

**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 Minutes**  
Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at 6:30pm

In conformity with the 9/16/21 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 at this time.

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 phone, the public is requested to press \*9. If accessing by computer, public is requested to click on a "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 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 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 2 minutes per speaker unless adjusted by the presiding officer.

AB 361 Updates: Public Comment is not 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 will 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](http://ethics.lacity.org/lobbying). For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or [ethics.commission@lacity.org](mailto: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** – at 6:30 - Christy Adair, Chair

**2. Roll Call** – Christy Adair, Chair

Present: Christy Adair, Penny Johnson, Barbara McDermott, Thelma Mericle, Jesse Smith,  
Cissy Varkey-Altamirano

Absent: Penny Gilbert

**3. Introductions** – Committee, City Officials and Staff

### Senior Lead Officer (“SLO”) Updates

1) Officer Romo - Northern part of SO.

- ❖ Area felt 30% higher in robberies and aggravated assault crimes. Noted at these locations: Bank of America and at Mr. Furleys. LAPD now has extra patrols on Ventura in the mornings and evenings.
- ❖ Property crime is down 6.9% - The “lock, hide, keep it” message is working but they need the PCR’s and Block Captains to help spread the word.
- ❖ Oct 7th at 6pm - Faith & Blue – vigil for peace sponsored by Clergy Council. All religions are welcome. They will start in front of VNPD – will walk to Van Nuys and Vanowen & back. Light refreshments to be served.
- ❖ Sat Oct 8 - valley college - recruitment event for sworn officers.

2) Officer Saldana – Southern part of SO. Southern to Mulholland.

- ❖ Crime down from last year but some increase in burglary and aggravated assaults.
- ❖ Most burglaries are businesses on Ventura (smash window / cash grab). PD suggests to business owners to just leave the registers open so they aren’t broken.
- ❖ Ventura & Stern. Lots of issues with neighbors and homeless individuals.

Thelma: Isn’t there a new ordinance that limits individuals to stay at least 500 ft from school? There is a three-year encampment near Van Nuys Middle School.

- ❖ Officer Saldana will discuss with Officer Gutierrez. The ordinance will take effect on September 18<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ Passed for all of the city and includes any kind of school, public and private.

3) Ryan Ahari – Field Rep for Councilmember Raman:

- ❖ Speed Humps have been un-paused!!
- ❖ City Council will adjourn their meeting on Wednesday in Candy William’s honor
- ❖ CD4 office is monitoring all abandoned buildings, nuisance properties, graffiti at Maxins Pharmacy & construction next to Augustine wine bar

**4. Presentation and Discussion** – Heat Related Illness People & Pets – Christy Adair

- ❖ Heat Cramps, Heat Exhaustion, Heat Stroke, Pets & High Heat Days

**5. Covid-19 Update – Jesse Smith**

- ❖ Overall, much fewer hospitalizations and deaths. New cases between 1600 and 3000. The latest variant causes symptoms similar to the common flu.
- ❖ 24% of the population has tested positive to date.
- ❖ People aged over 50 – CDC Suggests a Fall booster shot which was approved by FDA that covers Sars2 and VA5 (original and new strains).

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

N/A – Officers Saldana and Romo provided this update during Agenda Item #3

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

**8. Committee Response to Public Comment**

**9. Administrative Motions - Action Item; Vote Required.**

- a) Motion to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2022 Public Safety Meeting.
- b) Motion to Record the entire PSC meetings, going forward.
  - ❖ Motions tabled to the following month to include all committee members..

**10. Final Committee Business and Announcements**

- ❖ September 17<sup>th</sup> - Encino Wildfire Prevention Fair at Lanai Elementary (10am-1:30)
- ❖ September 18<sup>th</sup> - CERT Community Meeting on simple medical treatments (1-3pm)
- ❖ October 16<sup>th</sup> - Sherman Oaks Street Fair (10-6pm)

**Additional Topics Discussed**

- ❖ September 27<sup>th</sup> – Candy Williams funeral at Forrest Lawn
- ❖ October 11<sup>th</sup> – PSC Topic will be introduction to the use of Gender Pronouns
- ❖ October 29<sup>th</sup> – SONC celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a party in the Park
- ❖ Penny Johnson - LA County Vector Control = West Nile Virus in Sherman Oaks
- ❖ Jeffrey Hartsough -
  - 1) Ventura / Stern issue – Various County services met to provided cover and services. Approximately 100 neighbors showed up at the meeting.
  - 2) Library Square N. Watch Group is seeking help establishing group. Crimes in the area include: drugs/assault/pub nudity/open intimidation of residents. Police are worried about possible vigilante efforts by the community. The Neighborhood Prosecutor registered a “Stay away injunction” to some individuals.

**11. Adjourn at 8:35pm**

In the spirit of deep respect for former SONC Board Treasurer, Candy Williams, this committee unanimously adjourned the meeting in her honor. The Motion to adjourn in Candy Williams honor was called by Barbara McDermott and seconded by Jesse Smith.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE RESOURCES:

- For **LAFD CERT** information, check the [www.CERT-LA.com](http://www.CERT-LA.com) website
- For Emergency Preparedness Continuing Education classes, sign up at [join.ntp-la.org](http://join.ntp-la.org)
- For **Map Your Neighborhood**, contact Barbara at [Barbara.McDermott.Sonc@gmail.com](mailto:Barbara.McDermott.Sonc@gmail.com)
- For **Neighborhood Watch Groups**, contact Cissy at [Cissy.Altamirano.Sonc@gmail.com](mailto:Cissy.Altamirano.Sonc@gmail.com)
- To **SUBSCRIBE** to receive monthly meeting announcements and agendas, contact: [SoncPScommittee@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:38903@lapd.online), or call (818) 374-5420.

ONGOING RADIO COMMUNICATIONS PRACTICE OPPORTUNITIES:

**Weekly Walkie-Talkie Radio Check-In:** Every Sunday at 10am: Channel 20 (or Ch 16 if 20 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:stacey.segarra.bohlinger.sonc@gmail.com)

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You can also receive our agendas via email by subscribing to L.A. City’s Early Notification System at <https://www.lacity.org/subscriptions>

**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](http://www.ShermanOaksNC.org).