

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

**PRESIDENT:** Christian Rubalcava

**VICE PRESIDENTS:**

Administration: Andres Rubalcava

Communications: Maria Silva

**TREASURER:** George Ortega

**SECRETARY:** Michelle Underwood



P.O. Box 921023, Sylmar, CA 91392-1023

Telephone: (818) 833-8737

E-mail: Board@SylmarNC.org

Website: www.SylmarNC.org

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

**Thursday, October 18, 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 6:35 PM.

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

Diane Valencia covered basic housekeeping items, indicated that Kathy Grubert would assist with taking the Minutes and thanked the Oakridge Residents Association for allowing us to have the Committee meetings at their facility.

**3. Roll Call of Committee**

All members were present: Bonnie Bernard, Kathy Grubert, Tom Weissbarth, and Diane Valencia.

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

Diane Valencia indicated that Robyn Farrow has resigned and she encouraged stakeholders to contact her if interested in becoming a member of this committee.

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

Janet Gibson, LAFD CERT Training Coordinator for Battalion 12, encouraged stakeholders to attend CERT meetings.

A stakeholder expressed her concern about renaming of Rancho Cascades and why Oakridge was not consulted in the process of drawing boundaries for Rancho Cascades. Diane responded that the Sylmar Neighborhood Council was not involved in the process but that she could assist with putting her in contact with individuals who were.

John Holmes asked if anyone knows how the recent Wilson Fire was started. Though no one reported knowing officially, there was discussion speculating the fire’s origin. Diane said she would look into it and encouraged everyone to be vigilant as the high wind season progresses.

A stakeholder expressed her concern over a tree that is in danger of falling down near her home. She reported having called city officials though has received no action in response. Diane suggested she contact Steve List. Another stakeholder reported having been helped after calling Steve List. Diane agreed, and indicated that she would email Steve’s contact information to anyone interested.

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

LAPD Mission Division Senior Lead Officer (SLO) Keith Crawford reported on this past month's crime activity in his East Sylmar area (by location and type). Crime overall is continuing to go down for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row, though violent crimes are up. Bonnie Bernard expressed concern about a vacant property with recurring complaints at Hubbard and Wheeler. Diane said she would follow up on the status. SLO Crawford responded to a stakeholder concern about vehicle dwelling. To reach the HOPE team, go through your SLO.

New LAPD SLO Joe Carter introduced himself and reported on this past month's crime activity in his West Sylmar area (by location and type). Overall crime is down, as well as violent crime and property crime, though homicides are up. SLO Crawford cited proactive policing, the HOPE team, the return of a bicycle unit, and promoting public awareness as factors in helping to reduce crime rates. As a 45-year Sylmar resident, Officer Crawford expressed his desire to have more than a working relationship with our community.

Alvan Arzu, Deputy City Attorney Neighborhood Prosecutor, Mission Division, shared the status of the Maclay Rehab Center's efforts to expand.

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

Bonnie moved to approve the minutes as written, but with a minor amendment to item #6 (i.e. removal of the sentence, "Mr. Arzu replied, "???" is the preferred term."); Second by Tom Weissbarth;

Motion passed: 4/0/0

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

Tom reported that he will request ongoing reports from LAPD in a consistent format.

**9. Discussion and possible action regarding ongoing reports of public safety concerns / illegal activity in the area of Encinitas Avenue, between Roxford Street and Bledsoe Street.**

Diane reported about a phone call she received from a business representative in the area of Encinitas Avenue between Roxford Street and Bledsoe Street. The caller followed up with a letter, which Diane forwarded to Alvin and CD7 Office. Diane read that letter, in which the person requests assistance with problems associated with transients and vehicle dwelling parking in the area. City Attorney Alvan Arzu reported that the problem business owners had been contacted and explained to them pertinent ordinances and actions they can take to help the City enforce the ordinances and bring this kind of activity under control.

There was further concern and discussion regarding the issue of illegal vehicle dwelling and the challenges associated with effectively dealing with it.

**10. Discussion and possible action regarding ongoing reports of public safety concerns / illegal activity in the area of Silver Oaks Drive (cul-de-sac).**

Diane shared that she has received many reports of illegal activity in the area, which have been problematic for some time but have recently escalated. City Attorney Alvan Arzu described the process involved in enforcing or preventing criminal activities, including the need for specifics when reporting such activities (e.g. details such as vehicles, persons, times/days of the week, etc.). A stakeholder suggested creating a "K Rail," designating it a nuisance abatement zone, as a way to combat the problem. Tom Weissbarth suggested other streets/areas that should probably be posted "red flag parking."

**11. Discussion and possible action regarding open / action items of the Public Safety Committee, including a review of the Committee's work to date.**

Diane reported on the status of PSC action items. Most items the PSC has taken action upon, although unfortunately they have resulted in little to no action on the part of our CD7 representative (Monica Rodriguez). There was a suggestion by Bonnie and further discussion among stakeholders about submitting another letter to CD7. Diane suggested stakeholders write to CD7 as well, possibly with the assistance of our committee (such as a form letter and help with submission to CD7).

The committee members agreed to: 1) send a letter to Ann Marie Rodriguez of CD7 reminding her of the commitments made, but thus far not kept, from our August meeting and 2) to send everyone from tonight's meeting a form letter calling CD7 to take action regarding vehicle dwelling in Very High Fire Severity Zones.

**12. Discussion and possible action regarding CD7 allocating funding to begin a study and process to secure a fire station in Sylmar; and other items related to local LAFD resources. (Follow-up from August, 2018 Committee meeting)**

Diane reported that our CD7 representative Ann Marie Rodriguez said that their office is in the process of conducting a feasibility study to identify a location for a new fire station, though there is currently no money to purchase the land, build or staff the station. Diane shared her continuing concerns about the critical lack of services in our community.

**13. Discussion and possible action related to Council File #18-0600-S124 (Motion No. 14 / Two Firefighter IIIs / Fast Response Vehicle / Fire Station 91). (Follow-up from August, 2018 Committee meeting)**

Diane reported that the City Council voted down Council File #18-0600-S124, which requested additional staffing of the Fire Station 91 FRV during very high fire risk conditions.

Tom suggested we write a letter to CD7 asking why the measure was voted down, who voted it down, and requesting reconsideration of the measure, urging them to ensure they provide these services to ensure that our area conforms to national fire response standards.

Diane moved that she and Tom write a letter, on behalf of our committee, following up on Council File #18-0600-S124, and Tom seconded the motion.

Motion passed: 4/0/0

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

None

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

None

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

Diane Valencia called for adjournment at 8:42 pm. The motion was seconded by Tom Weissbarth and there was no objection.

---

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