



Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council
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Regular Board Meeting MINUTES
Tuesday, January 11, 2022
6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
(DRAFT)

Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council
 Zoom Webinar ID #: 987 6658 0221

* No training sessions completed, not eligible to vote **No funding training, not eligible to vote on fund matters

BOARD MEMBER	BOARD POSITION	PRESENT	ABSENT	NOT VOTING ELIGIBLE
Chávez, Norma O. Secretary	At-Large Stakeholder Director	x		
Danielian, Serj	Residential Stakeholder Director	x		
García, Rosalio	Residential Stakeholder Director	x		
García, Steven	Business Stakeholder Director		x	
Hill, Emilie A. Treasurer	Residential Stakeholder Director	x		
Lee, Lily joined at 6:56 pm	Business Stakeholder Director	x		
Mares, Lionel joined at 6:44 pm	Residential Stakeholder Director	x		
Moore, Mariam joined at 6:44 pm	Residential Stakeholder Director	x		
O’Gara, Mike 2nd Vice President	At-Large Stakeholder Director		exc	
Portillo, Oscar Jr.	Residential Stakeholder Director	x		
Power, Richard Vice President	Business Stakeholder Director	x		
Ryan, Mark P.	Business Stakeholder Director	x		
Thum, Wendy	Residential Stakeholder Director	x		
TOTAL: 13	Quorum: 7 (at least one officer)	9 Present, 4 Absent, 0 Ineligible	11	2
			0	

ITEM 1: Rick Power, vice-president, called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken by Norma O. Chávez and quorum was established with eight members present. The Code of Civility was recited.

ITEM 2: Vice-President, Rick Power, welcomed attendees.

ITEM 3: L.A. Mayoral Candidate and current City Attorney Mike Feuer decided to change the structure of his presentation by going straight to questions and answers so he could listen to what our community cares about the most.

Panel questions:

Illegal fireworks are a huge problem in our community. What will you do to fix the problem on illegal fireworks?
 I will answer that question as a City Attorney. Our prosecutions must follow a referral to our office. We cannot go into the community and arrest somebody or cite somebody. The City through its Fire Department, the Police Department, or other agencies has to refer

matters to us and as you know it is very unlikely that on the 4th of July they will be able to intercept somebody in the act so we get few, if any, referrals. So we became more creative and went onto the online platforms that host individuals who sell illegal fireworks and what we got them to do was to agree to share with us information about online sellers or to eliminate online sellers from their platforms altogether. Also, we have engaged in community education and outreach, we've gone after the online platforms.

Lionel Mares and Mariam Moore joined the meeting at 6:45 pm

Do you believe in a strong police force?

Yes. Months ago, I proposed increasing LAPD to a Force of 10,000. I also said that we should creating deeper relationships between the police department and the community it serves, building on the community safety modeled in South Los Angeles. I've said that we should have civilian ambassadors at police stations to make it much more easy and transparent for visitors to place to get the services they need. I said that we should be separating from the police force the obligations to deal with the mental issues on the streets. I've also said that we should complement the increase in the police department and increases in training with community base solutions as well. I have a comprehensive public safety plan with about 12 elements because public safety cannot rest all with the police department.

What are you planning to do to solve the problem of RVs and vehicle dwelling?

When it comes to RVs, the City has an ordinance that bans RVs, but has been suspended by the City Council and it has not been put back in place. When it comes to homelessness, we need to treat it as emergency. As Mayor, I would call for a state emergency on homelessness. It gives the Mayor additional authority and it galvanizes the public. If we had an earthquake or a big natural disaster, there would be someone in charge on that issue of recovering the City. We would know who it is and what their goals were. We have the equivalent of that and it is homelessness and there is no one in charge. We need accountable, transparent leadership with goals. There should be goals in the City to diminishing homelessness and there aren't any right now. There should be a strike force in City Hall that makes it easier to approve homelessness housing. We should change our street engagement strategies.

We live in a high density area for cancer and other illnesses related to environmental toxins. What would you do in the round of environmental justice for this community particularly holding industries accountable as well as making sure our local community has access to appropriate health care?

I created a unit in my office for environmental justice and we are working on cases throughout Los Angeles to grapple with toxins in the air with dangers to schools. We filed a lawsuit against the gas company in Porter Ranch over the gas leak, a huge array of cases as City Attorney because I prioritize these issues and I deeply understand the correlation between the particular matter in our air, and air quality, and emphysema and breathing diseases, and cancer and so on. As Mayor, we need to make huge transitions into the energy that we use and generate. I am very focused on solar energy, expanding the use of rooftop solar, and greening our buildings here.

Lily Lee joined the meeting at 6:56 pm.

What are you going to do about violence? Are you going to give our police more power to be more aggressive against crime?

We prosecute misdemeanor crime. The metric that we use in my office is "are we reducing repeat offenses?" and that infiltrates everything we do because that makes the neighborhood safe. People need to be accountable for the crimes that they committed. It doesn't mean we have to be punitive in every case. It needs to solve the problem. We need to have programs. We have a program right now called neighborhood justice. The percentage of people who go back to repeat an offense is 5%. As Mayor, we need to have more police officers, more training, and more community engagement. When there is a homicide in the City, there should be a team with the police, and the DA, and ATF, and other organizations that evaluates trends in those homicides so we can change the conditions in which those homicides have occurred. I am currently scouring the country looking for good ideas as City attorney to grapple with these questions. The guns being confiscated right now are ghost guns. We sued the major manufacturer of ghost guns about a year ago to prevent them from sending the flow of these guns onto our streets.

Public questions:

The first speaker seemed to have technical difficulties and his comment kept getting cut off.

What is your plan about increasing the City Council districts?

The City Council districts are too big. We need to change that because otherwise we will continue to have less accountability and less responsiveness from council members with 267,000 people in their council district. I propose cutting those districts in half and also cutting the salaries of council members, and also having the lines of these council districts be drawn by an independent commission,

not by appointees of politicians. This is a way of getting more power into neighborhoods, more accountability into leadership, and more responsiveness from government which will then have more intimate relationship with the community it serves.

ITEM 4: EMERGENCY Personnel from Fire and Police departments

A. Senior Lead Officer Eric Perez

- In officer's Wall's area there was a 4% increase overall compared to the previous year. Aggravated assault was a concern as it almost quadrupled in the mid of the year. We started creating some preventive measures, and some crime prevention task forces such as overtime details which helped a lot in reducing those aggravated assaults in that area. In my area, we started the year with a decrease in crime overall, a 5% decrease. Grand theft auto was down. There was a small decrease in property crime. There was a homicide across from Sun Valley Park. The victim was a 62 year old male, transient who resided across from the park. He was a well liked individual. On another note, there have been reports of theft by trickery at the Chase bank.

B. Captain Smith

- He is glad to report to the community he serves. The Foothill Division has a 58% decrease in murder rate.
- The recent plane crash along the train tracks we had in Pacoima made it to international news. There was a lot of media involved in the coverage of the news. When the accident occurred, we called for the trains to stop. We called the ROC, Radio Operations Center. The train only needed 11 seconds to stop, but they didn't get the message through. We were waiting for the ambulance to take care of the person in the plane, but we saw the train so they pulled the person last second. This was a heroic job, but this is what the men and women at the LAPD do all the time.
- We are mourning the loss of an LAPD officer. The officer was off duty. He was looking for a house to buy. He was confronted by three suspects. Gun fire was exchanged. The sheriffs responded and took him to the hospital, but he did not make it.
- Thirty-three of our officers are out right now due to Omicron. We are constantly at a minimum.

Mr. Goat made a comment.

The person by the name ME was struggling to participate in his public comment. He complained about Captain Smith. He writes a corruption column that focuses in corruption in the City. He shared information about a lawsuit he won against the LAPD for sharing his personal information. Mr. Me stated his disappointment from Mr. Feuer leaving the meeting before answering all public comment. He stated he loves cops, but distrusts the LAPD. Why does your agency acts in retaliatory fashion against people who expose corruption?

Captain Smith stated that having distrust against the agency is healthy because that gives the department an opportunity for improvements.

C. Sergeant Jesse Ojeda

- Covid-19 is also hitting our numbers very hard within the LAPD. We are keeping our minimum balance for patrol daily. The Mayor has approved over time for officers to work on days off or vacation to assure that that is happening here in Foothill Division and also throughout the City. This includes using Senior Lead Officers in my office to assure we are meeting our minimum numbers for patrol on our watches.
- Thank you all for all your good wishes to officer Wall who just recently retired. We are bringing another officer to oversee the other side of Sun Valley along with officer Eric Perez. We will make sure the officer comes to the meeting to introduce himself/herself. Captain Smith was able to assist us get another officer to the area of Sun Valley to make sure the area is properly supervised and that you have representation.

Panel Comment:

Lionel Mares is asking the LAPD to enforce the mask mandate and to encourage officers to get vaccinated.

Public Comment:

Rudy Melendez did not agree with the panel comment as he believes medical mandates violate human rights as no one should be forced to have the government tell you what to put in your body. As a law enforcement supporter, he would like to see LAPD Chief Moore resign.

ITEM 5: Announcements from elected officials or their representatives

LAUSD Board President District 6 Kelly Gonez shared an update on the LAUSD schools in response to the rapid Covid rise

- All students, teachers and staff need a negative Covid baseline test in order to return to school
- Tens of thousands of positive cases were identified before students returned to campus today
- They extended the testing sites as well as extended their working hours
- Provided several hundreds of rapid at home tests kits for students to take home
- Students will continue to get tested weekly
- In the search for a permanent superintendent one of our priorities as a Board was to conduct a community survey process. After conducting community engagement surveys with a total of 30,000 responses, numerous listening session, focus groups with parents, students and employees as well as street teams that visited 120 school sites to hear directly from parents and students as a Board in mid December we unanimously decided Alberto Carvalho as our next superintendent. He will be starting no later than March 1st.
- Launching the next Student and Parent Advisory Cabinet coming this spring. They will focus on how to support English Language Learners. The meetings will be conducted in Spanish with translation in English available.
- Launched the fourth annual art contest which is held virtually. The theme is Gratitude and Appreciation. It is open for all CD6 students in Pre-K through 12th grade. Students, parents and teachers have until January 31st to submit any art work.

Panel Comment:

Emilie Hill shared some of the frustrations teachers expressed in yesterday's online meeting regarding the lack of safety provided for LAUSD employees. Now that eligible students are not required to be vaccinated, employees don't feel that the Board cares about them nor their families just push back from parents. They want to understand why kids were given at home tests, but staff weren't. Why do we have to go to a testing site on day five after testing positive just so that we can get back to the classroom as soon as possible? Why there is no district wide policy addressing why students still won't wear masks appropriately particularly at the high school level? Today, my understaffed school was missing 10% of its employees with myself included because we tested positive for Covid. My classroom neighbor said they scrambled to keep students supervised often resorting to put two classes worth of students into one room so only one teacher would have to manage both classes. After 22 months of this pandemic, what is the Board doing to be proactive instead of reactive? Does the Board have any contingency plans in place and why isn't the Board sharing them publicly if they do? How do you plan to address the ever increasing rate of teacher exodus to make sure our kids are receiving quality instruction? What incentives will LAUSD offer to not only attract new employees but to keep the current ones too?

Ms. Gonez's response:

I understand that this week has been challenging for staff and for students and families alike. We have developed contingency plans and have been discussed publically. We will be having a Board meeting next Tuesday with more of those plans. We will be looking at how this week went. We will be sharing data on Covid infection rate and cases at every school on our website. In terms of contingency plans, obviously when teachers are absent we resort to substitute teachers. That's the typical process. Our substitute teachers have also been impacted by Covid and so we know there have been some unfilled substitutes. Today, we are working on reducing that number, but that may continue for the past several days. Certificated staff has been sent to support schools. This does not meet the needs and continues to be a challenge and we know that educators are not only dealing with Covid cases in their household, but also with child care due to Covid in the community. So we are continuing to respond to those issues as they come. The reason Rapid antigen tests were distributed to students only is because we were allocated supplies for students only. The governor allocated 470,000 Rapid Antigen Tests for students. So we were only allowed to supply those tests to students. We are continuing to increase our won district's supply of Rapid Antigen tests and we are advocating with the governor to supply those for our staff as well.

Public comment:

Two members of the public raised their hand to participate in the question session. They seemed to have difficulties with the audio. They stated there were difficulties from our side.

Q: What happens if parents won't comply with your vaccine mandate? Can they get funding from the State to go to a private school?

A: The Board voted in December to postpone the vaccination mandate. While our vaccination rates are quite high, the mandate was postponed for various reasons. If the mandate were implemented in January that would have meant a lot of disruption and a lot of negative impact for vaccinated and unvaccinated students alike. Unvaccinated students would have been shifted to an online program which meant that staff would have had to follow them and be shifted to an online program. This means that vaccinated students who remain at our schools sites would likely lose teachers and opportunities for programs whether they are elective or special courses. This would likely happen in highly disproportionate communities. We are planning to implement and enforce the vaccine mandate at the start of the 2022-2023 school year. The State of California also has a vaccination mandate requirement that will be kicking in for all public schools as well as private schools starting with the 2022-2023 school year.

Adjourned at approximately 7:50 pm due to technical difficulties.

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