

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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Neighborhood Council
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Public Safety Committee Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 14, 2021
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.

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 6:34pm by Christy Adair, Chair

2. Roll Call – Penny Gilbert, Secretary

Present: Chair; Christy Adair, Secretary; Penny Gilbert, Penny Johnson, Barbara McDermott, Jesse Smith, Cissy Varkey-Altamirano **Absent:** none.

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

- Special introduction of new committee member, Thelma Mericle. Thelma is a SONC Board member and is the Block Captain for Killion Street. Welcome, Thelma!

4. Porch Pirates – Presentation by Penny “PJ” Johnson

35 million Americans had their packages stolen by Porch Pirates in 2021. That estimates to approximately 5.4 billion dollars in lost merchandise to consumers.

Steps you can take to avoid Porch Pirates:

1. Request signature or have UPS, FedEx and USPS deliver to your office.
2. See if delivery service can redirect your delivery to a neighbor’s address
3. Track your package and get notice of actual delivery to your home. Then have a trusted neighbor retrieve the package till you can get home.
4. Have Amazon deliver to one of their Hub Lockers. Whole Foods, 7 Elevens. Google Amazon Lockers for additional locations.
5. Use Amazon’s Key Service for delivery directly to your garage with 1 time open & close code for myQ compatible garage door openers relay systems (available for purchase from Amazon). Compatible garage door systems are listed on site.

5. Covid-19 Crisis Update – Jesse Smith

California is reinstating the indoor masking requirements starting Wednesday. The mandate will be in effect from Dec. 15 thru January 15th. The rate of new Coronavirus case in California went up by 47% since the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Preliminary data indicates that the Omicron variant is highly infectious and that being fully vaccinated might not provide adequate protection against infection. Public Health encourages everyone who is eligible for a booster to get one as soon as possible and to continue wearing a mask when in crowded public spaces.

A booster dose is recommended 6 months after receiving your primary series if you are 16 or older. The Pfizer vaccine is the vaccine authorized as a booster dose for teens age 16 and 17.

The best way to protect yourself is:

- Wear a well-fitting mask
- Wash or sanitize your hands often
- Stay home when you are sick
- Avoid crowded places and spaces with poor air flow
- Keep your distance

6. Sherman Oaks Senior Lead Officer Update – Barbara McDermott

LAPD Robbery-Homicide Division Community Alert Notification

- Recommendations for community members re: follow-home robberies:
- Be aware of one's surroundings for anything unusual or out of the ordinary before exiting your car, walking out of a restaurant, stores, malls, or club.
- 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 believe you are being followed, dial 911. If possible, drive to the nearest police station.
- If you are being robbed, do not resist; cooperate and comply with demands. *Be a good witness.*
- After a robbery, immediately call police by dialing 911, and write down everything you can remember about the crime, suspects and suspect vehicle.
- Do not chase or follow the suspect(s). Leave the job of catching the suspects to the police.

Comments/Questions:

- Susan Collins brought up the need for street lighting in SO. Street lighting has been vandalized. Repairs take up to 3 months. With the rise in crime, lights are necessary. There are fee levies if new lighting is needed, but no time estimates for repairs are given.
- Evan called the non-emergency Police Dept. line recently regarding a homeless person but got no response. A homeless man was using neighbors' hoses. (Barbara offered that he may have called the station directly and NOT the Communications Division non-emergency line.)

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 responses were needed.

9. Administrative Motions - Action Item; Vote Required.

a) Motion to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2021 Safety Meeting.

The November 2021 meeting minutes were not ready for approval; the motion to approve the minutes was pushed to a future meeting so the Committee members could review the minutes.

10. Final Business and Announcements

- Chair's request for Committee members to consider recommitment to PSC in 2022.
- Discussion for Ideas for Committee to Address in Sherman Oaks in 2022
 - Volunteer from LAPD division
 - Cissy wants Disaster Prep

13. Adjourn at 7:35pm

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

ONGOING RADIO COMMUNICATIONS PRACTICE OPPORTUNITIES:

Weekly FRS / GMRS / Walkie-Talkie Radio Check-In: Every Sunday at 10:00 to 10:15am, Channel 20. Around the Valley, we check-in to see how far our individual transmissions can be heard. We practice checking-in, moving locations around the home (inside and out) 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 (power outage, evacuation, brush fire, earthquake). 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 9:00am to 10:00am on Simplex 145.570. This is a weekly simplex 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

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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

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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.