

**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, March 28, 2019 – 6:30 PM**

**Osceola Street Elementary School  
14940 Osceola Street  
Sylmar, CA 91342**

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Roll Call</b>	<b>Funding Vote Eligible*</b>	<b>Category</b>
Bloom, Kathy	Present (Left at 8:10PM)	YES	CBO
Blose, Cheri	Present (Arrived at 7:46PM)	YES	ER
Cabrera, Hector	Present	YES	At-Large
Cabrera-Miller Kurt	Present	YES	Business
Dumont, Paul	Present	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	YES	Home/Condo
Opperman, Bob	Absent	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 (Left at 7:50PM)	YES	Education
Underwood, Michelle	Present	YES	Renter
Valencia, Diane	Present	YES	Recreation
Zelaya, Donald	Present (Arrived at 6:50PM)	YES	At-Large
<b>TOTAL: 20</b>	<b>PRESENT 16 , Absent 04</b>		

- 1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**-The meeting was called to order at 6:37PM by Mr. C. Rubalcava. There were 15 stakeholders present. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. C. Rubalcava.

**Mr. C. Rubalcava moved to Item #3.**

3. **Housekeeping: Speaker Cards, Recording, and Timekeeper-** Mr. C. Rubalcava welcomed the board and community members to Osceola Elementary Street School. Mr. C. Rubalcava mentioned election posters that were put together for the community to view the candidates, the location of the restrooms, and that speaker cards and fliers are available on the back table. This meeting is being filmed. Mr. C. Rubalcava introduced Principal Vasquez the Principal of Osceola Street Elementary. Mr. Vazquez offered the use of the padded chairs for people to sit on as they are more comfortable. Osceola Street Elementary is 60 years old. 5 years ago they were going to close the school due to lack of student enrollment. The neighborhood, community, Sylmar Neighborhood Council worked together and the enrollment went from 289 to 444 students. Next year they will be adding a classroom. They now have robotics and creative arts program. It is a regular neighborhood school not a magnet, it is for every kid to get a good education.

**Mr. C. Rubalcava returned to Item #2.**

2. **Roll Call-** The roll was taken by Ms. Underwood there were 16 Boardmembers present and quorum (11) was met.

<b>SNC ITEM 2 Roll Call</b>	
<b>Yes –16</b>	<b>Absent –04</b>
<b>Bloom, Cabrera, Cabrera- Miller, Dumont, Gonzales, Grubert, Job, Montano, Ortega, Pacheco, Postlmayr, A. Rubalcava, C. Rubalcava, Silva, Underwood, Valencia,</b>	<b>Blose, Floresta, Opperman, Zelaya</b>

**Mr. C. Rubalcava moved to Item #7.**

7. **Presentation by the Los Angeles Fire Department’s Brush Clearance Unit on preparing for the upcoming brush season.** LAFD Brush Clearance Inspectors Lance Matthews and Don Smith gave a presentation to the Sylmar Neighborhood Council in regards to the upcoming brush clearance inspections which start on May 1, 2019. The City of Los Angeles has 140,000 parcels to inspect. The purpose of these inspections is to protect buildings from burning. Roughly 10% of the properties inspected will have violations and will have to be re-inspected 20-25 days later at a cost of \$400.00 for a second inspection. If the violations have not been corrected, contractors will be hired at the owner’s expense \$1,300.00 plus costs. Some of the regulations: grass, weeds, and brush can be no higher than 3 inches. Trees need to be trimmed at five feet away from rooftops. Trees need to be trimmed at 2/3 their height and 1/3 of the tree needs to be trimmed up from the bottom. For questions call 1-800-994-4444 8:30AM to 3:00PM. To check your property status, you can view your parcel at vms3.lafd.org you will need to enter your Assessor Parcel Number (APN).The site opens on May 1, 2019.

**Mr. C. Rubalcava moved to Item #4.**

**4. Public Official and Community Representative Announcements & Presentations:**

- a. FD Juan Solario, Councilmember Monica Rodriguez -The Los Angeles City Council gave instructions to the City Attorney to report back, in regards to restricting sales of flavored tobaccos like Bubble Gum, which target kids. Evidence shows that children and adults are more likely to choose sweeter flavors. Council Member Rodriguez has been working on the redesign of Pacoima Youth Center the changes will including changes or adding: restrooms, offices, gym, job skills, training, and youth programs, among other improvements. Ms. Rodriguez has put forth a motion to create a Youth Development Task Force. The purpose is to

equip youth with the skills they need to succeed. The City spends sixteen million dollars on programs but there is no central strategy, so a task force needs to request the data on the programs being funded. City Council, has received a Tree Trimming Report from Urban Forestry that has lots of information. The LA Clippers have given a grant to renovate the Basketball Court at Sylmar Recreation Center. 14 courts in CD7 are being renovated. A grant has been received for the Sylmar Community Park Soccer Field. Mr. Solario also mentioned other items that the Councilmember is working on.

Ms. Valencia- brought up the fact that Sylmar does not have a Senior Center or a Community Center would Councilmember Rodriguez help them? Mr. Solario wanted to recognize a stakeholder Judy Gonzales for contacting the Council Office about overfilled bins at Sylmar Shopping Center.

Bonnie- thanked him for giving updates and council files so that the stakeholders can be informed.

b. Representative East Valley, Office of Mayor Garcetti- Absent

c. FD Arturo Garcia Mendoza, Assemblymember Luz Rivas- Real ID, there are changes to the ID system. You need to fill out an application and provide documents to get the new ID and can make an appointment at the DMV. Mr. Mendoza also spoke about the Freeway Service Patrol, it is a congestion mitigation program. It is a free service to keep cars moving. Dial 511 or go to a freeway call box. There is an upcoming LA Mission College Job Fair, flier is on the table. There will be a Rally and Social Arts Festival honoring Caesar Chavez everything is free, flier is on the table.

Ms. Silva spoke about need for more funding for custodial staff for the schools and shared ideas on how Ms. Rivas can outreach to the local schools.

Mr. Dumont thanked Mr. Mendoza for responding to him on an issue.

Mr. Cabrera- Miller mentioned that he has been contacting Caltrans directly on a problem. Mr. Mendoza offered to help.

Ms. Job reiterated what a great event the Cesar Chavez event is.

Marti Marshall asked about freeway repair damage that has been reported, caused by the homeless.

He will check on the service requests. It was added by Mr. Dumont that some freeway repairs have been done and it is appreciated.

d. FD Eveline Bravo-Ayala, Senator Hertzberg's Office-Absent

e. FD, Congressman Tony Cardenas-Absent

**Mr. Zelaya joined the meeting at 6:50PM.**

**Mr. C. Rubalcava moved to Item #5.**

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

- a. Peggy Bennett was very disappointed by the behavior of the community members who attended the meeting at Olive View Hospital that was informing the public about the new Mental Health /Services Village that Los Angeles County is building at that site. Ms. Bennett felt that the community does not understand and was only concerned about rats. She is very disappointed with Monica Rodriguez. When she has gone to the office there is never anyone there and the phones do not get answered.
- b. Marti Marshall wants the Sylmar Neighborhood Council to check into why they are not receiving the emails for the meetings. Ms. Marshall brought back the pictures from her Black History Month in case anyone didn't get a chance to see them. Ms. Marshall presented information from Article 2 Section 1 California Constitution "All political power is inherent in the people. Government is instituted for their protection, security and benefit and they have a right to alter and reform it when the public good may require it. Section 2.5 "When a voter casts a vote, the laws of the state shall have that vote counted." Section 7 "Voting shall be secret." You can do a recall if you are not happy with someone who is in office. Article 2 Section 13 allows for a petition for recall to remove an elected officer. Section 14a recall a state officer is initiated by delivering to the Secretary of the State a petition alleging reason for recall sufficiency of reason is not reviewable. Proponents have 168 days to file the petitions. Ms. Marshall has additional copies of the California Constitution available.
- c. John Holmes attended the meeting at Olive View Hospital. He submitted a list of 53 questions to the County thanked Penny Mc Millan for facilitating the process. Mr. Holmes thanked the group who worked with him to do outreach and let people know.
- d. Three Stakeholders went up to the microphone-Maria Amparicio wants to know why the residents aren't informed about the homeless and what is going on in the city. Armina Gutierrez and friend Margarita Zumida are concerned about trash on the streets. Feels the city should be doing a better job. She also does not feel safe.
- e. Jose Maldonado, Los Angeles Mission College, Professor of Chicano Studies, attended the meeting with students from his Chicano Studies Program. Jessica Rosales spoke about the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Conference. Students from some of the local High Schools like Sylmar High will be attending. The students will learn about education and career options. School Board Member Kelly Gonez, will be providing buses. Jacquelyn Calderas spoke about needing funds for the programs graduation. They would like \$1000.00 in monetary donations for about 100 attendees.
- f. Juan Solario from Councilwoman Rodriguez was given another opportunity to speak. Their office was having internet failures. He will speak to the women who spoke about the trash during Public Comment.

**Mr. C. Rubalcava returned to Item 4 (f)**

- f. School Board Member Kelly Gonez mentioned that she had been to every school that she oversees in Board District 6 there are 165 of them. She spoke about some of the Sylmar

schools and the programs they are offering. Sylmar High School is one of only three high schools in the District that will be getting a Medical Simulation Laboratory at Sylmar Bio Tech. Ms. Gonez introduced Osceola Street Principal Caesar Vasquez and Sylmar High School Principal Rodney Wright. Ms. Gonez then discussed Measure EE, which will be on the June 4, 2019 Ballot. California is forty-fourth in the nation for per pupil spending. Measure EE will levy a .16 cent per square foot tax on all buildings within Los Angeles Unified for twelve years. Both Principals spoke in support of the measure. Ms. Job thanked them for their hard work. Mr. Dumont thanked Ms. Gonez for her focus on trying to end homelessness for students. Jessica Rosales thanked Ms. Gonez for providing buses for the youth conference.

**Mr. C. Rubalcava returned to Item #6.**

## **6. City Liaison and Representatives Reports**

- a. Animal Services - Leah Blose- no report
- b. Budget Representative - Donald Zelaya and George Ortega- no report
- c. City Attorney - Christian Rubalcava- no report
- d. D.W.P. - George Ortega -no report
- e. Homelessness - Ann Job- no report.
- f. Planning - Cheri Blose (Valley) and Guadalupe Montano (City Hall)- no report
- g. Public Safety - Diane Valencia- no report
- h. Public Works – Christian Rubalcava and Carlos Lara met with Public Works Commissioner Aura Garcia. They spoke about infrastructure, streets and how Sylmar Neighborhood Council can give community feedback to the different departments under public works. Ms. Garcia is willing to help connect us.
- i. Resilience – John Pacheco- There are communication problems with the City’s Sustainability He recently saw an email in regards to things coming out of the Mayor’s office including a sustainability conference for businesses. There is just not a lot going on.
- j. Sustainability – Lucille Floresta- absent
- k. Transportation-Penny Mc Millan- no report
- l. Equestrian- Cheri Blose -Make Your Horse Count event will be on May 20, 2019.

**Mr. C. Rubalcava moved to Item #9.**

## **9. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- a. Executive Committee – Christian Rubalcava – no report
- b. Beautification Committee – vacant
- c. Budget Committee – George Ortega – no report
- d. Bylaws Committee – Diane Valencia –no report
- e. Outreach Committee – Carlos Lara-absent
- f. Planning and Land Use Committee-Peter Postlmayr – There was no meeting in March. In April they will have a housing update for the project on Foothill Blvd.
- g. Homeless Services Committee – Paul Dumont- no report
- h. Emergency Preparedness – John Pacheco –April 16, 2019 is the next meeting. It will be a kick off our once a month Preparedness Class series that will be held at the Neighborhood

Council office. The Emergency Preparedness Committee has been working with the Equestrian Committee. They are working on a Map your Neighborhood Equestrian version. They will roll it out at Make Your Horse Count.

**Ms. Blöse joined the meeting at 7:46PM.**

- i. Equestrian Committee – Cheri Blöse-The committee is working on the Make Your Horse Count Event. There is a great group of people putting it together but they will need more volunteers.
- j. Public Safety Committee – Diane Valencia- At the last committee meeting the Commanding Officer Natalie Cortez of Mission Division attended. She spent about 45 minutes addressing questions. The committee would like to produce a map as to where the problem areas are so that they can be addressed. They are continuing conversation with Rec and Parks and The LAFD on the sign project. The committee is also watching the vending ordinance so that they can address public safety issues that might arise.
- k. Youth Affairs Committee – Donald Zelaya –reported on a plan to create, a small Library of education materials for the community to access.

**7. Presentation was moved to Item #4.**

**Mr. C. Rubalcava moved the meeting to Item #10.**

**10. Discussion and possible action on approving an amount not to exceed \$3850.00 from Outreach (Emergency Preparedness) for remaining committee projects in fiscal year 2018-2019. The money will be used for Emergency Preparedness Items. Several of the items are multi-use.**

**a. Motion to amend the amount to \$2,600.00**

Public comment: Marti Marshall asked about the first aid kit. She was assured a bigger one was being ordered.

Motion amended

<b>SNC ITEM 10a Motion to amend amount to \$2600.00 for the Emergency Preparedness Committee projects. Moved: Cabrera-Miller Second: Ortega</b>				
<b>Yes – 18</b>	<b>No –00</b>	<b>Abstain–00</b>	<b>Not Eligible –00</b>	<b>Absent – 02</b>
<b>Bloom, Blöse, Cabrera, Cabrera- Miller, Dumont, Gonzales, Grubert, Job, Montano, Ortega, Pacheco, Postlmayr, A. Rubalcava, C. Rubalcava, Silva, Underwood, Valencia, Zelaya</b>	NONE	NONE	NONE	<b>Floresta, Opperman</b>

**b. Motion to approve an amount not to exceed \$2600.00.**

Public comment: no comment

Motion passed

<b>SNC ITEM 10b Motion to approve an amount not to exceed \$2600.00. Moved: Cabrera-Miller Second: Valencia</b>				
<b>Yes – 18</b>	<b>No –00</b>	<b>Abstain–00</b>	<b>Not Eligible –00</b>	<b>Absent – 02</b>
<b>Bloom, Blöse, Cabrera, Cabrera- Miller, Dumont, Gonzales, Grubert, Job, Montano, Ortega, Pacheco, Postlmayr, A. Rubalcava, C. Rubalcava, Silva, Underwood, Valencia, Zelaya</b>	NONE	NONE	NONE	<b>Floresta, Opperman</b>

Mr. C. Rubalcava returned meeting to Item #8

8. Meet and Greet- 7:48PM.

Ms. Silva Left the meeting at 7:50PM.

Mr. Rubalcava called the meeting to order at 8:07PM.

Roll was called by Ms. Underwood.

SNC ITEM 8 Roll Call After Break	
Yes –17	Absent –03
Bloom, Blose, Cabrera, Cabrera- Miller, Dumont, Gonzales, Grubert, Job, Montano, Ortega, Pacheco, Postlmayr, A. Rubalcava, C. Rubalcava, Underwood, Valencia, Zelaya	Floresta, Opperman, Silva

Ms. Bloom left the meeting 8:10PM.

Mr. C. Rubalcava moved the meeting to Item #11.

11. **Update on the Elections Committee Budget and its planned spending for the Sylmar NC Election scheduled for April 27th, 2019.** Updates to the budget for Elections include \$100.00 for fliers to place at local businesses, \$750.00 for banners, \$750.00 for lawn signs in key areas, Face Book ads, \$300.00 will be for election Saturday, hot dogs and tacos for the community, \$550.00 for Outreach give away items, and \$75.00 for each of the Meet the Candidate Events. Ms. Valencia mentioned some of the groundwork and research has already been done. Ms. Montano asked, “Who is eligible to vote?” To be eligible to vote the requirements are: over 14 years old, live, work, property, or have a stake in the Sylmar Community. The election is self-affirmation.

**Public Comment:** Bonnie Bernard said this is the basic action plan.

12. **Discussion and possible action on approving the February 2019 Monthly Expenditure Report (MER).**

Public comment: no comment

Motion passed

SNC ITEM 12 Motion to approve February MER. Moved: Job Second: Ortega				
Yes – 16	No –00	Abstain–00	Not Eligible –00	<b>Absent – 04</b>
Blose, Cabrera, Cabrera- Miller, Dumont, Gonzales, Grubert, Job, Montano, Ortega, Pacheco, Postlmayr, A. Rubalcava, C. Rubalcava, Underwood, Valencia, Zelaya	NONE	NONE	NONE	<b>Bloom, Floresta, Opperman, Silva</b>

13. **Discussion and possible action on approving the minutes of any missing board meeting.** Mr. C. Rubalcava mentioned the Committee Meeting Minutes and Board Meeting Minutes that are missing and need to be reviewed and voted on at the next meeting.

14. **Discussion and possible action on approving a letter supporting the need for Child Care services at monthly neighborhood council board meeting.** Item Postponed

15. **Discussion and possible action on approving a Community Impact Statement in support of Council File 19-0046 which relates to limiting political contributions from non-individuals in City elections.** Questions were raised about the wording. Item Postponed

Public comment: no comment

Motion passed

SNC ITEM 15 Motion to postpone Item until next meeting. Moved: Valencia Second: A. Rubalcava				
Yes – 14	No –01	Abstain–01	Not Eligible –00	Absent – 04
Blose, Cabrera, Gonzales, Grubert, Job, Montano, Ortega, Pacheco, Postlmayr, A. Rubalcava, C. Rubalcava, Underwood, Valencia, Zelaya	Dumont	Cabrera- Miller	NONE	Bloom, Floresta, Opperman, Silva,

16. **Discussion and possible action to request legal advice from the Office of the City Attorney regarding Censure and Removal of Board members.** Mr. C. Rubalcava was not comfortable addressing this issue without the City Attorneys advice. There was a discussion about the bylaws and how rules and bylaws should be enforced. Comments were raised as to whether the stakeholders that signed the petition would feel that the board has let them down.

Public comment:

- a. Marti Marshall-Feels the community is being ignored.
- b. Les (stakeholder) stated you can proceed it is in the Bylaws. Done and the City Attorney approved the By-laws.
- c. Bonnie Bernard-The By-laws were approved by the City Attorney. They are trying to advise you. It states the rules in the By-laws. They do not rule you. You are the Board.
- d. Sharon Eisenman the letter from the City Attorney should have been provided to everyone to see.
- e. Bonnie Bernard- the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council did not have this language on their Agenda when they tried to remove three Board Members.

Motion Passed

SNC ITEM 16 Motion to Request legal advice from the City Attorney. Moved: C. Rubalcava Second: Cabrera-Miller				
Yes – 10	No –06	Abstain–00	Not Eligible –00	Absent – 04
Cabrera, Cabrera-Miller, Dumont, Job, Montano, Ortega, Pacheco, A. Rubalcava, C. Rubalcava, Zelaya	Blose, Gonzales, Grubert, Postlmayr, Underwood, Valencia,	NONE	NONE	Bloom, Floresta, Opperman, Silva

17. **Discussion and possible action on Censuring Boardmember Paul Dumont for violating the Code of Civility/Conduct at the February 28th, 2019 General Board meeting. The Censure process is defined in Article V, Section 8 of the Sylmar NC Bylaws.** Many of the Board members made comments and brought up points of discussion. Paul Dumont apologized to the Board and the Community.

Public comment:

- a. Sharon Eisenman-We need to restore integrity to this Council it was embarrassing.
- b. Patricia Rau- Paul was being threatening to stakeholders on NextDoor in October.
- c. Bonnie Bernard bullying threatening and disrespect can't happen at the meetings we should feel safe coming to meeting.
- d. Stakeholder referred to Paul Dumont saying he was creepy and threatening to him on NextDoor. It is a scary situation.
- e. Stakeholder said the man in the audience was yelling.

- f. Les Eisenman- It was so terrifying to this board that they hired security. There is a lot that goes on here that needs airing. For better or worse people see things through their own glasses, from their own perspective. Do you really want to remove a Boardmember?
- g. Sharon Eisenman felt threatened by Paul's behavior when he shoved the phone in the man's face.

Motion passed

SNC ITEM 17 Motion to approve Item 17 Moved: Postlmayr Second: Valencia				
Yes – 09	No –01	Abstain–05	Not Eligible –00	Absent – 04
Blose, Cabrera, Dumont, Gonzales, Grubert, Job, Postlmayr, C. Rubalcava, Underwood, Valencia	Ortega	Cabrera- Miller, Montano, Pacheco, A. Rubalcava, Zelaya	NONE	Bloom, Floresta, Opperman, Silva

**Short recess to pass out papers 9:40PM-9:44PM**

**Quyenn Vo-Ramirez former Sylmar Neighborhood Council President and newly appointed Board of Neighborhood Commissioner presented the Sylmar Neighborhood Council with an Award from the Empower LA Awards for their work promoting Neighborhood Involvement. Specifically The Sylmar Neighborhood Council was recognized for their work on Emergency Preparedness. Ms. Ramirez encouraged the Board to continue to communicate but give everyone equal time.**

- 18. **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.** Mr. C. Rubalcava handed out the cover page of the petition and By-law statement for removal. He stated there were 67 stakeholders who signed the petition. The Signatures were handed in at the last meeting. Those stakeholders were also concerned for their safety. Call for the Question was passed over and more public comments were allowed.

Public comment:

- a. Les Eisenman they should be able to see the signatures on the petition. He thinks it is bogus and void that they are not able to see them.
- b. Patricia Rau- there are no documents attached so if the City Attorney advised you on this why didn't you get other advice?
- c. Sharon Eisenman feels that they should not have to trust what they are being told they should have been able to see the complaints and documents there is a lot in question.
- d. Les Eisenman It is not just your job to represent of the people but to come to the best reasonable conclusion.
- e. Marti Marshall Bring it back to the Declaration of Independence. There were grievances then too. It is up to you to do the correct thing.
- f. Rafael Stakeholder mentioned the boiling over anger that went on for several minutes
- g. Tom Stakeholder when you consult with the City Attorney, have them come to the meeting to answer questions

**Item Postponed**

<b>SNC ITEM 18 Motion to Postpone Item Moved: Postlmayr Second: Zelaya</b>				
<b>Yes – 16</b>	<b>No –00</b>	<b>Abstain–00</b>	<b>Not Eligible –00</b>	<b>Absent – 04</b>
<b>Blose, Cabrera, Cabrera- Miller, Dumont, Gonzales, Grubert, Job, Montano, Ortega, Pacheco, Postlmayr, A. Rubalcava, C. Rubalcava, Underwood, Valencia, Zelaya</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>Bloom, Floresta, Opperman, Silva</b>

**19. Board Member Comments / Announcements **Item postponed****

**20. Future Agenda Items **Item postponed****

**21. Closing Remarks, Acknowledgements, and Adjournment (1 minute) **Item postponed****

**Meeting was adjourned at 10:06PM **No vote was taken****

**The Next Sylmar Neighborhood Council Board Meeting Will Be:  
April 28, 2019 at 6:30 PM  
Location: Sylmar Charter High School**

**Write to Executive Board by email: [ExecutiveBoard@SylmarNC.org](mailto:ExecutiveBoard@SylmarNC.org)  
or mail Executive Board c/o Sylmar Neighborhood Council  
P.O. Box 921023  
Sylmar, CA 91392-10**