

Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council



MINUTES

Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council

Public Safety Committee

MEETING Oct. 6th, 2010 6:30PM

VIVA Gallery Moorpark & Fulton

Present: Anthony St. John, Janet Richmond, Pat Davenport, Max Calne, Jay Beeber

Absent: Norm Beale, Milt Witkin, Alan Taylor, Melissa Kahn

An Emergency Preparedness info table was set up in the Gelson's parking lot on Sunday Sept. 26th. Earthquake readiness information was distributed and 75 e-mail addresses were collected for the Neighborhood Council database.

Anthony toured the new Office of Emergency Management in downtown which houses central commands for Fire, Police, and EMT responders. The new building was not yet complete and is set away from the other City buildings downtown. An update when the construction is complete.

A Motion was presented by Committee member Jay Beeber for the Neighborhood Council to take a position NOT to approve the City of LA's contract with the red light camera provider for the City. This is based on Jay's research as to the effectiveness of the current red light camera system used by the City in preventing red light violations and the cost effectiveness of the current system. A detailed proposal was presented with suggestions to improve the current system. It was noted by Anthony that in order for the full Board to make a Motion that can be adopted and passed on to the City Council, the opposing side must be heard at the Board meeting. Anthony will make contact with Valley Traffic Division as well as the DOT Engineer for our area to present their argument in favor of extending the current contract.

Discussion of Council member Janice Hahn's recent funding of 150 Million dollars to improve the City's 34,000 "first responders" ability to communicate with each other on a common radio frequency. The total amount needed to complete this improvement will be 500 million dollars.

This is Federal funding resulting from a recommendation of the 9/11 Commission.

A report from Pat Davenport on Council member Greg Smith's motion to force DOT to come before Neighborhood Council's and other community groups to inform them of proposed DOT projects in their area and to "solicit input and provide feedback". This is a victory for local communities, if enforceable.

Council Deputy Pat Davenport discussed the continuing rounds of layoffs taking place throughout City Hall and the consolidation of duties among staffers in all Departments.

Discussion of the recent passage of Assemblyman Mike Feuer's bill to outlaw unhitched trailer billboards in the State. This allows cities to now write their own rules regarding these trailers. The law may be challenged on First Amendment grounds the way the "72 hour" parking ordinance was thrown out allowing the City to tow after 72 hours because the ordinance was not consistent with the State Vehicle Code. More legal action is ahead brought by these advertisers. It was also mentioned that this law may apply to "mobile catering trucks" who park in front of area restaurants, take up parking space and violate food preparation guidelines.

City of LA may use West Hollywood model which withstood Court challenge. City Attorney's office as well as Council members, Krekorian, Smith and Zine are supporters.

An alert went out to the area Neighborhood Watch groups to be aware of increased "squatter" activity in foreclosed properties. Unusual activity such as too many cars and people coming and going in a recently foreclosed house. The new "tenants" doing work on the property themselves or telling neighbors that the Bank is allowing them to "fix up" the property in exchange for reduced rent etc. Squatters should be reported to the SLO.

Discussion on set back/right of way reclaiming efforts along Moorpark from multi-unit buildings has been put on hold, not due to lack of funding as the funds are still in place, but due to lack of personnel for inspection and enforcement.

Committee members agree to distribute Wanted Posters for the Valley Village killer still at large. A known transient who collect cans and bottles is wanted in the murder of a Valley Village woman on July 24th. The Nixle system alerted residents along Coldwater Cnyn. as did the LAPD reverse 911 system when he was spotted in Fryman Canyon in early Sept. Flyers will be posted INSIDE area recycling centers as well as other areas.

Pat informed the Committee of a temporary installation at the M. David Paul construction site on Sepulveda behind the Galleria. This is to be a 6 week installation of an "Extreme" Haunted House, Carnival Rides, Pumpkin Patch etc. According to Pat and SLO Bergman, proper permits were not secured for these installations and an application was made for serving liquor. Parking was not allowed for as well. Organizers are from Simi Valley and are doing this themselves and have not followed City procedures in securing the proper permits. Some use has been allowed

by the City and inspectors will be on hand opening day. Pat asked our help in attending the event periodically and making the Council Office aware of any violation noted.

Adjournment at 7:45PM