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CALIFORNIA

SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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MEETING OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE - MINUTES

Thursday, May 10, 2018 - 6:30 PM

Sylmar Neighborhood Council Office

13521 Hubbard Street, Sylmar, CA 91342

Committee Chair – Diane Valencia

Vice Chair – Tom Weissbarth

Sylmar Neighborhood Council Meeting Minutes are a summary, not an exact, verbatim, word-for-word transcript of what was said at a Meeting. The only two exceptions are the Motions shown in italics and quotes shown with quotation marks (“ ”) at the beginning and ending of a word or words. The Minutes are not, nor were they ever meant to be, a comprehensive record of what was said about an issue or project.

1. Call to Order

Diane Valencia called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm and thanked Oakridge Mobile Home Park for hosting our meeting tonight.

2. Housekeeping: Sign-In Sheets, taking of Minutes, etc.

Diane Valencia covered housekeeping items. Linda Willeford, President of the Oakridge Residents Association and host of tonight’s meeting, welcomed everyone. Paul Reichert, Park owner, welcomed everyone and expressed the mutual concerns of Oakridge residents and the Sylmar Neighborhood Council.

3. Roll Call of Committee

Committee members present were: Diane Valencia, Tom Weissbarth, Robyn Farrow and Kathy Grubert.

Absent were Bonnie Bernard, Kurt Cabrera-Miller, and Art Rocco.

4. Public Comment on non-agendized matters, within the Committee’s subject matter jurisdiction.

Stakeholder expressed her concern about a street vendor near her home on Glenoaks near Food 4 Less, citing air quality issues and traffic safety concerns. A stakeholder raised the question regarding fire dangers associated with overgrown weeds around Oakridge Estates and the need to till it under. A stakeholder expressed concerns about drug dealing in the area and lack of response by local law enforcement and lack of reporting by the LA Times.

5. Q&A with Captain Albert Torres, Los Angeles Department of Recreation & Parks.

Captain Albert Torres spoke about how rangers approach the homeless issue. He also shared his concerns, observations and personal safety tips about the growing population of homeless, as well as related issues around fire safety. Diane Valencia asked how we can help, and the ranger responded that it is important to keep an eye out and alert the Park Rangers or LAPD, and expressed the need for permanent Restricted Entry signs. Contact information: by email at albert.torres@lacity.org, or submit a Request for Service at laparks.org.

6. Public Official Comments / Presentations, including Q&A

Franklin Ochoa from CD7 spoke about the removal of an encampment at Stetson Park and shared that we should be seeing, in the next couple of years, the results of Proposition HHH and Measure H funds being directed toward addressing the homeless situation. Franklin directed stakeholders to alert Councilwoman Rodriguez’s

office for homeless encampment removal issues within parks. For locations within and elsewhere in CD7, Councilwoman Rodriguez is working on a motion to restrict parking in very high fire severity zone. With respect to a 2nd fire station in Sylmar, Councilwoman Rodriguez's office is working on a study to determine a location for it.

Alvin Arzu from the City Attorney's office spoke about street racing in Sylmar. LAPD Mission Division has been involved, responding to community calls. He spoke of the difficulty of identifying and organizing response, given the lack of resources. His office contacted LAPD to explore solutions and the viability of putting together a task force to address the issue. He suggested calling 1-877-ASK-LAPD, rather than calling 911, to report street racing. Also, stakeholders should reach out to LAPD Valley Traffic and CHP. With respect to street vending, he indicated that he would make sure the street vendor at the Glenoaks near Food 4 Less location is investigated. With respect to drug dealing, he assured stakeholders that drug dealing is actively being worked on, though it may not make the front page of the LA Times. Tom Weissbarth and Janet Gibson suggested some creative ways we might address street racing.

- 7. Discussion and possible action** to approve the draft Minutes of the March 29, 2018 Special Public Safety Committee meeting.

Tom moved to approve the minutes, as amended, and Kathy seconded the motion.
Motion passed: 4/0/0

- 8. Appointment and/or removal by Committee Chair of Committee Member(s)**

Item tabled. Diane will have individual discussions with Committee members.

- 9. LAPD Mission Division Report / Updates – LAPD / Tom Weissbarth**

Tom shared the data he has received from the LAPD (3/11-4/7/2018), which shows that crime is way down compared to last year. Tom shared his preliminary analysis of the year-long data he received on response times, # of calls, etc. which shows Mission Division as generally not the best, not the worst, compared to other communities in the San Fernando Valley. In terms of number of calls, the highest volume of calls, by far, is around the 4th of July. Tom is continuing his analysis and will share what he learns in future meetings.

- 10. Discussion and possible action regarding open / action items of the Public Safety Committee, including review of Council Files identified as being relevant to public safety.**

Diane shared the open items, including the LAPD Volunteer Patrol Program, the letters to Councilwoman Rodriguez's office regarding vehicle dwelling and encampments in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, our LAPD Public Records Request, suspicious activity at a local business, and current City Council Files we might want to take action on.

- 11. Discussion and possible action related to the SNC's Public Safety / Quality of Life Community Town Hall meeting held on April 21, 2018. (Questions from Stakeholders, responses from officials, video of meeting, updates on SNC website, etc.)**

Diane reported on the recently held town hall that all questions/comments have been typed up and will be sent out to the public officials that were present at the Town Hall for their responses. Diane is still seeking assistance with the SNC website so that all information, including video clips can be posted for the public to view.

- 12. Discussion and possible action related to the general purpose/mission of the Public Safety Committee, assessment of activity to date, along with possible changes to the Committee and its strategies moving forward, in furtherance of its goals.**

Diane shared our committee's current purpose and mission and shared concerns regarding the lack of response to our efforts from our public officials, particularly Councilwoman Rodriguez's office. Linda Willeford, President of Oakridge Residents Association, submitted for the record a letter that she sent Councilwoman Rodriguez in which she personally invited her to our meeting tonight, and to which she received no response. Robyn suggested we band together with other neighborhood councils who are experiencing the same neglect, and approach Councilwoman Rodriguez. Diane agreed and shared that she has been developing relationships with other neighborhood councils. A Board member from the Arleta Neighborhood Council who was present shared that Arleta is experiencing the same problem with CD7 office. After some discussion, Diane suggested we continue this discussion after we've had some time to reflect upon our options.

- 13. Discussion and possible action related to Council File 14-1057-S1 (Section 85.02 Prohibiting the Use of Streets and Public Parking Lots for Habitation / Ordinance). Ordinance is scheduled to sunset July 1, 2018. Possible action could include such things as submitting a Community Impact Statement, resubmitting the SNC's letter dated February 1, 2018 to CD7, asking that all areas within VHFHSZs be excluded under this Ordinance, asking that No Parking signs for Oversize Vehicles be posted within VHFHSZs or other action related to the Ordinance. NOTE – Studio City Neighborhood Council recently submitted a CIS related to excluding VHFHSZ's in the Ordinance.**

Diane reported out on the status of the CIS and letter to CD7 regarding this issue and the lack of response we have had to our requests to prohibit oversize vehicle parking in Very High Fire Severity Zones. Diane reported that many Council Districts, including 6 and 12 which border Sylmar, have requested the posting of No Oversize Vehicle Parking signs on numerous streets. These signs trump the city ordinance, once posted and are posted for general public safety reasons. Only one such request has been submitted by Councilwoman Rodriguez. Diane suggested we submit a letter to Councilwoman Rodriguez's office, asking her to prohibit vehicle dwelling within the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. Further discussion resulted in Diane making a motion to authorize she and Tom to write a CIS for relevant Council Files asking for a revision of the Ordinance to prohibit all vehicle dwelling within the VHFHSZ (Citywide) and also attach our letter dated February 1, 2018 as supplemental information to the CIS. Tom seconded the motion.

Motion passed: 4/0/0

- 14. Discussion and possible action related to street racing and similar activity in Sylmar.**

Diane reported that Officer Crawford will help us get a meeting with Valley Traffic and CHP to discuss possible solutions to this issue.

- 15. Committee Member Comments on subject matters within the Committee's jurisdiction**

None

- 16. Future Agenda Items: Please e-mail the Committee Chair, Diane Valencia, at Diane.Valencia@SylmarNC.org**

None

- 17. Closing Remarks, Announcements, Acknowledgements, and Adjournment**

Diane moved to adjourn, without objection, at 9:19 pm.

Committee Meeting Minutes are available on the SNC website www.SylmarNC.org