements.

- **Ad Hoc Committees status: Planning Board Retreat and By Laws**

The ad hoc bylaws committee is active and will be discussed later.

Planning for the board retreat has not yet started, but efforts will begin soon.

- **Student Committee status**

Work on the student committee is in progress: brainstorming ideas with contacts from other neighborhood councils.

Further discussions with Devin and Hunter are needed, but they have not yet taken place.

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

If you are interested, please contact me directly.

You can also visit our website to review the bylaws for specific requirements for each category, or contact me and I'll provide the details.

- **SONC Board Meeting Speaker: March 9th City Attorney Hydee Feldstein-Soto**  
Next month's guest speaker will be City Attorney Hydee Feldstein-Soto  
Please attend—she will cover current, high-profile legal issues affecting the City of Los Angeles.  
The session promises to be interesting and insightful.

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

- a. **Motion – Support CF 24-0602 Synthetic Grass / Artificial Turf / Polyflouroalkyl Substances (PFAS) / Forever Chemicals / Health and Environmental Risks / Drought-Friendly Landscaping**

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

**YES:** Baronian, Durbin, Silverman, Imber, Stahl, Endashaw, Hartsough, Debela, Katchen, Shapiro, Korand (11) **NO:** Kalban (1) / **ABSTAIN:** (0) / **INELIGIBLE:** / **ABSENT:** Adair, Ahari, Materna, Jasiukonis, Laplante, Hernandez (6)

**Item 7.a. carries /11-1-0-0-6**

- b. **Motion – Support CF 25-0002-S89 United States Department of the Interior / Oil and Gas Exploration and Expansion / Leasing and Drilling / California Coastline and Atlantic Coastline**

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

**YES:** Baronian, Durbin, Silverman, Imber, Kalban, Stahl, Endashaw, Hartsough, Debela, Katchen, Shapiro, Korand (12)

**NO:** (0) / **ABSTAIN:** (0) / **INELIGIBLE:** / **ABSENT:** Adair, Ahari, Materna, Jasiukonis, Laplante, Hernandez (6)

**Item 7.b. carries unanimously /12-0-0-0-6**

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

- a. **Motion: Parked Vehicle Idling / Community Reporting System**

**MOVED:** *Traffic & Transportation Committee* **SECOND:** *Does not require a second*

**YES:** Baronian, Durbin, Silverman, Imber, Kalban, Stahl, Endashaw, Hartsough, Debela, Katchen, Shapiro, Korand (12)

**NO:** (0) / **ABSTAIN:** (0) / **INELIGIBLE:** / **ABSENT:** Adair, Ahari, Materna, Jasiukonis, Laplante, Hernandez (6)

**Item 8.a. carries unanimously /12-0-0-0-6**

**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 December 31, 2025. (SONC website meeting supporting documents)**

**MOVED:** *Finance committee* **SECOND:** *does not require a second*

**YES:** Baronian, Durbin, Silverman, Imber, Kalban, Stahl, Endashaw, Hartsough, Katchen,

Shapiro, Korand (11)

**NO: (0) / ABSTAIN: (0) INELIGIBLE: Debela (1) / ABSENT:** Adair, Ahari, Materna, Jasiukonis, Laplante, Hernandez (6)

**Item 9.a carries unanimously / 11-0-0-1-6**

- **b. NPG Application - Shero Comics via Creative Visions**

**MOVED:** *Finance committee* **SECOND:** *does not require a second*

**YES:** Baronian, Durbin, Silverman, Imber, Kalban, Stahl, Endashaw, Hartsough, Katchen, Shapiro, Korand (11)

**NO: (0) / ABSTAIN: (0) INELIGIBLE: Debela (1) / ABSENT:** Adair, Ahari, Materna, Jasiukonis, Laplante, Hernandez (6)

**Item 9.b carries unanimously / 11-0-0-1-6**

**c. Green & Sustainability Committee Funding Request**

**MOVED:** *Finance committee* **SECOND:** *does not require a second*

**YES:** Baronian, Durbin, Silverman, Imber, Kalban, Stahl, Endashaw, Hartsough, Katchen, Shapiro, Korand (11)

**NO: (0) / ABSTAIN: (0) INELIGIBLE: Debela (1) / ABSENT:** Adair, Ahari, Materna, Jasiukonis, Laplante, Hernandez (6)

**Item 9.c carries unanimously / 11-0-0-1-6**

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

**a. Motion: Support CF 26-0046. Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project / San Fernando Valley / Westside / Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) / Modified Alternative 5 / Proposed Phasing Plan.**

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

**YES:** Baronian, Durbin, Silverman, Imber, Kalban, Stahl, Endashaw, Hartsough, Debela, Katchen, Shapiro, Korand (12)

**NO: (0) / ABSTAIN: (0) / INELIGIBLE: / ABSENT:** Adair, Ahari, Materna, Jasiukonis, Laplante, Hernandez (6)

**Item 10.a. carries unanimously / 12-0-0-0-6**

**b. Motion: From the floor, requires a second Support CF 26-0002-S1. 2025-2026 State Legislative Program / Assembly Bill 153 / Peace Officers / Independent Contractor / United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS)**

**MOVED:** *Imber* **SECOND:** *Shapiro*

**YES:** Baronian, Durbin, Silverman, Imber, Kalban, Stahl, Endashaw, Debela, Katchen, Shapiro, Korand (11)

**NO: (0) / ABSTAIN: Hartsough (1) / INELIGIBLE: / ABSENT:** Adair, Ahari, Materna, Jasiukonis, Laplante, Hernandez (6)

**Item 10.b. carries unanimously /11-0-1-0-6**

**11. For Information Only – Ad Hoc By Laws Committee Suggestions – Submit Comments to Ad Hoc Committee Chair, Lindsay Imber**

**12. Motion:** From the floor, requires a second The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council supports the Charter Reform recommendations approved by the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition (LANCC) as well as those approved by the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates.

**MOVED:** Kalban **SECOND:** Imber

**YES:** Baronian, Durbin, Silverman, Imber, Kalban, Stahl, Endashaw, Hartsough, Debela, Katchen, Shapiro, Korand **(12)** **NO:** (0) / **ABSTAIN:** (0) / **INELIGIBLE:** / **ABSENT:** Adair, Ahari, Materna, Jasiukonis, Laplante, Hernandez **(6)**

**Item 12.a. carries unanimously /12-0-0-0-6**

**13. Motion:** From the floor, requires a second The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council (SONC) supports the No Kings Protests scheduled for Saturday, March 28, 2026.

**MOVED:** Hartsough **SECOND:** Kalban

**YES:** Silverman, Imber, Kalban, Stahl, Endashaw, Hartsough, Debela, Katchen, Shapiro, Korand **(10)** **NO:** Durbin **(1)** / **ABSTAIN:** Baronian **(1)** / **INELIGIBLE:** / **ABSENT:** Adair, Ahari, Materna, Jasiukonis, Laplante, Hernandez **(6)**

**Item 13.a. carries /10-1-1-0-6**

**14 . 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**

- Thanks to Christy Adair, the only board member to participate in the recent homeless count.
- Susan Collins, Ryan, Kira Durbin, Sarah, and Lisa also assisted.
- Some staff, including the field deputy, attended other districts, limiting engagement.
- Cold weather may have affected the number of unhoused people observed.
- Spring tree Giveaway—tabling to provide information and encourage community participation.
- Need for consistent Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council social media presence.
- Meetings and updates should be posted at least a few days in advance.
- Clarify who is managing social media for coordination.
- Circle Program:
- Non-emergency phone line to report unhoused neighbors needing assistance.
- The program has improved significantly over nearly two years; active participation is key.
- Resource packets were distributed during the home count.
- Example: A neighbor was housed within 45 minutes after a call—demonstrates effectiveness.
- Encourage community members to spread the word.

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

- Discussion about potentially moving The Tree Giveaway
- Members talked about revamping processes to be more effective; details will be shared at the next meeting.
- Hope to prioritize the newsletter and ziff flyer in upcoming communications.

**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**

**Design Recommendations:**

- Members can submit nominations for products, buildings, offices, restaurants, or other projects that enhance aesthetics or contribute to the built environment.
- Nominations are not necessarily annual and may result in one or multiple recognitions.
- Details will be posted in the next newsletter.
- Increasing density and new developments (e.g., SB 79, apartment buildings) raise questions about disaster evacuation capacity.
- Studies are being conducted on building occupancy, ADA access, and emergency preparedness for hills and flat areas.
- Ongoing work with public transit to study first-mile/last-mile connections and community property impacts.
- Addressing issues such as buildings without parking and finding practical solutions.
- The club and restaurant committees are exploring strategies to improve safety, design, and community planning.

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

- No members present.

**e. Budget Advocates - Howard Katchen, SONC Representative**

- Currently writing reports with recommendations for the Department of Cultural Affairs.
- Determining the team and preparing the preface for the annual white paper report.
- Once approved, the report will be distributed citywide to elected officials, city departments, and the general public.
- Available to anyone interested in reviewing it.

**15. Board Member Announcements Closing announcements from Board Members.**

- The Traffic & Transportation Committee is working with the Public Safety Committee to organize a town hall on local traffic safety.

- Already coordinated with the SLO and fire captain regarding recent hit-and-runs, pedestrian and bicyclist accidents, and other neighborhood incidents.
- Goal: raise awareness and address traffic safety issues, similar to last year's Encino town hall on crime, which drew mayoral attention.
- Other committees and community members are encouraged to participate and provide feedback for planning the event.
- Nithya Raman has not done anything to help the Homeless Community,
- 7 people die homeless every day in LA County

## **16. Adjournment**

**Adjournment: Motion to Adjourn approved without objection at 8:56 pm**

Respectfully submitted,

EL-Bethel Debela