

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA



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SHERMAN OAKS
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Neighborhood Council

Public Safety Committee

Susan Collins, Co-Chair

Christy Adair, Co-Chair

Penny Johnson

Barbara McDermott

Thelma Mericle

Kira Durbin

Public Safety Committee Meeting

Meeting Date: Tuesday June 9, 2026

MINUTES

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL:

1. Call to Order by Presiding Officer – Meeting Called to order at 6:35pm
2. Roll Call - All committee members present: Susan Collins, Christy Adair, Penny Johnson, Thelma Miracle, Barbara McDermott, Kira Durbin.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE MOTIONS: Minutes from May Approved

3. INTRODUCTIONS & CITY UPDATES: Committee, City Officials & Staff

4. SHERMAN OAKS CRIME DATA UPDATE - Susan Collins

5. REVIEW COMMUNITY ALERTS & CURRENT SCAMS –

Community Scams and Alerts / New scams reported:

- **Building permit fraud:** Scammers monitor city agendas for submitted remodel plans, then send official-looking bills (e.g., \$19,000) claiming final approval payment required. Victims should verify directly with planning department, not contact information on suspicious notices.
- **Accident tow truck scam:** Russian-Armenian mafia uses scanners to detect Tesla accidents on 405 freeway, immediately calls victims claiming to be from Tesla/insurance, dispatches tow trucks within minutes, then holds vehicles and overcharges at fraudulent mechanic shops
- **Fake pet adoption agencies:** Business pages on Nextdoor stealing photos from legitimate rescue groups (e.g., "Cut Paws" in LA), requesting contact for adoptions that don't exist

- **Bank fraud calls:** Scammers spoof legitimate bank numbers after credit card theft, claiming to be fraud department. Always call verified bank numbers independently.

Crime Data Report (Van Nuys Division)

May 3-30 vs. April 5-May 2:

- Homicides: Increased 100% (1 to 2 incidents) 9
- Rape: Increased 33.3% (3 to 4 incidents)
- Robbery: Decreased 61.9% (21 to 8 incidents)
- Aggravated assault: Decreased 11.6% (43 to 38 incidents)
- Burglary: Decreased 45.7% (35 to 19 incidents)
- Motor vehicle theft: Increased 5.4% (37 to 39 incidents)
- Theft from motor vehicles: Decreased 39.3% (84 to 51 incidents)
- Total person and property crimes: Decreased 27.5% (342 to 248 incidents)

Data limitations: Crime mapping has been unavailable for 2.5 years due to LAPD's transition to federal reporting systems. Current statistics cover entire Van Nuys Division (Raymer to Mulholland, 405 to Coldwater Canyon area), not Sherman Oaks specifically.

6. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Public Comment: Flock Camera Privacy Concerns

Christina (public attendee) raised concerns about **Flock surveillance cameras** outside Sherman Oaks Mall on Riverside Boulevard:

- Cameras record license plates, vehicle details (dents, stickers), passenger facial recognition, and audio of nearby conversations 3435
- Data stored by private company Flock, not city-controlled
- Cameras use outdated Android technology vulnerable to hacking
- No public notification when driving past cameras
- ACLU has published concerns about Fourth Amendment violations

7. COMMITTEE RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT:

Committee response: Christy Adair provided contact for City Council Public Safety Committee (Room 340, City Hall, 200 N Spring St, 2:30 PM meetings). Public comment allowed at meeting start for 2-3 minutes on all agenda items. 5

Background on Flock deployment:

- Neighborhoods can purchase privately for installation on private property with 30-day data retention
- Alternative: Council district cost-offset through LAPD-affiliated organization, installed on public utility poles with 3-5 year data retention and automatic police access
- Concerns arose after Northern California and another state shared Flock data with ICE

8. C.E.R.T. REPORT - Christy Adair-

Current training: Sherman Oaks CERT class completes June 12 with graduation ceremony (Penny Johnson graduating)

- **Encino Park Disaster Drill – Saturday:** 7:30 AM check-in, 8:30-9:30 AM just-in-time training, 10:00 AM drill start with search and rescue, field hospital, triage, and building safety assessments.

Stop the Bleed workshop 12:00-1:00 PM with LAFD instructors. Free and open to public observation.

Emergency preparedness guidance:

- Valley residents should maintain **30 days of supplies** (water and food) due to expected infrastructure disruptions after major San Andreas earthquake
- US Geological Survey analysis shows LA will face perpendicular seismic waves causing severe damage to aqueducts, power lines, utilities, and rail crossing the fault line
- Stores will face staffing challenges post-disaster as employees may not be able to reach work locations

School Emergency Preparedness Discussion

Committee discussed expanding disaster preparedness education to schools:

- **Current CERT programs:** Four LAUSD magnet schools plus Polytechnic High School have CERT clubs. Polytechnic's 40-member teen CERT club provides first aid at school sporting events and practices monthly.
- **Challenges:** LAUSD liability restrictions limit outside programs despite city-to-city relationship. Only 8 CERT instructors available citywide.
- **Elementary outreach:** MySafeLA previously conducted fire safety and earthquake preparedness at elementary schools with fire engines, teaching "drop, cover, hold on" and family communication plans
- Kira Durbin will explore bringing CERT presentations to youth committee and high schools

Active shooter preparedness: Buckley School and other private schools conduct lockdown drills but may lack comprehensive active shooter training protocols. Committee member confirmed son's school did not conduct active shooter drills.

9. Final Committee Business and Announcements - Emergency or timely items since the posting of the agenda

Pending Confirmation:

- **Blood drive location:** Christy Adair coordinating with Church of Chimes following board meeting discussion
- **Coyote management meeting:** Animal Control presentation needed to address public concern about coyote overcrowding; determine if population actually increased or animals more visible
- **SB 2624 (Stop Nick Shirley Act):** Committee members encouraged to research bill independently due to conflicting interpretations at board meeting (freedom of information vs. fraud investigation restrictions)
- **Pride event tabling:** Ryan Ahari (working for State Senator Caroline Menjivar) offered SONC table space at San Fernando Valley Pride event June 27. Timing conflicts with Movies in the Park.

Action Items:

- **Jeffrey Hartsough:** Add Kira Durbin to committee roster on future agendas
- **Jeffrey Hartsough:** Add SB 2624 discussion to next month's agenda
- **Jeffrey Hartsough:** Post approved meeting minutes for review before next meeting
- **Christy Adair:** Contact woman who made coyote public comment at board meeting to invite to Public Safety Committee
- **Christy Adair:** Coordinate with Pamela and Sarah regarding SONC participation in SFV Pride event
- **Committee members:** Review SB 2624 bill text before next meeting

10. ADJOURNMENT: 8:15pm

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