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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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1964



**Matthew Johnson**  
President of L A Police Commission

**\*Police Reform (Body Cameras, New Rules, etc.)**

**\*What Is The Role Of The Police Commission?**

**\*Why Has Some Crime Increased?**

COMMUNITY MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2016 - 7:15 PM  
NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL  
RIVERSIDE & WOODMAN, SHERMAN OAKS

Our Meeting on May 18 will feature Sherman Oaks resident Matthew Johnson. He is President of the Los Angeles City Police Commission. The Commission is in charge of overseeing the Police Department (much like a Board of Directors oversees the operation of a company). He was appointed by Mayor Garcetti to the Police Commission in 2015. He and his wife live in Sherman Oaks with their four children, the oldest of which is in college, and the youngest is a toddler.

Many questions have been raised about the Los Angeles Police Department as well as Police Departments throughout the country. The Police Commission is moving forward on measures to enhance accountability and promote more use of “non-lethal” methods to subdue people. Questions have been raised about the need for police body cameras and the public disclosure of the videos. Under what circumstances should the videos be made public? In the past, we have had all the Police Chiefs of Los Angeles at our Meetings from Daryl Gates to Charlie Beck. This is your opportunity to meet with the President of the Commission that oversees the Los Angeles Police Department.

Jules Feir proudly announces that once again and for the 12th time since 1998 Casa Vega will be serving their delicious food. Founded by Ray Vega, this family owned landmark restaurant is now celebrating its 60th year in business and for the past 10 years with Ray’s daughter Christina Fowler at the helm, she continues the tradition of what has made this restaurant so successful.

Keeping with tradition but with menu upgrades to cater to the discriminating diner, Casa Vega continues as one of the fine restaurants anywhere in Southern California.

We look forward to enjoying their food during our Social Hour that starts at 6:15 p.m.

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Last month, the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority (Metro) – the organization that plans, builds, and operates rapid transit across L A County – released a draft of their Long-Range Transportation Expenditure Plan. When approved in June, this plan becomes the basis for a countywide ballot measure asking voters in November to extend our current one-half cent sales tax and add a new one-half cent sales tax for the next 40 years. This is a huge decision for voters, and SOHA is trying to learn all we can to help voters make a decision.

But, Metro wouldn’t let Valley voters tell them that we want and deserve for our fair share! Metro held ten “public meetings” in April to supposedly hear what the public had to say about their draft Expenditure Plan. Metro advertised these as “a public meeting where you’ll be able to speak to Metro personnel, ask questions and provide any feedback you’d like to share.” The Valley meeting was April 11, and several SOHA board members were among the attendees – all ready to give their statements and recommendations on Metro’s plan.

Unfortunately, Metro decided that the public would give no statements – but instead, watch a PRtype video, participate in a little electronic polling game using predetermined questions, and listen to a superficial presentation that provided no real details on Metro’s plan. Then, we could wander among posters and write little comments on large sheets of paper. It was a disappointment, and that’s a shame because Metro’s plan is 81 pages of detail and complexity. And, like most such plans – the devil’s in the details.

But, never fear – SOHA has submitted a detailed letter to Metro with the following eight major recommendations on the draft plan:

1. Propose 50-Year Tax Measure;
2. Ensure Fairness Across the County;
3. Incorporate Legally Binding Specific Commitments into the Ballot Measure;
4. Accelerate Countywide Starts and Completions;
5. Construct Projects from Both Ends;
6. Publish All Plan Comments on Metro’s Website;
7. Accelerate High-Capacity Transit through Sepulveda Pass Corridor; and
8. Begin Orange Line Conversion to Light Rail Immediately.

So, should you support the tax increase or not? The verdict isn’t in yet. We all need to see if Metro really takes public comments seriously, adds key Valley projects, and accelerates Valley project schedules to end up with a reasonable plan that Valley voters can take seriously. So, just keep remembering that we won’t be fooled again. For further information or a copy of the draft plan and SOHA’s letter, please contact SOHA’s Bob Anderson at [BobHillsideOrdinance@roadrunner.com](mailto:BobHillsideOrdinance@roadrunner.com).

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The Vision Committee of the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council is studying the feasibility of creating parks, parklets and non-park community landscapes in locations throughout Sherman Oaks. For example, the Committee is encouraging the City of Los Angeles to create a community park next to the old AT & T building near Cedros, across the street from the CVS parking lot. There is good reason to believe this will actually happen.

Also, Members of the Committee have been impressed by the beauty of the center medians in the La Reina area as well as the medians in Studio City and are exploring the possibility of increasing their number in Sherman Oaks. A master plan will be prepared that targets areas of the community with various landscaping possibilities. This will be a comprehensive study that will serve as a blueprint for the further beautification of our community.

We encourage everyone to participate in the Vision process by attending the monthly meetings, 6:30 at the Sherman Oaks Library, on the first Thursday of every month. When this master plan is further along it will be rolled out for community review.

SOHA Board member Jay Weitzler attended the last Vision meeting and came away very impressed by the competency and enthusiasm shown by the Committee for their wonderful ideas.

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Marshall Long reports that he attended a presentation by the City Planning Department on the new Zoning Code, which is undergoing a four-year revision. Tom Rothmann and Erick Lopez of the Planning Department made the presentation on behalf of the City. There is a detailed description, which can be accessed online at [re:code LA](http://re:code.LA). The current code is complex, with 1,310 unique designations. The goal of the recode effort is to simplify and clarify the current code, without introducing drastic changes.

The stated intent is not to change the local specific plans. The parking zone will be eliminated. Current parking zones would be changed to the neighboring zone. The most significant changes will be in the downtown area. The plan in residential areas is to consolidate height, floor area ratio (FAR) and use, and to keep existing entitlements.

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Councilmember Ryu and his colleagues on the Los Angeles City Council voted to approve a comprehensive sidewalk repair plan referred to as “fix and release.” The new program will begin in July. Under the approved policy, L.A. will first pay to repair sidewalks next to commercial and residential properties, whether or not uprooted trees caused the damage. The city will remove trees that have a pattern of causing sidewalk damage. Property owners may request to keep such trees, however, they will not qualify for the twenty and five-year warranties described below.

After those initial repairs are made, the city will offer a twenty-year warranty for homeowners and a five-year warranty for businesses, during which it will guarantee one more “fix,” meant to prevent property owners from facing additional repair costs. After the warranty period has expired, the property owner will be responsible for future “fixes.” Property owners are also eligible for a rebate if they choose to repair their damaged sidewalks before the city does.

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The Village at Sherman Oaks Business Improvement District is pleased to announce the opening of Igloo Parlor, the playfully fun and delicious ice creamery located at 14545 Ventura Boulevard. Serving organic ice cream and frozen yogurt with a choice of lots of delicious toppings, including fruits, nuts, and a variety of other flavorful selections.

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Our March meeting featured a panel discussion on homelessness in Los Angeles. A point of emphases was the large gap between the demand for and supply of affordable housing in the San Fernando Valley.

One of our speakers was from LA Family Housing (LAFH), a nonprofit which is the largest provider of affordable housing in the San Fernando Valley. LAFH owns and operates 22 properties, including three shelters and 19 permanent affordable apartment buildings. Each year LAFH helps more than 500 households transition from the streets to housing stability.

Joyce Lee, volunteer coordinator for LAFH ([JLee@LAFH.org](mailto:JLee@LAFH.org)) plans to attend this month’s meeting to discuss opportunities for you to become involved in helping to reduce homelessness.

Joyce has informed us of an immediate need for twin size bed linens consisting of (i) white cotton twin-sized sheets, (ii) standard pillows with white pillow cases and (iii) 100% fleece blankets for twin-sized beds (any color except pink or lavender). If you have any twin size bed linens to donate, please bring the linens with you to our May 18th meeting.

**Very truly yours,**  
  
**Richard H. Close, President**