

Committee Members:

Christy Adair – Chair
Penny Gilbert - Secretary
Penny Johnson
Barbara McDermott
Thelma Mericle
Jesse Smith
Cissy Varkey-Altamirano

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA



Sherman Oaks
Neighborhood Council



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Public Safety Committee Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 11, 2022, at 6:30pm
Zoom Webinar ID: 842 7040 8817

In conformity with the September 16, 2021 enactment of California Assembly Bill 361 (Rivas) and due to concerns over Covid-19, the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council's Public Safety Committee meetings will be conducted entirely with a Call-In option or Internet-Based Service option until further notice.

Every person wishing to address the Committee must either dial 1-669-900-6833 and then 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. 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.

AB 361 Updates: Public comment cannot be required to be submitted in advance of the meeting, only real-time public comment is required. If there are any broadcasting interruptions that prevent the public from observing or hearing the meeting, the meeting must be recessed or adjourned. If members of the public are unable to provide public comment or be heard due to issues within the Committee's control, the meeting must be recessed or adjourned.

Notice to Paid Representatives If you are compensated to monitor, attend or speak at this meeting, City law may require you to register as a lobbyist and report your activity. See Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 48.01 et seq. More information is available at ethics.lacity.org/lobbying. For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or ethics.commission@lacity.org.

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. The Public Safety Committee (“PSC”) Call to Order – Jeffrey Hartsough, SONC Board President, at 6:39pm.

2. Roll Call – Penny Gilbert, Secretary

Present: Secretary; Penny Gilbert, Penny Johnson, Barbara McDermott, Jesse Smith, Cissy Varkey-Altamirano **Absent:** Chair; Christy Adair

3. Introductions - Committee members, Provisional member, elected officials and staff.

4. Guest Speaker – Karen Fuentes, LA County Public Health Dept.

Questions after the Speaker’s Presentation

Penny G: LA County Court Houses stay open or will they close like San Bernardino and Ventura County Courts?

Kenia had no current information regarding the Courts but suggested that checking on the Court website(s) would provide the most updated info.

Cissy: Does Public Health test specifically for Delta vs. Omicron?

Kenia says tests are randomly reviewed for each variant by percentage.

Cissy: Are there stats for which schools in LAUSD are more or less vaccinated and are posting fewer positives?

Kenia said no specific data, but check the Public Health web site or LAUSD site

Thelma: Why the J&J booster is not recommended?

Kenia says that while she is not a doctor she can state that there are significant differences between the vaccines. Kenia will have a Health Dept doctor respond directly to Thelma.

Jeffrey: Because the County has a gathering limit and mask mandate, how it could affect the Super Bowl in early February?

Kenia said that Public Health anticipated that the COVID numbers should begin declining by the end of January and certain protocols might not be necessary in February.

(Note: Original Speaker, Kristin Sales, Map Your Neighborhood and Neighborhood Preparedness was not available.)

5. Covid-19 Crisis Update – Jesse Smith

LA County Dept. of Public Health has confirmed 227 new deaths and 3,353 new cases of COVID-19. To date, 1,152,239 positive cases of COVID-19 across LA County and a total of 18,360 deaths. There are 4,079 people with COVID-19 currently hospitalized and 29% of these people are in the ICU.

Today, Public Health has confirmed 5 Additional cases of COVID-19 variant B.1.1.7. (“UK variant”), totaling 8 cases in LA County. The B.1.1.7 variant is more easily transmissible.

Vaccine information and appointments link:

<http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/vaccine/index.htm>

6a. Sherman Oaks Senior Lead Officer Update – Barbara McDermott

Basic Car 9A63 Senior Lead Officer Mariana Romo

As of mid-December, 2021, Property Crime was down 12.157% and Violent Crime was down by 22.86%. Overall, Part 1 Crimes were also down to 13.15% year-to-date.

Officer Romo reminds everybody not to drink and drive. Have a plan, know your limit. Have a designated driver, or use public transportation/rideshare, etc.

With the new year, and new year health resolutions, here are a few safety tips for runners.

- There is safety in numbers. Don't run alone. Check out your local running club to look for your next running partner.
- Run during daylight hours. If you do run during the hours of darkness, wear a reflective vest or bright colored clothing.
- Change your running route. Do not be predictable.
- Always tell someone where you are going. Write down or tell someone your running path.
- Carry a cell phone to call 911 if you are in danger.
- If wearing earphones/earbuds use only one to be able to listen to your surroundings.
- Don't wear jewelry that might get the public's attention.
- Always carry some type of identification, including medical ID bracelets, if applicable.

Basic Car 9A89 Senior Lead Officer Jose Saldana

Basic Car 9A89 covers the southern portion of Sherman Oaks and a small portion of Studio City. As of mid-December, 2021, Basic Car 9A89 was up 8.06% in Property Crimes year-to-date and 26.32% of violent crime year-to-date.

Follow-home robberies: suspects have been locating victims in Los Angeles, following them, and then committing the robberies as the victim arrives home or at their business. Victims have been followed from places like Melrose Ave., the Jewelry District, nightclubs, and high-end restaurants.

The target of these robberies has been expensive jewelry, including watches and necklaces, as well as expensive purses. Victims have also been targeted based on the type of vehicle they are driving. These crimes have occurred throughout the City of LA as well as neighboring cities. Different suspects have been identified and arrested for these types of crimes.

The following are recommendations for community members:

- Be aware of your surroundings for anything unusual or out of the ordinary before exiting your car, walking out of a restaurant, stores, malls, or clubs.
- Be cautious of displaying high value property in public such as: purses, watches, and jewelry.
- Record and report suspicious activity to the police (write down suspicious suspect/vehicle descriptions).
- If you are driving and believe you are being followed, dial 911. If possible, drive to the nearest police station.
- If you are being robbed, do not resist the robbery suspects; cooperate and comply with their demands. Be a good witness.
- After a robbery, immediately call the police by dialing 911, and write down everything you can remember about the crime, suspects and suspect vehicle.
- Do not chase or follow the robbery suspects. Leave the job of catching the suspects to the police.

6b. Social Media Mis-information – Barbara McDermott

Barbara warned of scams surrounding COVID testing.

Thelma asked Barbara if she was aware of a sudden rash of car license plates being stolen in her area. Barbara was not aware of this, but said if it occurs, it should be reported to Police immediately. Further, if a license plate is found, call LAPD non-emergency dispatch with the details.

Jeffrey mentioned that two SONC Board Members were scammed by bogus emails requesting money. He warned everyone to not respond!

7. Public Comments – Comments by the public on non-agenda items within the Public Safety

Committee’s Jurisdiction
- No comments presented

8. Committee Response to Public Comment

- No comments presented

9. Administrative Motions - Action Item; Vote Required.

a. Motion to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2021 and December 14, 2021
Public Safety Meetings

- No motions were presented

10. Final Committee Business and Announcements

11. Adjourn at 7:47pm

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE RESOURCES:

- For **LAFD CERT** information, check the www.CERT-LA.com website
- For Emergency Preparedness Continuing Education classes, sign up at join.ntp-la.org
- For **Map Your Neighborhood**, contact Barbara at Barbara.McDermott.Sonc@gmail.com
- For **Neighborhood Watch Groups**, contact Cissy at Cissy.Altamirano.Sonc@gmail.com
- To **SUBSCRIBE** to receive monthly meeting announcements and agendas, contact: SoncPScommittee@gmail.com
- For **Neighborhood Watch** info, contact your local Senior Lead Officer (“SLO”). To find your SLO: <https://www.lapdonline.org/> | Your LAPD | Find Your Local Police Station
- For **LAPD volunteer opportunities**, contact Officer Jason Jimenez in the Community Relations Office at 38903@lapd.online, or call (818) 374-5420.

ONGOING RADIO COMMUNICATIONS PRACTICE OPPORTUNITIES:

Weekly Walkie-Talkie Radio Check-In: Every Sunday at 10am: Channel 15 (or Ch 17 if 15 is busy), we check-in around the Valley to see how far our voices can be heard. We practice checking-in, moving locations around the home until someone can hear us. Simple radios are a good source of emergency communication with your immediate area which could help if we experience a valley-wide disaster. The PSC suggests you pull-out a walkie, put in fresh batteries, and listen to next Sunday’s net to see if you can hear anyone.

Weekly Sunday Morning Lake Balboa Amateur Radio Net: Every Sunday at 9am on Simplex 145.570 we have a weekly net for Ham Radio Operators transmitting around the SF Valley and beyond. It is a formal, but friendly, net where information is exchanged on a variety of topics. It is especially great net for NEW Hams.

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 based on 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 the SONC Secretary at: stacey.segarra.bohlinger.sonc@gmail.com

PUBLIC POSTING OF AGENDAS – Neighborhood Council Committee agendas are posted for public review at: Sherman Oaks Public Library, 14245 Moorpark Street, SO, CA 91423 and 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.