

**Sherman Oaks
Neighborhood Council**

Government Affairs Committee

Lindsay Imber, Chair
Howard Katchen
Tom Materna
Stacey Segarra-Bohlinger
Wesley Garris

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA



**Sherman Oaks
Neighborhood Council**

Government Affairs

Minutes

VIRTUAL (ZOOM)

Thursday, December 28, 2023, 6:30 pm.



Sherman Oaks
Neighborhood Council P.O.
Box 5721
Sherman Oaks, CA 91413

Website:
www.ShermanOaksNC.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.

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

- a. Lindsay Imber, President, called the meeting to order at **6:31pm**.
- b. Stacey Segarra-Bohlinger, Secretary, called the roll.
 - i. **Present:** Materna, Imber, Segarra-Bohlinger (**3**)
 - ii. **Absent:** Katchen (tardy), Garris (**2**)

2. Administrative Motions -

- a. *A motion to approve the Minutes of the November, 2023 Government Affairs Committee Meeting.*
moved: Imber **seconded:** Segarra-Bohlinger
yes: Materna, Imber, Segarra-Bohlinger (**3**) **no:** (**0**)
abstain: (**0**) **absent:** Katchen, Garris (**2**)
motion approved unanimously 3-0-0-2

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

4. Public Comment - *brief discussion followed*

5. Chairs Report -

End of year meeting, completely virtual, first in roughly a year
Committees may meet virtually at chair's discretion
shall meet in-person at least once per quarter

6. Action Items

- a. **LAPD Air Division Audit:**

Although the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council (SONC) makes no comment on what the Controller's Office in its report defines as "high priority crime" nor Air Support's \$46.6 million annual cost, SONC does note the Controller's finding that "helicopters can have a negative quality of life impact on the lives of residents who live in communities with frequent helicopter activity." SONC's concern with the large scope of LAPD Air Support is thus borne from our long-standing concern for our constituents' wellbeing relative to air traffic, namely low-flying air traffic in the skies over Sherman Oaks, which our Council is intimately familiar with due to our experiences with the Van Nuys (VNY) and Burbank (BUR) airports. This concern includes LAPD air operations. Helicopters regularly fly at altitudes lower than jet aircraft and according to the Controller's audit, burn nearly 50 gallons of fuel per hour. Atmospheric dispersion modeling indicates this low altitude—often less than 1,000 feet above ground level, especially in elevated portions of Sherman Oaks—simply isn't high enough for significant dispersion of fuel, aircraft, and other flight-related toxins, which in turn rain down in harmful, undiluted quantities on communities below. Therefore, SONC supports, in part, the Controller's QOL findings but offers no opinion on the issue of only 39% of flight time dedicated to "high priority crime". SONC urges City Council, LAPD, or any other relative agency, to modify standard procedures for LAPD Air Support, such as assigning helicopters to take established aerial corridors (e.g., I-405 and US-101 freeways) to traverse Sherman Oaks when not involved in priority incidents, and to decrease unneeded operations of less than 1,500 feet above ground level (AGL), which should be noted is more than 2,500 above mean sea level (MSL) in the Sherman Oaks Hills.

MOVED: Imber **SECONDED:** Segarra-Bohlinger
yes: Materna, Imber, Segarra-Bohlinger (3) **no:** (0)
abstain: (0) **absent:** Katchen, Garris (2)
motion approved unanimously 3-0-0-2

Motion to Amend re Penn State study on quiet flying:

SONC recommends that LAPD follow the procedures and recommendations outlined in the PENN State Effective Helicopter Noise Abatement Operations authored by Eric Greenwood, Department of Aerospace Engineering

MOVED: Materna **SECONDED:** none
amendment fails consideration

b. Public Comment

MOVED: Segarra-Bohlinger **SECONDED:** Imber
yes: Materna, Imber, Segarra-Bohlinger (3) **no:** (0)
abstain: (0) **absent:** Katchen, Garris (2)
motion approved unanimously 3-0-0-2

c. Burbank Airport Environmental Assessment

Whereas; The Sherman Oaks community has been confronted with a change in Burbank airport flight paths that moved the departing flight over a substantial portion of Sherman Oaks's families dumping harmful chemicals, toxic pollution and unhealthy noise. This has been called the Southerly Shift. After confronting the FAA, the Task Force was convened and recommendations made to unwind this harm. Early on the FAA said they needed to do an Environmental Assessment EA report.

Whereas; the FAA dragged this process out over 5 years, this long overdue EA was held until the beginning of the holiday season on December 11th when it was released with no announcements to the affected communities and families.

Whereas the FAA stated that the Sherman Oaks Community and others would only have until January 24th to make comments on this 529 page report that the FAA took over 5 years to write. This is unfair and very rude to the communities to only allow such a short period of time especially over this the busiest time of the year.

Therefore; the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council "SONC" is requesting at a minimum an additional 60 days to study and comment on this huge report and its impact on the community.

SONC's position is that flight paths should follow the historic paths and be as dispersed as possible and the FAA needs to incorporate that dispersion in their final action.

MOVED: Materna **SECONDED:** Segarra-Bohlinger
yes: Materna, Imber, Segarra-Bohlinger (3) **no:** (0)
abstain: (0) **absent:** Katchen, Garris (2)
motion approved unanimously 3-0-0-2

7. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:31pm

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Stacy". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "Respectfully submitted".