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Phil Washington
Los Angeles Metro CEO

***The Future of Rapid Transit In The San Fernando Valley?**

***Why Should We Vote For A Sales Tax Increase In November?**

COMMUNITY MEETING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2016 - 7:15 PM
NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL
RIVERSIDE & WOODMAN, SHERMAN OAKS

Our speaker on Wednesday August 17, 2016 will be Phillip Washington, the CEO of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LA Metro). He oversees LA Metro that has an average of 1.4 million boarding passengers each weekday, with a fleet of 2,000 buses and six rail lines. LA Metro is also the lead transportation planning and programming agency for Los Angeles County.

Mr. Washington will discuss the November ballot measure to increase the transit projects sales tax a half percent (from 9 to 9 ½ percent). As discussed below, the focus at the Meeting will be projects in the San Fernando Valley and when they will be operational.

Do you have ideas as to what transit plans should be enacted by LA Metro? What is the best way for people to get to the rapid transit system (driving, walking, buses, bicycles, etc.)? This will be your opportunity to find out what is planned to make transit easier in Los Angeles both for public transit users as well as those who use their automobiles.

Jules Feir announces that once again Costco will be the Restaurant of the Month. They will provide a selection of their delicious salads, sandwiches and tasty desserts. Dennis Davenport is the Manager of the very busy Van Nuys Costco location. It is rumored that Costco Van Nuys is among the group of the top 25 volume warehouse locations out of the more than 400 in the United States.

Enjoy a sampling of their delicious foods during our Social Hour that starts at 6:15 p.m.

* * *

Concerned about McMansions in Sherman Oaks? The Los Angeles City Council voted on June 29 to pass an interim control ordinance, proposed by Councilmember David Ryu, that would help regulate the size and scale of new homes built in Sherman Oaks.

Sherman Oaks was not included in a slate of 14 neighborhoods that were approved in 2014 for an interim control ordinance, where rules that differ from the baseline mansionization ordinance are put in place to temporarily limit the size and scale of homes that could be built.

Councilmember Ryu introduced the Motion upon entering office in July 2015. The ICO is not retroactive. The new design rules will only apply to project applications received after July 29, 2016.

* * *

Bob Anderson reports that your November ballot will include a vote on the future of rapid transit, highway improvements, and traffic congestion in Los Angeles County. This is a major decision for all of us because it will impact us and our children and grandchildren.

The November ballot measure was approved by LA Metro's Board on June 23, 2016. It adds a new ½-cent sales tax on top of LA Metro's existing ½-cent sales tax, for a total of 1-percent of the sales tax. The tax would continue with no end date, giving LA Metro upwards of \$120 billion for rapid transit, highway projects, and maintenance over the next 40 years and beyond.

The Valley gets the following six major projects, with five opening in the first ten years and the sixth opening five years later: (1) the Bus Rapid Transit Connector project from the North Hollywood Metro station to the Gold Line in Pasadena opens in 2022; (2) the North San Fernando Valley Bus Rapid Transit Improvements project to CSUN, probably east-west along Nordhoff Street, opens in 2023; (3) the Orange Line Bus Rapid Transit Improvements project with grade separations at five major intersections opens in 2025; (4) the first Sepulveda Pass Transit Corridor project with High-Occupancy Transit (HOT) lanes on the I-405 opens in 2026; (5) the East Valley Transit Corridor project from the Sylmar Metrolink station to the Orange Line on Van Nuys Boulevard opens in 2027; and (6) the second Sepulveda Pass Transit Corridor project, a rail transit tunnel under the Pass from the Orange Line to Westwood, opens in 2033. Under the ballot measure, these opening dates are allowed to extend up to a year or two, but no more.

These are solid, necessary projects, and many other regions in the County, such as the South Bay, are complaining that they did not receive enough projects. So, maybe the Valley is starting to get its fair share after all these years.

What about parking at LA Metro stations? SOHA's Bob Anderson met with Frank Ching, LA Metro's new Director of Parking Management and Karen Swift, LA Metro Community Relations Manager for the Valley, to discuss LA Metro's new managed parking program. It includes automated parking systems at LA Metro lots to count full and open spaces, a smartphone app showing open spaces in actual time, and automated systems to prevent non-Metro riders from illegally parking in lots like they do at the Universal City station. As LA Metro learns more about their parking situation, Mr. Ching stated that he knows more parking must be added; however, he wants to make sure that parking is added at the right locations.

Come and hear what Mr. Washington has to say about the ballot measure and what it means to Sherman Oaks and Valley residents. I am sure you are interested in how LA Metro plans to guarantee that Valley projects are built on schedule and also about what LA Metro plans to do about parking – today and in the future. You may never ride LA Metro yourself, but anyone who does ride it is no longer driving on our streets and freeways.

Marshall Long reports that Westfield Fashion Center has submitted a request for a change to its City Q Conditions governing the types of businesses allowed at the Fashion Square Shopping Center on Riverside Drive between Hazeltine Avenue and Woodman Avenue in Sherman Oaks.

The plan is to convert some existing retail stores and back-of-house space into a maximum of eight new restaurants which will be in addition to the three existing permitted restaurants. The requested new hours of operation are Sunday through Thursday from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., and Friday and Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 midnight. A conditional use permit has also been requested to allow the on-site sale of alcohol within the proposed restaurants.

It is not known which of the current stores will be replaced. The new restaurants would occupy approximately 36,000 square feet of floor space. Of this about 5,500 square feet would be back-of-house space and the rest would be converted from existing retail space. The project does not propose any physical expansion of the Shopping Center or change in the building footprint.

Do you have a question about a development project in Sherman Oaks? If you do, the person to contact is Julia Duncan, the Planning Deputy for Councilman David Ryu. You can reach her by email at julia.duncan@lacity.org.

Do you have a problem in the community that does not involve a proposed development? If you do, then the person to contact is Alice Roth, who is the Deputy for Sherman Oaks for Councilman David Ryu. You can reach her by email at alice.roth@lacity.org.

Our Councilman David Ryu has a Discretionary Fund of over \$1 million per year for specific projects within his District, including Sherman Oaks. The Councilman bases his decision on projects based upon recommendations of his Discretionary Funds Task Force, of which one of our Board of Directors, Bob Anderson, is a Member.

Do you have ideas for projects in Sherman Oaks? If so, go to http://davidryu.lacity.org/discretionary_funds_task_force to learn more and to obtain the form to complete.

The Discretionary Funds can also be used for privately organized block parties. The Discretionary Funds Task Force has recommended a general policy for neighborhood block parties. Thus, requests for block party funding will usually be swiftly approved if it requests funds to cover 50% of City permit fees (maximum allowed by Code), coverage of required insurance costs, and up to 10 tables and 100 chairs. Requests for additional funding will undergo further review.

Te'kila is Sherman Oaks' go-to tequila oasis, boasting over 150 different bottles. The daily happy hour is drawing visitors and locals alike for its made-to-order margaritas. Designed by Kris Keith of Spacecraft, Te'kila immerses guests in an authentic Mexican cantina fitted with antique fixtures and furniture. Chocolate wooden walls accommodate art pieces from Mexico and LA-based artists. With themed daily specials ranging from Margarita Mondays to Fajita Thursdays, there is something for everyone looking to experience upscale casual Mexican, quality cocktails, and a unique venue.

Mark your calendars, the Sherman Oaks Street Fair will be on Sunday, October 16, 2016. For information will be provided in the near future.

Do you have a Facebook account? If you do, you need to "like" the Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association page. Our Facebook account provides updates on local news and provides information about events happening in Sherman Oaks. Go to www.facebook.com/soha914 and get instant information from your Association.

Do you receive our email updates? If not, we do not have your email address. Email it to us at soha914@gmail.com.

Please visit the Association's Website at www.shermanoaks914.com. Obtain information about our next Meeting, read Newsletters, learn about attractions in the area, and find out how to contact elected officials and City Departments for services. If you have items that should be linked to the website, email us the information at soha914@gmail.com.

Very truly yours,



Richard H. Close, President