

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA

SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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VICE PRESIDENTS:

Administration: Open

Communications: Maria Silva

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MEETING OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE - MINUTES

Thursday, October 12, 2017 - 6:30 PM

Sylmar Neighborhood Council Office

Denny's Restaurant (Private Room), 13201 Gladstone Avenue, Sylmar, CA. 91342

Committee Chair – Diane Valencia

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

Ms. Valencia called the meeting to order at 6:37 PM

2. Welcome, Introduction of Committee Chair and reading of Committee Mission/Purpose:

Diane Valencia introduced herself, welcomed everyone and read the Board approved Mission/Purpose Statement

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

Ms. Valencia reviewed general housekeeping, facility amenities, sign-in sheets, and taking of minutes.

4. Appointment of Committee Vice Chair

Ms. Valencia introduced Tom Weissbarth who she has chosen to be Committee Vice Chair. Lived in Sylmar since 1962, Graffiti Busters, one of first individuals on CPAB at LAPD Mission, previously with LAPD Foothill. Have worked with Volunteer Surveillance Teams, strong relationship with LAPD with many years.

5. Discussion and possible action regarding setting a regular monthly meeting date. Additional, Special meetings may still be called as necessary.

Ms. Valencia indicated that the 2nd Thursday seems to work well as a potential meeting date for herself and Tom. Everyone present seemed to indicate that the 2nd Thursday is fine with Denny's being the meeting place for now until another location can be sourced. The next Committee meeting will be November 9, 2017.

6. Discussion and possible action to appoint members to the Committee.

Ms. Valencia described what it means to be a member of the Committee and that the Committee is advisory to the Board. Participation in discussion by everyone is welcomed but being a member of the Committee comes with a commitment to attend meetings and to be engaged in Committee business. Ms. Valencia indicated that the larger distinction of being on a Committee is that a vote won't count in an "official" way in the Minutes but that she would like to hear input from everyone in attendance before the Committee votes. She opened up to those present, as to who would like to join the Committee. Kurt Cabrera-Miller volunteered to be the second Director on the Committee to ensure compliance with the SNC's Bylaws and was appointed by Ms. Valencia. Community members Sandra Sandoval, Bonnie

Bernard and Robyn Farrow (through her husband Bob) indicated a willingness to serve on the Committee and were appointed by Ms. Valencia.

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

None

8. **Discussion and possible action** related to developing a strategic plan for the Committee, identification of roles and responsibilities, projects/areas of interest/focus, community outreach/communications plan, public safety resources/content on SNC website, social media presence and related topics.

Ms. Valencia discussed how hard it is to find public safety resources and links – neighborhood watch, LAFD response times, LAPD contact information, etc. and how she would like to build a list of resources and post on the SNC websites. She described the SNC's social media presence and how the Committee might use those resources to disseminate information. General issues discussed: illegal fireworks, LAFD resources and Standards of Cover, crime stats and trends, marijuana, illegal dumping, sex offenders, nuisance abatement, encampments & RVs, street vending (Health & Safety / Hep A). Additional items were touched on during discussion on item #9. The Committee could do community surveys/polls and communicate with community members on issues that the Committee wishes to focus on. There was a discussion about the possibility of a joint office for the SNC & LAPD along with the current status of discussions. The Committee will build a list of resources for the Committee's page on the SNC's website.

9. **Introduction of and discussion** with Alvan Arzu, Deputy City Attorney and Neighborhood Prosecutor, Mission Division, related to the Neighborhood Prosecutor program, along with **possible action** by the Committee.

Alvan Arzu arrived at 6:49 PM with Senior Lead Officer Giron. Alvan provided a brief introduction/bio and explained his scope as Neighborhood Prosecutor for Mission Division and dealing with quality of life issues. He is the prosecutorial arm of the process, LAPD is the enforcement arm. Email: Alvan.Arzu@lacity.org Suggested that the Committee should identify what it wants/needs help with and then he can assist with finding/locating resources. There was a general discussion about a variety of issues – motels, sex offenders, etc. Tom mentioned the LAPD "Sex Desk". Bill Larsen is the individual within the City Attorney's office responsible for overseeing group homes, sober living and the like. The Armory, Sylmar's homeless population and RV's were briefly discussed. Officer Giron advised that RVs not parked in a Green Zone under LAMC 85.02 can be reported to the LAPD's non-emergency line. Tires will be chalked and monitored for 72 hours. Tow yards are full so it can be very difficult to get a towing response simply because there is nowhere to tow and store the vehicles.

Alvan mentioned that he is not in charge of overseeing sex offenders, but does handle residences and commercial activity (nuisance abatement) based on high LAPD call volumes. Recent Motel 6 case was discussed briefly. Issues related to theft and other problems at Von were raised. Alvan suggested that the Committee might work with Vons management and the property owner to raise the issues and seek resolutions. Alvan spoke about how helpful Neighborhood and Business Watches can be. There was also a general discussion about illegal vending and Administrative Citations. Alvan and Officer Giron indicated that generally there are few if any Administrative Citations issued by Mission. Tom asked why street vending seems to be OK here but is enforced in other areas. Alvan indicated that response is often based on volume of complaints.

Linda Willeford of Oakridge Mobile Home Park asked what resources are available to deal with homeless encampments, removal and crime related to these individuals. Alvan explained the process for private property – filing no trespass orders, LAPD enforcement and removal of those individuals etc.

Ms. Valencia mentioned that the City Attorney website has a hotline to report patient dumping and a considerable amount of other resources. She spoke briefly about equity of resources for fire and police services in Sylmar and that a study of these resources could be considered by the Committee to confirm how we stack up against other communities in the City. Marijuana dispensaries were also briefly discussed; current criminal complaints against a couple of local shops and how things might change next year when there is a different level of legalization.

Street racing – LAPD Valley usually does task forces, difficult process to stop due to the fluid nature of the activity.

10. **Discussion and explanation** related to how and why a formal Request for Action may be written, and how the SNC Board may take a position on an open/active City Council file by filing a Community Impact Statement

Ms. Valencia explained what a Community Impact Statement is, how one can be drafted, sent to the Board and filed with the City Council. She encouraged community members to send in letters to be part of the official record to be sure that their views are made part of the official record. Council Files could be reviewed by the Committee for relevance to Sylmar and public safety issues so that we might develop comments/position. Ms. Valencia suggested that a good goal might be for the Committee to draft at least one Community Impact Statement per month for referral to the Board.

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

None

12. **Future Agenda Items:** Email the Committee Chair, Diane Valencia, at Diane.Valencia@SylmarNC.org

13. **Closing Remarks, Announcements, Acknowledgements, and Adjournment**

Diane Valencia called for adjournment of the meeting at 8:29 PM with no objections.
