

Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council

Executive Officers

Howard Katchen,
President 3-R
Lindsay Imber,
1st VP 7-R
Lielt Endashaw
2nd VP 1-R
Jeffrey Hartsough,
Treasurer 2-CI
Vacant - Secretary

Board Members

Levon Baronian, 1-B
Christy Adair, 1-CI
Vacant, 2-B
Vacant 2-R
Vacant, 3-B
Vacant 3-CI
Vacant - 4-B
David Silverman, 4-CI
Kesavan Korand, 4-R
Vacant, 5-B
Vacant 5 C-I
Vacant 5-R
Harold Shapiro
6-B
Tom Materna, 6-CI
Lance Khazei 7-B
Martin Stahl 7-R
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Devon Jasiukonis,
Youth Representative
Ian Nachenberg,
Alternate Youth
Representative

CITY OF LOS ANGELES



CALIFORNIA



Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council

**SONC Board Meeting Agenda:
Monday, October 19, 2026, 6:30pm**

In-Person Meeting

Sherman Oaks East Valley Adult
Center 5056 Van Nuys Blvd



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

Website:
www.ShermanOaksNC.org

Public Comments: Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered, and prior to voting. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Board's jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items within SONC Jurisdiction period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Board is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, issues raised by the public may become the subject of a future Board meeting. Public comment is limited to one minute per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the Board.

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 Note: All items containing motions, at the time of agenda posting, are listed in **blue, bold text**.

1. **Welcome, Call to Order, and Roll Call**
 - a. Welcome and Call to Order.
 - b. Pledge of Allegiance
 - c. Roll Call and the Establishment of Quorum.

2. **Administrative and Board Initiated Motions – Action Items**

- a. A motion to approve the SONC Board meeting minutes of September 14, 2026.

3. **General Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items within SONC Jurisdiction**
Pursuant to Brown Act, there will be no discussion/back-and-forth while in session.
4. **Comments by LAPD SLOs, Public Agencies, Officials, Staff, and Council District Office**
5. **Introducing Congressman Luz Rivas, 29th Congressional District**

****Scheduled Recess - The Council will stand in Recess****

6. **Presentation Los Angeles County Assessor Jeff Prang**
7. **President's Report**

-Immediate Need SONC Secretary

-Board Member new Funding Training was to be completed by 10-16-26

- 2027 SONC hybrid election day Thursday, May 6, 2027 at Sherman Oaks East Valley Adult Center 2:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Candidate filing begins Tuesday, December 22nd.

-Eight Vacant SONC Board Seats: Residential in Areas 2 & 5, At Large Business 4 seats and At Large Community Interest 2 seats.

--Sherman Oaks Encino Chamber – Plan celebration(s) 100th Anniversary of Sherman Oaks in 2027.

- Agendas and meeting minutes use Ariel 12 font

-VOTE! Los Angeles County Vote centers open early voting Saturday, October 24th and Election Day Tuesday, November 3rd.

8. **Finance Motions & Committee Report Finance Committee - Jeffrey Hartsough, Treasurer & Chair. Meets on the 4th Wednesday of the Month**

Floor motion – requires a second

SONC Monthly Expenditure Report period ending August 31, 2026
A motion to approve the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council's (SONC) Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) for the period ending August 31, 2026.
[SONC Monthly Expenditure Report for period ending August 31, 2026](#)

9. **Planning & Land Use (PLUM) & Vision Committees Motions & Committee Report- Jeff Kalban, Chair. PLUM Meets on the 3rd Thursday of the Month Vision Meets on the 1st Thursday of the Month**

Floor Motion – requires a second

10. [Council File No. 09-0969-S4](#) Planning Land Use Fees Update / Annual Inflation Adjustment Planning Land Use Fees Update / Annual Inflation Adjustment

The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council urges you to **reconsider and oppose** the proposed increases in non-applicant appeal fees under Council File No. 09-0969-S4.

We understand the city's concern about the cost of processing appeals and the approximately \$4 million in subsidies reportedly required. However, raising fees from \$229 to \$1,145 for residents within a project's noticing or mailing radius, and to \$2,289 for those outside it, risks pricing ordinary residents out of meaningful participation in the planning process.

Appeals are not simply an administrative expense. They are one of the few formal mechanisms' residents must challenge government decisions they believe are flawed. Before imposing increases of this magnitude, the city should examine whether appeals are identifying errors or deficiencies in Planning decisions and whether processing can be made more efficient without creating substantial financial barriers to public participation.

These increases could disproportionately affect lower-income communities and communities of color, whose residents may have fewer resources to organize, hire professional assistance, or challenge development they believe will harm their neighborhoods. A project's impacts do not necessarily stop at a mailing radius or an arbitrary 500-foot boundary. Nor does a higher fee distinguish a frivolous appeal from a well-founded one. Los Angeles routinely subsidizes public programs and services when their broader public benefits justify the expense. Public oversight deserves similar consideration. Democracy is not a loss leader. The city should not evaluate appeals solely through a cost-recovery lens while overlooking their role in protecting the public against errors and inadequate decision-making. I respectfully ask the Council to reconsider these fee increases, assess their likely impact on public participation, explore less burdensome alternatives, and establish safeguards so that the ability to challenge questionable government decisions

does not depend on a resident's financial circumstances. Please reject excessive appeal-fee increases and preserve meaningful public oversight in Los Angeles's planning process.

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We respectfully ask the Council to reconsider these fee increases, assess their likely impact on public participation, explore less burdensome alternatives, and establish safeguards so that the ability to challenge questionable government decisions does not depend on a resident's financial circumstances.

The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council requests you reject excessive appeal fee increases and preserve meaningful public oversight in Los Angeles's planning process.

11. Green & Sustainability Committee – Elizabeth Meshes, Chair. Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the Month & Beautification Sub-Committee

Motions from committee

a. MOTION TO ENDORSE THE PLANT BASED TREATY

WHEREAS, food systems contribute significantly to greenhouse gas emissions, land degradation, biodiversity loss, and water consumption; and

WHEREAS, plant-based food systems and sustainable agricultural practices can support climate resilience, environmental sustainability, public health, and resource conservation; and

WHEREAS, the Plant Based Treaty is an international grassroots initiative designed to complement the Paris Agreement (which is supported by the state of California) by addressing the environmental impacts of animal agriculture and promoting a transition toward more sustainable food systems; and

WHEREAS, the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council Green & Sustainability Committee supports initiatives that promote environmental stewardship, climate action, sustainable resource use, and community education;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council supports the principles and goals of the Plant Based Treaty as a framework for encouraging sustainable, equitable, and climate-conscious food systems; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council encourages education, awareness, and voluntary community-based efforts that support sustainable and plant-forward food practices; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this motion be forwarded to appropriate elected officials, neighborhood councils, and relevant stakeholders as determined by the Board.

b. The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council (SONC) supports Los Angeles City [Council File 26-0925](#), which directs the Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation (LASAN) to develop a Modern Organics Processing and Composting Master Plan to expand local composting capacity, increase the beneficial use of compost within the City, and improve compliance with state organic waste reduction laws. SONC further authorizes the submission of a Community Impact Statement in support of the Council File.

Whereas:

- California's [SB 1383](#) requires jurisdictions to reduce organic waste sent to landfills, recover edible food, and procure recycled organic products. The proposed Master Plan would help Los Angeles meet these requirements while reducing methane emissions and improving environmental outcomes.
- Los Angeles currently produces approximately 350,000 tons of compost and mulch annually, yet only a small percentage is used locally. Much of the material is transported long distances outside the City, resulting in unnecessary transportation costs and greenhouse gas emissions while limiting the direct benefits to Los Angeles communities.
- Recent state legislation (SB 279 and AB 2346) provides new opportunities for local governments to expand decentralized composting, support community composting programs, and invest procurement funds into local composting infrastructure rather than relying primarily on large-scale external facilities.
- The proposed Master Plan would identify opportunities to increase local composting capacity, develop partnerships with educational institutions and other public agencies, support urban farms and community gardens, improve soil health, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and advance the goals of the Mayor's Climate Action Plan to use at least 50% locally produced compost and mulch by 2030.
- The motion also directs LASAN to solicit input from Neighborhood Councils and other community stakeholders during development of the Master Plan, providing Sherman Oaks residents with an opportunity to participate in shaping the City's organics management strategy.

Therefore, Be It Resolved:

The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council supports Los Angeles City Council File 26-0925 and urges the Los Angeles City Council to adopt the proposed Modern Organics Processing and Composting Master Plan. SONC further encourages LASAN to prioritize neighborhood-serving composting infrastructure, maximize local use of compost and mulch, reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with long-distance transport, and engage Neighborhood Councils throughout the planning process.

12. Committee Reports with No Motion [2 Minutes for Each Report]

- a. Human Services Committee, Sarah Adamski & Pamela Haris, Co-Chairs.
Meets on the 1st Monday of the Month**

- b. Outreach Committee - David Silverman, Chair. Meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the Month**
- c. Public Safety Committee - Christy Adair & Susan Collins, Co-Chairs. Meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the Month**
- d. Student Committee – Devon Jasiukonis**
- e. Budget Advocates - Howard Katchen, Budget Advocate & SONC Representative.**
- f. Board Member Announcements Closing announcements from Board Members.**
- g. Adjournment – In memory of Linda Brooks, former SONC Board and committee member**

Motions are introduced either by the Committee from which they were adopted, in which case the motion requires no second (denoted by “from committee”); or by an individual board member (“from floor”), in which case the motion requires a second. Items initiated via Consent Calendar are considered and voted on as one motion; members may request to take an item out of Calendar to consider said item individually.

The Americans With Disabilities Act As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and upon request will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities. Sign language interpreters, assisted listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least 3 business days (72 hours) prior to the meeting by contacting the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment by calling (213) 978-1551 or email: NCsupport@lacity.org.

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 to SONC:hkatchen@shermanoaksnc.org

Public Posting of Agendas Neighborhood Council agendas are posted for public review as follows: • Sherman Oaks Public Library, 14245 Moorpark St, Sherman Oaks, CA 91423. • www.ShermanOaksNC.org • You can also receive our agendas via email by subscribing to L.A. City’s Early Notification System at <https://www.lacity.org/subscriptions>.

Notice to Paid Representatives If you are compensated to monitor, attend, or speak at this meeting, City law may require you to register as a lobbyist and report your activity. See Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 48.01 et seq. More information is available at ethics.lacity.org/lobbying. For assistance, please contact

the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or ethics.commission@lacity.org.

Reconsideration and Grievance Process For information on the NC's process for board 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.

[Meeting supporting documents are available at ShermanOaksNC.org.](#)