

**Sherman Oaks  
Neighborhood Council**

**Government Affairs Committee**

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

CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
CALIFORNIA



**Sherman Oaks  
Neighborhood Council**

**Government Affairs**

**Minutes**

Tuesday, March 26, 2024, 6:30 pm.  
Martin-Pollard Sherman Oaks Branch Library



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

Website:  
[www.ShermanOaksNC.org](http://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. Stacey Segarra-Bohlinger, Secretary, called the meeting to order at **6:32pm**.
- b. Stacey Segarra-Bohlinger, Secretary, called the roll.
  - i. **Present:** Materna, Katchen, Segarra-Bohlinger (**3**)
  - ii. **Absent:** Katchen [tardy] (**1**)

**2. Administrative Motions -**

- a. *A motion to approve the Minutes of the January and February 2024 Government Affairs Committee Meeting.*

**Moved:** Materna      **Seconded:** Imber  
**yes:** Materna, Imber, Segarra-Bohlinger (**3**)  
**no:** (**0**) / **absent:** Katchen (**1**) / **abstain:** (**0**)

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

**4. Public Comment - brief discussion followed**

**5. Chairs Report -**

Wesley Garris has filed resignation, relocated outside of Sherman Oaks  
Upcoming Leadership event, scheduling conflicts

**6. Action Items:**

- a. **City Attorney Lawsuit, Case 23STCV21284 re: Prior Restraint**

**DRAFT MOTION:**

*The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council (SONC) opposes the City's lawsuit against journalist Ben Camacho which seeks prior restraint on the press and seeks to assign the City's negligence to a reporter for publishing documents that the City itself released to him. In a city where trust in government has been continually rocked by scandal after scandal, efforts to hamper the press from reporting on the City strike us as particularly antidemocratic. The lawsuit has been widely condemned by media and first amendment coalitions.*

*The First Amendment and freedom of the press are backbones to a free and informed society. This demand for censorship is an affront to the first amendment and those would seek to use the California Public Records Act to hold their government accountable. The City's effort to assign negligence to the reporter who legally obtained the information rather than to the City itself is intended to have a chilling effect on accountability.*

*In a budget crisis, this case is a massive waste of government resources, as the Supreme Court has repeatedly struck down efforts to censor publication.*

*As noted by the Freedom of the Press Foundation, "The city has hit the trifecta of anti-press First Amendment violations: first, demanding journalists give back documents the government released, second, censoring journalists from publishing information, and now, holding journalists financially liable for truthful publications — something that, once again, the Court has never permitted."*

**moved:** Segarra-Bohlinger    **second:** Katchen  
**yes:** Segarra-Bohlinger (1) / **no:** Materna, Katchen (2) / **absent:** (0) / **abstain:** Imber (1)  
**motion fails 1-2-0-1**

**b. Update from CD4, Invitation / Request of Attendance**

**DRAFT MOTION:**

*The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council (SONC) Requests the attendance of Los Angeles City Councilmember Nithya Raman of CD4 at an upcoming Board meeting to be scheduled at their earliest convenience; for the purpose of providing relevant updates and an opportunity for board members and stakeholders to present questions. We also ask that the councilmember take into consideration the following topics when preparing remarks:*

*Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) / Van Nuys Airport  
Ongoing Rule 7 violation (general public comment period)*

*Quorum during public comment*  
*Indictments / Ethics violations within the Council body*  
*City Budget Deficit*  
*City Staff Deficit*  
*LAMC 41.18 Report*  
*Audit of "Inside Safe" program*

*SONC respectfully requests that the office of CD4 make good-faith efforts to schedule the councilmember's attendance at an upcoming meeting as soon as possible, preferably in the month of May (5/13/24) or June (6/10/24)*

**moved:** Segarra-Bohlinger    **second:** Materna

**call the question**

**moved:** Katchen **second:** n/a

**yes:** Katchen, Imber, Segarra-Bohlinger (3)

**no:** (0) / **absent:** (0) / **abstain:** Materna (1)

**motion to call the question carries 3-0-0-3**

**MOTION:**

**yes:** Katchen, Imber, Segarra-Bohlinger (3)

**no:** (0) / **absent:** (0) / **abstain:** Materna (1)

**motion carries 3-0-0-1**

**7. Closing Announcements**

Segarra-Bohlinger serving on Congress of Neighborhood Planning Cmte. and Workshop sub Cmte.

Materna re: March Traffic & Transportation Cmte.

lack of quorum resulted in ipso facto cancellation

**8. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:48pm**

Respectfully submitted

