

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE - MINUTES**

**Thursday, February 21, 2019 - 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 6:34 PM

**2. Housekeeping:** Sign-In Sheets, taking of Minutes, etc.

Diane Valencia covered housekeeping items and thanked Linda Willeford, President of Oakridge Residents Association, for hosting this meeting.

**3. Roll Call of Committee**

Members present: Diane Valencia, Tom Weissbarth, Kathy Grubert, Bonnie Bernard.

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

- Linda Willeford informed everyone of an emergency preparedness drill at Oakridge Estates on March 9, which will be conducted in collaboration with CERT.
- Jose shared pictures and spoke about how he reported to police a recent case of illegal dumping he observed in Sylmar on Foothill next to the Mobile gas station.

**5. Public Official Comments / Presentations, including Q&A, including but not limited to:**

**Juan Solorio, CD7** was not present.

**LAPD SLO Joe Carter** shared that SLO Keith Crawford was unable to attend tonight. He reported overall crime maps and statistics as well as efforts to combat crime and work on homeless issues. Overall, crime is down. However, there have recently been rises in some categories compared to last year. Upcoming events: rescheduled hike at Veteran’s Park will be on March 9. April 20 there will be an Easter egg hunt, and a golf tournament will be on March 18. When asked how we can help LAPD, Officer Carter encouraged everyone to communicate via whatever means (e.g. Nextdoor, My LA 311 app, calling, etc.). Officer Carter shared that if citizens reporting illegal dumping leads to an arrest, the City may compensate you. Tom suggested moving Neighborhood Watch meetings from the LAPD station to Olive View or some other Sylmar location; Linda Willeford suggested Oakridge Estates.

**Alvin Arzo from the City Attorney's Office** reported on the progress on closing off the street at Silver Oaks. Alvin agreed that Diane's suggestion of putting together photos and other documentation would help to support the request. There were also suggestions to temporarily barricade the street. According to Alvin, the process needs to be initiated by CD7 and, once approved by the City, will then be handled by DOT. Alvin responded to Jose's concern about illegal dumping.

6. **Discussion and possible action** to approve the draft Minutes of the January 19, 2019 Special Public Safety Committee meeting.

Motion to approve by Tom and seconded by Diane.  
Motion passed unanimously 3/0/0

7. **Discussion and possible action** to approve the draft Minutes of the December 13, 2018 Special Public Safety Committee meeting.

Draft Minutes not available; item tabled until next month.

8. **LAPD Mission Division Report / Updates** – LAPD / Tom Weissbarth

Tom provided a brief report about CPAB efforts.

9. **Discussion / summary** of SNC Board action taken during January, 2019 General Board meeting on items referred from the SNC Public Safety Committee.

Diane reported on items referred by our committee to the SNC Board in January:

- SNC Board approved the CIS written in support of #17-1386-S1 [http://clkrep.lacity.org/online/docs/2017/17-1386-s1\\_mot\\_12-13-2017.pdf](http://clkrep.lacity.org/online/docs/2017/17-1386-s1_mot_12-13-2017.pdf) (Special 1 Motion / Skirball Fire / Homeless Encampment / Illegal Fires and Campsites). The CIS has been submitted.
- SNC Board approved the CIS written in support of Los Angeles City Council File #19-0050 [http://clkrep.lacity.org/online/docs/2019/19-0050\\_mot\\_01-15-2019.pdf](http://clkrep.lacity.org/online/docs/2019/19-0050_mot_01-15-2019.pdf) (Issuance of Personal Notice / Individuals within Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone / Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) / Amendment). The CIS has been submitted.
- A request for \$1000 for a Neighborhood Purpose Grant for the LAPD golf tournaments was approved.
- A request for \$6000 for No Trespassing signs was reduced to \$5000, then \$2500 and was ultimately not supported.
- A request for \$750 for Fire Station 91's Fire Service Day will be on next month's SNC Board agenda.

10. **Discussion and possible action** regarding local LAFD resources in Sylmar. (Follow-up from prior 2018 Committee meetings). Discussion regarding Public Records Act request regarding past payments and contracts between the City of Los Angeles and the City of San Fernando, special taxes levied (Mello-Roos) related to City of Los Angeles Community Facilities District No. 8 (Legends At Cascades), and disposition of land acquired for LAFD Station 31.

Diane Valencia reported on the status of our efforts to improve LAFD resources in Sylmar:

- Diane asked for stakeholder support to gather information on special taxes levied (Mello Roos) re/ LA Community Facilities District No. 8 (Legends at Cascades). Attending residents of Legends at Cascades reported estimated payments made over the past 10 years, per resident, at around \$40K, and collectively roughly \$3.5M. Discussion surrounded the question, "Where is the money that was supposed to go toward land acquisition and building of LAFD Station 31?" It was suggested we submit a Freedom of Information Act request on the subject. Attending residents of Legends at Cascades agreed to help. Another suggestion was to get reporters to write articles on the subject (such as the new LAnd which has many former LA Weekly journalists).
- Public Records Act request re/ past payments & contracts between LA City and San Fernando.

- 11. Discussion and possible action** regarding Committee work done to date, issues brought to the Committee by Stakeholders, and what may be needed to increase community engagement, education, outreach, etc.

Diane reported that she doesn't expect much to change until after the April 27 SNC Board elections.

- 12. Committee Member Comments** on subject matters within the Committee's jurisdiction

There was a reminder to those present that Neighborhood Council elections are approaching in April.

- 13. Future Agenda Items: Please e-mail the Committee Chair, Diane Valencia, at [Diane.Valencia@SylmarNC.org](mailto:Diane.Valencia@SylmarNC.org)**

Tom reported that CPAB's Quality of Life Committee that he serves on is working on the street vending issue – to recommend regulations/laws to make enforcement more effective. Tom asks that we discuss this issue, as it relates to public safety, at our next meeting.

- 14. Closing Remarks, Announcements, Acknowledgements, and Adjournment**

Diane announced that the Committee would be back to its regular meeting date in March, 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month – March 14.

Diane called for adjournment of the meeting at 8:05 PM without objection.

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Committee Meeting Minutes are available on the SNC website [www.SylmarNC.org](http://www.SylmarNC.org)