

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

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MEETING OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE - MINUTES

Thursday, March 8, 2018 - 6:30 PM

Oakridge Mobile Home Park - Clubhouse

15455 Glenoaks Blvd., Sylmar, CA. 91342

Committee Chair – Diane Valencia

Vice Chair – Tom Weissbarth

Sylmar Neighborhood Council Meeting Minutes are a summary, not an exact, verbatim, word-for-word transcript of what was said at a Meeting. The only two exceptions are the Motions shown in italics and quotes shown with quotation marks (“ ”) at the beginning and ending of a word or words. The Minutes are not, nor were they ever meant to be, a comprehensive record of what was said about an issue or project.

1. Call to Order

Diane Valencia called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM

2. Welcome from facility host – Linda Willeford

Linda Willeford welcomed the SNC Public Safety Committee and about 40 stakeholders to the Oakridge Mobile Home Park Clubhouse. She described Oakridge’s experience and significant property losses suffered in the Sayre Fire and shared the importance of the Sylmar Neighborhood Council’s Public Safety Committee in helping to make Sylmar safer in the future.

3. Housekeeping: Sign-In Sheets, Speaker Cards for Agenda Items, Recording and Timekeeper

Diane Valencia explained these items. Ms. Grubert will be taking notes to assist with the writing of the Minutes.

4. Roll Call of Committee

Diane Valencia took roll call. All Committee members present: Diane Valencia, Tom Weissbarth, Bonnie Bernard, Kurt Cabrera-Miller, Robyn Farrow, Kathy Grubert, Art Rocco.

5. Public Comment on non-agendized matters, within the Committee’s subject matter jurisdiction.

Yolie Anguiano, candidate for California Assembly’s N.E. San Fernando Valley, spoke of her support for public safety and advocating for our community’s interests on the California High Speed Rail project.

6. Public Official Comments / Presentations, including Q&A

None present.

7. Discussion and possible action to approve the draft Minutes of the November 9, 2017 Public Safety Committee meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes as written by Kurt Cabrera-Miller and seconded by Tom Weissbarth.
Motion passed by a vote of 6/0/1 (with Kathy Grubert abstaining)

8. Discussion and possible action to approve the draft Minutes of the December 11, 2017 Public Safety Committee meeting.

Minutes not presented for approval; tabled to the next meeting.

9. Discussion and possible action to approve the draft Minutes of the February 8, 2018 Public Safety Committee meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes, as written, by Kurt Cabrera-Miller and seconded by Tom Weissbarth.
Motion passed by a vote of 6/0/1 (with Kathy Grubert abstaining)

10. Discussion and possible action to approve the draft Minutes of the February 12, 2018 Special Public Safety Committee meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes as written by Tom Weissbarth and seconded by Diane Valencia.
Motion passed by a vote of 4/0/3 (with Kurt Cabrera-Miller, Kathy Grubert, Robyn Farrow abstaining)

11. Appointment and/or removal by Committee Chair of Committee Member(s)

No action.

12. LAPD Mission Division Report / Updates – LAPD / Tom Weissbarth

Tom Weissbarth reported that last night we were able to obtain the last of the statistics we asked for. Though he has regretfully been unable to study them, he stated that he intends to do a careful review of them. Tom reported that his brief review of the data from 19A7 to date, shows we're down on many types of crimes. The committee will post these statistics on our website soon. Discussion included speculation that changes in the definitions of crime categories or how they are reported may account for these seemingly over-optimistic numbers. Marty Marshall shared her concern over a homeless camp at Sayre and Polk. Kurt Cabrera-Miller suggested reporting such encampments to Caltrans and using the 311 app.

13. Discussion and possible action regarding open / action items of the Public Safety Committee, including review of Council Files identified as relevant to public safety.

Diane Valencia reviewed the status of open/pending SNC Public Safety Committee action items. Details were provided in the AGENDA ITEM #13 handout. Discussion included a suggestion to stakeholders to contact their relevant public officials to express their concerns / support, etc.

14. Discussion and possible action to approve a Community Impact Statement for Council File #17-1421 (Illegal Fireworks Task Force / Restrict Usage / Public Safety Threat / Quality-of-Life Issues).

Diane Valencia shared a draft Community Impact Statement that needs the Public Safety Committee approval before going before the SNC Board for approval before being submitted to the City. Discussion included particular concern over fireworks during Cinco de Mayo celebrations and the need to cut off the supply of fireworks as well as actively arresting offenders and publicizing the offences.

Motion to approve the Draft CIS, as written, made by Bonnie Bernard and seconded by Kathy Grubert.
Motion passed by a vote of 7/0/0.

15. Discussion and possible action to approve a Community Impact Statement for Council File #18-0036 (La Tuna Canyon / Creek / Wildfires / Reconstruction / Rebuild / Expedite Permits / Fee Waivers)

Diane Valencia shared a draft Community Impact Statement (CIS) in support of Council File #18-0036. Kurt Cabrera-Miller commented that the City Council took action on this file today. The SNC Board can decide what to do with the CIS if approved by the Committee.

Motion to approve the draft CIS, as written, made by Kurt Cabrera-Miller and seconded by Tom Weissbarth.

Motion passed by a vote of 7/0/0.

16. Discussion and possible action related to changes requested by Council Districts across the City of Los Angeles relative to oversize vehicle parking, by citing public safety concerns within their Districts.

Diane Valencia shared a sample City Council Motion on this topic. A handout, downloaded from the City Council File database, listed filings for permits to post signs prohibiting oversize vehicle parking

on designated streets. As Diane pointed out, the data shows a large number of filings from neighboring districts #6, #11, and #12. It appears that one only has been filed for our district (District #7), by City Council President Wesson when we was acting as our Caretaker. Stakeholders and committee members alike expressed their concern for our district, because if neighboring communities are not allowing these vehicles, they may well be moving into our district. Discussion regarding how we might take action on behalf of Sylmar included the need to identify specific streets for which to request parking restrictions and to work through Monica Rodriguez's office. Diane suggested we bring up this topic during the April 21 Town Hall Meeting to get broader community input to help us identify streets for which to request oversize vehicle restriction signage. Yolie Anguiano suggested we collaborate with other communities, such as Arleta and Lake View Terrace, to put pressure on Monica Rodriguez's office to address this issue. One stakeholder suggested we obtain the data on where and how public safety / service resources are being spent and how Sylmar compares, just as Diane Valencia did successfully in advocating for fire department resources for Sylmar.

17. Discussion and possible action related to public safety aspects of street/sidewalk vending.

Diane Valencia shared a recent discussion with Officer Crawford in which he shared that, since street vending has been decriminalized, it is difficult to make arrests. Police can issue administrative citations, but if unpaid the offense does not go to warrant. Therefore, it becomes a civil misdemeanor: i.e., if the money doesn't get paid, that is the end of it. All food vendors should have the County's permit stickers and letter grading posted, which indicate they are vending food items legally. The phone number to call to inquire about or report illegal food vending is (626) 430-5160 or online to the City's Environmental Health Online Complaint System. Diane suggested this might be another good topic to bring up at our Town Hall on April 21.

18. Discussion and possible action related to all aspects of the planning and scheduling of a Public Safety Community Town Hall meeting, including the scope of such a meeting, speakers/participants, date, time, location, marketing/outreach efforts.

Diane Valencia shared the "Day of Event" handout and described current planning related to the April 21 Town Hall and the numerous times she and others have asked Monica Rodriguez to attend (without a commitment, as yet). A poll of those present was overwhelming against co-hosting the event with Councilwoman Rodriguez. Rather, the strong preference voiced was for her to be present and part of the event, but that the primary focus should be upon hearing from the public. Diane suggested we provide a table and parking for CD7 and other invited guests. If they don't show up there will be an empty seat at the table. We should also make sure the media is there to report on the event. A stakeholder suggested we take polls/surveys on Nextdoor and share the results at our Town Hall. Other suggestions included giving participants marbles or similar tokens for voting on their most important topics by placing these items in jars, and encouraging people to send in their input via email if they can't attend or take the survey. Possible additions to public official invitee list included Edison and Caltrans. Possible deletions from the list of invitees included LADWP, Dept. of Building and Safety, LA Planning Dept. It was decided to keep SNC Emergency Preparedness Committee, although their time should be limited to 3-5 minutes, and they are welcome to come and set up a table. Diane got commitments from committee members for action items related to putting on the town hall.

19. Discussion and possible action related to the scheduling of future Public Safety Committee meetings.

Diane Valencia and Kurt Cabrera-Miller will not be available on the date in April of the regularly scheduled meeting. The Committee decided to meet again on March 29, 2018, likely in the SNC office. The May meeting will be hosted by Oakridge again.

20. Committee Member Comments on subject matters within the Committee's jurisdiction.

No comments by committee members.

21. Future Agenda Items: E-mail the Committee Chair, Diane Valencia, at Diane.Valencia@SylmarNC.org

22. Closing Remarks, Announcements, Acknowledgements, and Adjournment

Diane Valencia called for adjournment of the meeting at 8:46 PM with no objections.