

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES**

California



**SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

**PRESIDENT:** Christian Rubalcava

**VICE PRESIDENTS:**

Administration: Andres Rubalcava

Communications: Maria Silva

**SECRETARY:** Michelle Underwood

**TREASURER:** George Ortega

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**Sylmar Neighborhood Council  
General Board Meeting – Draft Minutes  
Thursday, April 25, 2019 – 6:30 PM**

**Sylmar Charter High School- Spartan Hall  
13050 Borden Ave.  
Sylmar Ca. 91342**

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Roll Call</b>	<b>Funding Vote Eligible*</b>	<b>Category</b>
Bloom, Kathy	Present	YES	CBO
Blose, Cheri	Present	YES	ER
Cabrera, Hector	Absent	YES	At-Large
Cabrera-Miller Kurt	Present	YES	Business
Dumont, Paul	Present (Left at 8:05PM)	YES	Business
Floresta, Lucille	Absent	YES	At-Large
Gonzales, David	Present	YES	Renter
Grubert, Kathy	Present	YES	Business
Job, Ann	Present	YES	Senior
Montano, Guadalupe	Present (Arrived at 7:00PM)	YES	Home/Condo
Opperman, Bob	Present	YES	Home/Condo
Ortega, George	Present	YES	Home/Condo
Pacheco, John	Present	YES	At-Large
Postlmayr, Peter	Present	YES	Home/Condo
Rubalcava, Andres	Present	YES	CBO
Rubalcava, Christian	Present	YES	At-Large
Silva, Maria	Present	YES	Education
Underwood, Michelle	Present	YES	Renter
Valencia, Diane	Present	YES	Recreation
Zelaya, Donald	Present	YES	At-Large
<b>TOTAL: 20</b>	<b>PRESENT 17 , Absent 03</b>		

Department of Neighborhood Empowerment-Vanessa Serrano made a statement that there were two agendas posted for tonight’s meeting. The second agenda was to take the place of the first. The second agenda was not posted in compliance with the Brown Act. The Board was advised to use the first agenda that was posted.

1. **Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**-The meeting was called to order at 6:40 PM by Mr. C. Rubalcava. There were 20 stakeholders present. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Marti Marshall.
2. **Roll Call**- The roll was taken by Ms. Underwood there were 17 Boardmembers present and quorum (11) was met.

<b>SNC ITEM 2 Roll Call</b>	
<b>Yes –17</b>	<b>Absent –03</b>
<b>Blose, Bloom, Cabrera- Miller, Dumont, Gonzales, Grubert, Job, Opperman, Ortega, Pacheco, Postlmayr, A. Rubalcava, C. Rubalcava, Silva, Underwood, Valencia, Zelaya</b>	<b>Floresta, Cabrera, Montano</b>

3. **Housekeeping: Speaker Cards, Recording, and Timekeeper**-President C. Rubalcava welcomed the board and community members to Sylmar High School, Spartan Hall where the Sylmar Neighborhood Council will be holding their election this Saturday, April 27, 2019 from 10:00AM to 4:00PM. Speaker Cards and refreshments are available on the table. The meeting tonight is being filmed.
4. **Public Official and Community Representative Announcements & Presentations:**
  - a. **L.A. Sanitation and Environment- Daniel Tamm-** This coming Saturday we will be celebrating Earth Day. There will be an event at Woodley Park just west of the Japanese Garden which is watered by recycled water from the Tillman Reclamation Plant. The goal for 2035 is to be using 100 % recycled water. At the event there will be workshops and about 50 exhibitors. Bring the whole family. You can also sign up for a free street tree. Stakeholder Tom asked “When will the ball fields and parks in Sylmar be watered with recycled water?” There was no answer.
  - b. **FD Arturo Garcia Mendoza, Assemblymember Luz Rivas-Brenda Yannes** was introduced as a Case Worker with the Assembly Office. Ms. Yannes helps community members with issues they may have with state agencies such as Department of Motor Vehicles, and the Employment Development Department. There will be an Earth Day Event on Saturday April 27, 2019 between 8:30AM-1:00PM at Sun Valley Recreation Center. They will be planting trees at the event. Bring your DWP bill to the event if you would like a free shade or fruit tree. On Friday May 17, 2019 there will be a Senior Scam Stopper Event at Mission Division Police Station 9:30AM to 12:30PM. R.S.V.P. is required (818) 504-3911 or email [Meghan.Mai@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Meghan.Mai@asm.ca.gov).  
Marti Marshall asked “When will the Assembly office be setting up email updates for community members?” Answer: It is in the works.
  - c. **Vanessa Serrano, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment** spoke about the Empower LA Awards and the award won by Sylmar Neighborhood Council for its work on Emergency Preparedness. You will be receiving a plaque. There are 99 Neighborhood Councils.
  - d. **Representative East Valley, Office of Mayor Garcetti- Absent**
  - e. **FD, Congressman Tony Cardenas- Michelle Vergara** introduced herself as the new Field Deputy for Sylmar. If anyone needs help with Federal Agencies such as Medicare or Veterans Affairs contact their office. There is an upcoming Congressional Art Show on May 4, 2019 from 4:00PM to 6:00PM. The Art Show will showcase art work from High School Students. The first

place winner will win a trip to the Capital in Washington D.C. and their artwork will be displayed in the Capital Building for 1 year. On May 1, 2019 there will be a TPS Immigration Workshop at 10:00AM to 12:00PM in Panorama City.

Ms. Silva asked about putting up military banners.

Mr. Dumont mentioned cleaning up the Sylmar Post Office. The Congressman's office is looking into a cleanup at the Post Office.

- f. FD Juan Solario, Councilmember Monica Rodriguez is working ordinance recover cost of utility disconnections for cannabis shops shut down for illegal activity. Councilmember Rodriguez is looking for sustainable funding for alleys. Mr. Solario spoke about the impacts of SB50; the Los Angeles City Council took a position against it. Mr. Solario plans to recognize a stakeholder at every meeting. He did not bring the name of the woman he wanted to recognize at this meeting. The woman contacted him to report that 19 lights were out at Harding and Gavina. The lights have been fixed. In regards to the letter that he received from the Diane Valencia, requesting converting green zones to red zones for 85.02. He will get back to her. Mr. Solario asked for all Veterans to reach out to the council office. Mr. Cabrera-Miller mentioned the problem with the VFW building and the fact that there are no sidewalks. Many of the members are elderly and have to walk in the street at Foothill and Polk. It was also mentioned that there does not seem to be any street sweeping being done in Sylmar.  
Marti- wanted to know when the council office is going to start sending out email updates.  
Stakeholder- wants to know why they are not receiving information from the council office. There have been 2 accidents on her sidewalks she needs help.  
Pat Rau- asked why they have not received a response in regards to Homeless and Bridge Housing. How many are in Sylmar? The community wants to know if Sylmar is being overburdened. What is the status of the request? Answer: It slipped through the cracks.  
Bonnie Bernard feels there is not enough information on the council office website. She asked Mr. Solario if Beverly Dupree was the name of the stakeholder who reported the lighting issue. As a member of the Public Safety Committee, Ms. Bernard wants all of the requested information by the meeting on Thursday, May 9, 2019.  
Stakeholder –wants to know why community is not being notified about all of the homeless shelters being built in Sylmar and the Olive View project. She would like to know why nobody got back to her with the information that she requested at the last meeting. Answer: Mr. Solario stated that it must have slipped through the cracks and that he is pulled in many directions.
- g. FD Eveline Bravo-Ayala, Senator Hertzberg's Office-Absent

**Ms. Montano joined the meeting at 7:00PM.**

**5. Public Comment on non-agenda items within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction.**

- a. Grecia Lopez-Reys from the Don't Waste LA (DWLA) Coalition-Athens Services for Commercial Waste has not complied with their contract. To reach the goals of the city's RecyclA is a plan that diverts waste from the landfills. Athens Services contract is part of that plan. Instead of complying they have been reported for unfair labor practices such as retaliatory firings,

harassment, lack affordable insurance for older workers, and paying less than other city contractors. Ms. Lopez wants the community to sign the petition she is handing around.

- b. Tom Stakeholder- at the Forums he compiled minutes and made a list of the attendance of the incumbent board members, contact him if it is incorrect. He asked Ms. Job if Senator Hertzberg would be at the Memorial Day Event.
  - c. Marti-Marshall- gave a short history of the Mexican- American War which started on this day in 1846 when Mexican and American forces clashed.
  - d. John Stoll- lives in Oakridge and wanted to personally thank each person on the Neighborhood Council for their hard work. Streets are being paved, graffiti is being removed and things are being cleaned. He feels it is because of the Neighborhood Councils efforts.
  - e. Bonnie Bernard- I made a mistake I did not see special on the agenda. Ms. Bernard does not want to see negative campaigning and rumors. She would like it to stop and to see the community come together.
6. **Update on Make Your Horse Count Event-** Ms. Blöse gave an update that due to difficulties in getting this event put together because of changes to the City Clerks Funding System. Many questions were being asked that have never been asked before which has caused confusion. This event is being put on hold and possibly cancelled. There will be a meeting tomorrow night.
7. **Presentation from United Food and Commercial Workers Local 770.** Rachel Torres, Deputy Political and Civil Rights Director for United Food and Commercial Workers spoke about the pending contract negotiations which affect Ralphs, Albertsons, and Vons's stores. Meat packers, retail and cannabis workers, are all on the same baseline. The contract has expired for 60,000 workers. Health Care and Pensions are also issues for the workers. There will be upcoming actions such as marches and delegations being put together. Please go to the website [www.usfoodfight.com](http://www.usfoodfight.com), sign the petition and stay involved.
- Ms. Job asked if wages were being decreased. Answer: No there are tiny increases
- Bonnie Bernard- objected to this being on the agenda based on the mission and goals of the Neighborhood Council.
- Les- stated they are part of the community. It belongs on the agenda.
8. Presentation Committee Reports
- a. Executive Committee – Christian Rubalcava – stated that he is working on cleaning out the office and doing inventory so everything was ready for the new board.
  - b. Beautification Committee – vacant
  - c. Budget Committee – George Ortega – at the budget committee meeting it was determined that the objective is to have \$10,000 or less to roll over.
  - d. Bylaws Committee – Diane Valencia –no report
  - e. Outreach Committee – Carlos Lara-absent

- f. Planning and Land Use Committee-Peter Postlmayr – We are waiting for the Environmental Impact Report for the Olive View. There is a city property with an RFP for work at Astoria and Polk, North East of San Fernando Road. We don't know what the intentions are. The committee is concerned it might be another affordable housing project.
- g. Homeless Services Committee – Paul Dumont- Spoke about his work on the Homeless Services Committee. He recommends people getting involved with committees. Mr. Dumont would like to see the committee address homelessness and housing. He feels the housing crisis is the reason for homelessness. Mr. Dumont no longer qualifies as a Business Representative for the Sylmar Neighborhood Council. He resigned and left the meeting. Bonnie Bernard- told Paul Dumont that he did a good job on the Homeless Services Committee.

**Mr. Dumont left the meeting at 8:05PM.**

- h. Emergency Preparedness –John Pacheco – he is interested in sustainability and feels there needs to have a plan to help small businesses in the community recover after an emergency. The ongoing Emergency Preparedness Meeting will be at the Sylmar office on April 21, 2019, 5:30PM - 7:00PM. Monthly Emergency Preparedness Training will be from 7:00PM – 9:00PM.
- i. Equestrian Committee – Cheri Blose-The report was given during item 6.
- j. Public Safety Committee – Ms. Valencia spoke about the committee and how it was formed to address the concerns of the stakeholders. Ms. Valencia feels that the committee has done a great job at addressing those concerns. She is proud of the work done by the committee which has been in existence for 1 ½ years.
- k. Youth Affairs Committee – Donald Zelaya – next month he will be submitting the purchases for the ESL and SAT book for a small Library at the Sylmar Neighborhood Council Office. Mr. Zelaya is reaching out to School Board Member Kelly Gonez to see if she will match the funds. Shout out to the students in MEChA. They will be hosting a Chicano Film Series at Mission College starting on May 6, with the movie Cinco de Mayo. 7:00 PM in the AMP Screening Room.

9. MEET and GREET- 8:10PM.

- a. Mr. Rubalcava called the meeting to order at 8:28 PM. Mr. C. Rubalcava thanked Ms. Underwood for putting together the board packet and making it available online. Mr. C. Rubalcava also thanked David Gonzales for video- taping the Sylmar Neighborhood Council Meetings

**Roll was called by Ms. Underwood.**

<b>SNC ITEM 9 Roll Call After Break</b>	
<b>Yes –17</b>	<b>Absent –03</b>
<b>Bloom, Blose, Cabrera- Miller, Gonzales, Grubert, Job, Montano, Opperman, Ortega, Pacheco, Postlmayr, A. Rubalcava, C. Rubalcava, Silva, Underwood, Valencia, Zelaya</b>	<b>Dumont, Cabrera, Floresta,</b>

**10. Discussion and Possible Action on Removing Board Member Paul Dumont for reasons listed on a stakeholder petition submitted to the Executive Board. The removal process by stakeholder petition**

is defined in Article V, Section 9, Subsection A of the Sylmar NC Bylaws. Removal requires a 2/3 majority of attending directors.- **Item Tabled**

11. Discussion and Possible Action on approving an amount not to exceed \$2500 from Neighborhood Purpose Grants for the 18th Annual Los Angeles Mission College Food and Wine Festival. The NPG Applicant is the Los Angeles Mission College Foundation. The purpose of this money is for student scholarships. The event will take place on April 27th, 2019 at the LAMC Main Campus from 4pm – 8pm. Ann Job recused herself and left the room during the discussion. Organization is not in good standing (suspended) with the State of California. The money is to be used for Scholarships not for the event.

**Public comment:**

Tom Stakeholder-Wants to know who will be at the event taking advantage of the outreach opportunity.  
Marti Marshall- The board can vote on this at a later date when the Organization is good standing with the state.

**Motion passed**

SNC ITEM 11 Motion to amend the amount from \$2500.00 to \$1,000.00 for Scholarships. Moved: C. Rubalcava Second: Pacheco				
Yes – 13	No –03	Abstain–00	Recused –01	Absent – 03
Bloom, Blose, Cabrera- Miller, Gonzales, Grubert, Montano, Ortega, Pacheco, A. Rubalcava, C. Rubalcava, Silva, Underwood, Zelaya	Opperman, Postlmayr, Valencia	NONE	Job	Dumont, Cabrera, Floresta

**Public comment:**

Les Eisenman- explained voting strategy on the motion. He was concerned that the dinner costs more than most people in the community can afford.

**Motion failed**

SNC ITEM 11 Motion to approve \$1,000.00 to be used for Scholarships. Moved: Cabrera-Miller Second: Valencia				
Yes – 8	No- 08	Abstain–00	Recused – 01	Absent – 03
Bloom, Blose, Cabrera- Miller, Ortega, Pacheco, A. Rubalcava, C. Rubalcava, Silva	Gonzales, Grubert, Montano, Opperman, Postlmayr, Underwood, Valencia, Zelaya	NONE	Job	Dumont, Cabrera, Floresta

12. Discussion and possible action on reallocating \$2500 into Neighborhood Purpose Grants, by moving \$1000 from Outreach (Emergency Preparedness) and \$1500 from Operations. **Item Tabled**

13. Discussion and possible action on approving the March Monthly Expenditure Report (MER).

**Public comment:**

Bonnie Bernard- went to the meeting and is very happy with the way Ms. Blose is really on top of getting the receipts in on time, and she makes good recommendations.

**Motion passed**

SNC ITEM 13 Moved: Postlmayr Second: Silva				
Yes – 17	No –00	Abstain–00	Not Eligible –00	Absent – 03
Bloom, Blose, Cabrera- Miller, Gonzales, Grubert, Job, Montano, Opperman, Ortega, Pacheco, Postlmayr, A. Rubalcava, C. Rubalcava, Silva, Underwood, Valencia, Zelaya	NONE	NONE	NONE	Dumont, Cabrera, Floresta

14. Discussion and possible action on approving a Community Impact Statement for Council File (CF) 19-0307 (Pacoima Wash / Trespassing Laws /Fencing and Other Wash Infrastructure) Increased safety measures to prevent trespassing.

**Public comment:**

Les Eisenman- had his business on the wash and it is easily accessed by anyone who wants to. He wonders about further closing it and stopping people from enjoying it. He doesn't feel there is enough information Tom Stakeholder- a boy fell into the wash and they discovered his body downstream. LADWP is digging to fix an old pipeline. This will send more water into the spreading grounds. They are spending millions of dollars to do this.

**Motion passed**

SNC ITEM 14 Moved: Valencia Second: Gonzales				
Yes – 16	No –01	Abstain–00	Not Eligible –00	Absent – 03
Bloom, Blose, Dumont, Floresta, Gonzales, Grubert, Job, Montano, Opperman, Ortega, Pacheco, Postlmayr, A. Rubalcava, C. Rubalcava, Silva, Underwood, Valencia, Zelaya	Cabrera-Miller,	NONE	NONE	Dumont, Cabrera, Floresta

15a. Discussion and possible action on approving a Community Impact Statement for CF 19-0002-S50 (AB 516 (Chiu)/Vehicle Removal and Impoundment New Restrictions/Local Jurisdictions). Concerns about Economic Issues are not being taken into consideration and may harm the community because people may just ignore paying their tickets, causing cars not to be towed which create blight in the community. The wording makes no distinction between people being able to pay. This takes power away from Law Enforcement.

**Public comment:**

Tom Stakeholder- the Police would not be able to take car even you left it on the street for a year and they can't tow it. They can take your car if you haven't paid renewal they can impound your car but can't sell it. Les Eisenman-supports the Finnish approach. You pay fines depending how much you make. He does not like people considered homeless when they live in Motorhomes. That is their home. He doesn't like peoples' homes being taken from them but would like to see the motion tabled.

Marti Marshall- thinks the board should vote on it and to consider the recommendation of the committee.

**Motion Amended**

**Amended Motion Failed**

SNC ITEM 15 Motion amended to postpone CF 19-0002-S50 to a future meeting. Moved: Zelaya Second: Silva				
Yes – 03	No –14	Abstain–00	Not Eligible –00	Absent – 03
Ortega, Silva Zelaya	Bloom, Blose, Cabrera- Miller, Gonzales, Grubert, Job, Montano, Opperman, Pacheco, Postlmayr, A. Rubalcava, C. Rubalcava, Underwood, Valencia	NONE	NONE	Dumont, Cabrera, Floresta

15b. Discussion and possible action on approving a Community Impact Statement for CF 19-0002-S50.

**Public comment: no comment**

**Motion Passed**

SNC ITEM 15b Motion to approve CF 19-0002-S50 Moved: Valencia Second: Postlmayr				
Yes – 14	No –03	Abstain–00	Not Eligible –00	Absent – 03
Bloom, Blose, Cabrera- Miller, Gonzales, Grubert, Job, Opperman, Pacheco, Postlmayr, A. Rubalcava, C. Rubalcava, Underwood, Valencia, Zelaya	Montano, Ortega, Silva	NONE	NONE	Dumont, Cabrera, Floresta

16. Discussion and possible action on approving a Community Impact Statement for CF 13-1493 and/or any supplemental files regarding public safety aspects of the proposed regulations for street vending. City Council is still working on regulations.

**Public comment:**

Tom Stakeholder-there is no requirement for anyone to have insurance. Some street vendor propane tanks have blown up in Arleta. The City could be held liable. Everyone needs to have insurance. Vending carts and people can create visibility issues for vehicles. The Unions are pushing for illegal vending, but there are Public Safety issues.

Peggy Bennett- on Sayre Street vendors are selling in a busy area, red zone. Why is it being allowed?

Les Eisenman- we have street vending, it has been going on for years. We have to decide how we want it to be regulated.

**Motion Passed**

SNC ITEM 16 Motion to approve a Community Impact Statement for CF 13- 1493 Moved: Valencia Second: Underwood				
Yes – 14	No –03	Abstain–00	Not Eligible –00	Absent – 03
Bloom, Blose, Gonzales, Grubert, Job, Montano, Opperman, Pacheco, Postlmayr, A. Rubalcava, C. Rubalcava, Underwood, Valencia, Zelaya	Cabrera-Miller, Ortega, Silva	NONE	NONE	Dumont, Cabrera, Floresta

17. Discussion and possible action on approving an amount not to exceed \$450 from Outreach (Youth Affairs) for Sylmar Recreation Center’s Opening Day Festivities. The funds will go towards providing hot dog meals for all the participants and the SNC will have time to make a speech at the event. Opening Day is scheduled for April 27, 2019 -Item Tabled

18. Discussion and possible action on approving an amount not to exceed \$500 for SNC branded Outreach items such as SNC branded notebooks with attached pens and/or similar items. Items will be ordered so that the board will have items to give away at upcoming events.

**Public comment: no comment**

**Motion passed**

SNC ITEM 18 Motion to approve an amount up to \$500.00 for SNC branded Outreach items Moved: Job Second: Pacheco				
Yes – 17	No –00	Abstain–00	Not Eligible –00	Absent – 03
Bloom, Blose, Cabrera- Miller, Gonzales, Grubert, Job, Montano, Opperman, Ortega, Pacheco, Postlmayr, A. Rubalcava, C. Rubalcava, Silva, Underwood, Valencia, Zelaya	NONE	NONE	NONE	Dumont, Cabrera, Floresta

19. Discussion and possible action on reallocating \$500 to Outreach from Community Improvement Projects. There was no discussion.

**Public comment: no comment**

**Motion passed**

SNC ITEM 19 Motion to reallocate \$500.00 to Outreach from Community Improvement Projects. Moved: Grubert Second: Job				
Yes – 17	No –00	Abstain–00	Not Eligible –00	Absent – 03
Bloom, Blose, Cabrera- Miller, Gonzales, Grubert, Job, Montano, Opperman, Ortega, Pacheco, Postlmayr, A. Rubalcava, C. Rubalcava, Silva, Underwood, Valencia, Zelaya	NONE	NONE	NONE	Dumont, Cabrera, Floresta

20. Discussion and possible action on approving any draft minutes within Fiscal Year 2018-2019. It was discussed that the correct time frame of minutes to approve were from August 2018, to February 2019.

**Public comment: no comment**

**Motion passed**

SNC ITEM 20 Motion to approve the draft meeting minutes for all meetings in between and including August 2018 to February 2019 Moved: Cabrera– Miller Second: Zelaya
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Yes – 16	No –00	Abstain–01	Not Eligible –00	Absent – 03
Bloom, Blose, Cabrera- Miller, Gonzales, Grubert, Job, Montano, Ortega, Pacheco, Postlmayr, A. Rubalcava, C. Rubalcava, Silva Underwood, Valencia, Zelaya	NONE	Opperman	NONE	Dumont, Cabrera, Floresta

21. **Board Member Comments / Announcements-** the Sylmar Neighborhood Council Elections are on Saturday, April 27, 2019 from 10:00PM to 4:00PM, here at Sylmar High School, Spartan Hall.

22. **Future Agenda Items** **Item Postponed** Write to Executive Board by email at [ExecutiveBoard@SylmarNC.org](mailto:ExecutiveBoard@SylmarNC.org) or mail Executive Board c/o Sylmar Neighborhood Council, P.O. Box 921023, Sylmar, CA 91392-10 (1 minute)

23. **Closing Remarks, Acknowledgements, and Adjournment**

No vote was taken

Meeting was **adjourned at 9:55PM**

**The Next Sylmar Neighborhood Council Board Meeting Will Be:  
May 23, 2019 at 6:30PM  
Location: Sylmar Charter High School**