

"Together
we have
clout!"



NITHYA RAMAN



DAVID RYU

candidate Nithya Raman. The Moderator for the Debate is newscaster Phil Shuman of FoxNews11. He did a great job in pressing the candidates at our Debate earlier in the year for the primary in this Council race. Your vote for City Council may be the most important and significant vote. This race will be decided in the Nov. 3 election. Do Not Vote Until After The Debate!!

The Councilmember is the person who normally decides what can be built in your neighborhood, what can be built on Ventura Boulevard, what programs will be available to re-open Sherman Oaks' businesses and how decisions are made at City Hall (the role of Neighborhood Councils, Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), etc.). Mail advertising sent by Independent Expenditure Committees and often by candidates are poor methods for you to decide who to vote for. They are generally generic or nasty and misleading.

We want your questions for the candidates. What is important to you? Send a narrow specific questions to us for the candidates at SOHAZoomMtg@gmail.com prior to October 20.

To attend the virtual Zoom Meeting, the Meeting ID is 818 3898 2067 and the Passcode is SOHA914. Please arrive at the waiting room between 7:00 p.m. and 7:15 p.m. If you are unfamiliar with how to sign into a Zoom Meeting or need help, please email us at SOHAZoomMtg@gmail.com. We will email you instructions.

Complete your ballot the day after the Debate and mail it or deposit it in the vote by mail drop box which is located outside the Sherman Oaks Library.

DON'T MISS SOHA'S FAMOUS CD4 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

It's a hot race between Nithya Raman and David Ryu to be Sherman Oaks' Councilmember in City Council District 4. Get ready for our debate on October 21 at 7:15 pm with SOHA's famous CD4 Candidate Questionnaire. Our Board of Directors led by Bob Anderson developed 35 tough questions and sent them to each candidate asking for Yes/No answers and short 25-word or less responses to each question. We got great responses!

The questionnaire is just what you need to understand the candidates' positions. There are two versions. The Yes/No Candidate Questionnaire is an insert to this Newsletter. Keep it and use it as a reference for selecting your candidate. The Complete Candidate Questionnaire with its short candidate responses is available on the SOHA website. Go to our homepage at www.ShermanOaks914.com and click on SOHA CD4 Candidate Questionnaire. You can read it, print it, or download it for sending to friends. Vote and make your voice heard.

ZOOM COMMUNITY MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2020 - 7:15 PM
JOIN FROM ANYWHERE - VIA COMPUTER, TABLET, SMARTPHONE OR TELEPHONE

DO NOT VOTE UNTIL YOU SEE THIS IMPORTANT DEBATE

Our virtual Community Meeting at 7:15 pm on Wednesday, Oct. 21 is a Debate between our current City Councilmember David Ryu and



BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW...

We asked each candidate for City Council District 4 to tell us something that we do not know about them. Here are their responses:

David Ryu: My wife Regina and I are new foster kitty parents. We have fostered two little kittens until we find them a permanent home. We hope to continue to do this moving forward. It is a joy to have these little kittens in our lives. Rescues Rock: The Kitten Critical Program is the organization we worked with to begin fostering and we encourage those able to help to foster.

Nithya Raman: I used to be a performer with a classical dance company in India.

ENDORSE WITHOUT REMORSE: WHO SHOULD EARN YOUR VOTE?

We have received questions from Sherman Oaks residents concerning who to vote for in the November 3rd election for our Los Angeles City Councilmember – the current Councilman David Ryu or Nithya Raman. The Association does not endorse.

How do you learn more about the two people? The answer is finding out who is financially supporting or endorsing a candidate. How do you do that? Go to <https://ethics.lacity.org/elections/#S225> "Select an Election" 2020 City

What are the goals and who are the endorsers of Nithya Raman and David Ryu. Go to www.davidryu.com, David Ryu's website. Go to www.nithyaforthecity.com, Nithya Raman's website. What are the issues their websites focus on? What are their solutions? What is important to you?

THE FIGHT FOR SINGLE-FAMILY NEIGHBORHOODS IS JUST GETTING STARTED...AGAIN!

The SOHA Legislative Committee chaired by Maria Pavlou Kalban would again like to thank everyone who called or wrote to our Assemblymember Nazarian and Senator Hertzberg regarding the housing bills that would have ended single-family neighborhoods. The fight is not over. Sacramento plans to reintroduce the housing bill that would allow the splitting of lots, SB 1120. With their constant pressure to get the required votes, Sacramento leadership is set to fight all of us again and quickly.

Here is what we are doing. The SOHA Legislative Committee is planning meetings with Assemblymember Nazarian and Senator Hertzberg to discuss how to increase housing without damaging single-family neighborhoods. Sharing our thoughts, ideas, and concerns, before the new onslaught of housing bills, may help introduce a new narrative and insure a "no" vote from them on bills we oppose.

It is our belief these new 2021 bills will be introduced early and move quickly through both houses. Members of the legislature are being pressured to vote "yes" since the August defeat of the last housing bills. Concerned groups throughout the state are engaging with their legislators in hopes of getting a "no" vote on bills that will destroy single-family neighborhoods.

SOHA continues to work with more than 20 homeowner groups throughout the L A area forming a Coalition working to craft a cohesive message opposing destruction of single-family neighborhoods. All these groups from the San Fernando Valley to South L A from Santa Monica to downtown and East L A are affected differently by these housing bills but all share a common desire to protect neighborhoods from gentrification or over densification. Whether homeowners or renters, the concern is to not allow land speculators to take over our state causing housing costs to skyrocket and never become affordable. Our committee is also reaching out to other legislators in the state because how they vote impacts all of us.

What to watch for: Any bill increasing housing on a parcel of land in single-family neighborhoods and preventing

community input are bills aimed at helping real estate/ land speculation companies. These developers desire the right to build minimal housing amenities and denser housing in order to maximum profits for their companies. The needs of individuals are secondary in a process where profits are the main goal and where Sacramento is willing to help them under the guise of adding more housing. Legislators talk about more affordable housing but don't mandate it in these bills. The issue in California is affordable housing not how to make more money for developers by opening up single-family neighborhoods. Stay informed with us, your voice is important. When the time is right, you will again receive a call-to-action.

PAVILLIONS: GRAND OPENING AND GRAND GENEROSITY

Jules Feir spoke at the Grand Opening of the new Pavillions store on Ventura Boulevard in Sherman Oaks. Pavillions gave generous contributions to the Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association, Kester Ave. Elementary School and the North Hollywood Interfaith Food Pantry. We are grateful for their support.

FUNDING SECURED FOR MEDIAN MAINTENANCE

Councilmember David Ryu is allocating discretionary funds to the Urban Forestry Division for street tree and median island maintenance. The City's contracts for median island maintenance expired in June and as a result of the budgetary constraints stemming from the pandemic, new contracts were unfunded in the City's budget. Due to Councilmember Ryu's allocation of funding, the Chandler Boulevard median, stretching from Van Nuys Boulevard to Leghorn Avenue, will be properly maintained in the coming weeks. The Sherman Oaks Business Improvement District (BID) median lighting project was recently completed as well, adding to the vibrancy of Ventura Boulevard. If you are interested in serving on Councilmember Ryu's Discretionary Funds Task Force or requesting funding for a community benefit project in Sherman Oaks, please contact Field Deputy Brad Fingard by emailing brad.fingard@lacity.org.

THE VALLEY INN: STILL MAKING YOU COMFORTABLE

Most Sherman Oaks residents are no stranger to The Valley Inn. The steak house and bar opened in 1947, which makes it one of the oldest restaurants in the Valley, and the home of family traditions and celebrations for generations. Their nostalgic welcoming charm is like no other, which is why many of their customers pick the Valley Inn for their special occasion meals year after year.

It's no surprise that customers have been enjoying their traditional American comfort food for over 73 years. Nobody does the traditional steak house menu better than the Valley Inn. Some of the fan favorites being their beloved wedge salad, delicious seafood dishes, and signature country fried chicken, baby back ribs, and slow-roasted prime rib. Every dish has a nostalgic taste that you can't find anywhere else. In such uncertain times, enjoying or favorite comfort foods is more important than ever, which is why the Valley Inn has worked hard to develop creative ways to serve the community, even amid a pandemic.

For the first time, the Valley Inn has opened patio dining for outdoor seating. They have set up umbrellas for each of their socially distant tables and have provided hand sanitizer for every guest. If you are uncomfortable with eating out, or would just prefer to enjoy the Valley Inn at home, Valley Inn is now partnered with Chow Now, Uber Eats, and Door-dash for deliveries, and offers curbside pickup.

The Valley Inn would like to thank all of their customers for their kind wishes and support during such hard times. They feel truly blessed to have such a wonderful family of patrons, and SOHA is grateful for all they've done for our community.

SHERMAN OAKS BEAUTIFICATION HISTORY

When driving along Ventura Boulevard at this time of the year you should take notice of the beautiful color change taking place with many of the shade trees in Sherman Oaks. Have you ever wondered how these trees got there?

In the late 1990's until the early 2000's the Association formed a Committee led by Matt Epstein and Jules Feir that decided that trees should be planted on Ventura Boulevard which had virtually no trees. Trees had to be purchased,

city Permits and approvals obtained and the trees planted.

Over a period of the next 4 years money was raised and with it almost 3 miles of trees were planted from Fulton to almost Sepulveda Blvd.

It was with a lot of hard work and determination on behalf of this Association that Ventura Boulevard has this beautiful canopy of shade and palm trees for all to enjoy.

Nancy Sogoian urges: If you are not a SOHA member, please remember we are non-profit and need your membership support so we can continue to exist and help make Sherman Oaks a better place to live and work.

Very truly yours,



Richard H. Close, President

Newsletter Graphic Services
donated by Joel Pomonik

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SHERMAN OAKS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

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SHERMAN OAKS, CALIFORNIA 91413

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SHERMAN OAKS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

POST OFFICE BOX 5223
SHERMAN OAKS, CALIFORNIA 91413

Information: (818) 377-4590

www.shermanoaks914.com

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www.facebook.com/soha914

SOHA’s Board of Directors developed 35 questions and sent them to the two CD4 councilmember candidates. Here are their answers to the questions – limited to yes or no. But, there’s much more on SOHA’s website at www.shermanoaks914.com. Click the CD4 Candidate Questionnaire link and you’ll see broader replies – short descriptions of each candidate’s reason for their answer. Don’t vote until you read this critical information.

If the candidate’s response wasn’t a yes or no, we signified this with a * . See their expanded answers on our website for more details.

	R A M A N	R Y U
QUESTION 1 - Do you support Proposition 15 on the November ballot that amends Proposition 13 by splitting the tax roll so commercial properties are taxed based on their actual present assessment value while residential properties, including apartment buildings, are excluded from change and remain taxed using current Proposition 13 rules?	YES	YES
QUESTION 2 - Many commercial property sales retain previous owners in a small ownership position simply to avoid reassessment under Proposition 13 rules. Do you support an ordinance eliminating such tax-evasive practices when there is a new beneficial owner as an alternative to splitting Proposition 13 tax rolls (see prior question)?	NO	NO
QUESTION 3 - Do you agree that the City of Los Angeles should first investigate all other means to provide ample housing in our communities before considering the possibility of up zoning single-family neighborhoods?	YES	YES
QUESTION 4 - Do you agree that housing bills introduced this year in the California Legislature, which SOHA opposed, unfairly rewarded developers without actually providing solutions to the affordable housing problem?	*	YES
QUESTION 5 - Senate Bill SB 902 was defeated in the State Legislature, but would have granted local jurisdictions, i.e., City Councils, the authority to rezone single-family neighborhoods to allow ten-unit apartment buildings. Would you have supported such a bill?	YES	NO
QUESTION 6 - Do you support legislation like Senate Bill SB 1120 that would have allowed the splitting of lots and the addition of numerous housing units per split lot as a means of addressing California’s housing crisis?	YES	NO
QUESTION 7 - Do you support the many bills currently being considered by the California Senate and Assembly that would (1) eliminate requirements for public hearings and input by legislating “by right” projects (i.e., without public review or approvals) and (2) eliminate requirements for projects to be publicly reviewed under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)?	*	NO
QUESTION 8 - Do you support a California Constitutional Initiative granting the power to determine land use and zoning issues only to local jurisdictions (i.e., counties and cities) and not the state?	NO	YES
QUESTION 9 - Do you support continuing or increasing City of Los Angeles COVID-19 restrictions until sufficient scientifically based evidence indicates re-opening of businesses is safe?	YES	YES
QUESTION 10 - California restricts Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs or “granny flats”) to a maximum of 1,250 square feet while the City of Los Angeles restricts such ADUs to 1,200 square feet. Do you support the City of Los Angeles allowing the larger 1,250-square-foot ADUs in R-1 single-family neighborhoods to provide statewide consistency?	YES	NO
QUESTION 11 - The Los Angeles City Council and Mayor’s office have been exceptionally opaque in a number of major contract negotiations, for example the most recent labor agreements with the police and firefighter unions. Do you support a Council motion requiring any new contract with employees and particularly with unions to be available for public comment in advance of signing, giving the public time to comment on the contracts and the City time to incorporate comments?	YES	YES
QUESTION 12 - Do you support the LA 2020 Commission’s recommendation to establish a transparent and independent commission to review and analyze the City of Los Angeles’ two pension plans (LACERS and LAFPP) and their budget impacts over the next ten years, using realistic market-based assumptions?	YES	YES
QUESTION 13 - Do you agree with the Los Angeles City Council’s July 2020 budget reduction for the LAPD?	YES	YES
QUESTION 14 - Many residents worry that even a fully budgeted LAPD is already understaffed and not able to keep the City of Los Angeles safe. Do you support further budget reductions and transfers of some LAPD responsibilities to other organizations?	YES	YES
QUESTION 15 - Do you support such concepts as the Community Safety Partnership, placing specially-trained LAPD officers in five-year assignments to a specific area, so they can become part of the community and develop relationships with the people they serve?	*	YES
QUESTION 16 - The City of Los Angeles is struggling with budget reductions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Do you support maintaining full funding for city departments such as street services to ensure that they have sufficient funding to perform street repairs, tree maintenance, and other essential services?	YES	YES

As noted on the previous page, if the candidate’s response wasn’t a yes or no, we signified this with a *. See their expanded answers on our website for more details. You’ll find the full questionnaire right on our homepage – go to www.shermanoaks914.com, and click the CD4 Candidate Questionnaire link. Don’t vote until you read this critical information.

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QUESTION 17 - The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) is deciding on final concepts for the Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project in early 2021. Do you support Metro’s two fully underground heavy rail subway concepts running under either Van Nuys or Sepulveda Boulevards?

YES YES

QUESTION 18 - Do you oppose Metro’s two transit concepts running elevated above Sepulveda Boulevard in Sherman Oaks or Van Nuys and oppose any other potential Sepulveda Pass Transit Project concept running elevated above any street (not the 405 freeway) in the Valley?

YES YES

QUESTION 19 - Metro is also evaluating additional innovative Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project concepts proposed by industry teams, such a monorail above the 405 median. Do you support Metro’s selection of such concepts, if Metro decides they are viable and affordable?

*** YES**

QUESTION 20 - Do you support the Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association fight to ensure the Valley gets its fair share of public transit?

YES YES

QUESTION 21 - Do you oppose Metro’s recent Mobility and Affordability Plan’s deferral of the Valley-to-West-side-to-LAX Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project for at least six months to help meet recent budget reductions?

YES YES

QUESTION 22 - Do you commit to keep, maintain, and effectively staff a Sherman Oaks CD4 Field Office throughout your tenure?

YES YES

QUESTION 23 - As a councilmember who will face decisions on issues that have been voted on by an elected Neighborhood Council (NC), would you support the local NC recommendation regardless of your personal or professional point of view on the issue?

NO NO

QUESTION 24 - Do you commit to maintain full transparency for CD4 discretionary fund distributions and continue the resident-based CD4 Discretionary Funds Task Force that makes recommendations on discretionary fund expenditures to the councilmember?

YES YES

QUESTION 25 - Do you support amending the City Charter to remove Section 245(e) to prevent a single individual councilmember from overriding planning department decisions?

YES YES

QUESTION 26 - Do you commit to work with the Coalition of Businesses and Residents Associations (COBRA) to ensure maintaining the viability and success of small businesses on Ventura Boulevard in Sherman Oaks and providing all necessary city resources during and after the COVID-19 pandemic?

YES YES

QUESTION 27 - Do you support permanent relaxation or change of City of Los Angeles rules to permit more outdoor seating for restaurants beyond the COVID-19 pandemic period?

YES YES

QUESTION 28 - Do you support a road diet (narrowing or eliminating automobile lanes) on Ventura Boulevard to make way for express bus lanes and/or bicycle lanes?

YES *

QUESTION 29 - Do you commit to conduct major community outreach for any proposed homeless housing projects before moving forward on these projects?

YES YES

QUESTION 30 - Do you support increased City of Los Angeles funding to significantly boost mental health and drug addiction treatment, especially among the homeless population?

YES YES

QUESTION 31 - Do you commit to sponsor a feasibility study for a trolley service along Ventura Boulevard in Sherman Oaks and Studio City to help reduce traffic congestion and enhance public mobility?

*** YES**

QUESTION 32 - Do you commit to sponsor an ordinance requiring at least 50 percent of parking revenue from Sherman Oaks parking meters and garages be retained in a fund to pay for traffic mitigation measures in Sherman Oaks?

*** YES**

QUESTION 33 - Do you commit to sponsor a charter amendment in the next available election cycle requiring the City of Los Angeles to pass at least three-year balanced budgets?

NO NO

QUESTION 34 - Do you commit to sponsor a charter amendment in the next available election cycle requiring the City of Los Angeles to fully fund its two pension plans over a period such as twenty years with no additional and/or separate tax increases?

*** NO**

QUESTION 35 - Do you commit to sponsor a charter amendment in the next available election cycle requiring the City of Los Angeles to fully fund (from its General Fund with no additional and/or separate tax increases) the repair and maintenance of our streets and sidewalks over a stated period such as twenty years?

*** NO**