

**Sherman Oaks
Neighborhood Council**

Government Affairs Committee

Lindsay Imber, Chair
Susan A. Collins
Howard Katchen
Tom Materna
Stacey Segarra-Bohlinger

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA



**Sherman Oaks
Neighborhood Council**



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Neighborhood Council P.O.
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Website:
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Government Affairs Committee Meeting (Virtual):

Minutes

Tuesday, October 25, 2022, 7:00 pm.

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.

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

- a. Lindsay Imber, President, called the meeting to order at **7:01pm**.
- b. Stacey Segarra-Bohlinger, Secretary, called the roll.
 - i. Present:** Lindsay Imber, Susan Collins, Tom Materna, Segarra-Bohlinger **(4)**
 - ii. Absent:** Howard Katchen [tardy] **(1)**

2. Administrative Motions

- a. *A motion to approve the Minutes of the August 23, 2022 Government Affairs Committee Meeting.*
moved: Materna **seconded:** Segarra-Bohlinger
yes: Imber, Materna, Segarra-Bohlinger **(3)**
no: **(0)** **abstain:** Collins **(1)** **absent:** Katchen **(1)**
item 2a carries unanimously 3-0-1-1

3. Comments by Elected or Appointed Officials, City Agencies, and Staff - none

4. Public Comment - none

5. Chairs Report - Lindsay Imber, Chair

updated draft *Wildlife Ordinance*, upcoming city planning feedback opportunities

6. Action Items

a.i. CF 22-1197. New Ad Hoc Committee / City Government Reform / Ethics Commission

Draft Motion: *The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council (SONC) supports CF 22-1197 to create a new ad hoc committee at LA City Council on City Governance Reform to increase transparency, limit corruption at City Hall, and make City leadership more representative of and beholden to the communities served, and CF 22-1232 to pursue a ballot measure and changes to the LA City Charter to*

address concerns regarding Ethics Commission composition, function, and operation.

Motion to amend -

Moved: Materna **Seconded:** Katchen

yes: Imber, Collins, Materna, Katchen, Segarra-Bohlinger (5)

no: (0) abstain: (0) absent: (0)

motion to amend item 6a.i carries unanimously

Motion as Amended: *The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council (SONC) supports CF 22-1197 to create a new ad hoc committee at LA City Council on City Governance Reform to increase transparency, community outreach on important topics, limit corruption at City Hall, and make City leadership more representative of and beholden to the communities served. SONC recommends this committee hold all meetings in a public forum and be composed of persons other than sitting City councilmembers, their staff or paid representatives, and persons who are considered restricted sources and restricted developers under the Ethics Commission or Code, and other persons subject to mandatory disclosure pursuant to Municipal Lobbying Ordinance Update CF 22-0560.*

moved: Imber **seconded:** Materna

yes: Imber, Collins, Materna, Katchen (4)

no: (0) abstain: Segarra-Bohlinger (1) **absent: (0)**

item 6a.i carries unanimously 4-0-1-0

a.ii. *The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council (SONC) supports (if amended) CF 22-1232 to pursue a ballot measure and changes to the LA City Charter to address concerns regarding Ethics Commission composition, function, and operation. SONC recommends the following amendments to CF 22-1232 to fully address these ethical concerns while ensuring the Commission is empowered to remain independent and recommends LA City Council take its time to progress this legislation through committee before reaching the full council:*

- *Independent Appointment: The city of LA will not have a truly independent ethics commission until it ends the involvement of elected officials in the appointment process. The incumbent commissioners should be responsible for accepting and vetting applications through a public process like the Oakland and Long Beach Ethics Commissions.*
- *Eligibility Requirements: The commission proposes adding restrictions excluding any bidder, contractor, developer, or someone with a direct financial interest in work of the city from service on the commission. These restrictions are warranted but incomplete. We also recommend excluding anyone who is a recent candidate for elected office in the city of LA, former elected officials in the city of LA, and anyone who has donated or raised above a certain threshold for local candidates.*
- *Raise the vote threshold for removal of a commissioner: The commission recommends increasing the number of elected officials who may initiate removal and reducing the threshold to a majority vote. We recommend requiring a 2/3rds vote for all removal proceedings of ethics commissioners.*
- *Increased maximum penalty: The commission recommends increasing the maximum administrative penalty to \$10k per violation. We recommend adopting Chicago's max penalty of \$20k per violation*

model.

• *Raise minimum budget: The commission recommends their budget be set at \$4.5 million and tied to CPI. While this would protect against retaliation or defunding during a financial crunch, this essentially freezes the status quo into the charter. \$4.5 million is a few hundred thousand above the commission's current budget. The recommendations include new expenditures, like outside counsel, which will require more money. If the Council is expanded, the Ethics Commission will require more money. A minimum budget in the range of \$7-10 million would give the commission the resources needed to fulfill its broad sweeping mandate*

moved: Materna **seconded:** Katchen
yes: Imber, Collins, Materna, Katchen, Segarra-Bohlinger (5)
no: (0) abstain: (0) absent: (0)
item 6a.ii carries unanimously

b.Motion: *The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council (SONC) supports CF 22-1241. Antisemitic hate crimes recorded by the Anti-Defamation League are at the highest level since tracking began in 1979. Hate crimes in the state of California are at their highest level since 2001, with the highest percentage of religious bias events targeted at the Jewish community. Council File 22-1241 addresses the need to expand the definition of Anti-Semitism to include hateful speech regarding Israel which includes applying double standards by requiring of Israel a behavior which is not expected or demanded from any other democratic nation. Currently, much anti-semitic rhetoric and hate crimes targeting the Jewish community are disguised as social justice. With this in mind, it is imperative that all Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) programs include the Jewish community as part of their curricula. Furthermore, SONC supports the expansion of all DEI programs to include the Jewish community and foster a greater understanding of the relationship of certain discourse regarding the State of Israel to antisemitism.*

Moved: Collins **Seconded:** Katchen
yes: Imber, Collins, Materna, Katchen, (4)
no: (0) abstain: Segarra-Bohlinger (1) absent: (0)
item 6b carries unanimously 4-0-1-0

7. Closing Remarks -

20th anniversary event Sat. 10/29, citizens advisory council, potential Van Nuys airport expansion

9. Adjournment - meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:44pm

Respectfully submitted

