

Committee Members:

Christy Adair – Co-Chair
Jenna Lewis - Co-Chair
Penny Gilbert - Secretary
Penny Johnson
Barbara McDermott
Jesse Smith
Cissy Varkey-Altamirano

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA



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Sherman Oaks
Neighborhood Council

Public Safety Committee Meeting
Minutes

Tuesday, June 8, 2021
6:30 pm

In conformity with the Governor’s Executive Order N-29-20 (March 17, 2020) and due to the concerns over COVID-19, the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council Public Safety Committee meetings will be conducted telephonically until further notice.

Every person wishing to address the Committee must either dial 1-669-900-6833 and enter 842 7040 8817 and then press # to join the meeting - or join the meeting from Zoom’s landing page using Webinar ID: 842 7040 8817. Instructions on how to sign-up for Public Comment will be given to listeners at the start of the meeting.

PUBLIC INPUT AT SONC PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

If the public wishes to address the Committee on any agenda item before the Committee takes an action on an item, the Public will wait to be addressed by the presiding officer before commenting. If accessing the meeting by telephone, the public is requested to press *9. If accessing the meeting by computer, the public is requested to click on the “raise hand” button.

Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Committee’s jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period.

Please note that under the Brown Act, the Committee is prevented from acting on a matter that the public brings to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become an item on a future committee meeting agenda. Public Comment is limited to two minutes per speaker unless adjusted by the presiding officer.

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.

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order** - Christy Adair, Co-Chair at 6:34pm
2. **Roll Call** – Penny Gilbert, Secretary
3. **Administrative Motion** - Action Item; Vote Required.

a. Motion to approve the minutes of the May 2021 Public Safety Meeting.

Christy Adair, Jenna Lewis, Barbara McDermott, Cissy Varkey-Altamirano. Penny Johnson, Jesse Smith, Penny Gilbert. Yes 7; No: 0; Abstain: 0. Minutes approved.

4. **Introductions** - Committee members, elected officials and staff.

Nicole Alaverdian, Nithya Raman's Office, 6/15/21 Tree Giveaway at Fashion Square.

5. **Special Guest Speaker - Maria Turnhout from KMA Blackbelt Champions** to present the first segment of a 4-part series of talks & demos on Kids Self Defense and Personal Safety. Each summer month will bring a new segment culminating in a free, in-person Kids Safety workshop.

This program is all about Empowerment. 1,000,000 children are abducted or abused every year. Children must learn the difference between being helpful to strangers and recognizing who might be a potential predator. Learning personal safety skills will allow a child to grow up strong and confident—less likely to become a victim. In the Sherman Oaks area there are 106 registered sex offenders. 90% of all predators are known to their victims. Knowing the predator, the child more easily becomes a victim. Or, the predator studies an individual child to learn their routines. There is a “predators network” and such gathered information is shared, thus disarming the child. Children do not yet have the skill level to discern the difference between simple interactions with adults and the danger they may present. Parents need to educate their children, setting rules as to who the children speak with, when and under what circumstances. Children need to learn potential “lures”; when to open the front or back door of their homes, when to respond to “Can you help me?”, assisting in finding a lost animal, needing location direction, etc. Role playing games with parents and children can teach a child to understand lures and personal safety. This builds self esteem and teaches the use of instincts. A child should be taught early on their full name, address and phone number.

Barbara McDermott and Christy Adair thanked and complimented Maria and Laura for their presentation.

Nikki Fong also thanked the team for their presentation and noted the timing due to schools opening in the near future.

6. **Covid-19 Crisis Update** – Jesse Smith

State will open fully on June 15th. 64% of residents under the age of 50 are fully vaccinated. 85% of those over the age of 60 are fully vaccinated. Christy Adair asked about the Vaccine Lottery. Jeffery Hartsough informed that everyone who was vaccinated is eligible for lottery payout.

7. Community Police Advisory Board Update (“CPAB”) Update – Penny Gilbert

Expansion of the Van Nuys Station which will include the areas around the library, and the courthouse to serve as a community meeting/common area for resident gatherings, events and family days. Subject to VNNC.

Saturday June 12 at 8am is Walk Your Dog with the Cops at Van Nuys Sherman Oaks Park. Event to bring officers and neighbors with pets to meet and greet.

Due to defunding, retirements and career change. The LAPD is losing a percentage of their officers. All residents are urged to contact their City Council Reps to urge additional funding for the LAPD

8. Viability Study by LA to adopt San Bernadino mobile app for reporting illegal Fireworks – Penny Johnson

City Councilwoman Monica Rodrigues is introducing a motion addressing the need for City of Los Angeles to adopt such an app. The San Bernardino app is viewable by both the Police and Fire departments.

*****Update:** Thanks to Councilwoman Rodrigues, the City of Los Angeles will beta test an app with Apple Iphones ONLY in the coming months to determine if such a program would work in the City of Los Angeles.

Barbara McDermott added that ALL fireworks are illegal in the City of Los Angeles, including those labeled safe and sane. As in recent years, the city has activated the online reporting system for fireworks <https://complaint.lacity.org/Complaint/fireworks/>.

As always if there is an injury or fire, call 911. Also, call 911 if you can actually, physically see someone lighting off fireworks. You can also report fireworks by calling non-emergency dispatch (1-877-ASK-LAPD), however, utilizing the on-line reporting system will help keep the non-emergency phone lines open for other crimes. Online fireworks reports do go to the police. Providing a specific location or suspect description enables officers to follow-up on the report, however, even without a specific address or suspect description, the information can still be broadcast to area officers.

9. Pilot Van Program spearheaded by LAFD with Department of Mental Health (“DMH”) for unarmed response to individuals with mental health emergencies – Penny Johnson

There is a test program—Therapeutic Transport—which is in lieu of calling LAPD or the Fire Dept. The program sends mental health workers to aid the Homeless. It will run through LAFD dispatch. Patients will be transported to mental health facilities. LAFD has 5 stations involved in this test program with DMH teams. Fire Station 77 in Sun Valley is the only test program in the Valley. Program based on a successful run in San Francisco.

10. Public Comments – Comments by the public on non-agenda items within the Public Safety Committee’s jurisdiction.

None

11. Committee Response to Public Comment

None.

12. Final Business and Announcements

- a. Weekly Homework Assignments for Attendees: start teaching your children about personal safety. “Where to go if I need help”. Barbara McDermott reminds parents to teach their children how to find their exact location IF they need to call 911.
- b. Committee Business: Secretary will send Minutes to each PSC member within 2 days of the latest meeting. Requesting a 10 edit and return.
- c. Committee Business: All members thank and send best wishes to retiring Co-Chair Jenna Lewis for her invaluable service to the Public Service Committee.

13. Adjourn at 8:12pm

THE AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT

As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and upon request will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities. Sign language interpreters, assisted listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least 3 business days (72 hours) prior to the meeting by contacting the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment by calling (213) 978-1551 or email: NCsupport@lacity.org

PUBLIC ACCESS OF RECORDS

In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board in advance of a meeting may be viewed at our website: www.ShermanOaksNC.org or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please email: gil.imber.sonc@gmail.com.

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- Sherman Oaks Public Library, 14245 Moorpark Street, SO, CA 91423
- www.ShermanOaksNC.org
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RECONSIDERATION AND GRIEVANCE PROCESS -- For information on the NC’s process for committee action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy, or any other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the NC Bylaws. The Bylaws are available at our Board meetings and our website www.ShermanOaksNC.org.