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CALIFORNIA

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**MEETING OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE - MINUTES**  
**Thursday, February 8, 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 6:36 PM

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

Diane reviewed housekeeping, sign-in sheets. Tom Weissbarth will record the meeting to assist with the writing of the Minutes.

3. **Roll Call of Committee**

Diane took roll call. Six Committee members present: Diane Valencia, Tom Weissbarth, Kurt Cabrera-Miller, Bonnie Bernard, Robyn Farrow, Art Rocco

Absent: Kathy Grubert

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

None

5. **Public Official Comments / Presentations, including Q&A**

Diane introduced LAPD Senior Lead Officer Keith Crawford. He began speaking about the Volunteer Surveillance Team (VST) and how community members may help support LAPD Mission Division. Ms. Valencia pulled agenda item #16 forward. See additional notes under this item.

SLOs are spending majority of time dealing with homeless issues – RV’s and vehicles dwelling in particular. SLO Giron has been “on loan” to the HOPE team for the past 2 weeks, and may continue for another 2 weeks, to assist with homeless related issues. There is only one tow company through the City that is able to tow large vehicles like RV’s. The tow lot is full and may not be able to accept any new vehicles for at least another month. Vehicles aren’t cited, the individuals are.

Franklin Ochoa, Area Director in Sylmar for CD7. Community clean-up this Saturday on Foothill Blvd., between Sayre and Astoria. Councilwoman is hosting a Ball & Luncheon on Valentine’s Day for Seniors at Palacio Torres, bus pick-up at Las Palmas Park with advance RSVP. Franklin indicated that clean-up on San Fernando Road, between Bledsoe and Cobalt have been cleaned-up. Currently working on Foothill Blvd., between Roxford and Bledsoe with RVs. Individuals have ripped out CalTrans fence. Provided 72 hour notice to vacate and will return to clean-up after that timeframe.

Penny McMillan asked about Green zones parking. She has indicated that she does want to remove Green zones but they want to be strategic about it so that they don't push those folks into residential areas. No parking signs trumps LAMC 85.02.

Diane Valencia pointed out that the SNC letters submitted to Councilwoman Rodriguez focused on very specific concerns regarding encampments and vehicle dwelling. The Committee asked Franklin to respond back to the Committee on these items within 30 days or by the next Public Safety Committee meeting.

Kurt Cabrera-Miller pointed out that No Parking signs have gone up by Councilmember Englander on many streets. Kurt also indicated that he has been working with DOT for several months. Diane Valencia advised that a list of Councilmember requests across the City was run from Council Files and CD7 is one of the only Districts across the City that have had no parking restrictions requested.

Diane Valencia asked about homeless encampments. City property matters should be reported to 311 and it routes to Sanitation as a first step before outreach services are offered and coordinated. Homeless encampments on private property are handled directly with the property owner and LAPD.

Ann Job indicated that 20 people ran for CD7 a year ago. The Councilwoman promised that she was the best prepared to hit the ground running to service our area that had been under served for so long and that she could make up for all of the neglect. Ann challenged her to do just that.

6. **Discussion and possible action** to approve the draft Minutes of the October 12, 2017 Public Safety Committee meeting.

Motion to approve as written by Diane Valencia, seconded by Tom Weissbarth.

Motion passed: 5/0/0 (Kurt Cabrera-Miller had stepped out of the room and was absent for the vote)

7. **Discussion and possible action to approve the draft Minutes of the November 9, 2017 Public Safety Committee meeting.**

Minutes were not available to present but will be prepared and presented at a future meeting.

8. **Discussion and possible action to approve the draft Minutes of the December 11, 2017 Public Safety Committee meeting.**

Minutes were not available to present but will be prepared and presented at a future meeting.

9. **Discussion and possible action to approve the draft Minutes of the January 11, 2018 Public Safety Committee meeting.**

Motion to approve as written, with a correction as requested by Penny McMillan, by Diane Valencia, seconded by Tom Weissbarth.

Motion passed: 5/0/0 (Kurt Cabrera-Miller had stepped out of the room and was absent for the vote)

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

No action. Diane Valencia noted that this would be a recurring item on the agenda to provide flexibility with adding or removing members based on the need to do so.

11. **LAPD Mission Division Report / Updates – LAPD / Tom Weissbarth**

Tom indicated that we are still trying to obtain a consistent version of the crime reports/stats and that he will follow up with LAPD.

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

Diane briefly covered some of the outstanding items. The LAPD PRA request remains outstanding with no response – 3 follow-ups so far, with the last one copied to Councilwoman Rodriguez and City Attorney Mike Feuer. Homeless Encampments – covered during discussion with Franklin. Business concerns previously brought up by Robyn – investigation is ongoing. Traffic concerns at Maclay/Foothill – signal will not be fixed anytime soon due to DWP Trunk Line project but Franklin advised that DOT will be retiming the lights and will look at traffic flow.

Diane shared a list of active Council Files that have been identified as relevant to the Committee.

**13. Discussion and possible action related to the planning and scheduling of a Public Safety Community Town Hall meeting, including a discussion related to the scope of such a meeting, speakers, participants, date, time, location, marketing/outreach efforts.**

Diane explained that the Town Hall had been approved last month by the Committee and approved at end of January by the Board, with an expenditure not to exceed \$2,500. We now need to work out the “Who, What, Where”, etc.) and advised Franklin that we would love Councilwoman Rodriguez to be a big part of the meeting. Franklin indicated that he would pass this along and for us to contact the Councilwoman’s scheduler. The Committee discussed several venues as options – Los Angeles Mission College, St. Didacus, Sylmar Charter High School, Olive View. Diane indicated that Mission College could be expensive due to the various expenses they typically pass along – Sheriff’s for security, A/V tech charge, etc. John Pacheco has expressed an interest in participating. Dates in April were briefly discussed – Saturdays (7, 14, 21, 28) around 9:30 / 10:00 – Noon or so. Attendees would definitely include Councilwoman Rodriguez, LAPD, LAFD, DOT, perhaps Kuehl’s office. Topics – fire station(s), crime/LAPD resources, Map Your Neighborhood, Fireworks, Street Racing, Disaster Prep/Management/Recovery. Robyn volunteered to inquire with venues.

**14. Discussion and possible action relative to a position letter/request for action regarding LAFD resources in Sylmar, including a discussion of past advocacy by the Sylmar Neighborhood Council.**

Diane indicated that she did not have a chance to draft the letter in time for tonight’s meeting. She gave a brief overview of the SNC’s advocacy which began in September, 2015 and indicated to Franklin that she wants to provide the Councilwoman with a timeline. The letter should reiterate our past efforts and staffing for Station 91’s additional resources.

Motion by Bonnie Bernard, second by Robyn Farrow to authorize Diane Valencia to write a letter, introducing Councilwoman Rodriguez to the SNC’s past efforts, look for her support and to prioritize full time (not variable) staffing for Station 91’s resources and provide an update on the construction of additional fire stations.

Motion passed: 6/0/0

Motion by Bonnie Bernard, second by Tom Weissbarth to send such a letter directly to the SNC Board for their consideration, instead of having it come back through Committee.

Motion passed: 6/0/0

**15. Discussion and possible action to relative to a Community Open House / Appreciation Day at LAFD Fire Station 91 on Fire Service Day (May 12, 2018) or an alternate day.**

Diane explained what occurred last year and that Fire Station 91 was interested in hosting an Open House again. FS91 would be interested in providing hot dogs and chips for lunch, vehicle demonstrations, vehicle extrications, t-shirt sales, CERT, My Safe LA, activities for children, etc. SNC supported this event with an amount not to exceed \$500 in 2017. Tom asked if it might be better if another date is chosen but Diane indicated that it sounds like the preference is actually May 12.

Motion by Bonnie Bernard, second by Tom Weissbarth, to approve an amount not to exceed \$500 for a Community Open House / Appreciation Day at LAFD Fire Station 91 on Fire Service Day (May 12, 2018).

Motion passed: 6/0/0

**16. Discussion and possible action regarding LAPD’s Volunteer Surveillance Team (VST) and how interested Sylmar community members might participate.**

Senior Lead Officer Keith Crawford spoke about the VST program. Volunteers would receive training from the LAPD, including how to use radios, would never interact with suspects, would travel two to a car, would never alone, are not permitted to carry a weapon, and need to be at least 18 years old. Assistance is needed across Mission Division, not just Sylmar. This supports “plainclothes” surveillance and is often beneficial so that black and whites and uniformed officers are not so visible. Training runs about 5 hours. Any interested parties can contact Officer Crawford by email at his desk phone. Diane indicated that perhaps the SNC can assist would outreach for this program.

**17. Discussion and possible action regarding drafting a Community Impact Statement for Council File #06-0125-S2 (Nuisance Motels / Police Department Service Calls / Permit Feasibility Study)**

Diane indicated that Penny McMillan had requested that we consider this item shortly after the Committee's January meeting. Diane gave a summary of the Council File. Tom asked how old/recent this File is. Penny indicated that the File was recently agendized in Committee last month. Tom that he wasn't sure that he was interested in supporting a motel/hotel regulation program but he does support asking for a feasibility study. Diane explained that per her conversation with Deputy City Attorney Alvin Arzu, there is not a specific number of calls or types of calls that define such activity as a "nuisance" and that the totality of the calls will determine that.

Motion by Diane Valencia to approve as written, second by Robyn Farrow

Motion passed: 6/0/0

**18. Discussion and possible action related to changes requested by Council Districts across the City of Los Angeles relative to oversize vehicle parking, citing public safety concerns within their Districts.**

Diane presented the list of Council Files run from a report based on the search term "oversize vehicle". She read one such Motion as an example, which asks to prohibit this type of parking based on public safety concerns. CD7 is one of the only Council Districts which has not taken this type of action to date. Tom summarized recent activity in CD6 that he has noticed around the SAFE Collection site and others. Diane suggested that we postpone any action at this time to allow Councilwoman Rodriguez 30 days to respond to our letter regarding revisions to LAMC 85.02 but that we will agendize this again at our March meeting.

**19. Discussion and possible action to approve a position statement / recommendation for Council File #17-1432 (Citywide / Hotels/Motels / Supportive Housing / Transitional Housing / Los Angeles Municipal Code / Amendment).**

Diane explained that the Public Safety Committee was asked to consider this item, along with the SNC's Homeless Services and Planning & Land Use Committees at a meeting. There was a general discussion among those present, about the draft Ordinance. Penny McMillan indicated that her understanding was that only 4 area motels have expressed an interest by attending the initial meeting on this topic. Diane indicated that she and Tom had reviewed the various input from: SAG, Tom's own comments, social media online comments, etc. and prepared a draft position paper for the Committee's consideration. If the Committee reaches a decision tonight, it may not be necessary for everyone to the joint meeting on 2/12/18. Diane commented on how vague she felt the Ordinance was and how several important points were not addressed. It was also pointed out that Councilwoman Rodriguez had made a motion to include items or amend the Ordinance in some way but she retracted her motion. No one present knew what her suggested changes were. Tom expressed concern that Sylmar's current public safety resources would be stretched even further with additional lives in these properties. The Committee reviewed each section of the draft and agreed on additions/deletions/changes. A position paper agreed upon by the Committee can be used as the basis of a letter or Community Impact Statement by the Board.

Motion by Diane Valencia, second by Tom Weissbarth, to approve the draft as presented, with amendments as discussed by Committee. The position will indicate "Opposed as drafted, the following items have been identified for your consideration".

Motion passed: 4/0/1 (Art Rocco had excused himself, Kurt Cabrera-Miller abstained)

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

**21. Future Agenda Items: Email the Committee Chair, Diane Valencia, at [Diane.Valencia@SylmarNC.org](mailto:Diane.Valencia@SylmarNC.org)**

**22. Closing Remarks, Announcements, Acknowledgements, and Adjournment**

Diane Valencia called for adjournment of the meeting at 9:26 PM with no objections.