

Committee Members:

Susan Collins – Chair
Penny Gilbert - Secretary
Christy Adair
Penny Johnson
Barbara McDermott
Thelma Mericle
Jesse Smith

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA



Sherman Oaks
Neighborhood Council



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Public Safety Committee Meeting

November 14, 2023

Minutes

1. The Public Safety Committee (“PSC”) Call to Order – Susan Collins, Chair

2. Roll Call – Penny Gilbert, Secretary- (Penny absent was absent, Susan Collins took roll call):
Present: Christy Adair, Barbara McDermott, Penny Johnson, Jesse Smith, Susan Collins
Absent: Thelma Mericle, Penny Gilbert
Meeting called to order at 6:36pm

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes from PSC Meetings from Oct. 11th, 2023 Meeting (minutes were not available)

4. Introductions & City Updates – City Council, District 4 Rep: Ryan Ahari –

Ryan Ahari was unable to attend, but sent the following CD 4:

“**CIRCLE Expansion:** As a result of community advocacy and the Councilmember’s conversations with the Mayor and Mayor's office, we are proud to announce that CIRCLE is being expanded to Sherman Oaks and CD4 Van Nuys. The Crisis and Incident through Community-Led Engagement (CIRCLE) program will provide an alternative response to non-emergency 911 calls involving people experiencing homelessness (PEH) and a proactive on-the-ground presence. Our staff have been proactively reaching out to businesses to notify them that they are encouraged to take advantage of this wonderful City service.

Home-Sharing Records Portal: We're excited to share that the [Home-Sharing Records Portal](#) is now accessible to the public. This is a significant step towards increasing transparency and providing valuable information about Home-Sharing in Los Angeles. The portal will allow constituents to see whether a property is registered for Home-Sharing and if a Home-Sharing citation has been issued to the property. Users can search for a specific property or generate a list of properties by registration status, citation/complaint type, ZIP code, and/or Council District.”
For any other questions or concerns, residents are encouraged to contact me by email or cell 213-424-2412.

5. Crime and Safety Update: LAPD Captain Vargas:

Captain Vargas expanded on information regarding:

- **The Circle Program** provides mental health workers, respond to nonviolent calls. He provided examples of appropriate calls for the circle program, such as: a person in the street or if they're intoxicated or loitering.
The Circle Team responded to about 10,000 calls last year. He clarified that when the circle team comes out, they can transport the person who needs help. Although the wait times can be long, he requested that you not hang up because all calls, even hang-ups, need to be responded to and properly closed out.
- **Stabbing at Van Nuys Middle School** – One of the students involved was a concern to his prior teacher(s). Unfortunately, Senate Bill 1273 prevents teachers or school staff from reporting potentially dangerous students.
- **Gang Reduction Youth Program** - works well in other area and residents should contact our city council office and ask to have one implemented here. This will help prevent some at risk youth from falling into Gang activities.
- **The Jeopardy Program**, which provides life skills training is available for children under the age of 18. Parents need to go to the Police Station and request it.
- **Cadet Program** – Offered by the LAPF for youth so they can be engaging with law enforcement and will hopefully decide to continue into a career in law enforcement.
- He said the biggest concern he heard from people in this area was regarding the homelessness and the crime and blight that comes with encampments.
- He stressed the importance of security cameras.
- He also said that the district attorney has agreed to start pressing charges on the flash mobs. They are also using a task force and undercover agents and a blitz with the LAPD in coordination with the with the mall security.
- Our area is experiencing a lot of burglaries. The area South of Magnolia had 4 in the last week.
- The woman who burned down Mark's Garden and a nearby home was charged with aggravated assault and released the same day. A few days prior she ran her car into a restaurant and a coffee shop, in addition to lighting other fires, and was not held for those crimes.
- Catalytic Converter theft is still very high. If you own a Honda or a Prius – DO NOT park them on the street. Park in well-lit areas and add lighting if needed.
- Theft from cars is also a problem. Make sure to remove valuable items and lock your doors.
- Some thieves have remote hackers which will open your car doors if you have a keyless entry fob.
- Committee Member Penny Johnson suggested purchasing a "**Faraday Box**" to store your car keys in. A Faraday Box blocks the signal from the remote key hackers and can be purchased locally and online.

6. Public Comments – Comments by the public on non-agenda items within the Public Safety Committee's jurisdiction:

Residents in attendance asked Captain Vargas questions re: the recurring homeless people near Whole Foods.

7. Committee Response to Public Comments:

8. LAFD / CERT Updates: Christy Adair –

Our next Sherman Oaks CERT Classes are set for the dates below:

Dates: Thursday evenings beginning January 11th – February 22, 2024 Times: 6:30pm – 9:30 pm

Location: Sherman Oaks Galleria, Community Room, 1st Floor

9. Final Committee Business and Announcements: *Emergency or timely items since the posting of the agenda.:

10. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 7:54pm

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