

CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
CALIFORNIA

SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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

**Thursday, August 9, 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 6:37 PM and thanked the Oakridge Mobile Home Park for hosting our meeting tonight.

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

Diane Valencia covered basic housekeeping items and announced that the Committee would be recording and live streaming tonight’s meeting on Facebook to try to reach more of our community members. Attendees were asked to raise their hands if they were uncomfortable with this but were also advised that the camera would be focused on the Committee and guest speakers. Linda Willeford, President of the Oakridge Residents Association, welcomed attendees.

**3. Roll Call of Committee**

Present: Diane Valencia, Tom Weissbarth, Kathy Grubert, Bonnie Bernard,  
Absent: Robyn Farrow

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

Diane Valencia pointed out that Kurt Cabrera-Miller has resigned from the committee, and encouraged stakeholders to let us know if they are interested in joining the Committee. No further discussion or action at this time.

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

A stakeholder expressed a concern over the topic of street sweeping. The topic was deferred to Ann Marie from Councilwoman Rodriguez’s office, during the public official comment period.

Ricardo Benitez spoke about his candidacy for State Assembly.

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

Alvan Arzu, Deputy City Attorney – Neighborhood Prosecutor, Mission Division;  
LAPD Senior Lead Officer(s);  
Ann Marie Rodriguez - CD7

Senior Lead Officer Crawford spoke on behalf of Mission Division LAPD and covered the area's crime map with year-to-date statistics. Crime is down overall by 38% compared to last year. RV dwelling is still something LAPD is working on. A stakeholder commended Officer Crawford on improvements in vehicle dwelling on Foothill Blvd. Another stakeholder asked why crime is down this year, and the officer cited proactive policing. When asked how the community can help, Officer Crawford suggested calling / emailing him to alert him to issues. Bonnie Bernard encouraged Officer Crawford to keep posting on Nextdoor.com.

Ann Marie Rodriguez of Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez's office introduced herself as Sylmar's CD7 new Field Deputy. Ann Marie responded to the stakeholder's concern regarding street sweeping by encouraging him to contact her with the location to arrange for cleanup.

Alvin Arzu, from LA City Attorney's Office spoke about the current "hot topics. He first spoke about problems regarding identification of locations of RV dwelling and enforcing applicable laws. He cited Foothill as a problem area. The struggle with RVs is finding homes for vehicle dwellers and avoiding them becoming homeless as a result of vehicle impounding. Diane Valencia called attention to the voting sheets from the April PSC Town Hall, pointing out topics of public concern. Penny asked about what solutions are being worked on related to a recent city survey on homelessness and problems around cycles of a revolving door of infractions, incarcerations and releases. Another stakeholder expressed concern over lack of mental health services. Tom Weissbarth informed Mr. Arzu about a letter he recently wrote to CD7 regarding the need for stiffer penalties for illegal fireworks and asked what is being done and what can be done to discourage illegal fireworks activities. Mr. Arzu said that the City Council has the power to change the laws with regard to fireworks penalties. Ricardo Benitez suggested providing portable toilets for the homeless. Bonnie asked about what the process is and what kinds of things the homeless can do to remove citations from their records (e.g. "Community Service" and "Community Labor"). Finally, Bonnie asked how to enforce motor home parking (e.g. on jacks) persistent infractions. Ann Marie Rodriguez responded that her office could look into each situation. Another stakeholder new to the area asked for LAPD non-emergency phone number: 877-ASK-LAPD. A stakeholder who works in the City Prosecutor's office explained the court process and outcomes. This same stakeholder spoke of possible avenues for preventing/enforcing street racing laws. Diane Valencia asked for a status update on the recent child molestation case at the Dollar Store on Glenoaks. Mr. Arzu said he didn't know much about it yet but that would look into it and keep us informed.

7. **Discussion and possible action** to approve the draft Minutes of the June 14, 2018 Public Safety Committee meeting.

Motion to approve by Tom Weissbarth; Second by Kathy Grubert  
Motion passed: 3/0/1

8. **Discussion and possible action** to approve the draft Minutes of the July 12, 2018 Special Public Safety Committee meeting.

Motion to approve by Tom Weissbarth; Second by Diane Valencia.  
Bonnie pointed out a couple of needed minor corrections. Tom Weissbarth amended his motion to include the corrections, without objection.  
Motion passed: 4/0/0

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

Tom had no report. LAPD provided report during agenda item #6.

10. **Discussion and possible action regarding ongoing reports of crime / illegal activity at Stetson Ranch Park.**

Diane Valencia reported on the status of crime / illegal activity at Stetson Ranch Park, including problems with current vague and/or unclear signage indicating park hours (currently posting "Sunrise to Sunset" hours), vandalism, improper use of facilities by homeless, graffiti, vandalized monument, and general disrepair. Diane pled with Ann Marie to help us save the park, and she responded positively, with a willingness to help, including a suggestion to ensure that local LAPD officers have keys to the park. Linda Willeford shared that Oakridge security guards have up until last year, taken responsibility to open/close the gate, and to repeatedly replace padlocks that kept getting cut. Diane suggested we bring up this issue to the SNC Equestrian Committee to see if we might partner on this issue.

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 Valencia shared a status update on letters and Community Impact Statements, all of which are posted on our SNC web page. Ann Marie committed to providing a response soon to our letters regarding limitations on vehicle dwelling (LAMC 85.02) 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.

Ann Marie explained about the \$200K Councilwoman Rodriguez has allocated to a feasibility study, beginning with hiring a consultant to find an appropriate site and design the station. Ann Marie shared that CD7 just finished resurfacing the Olive View Hospital heliport. Building and staffing the new station is not included in the \$200K but will likely be voted on in a bond measure. Ann Marie committed to reporting back to us on the timeline for the process. There was some discussion of the history of similar efforts that have been attempted, without success, in the past. It was suggested by a stakeholder that the previous plot of land that was deeded to the City for the purpose of a fire station, but was deemed unsuitable, should be sold and the proceeds devoted toward a more suitable piece of land. Also, it was suggested that the Mello Roos funds that have been collected annually and cumulatively which are several millions of dollars now, be applied to the project. There was another suggestion to temporarily house Station 91 at the decommissioned County Fire station near Olive View to allow for rebuilding Fire Station 91.

13. **Discussion and possible action** related to Council File #18-0600-S124 (Motion No. 14 / Two Firefighter IIIs / Fast Response Vehicle / Fire Station 91), including possible approval of a Community Impact Statement (CIS).

Motion by Bonnie Bernard to submit a CIS supporting Council File #18-0600-S124; Second by Tom Weissbarth.

Motion passed: 4/0/0

14. **Discussion and possible action** related to community outreach for the Public Safety Committee (SNC website, email blasts, use of social media, etc.). How do we increase engagement and participation with our Stakeholders?

Discussion included benefits and limitations of Nextdoor, email blasts, Facebook. There was general agreement that Nextdoor seems to be working well and seems to be where the Committee is drawing most of its attendees. Further discussion included appreciation for the new live streaming / recording and posting of our meetings, thanks to new SNC Board Member, David Gonzales.

15. **Discussion and possible action** related to the SNC's Public Safety / Quality of Life Community Town Hall meeting held on April 21, 2018. (Questions from Stakeholders, responses from officials, video of meeting, updates on SNC website, etc.)

Diane shared problems and solutions that are being worked on with respect to SNC's website challenges.

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

None

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

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

Diane Valencia called for adjournment, without objection, at 9:52 PM.

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