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SHERMAN OAKS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

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Getty President James Cuno:

***The 20th Anniversary of the Getty Center**

***The J. Paul Getty Trust and Its Programs • *Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA**

COMMUNITY MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 2017 - 7:15 PM
NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL
RIVERSIDE & WOODMAN, SHERMAN OAKS

Our June 21 Meeting will feature James Cuno, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Getty Museum, Getty Villa and Getty Trust. Mr. Cuno was appointed CEO in 2011 and had previously been the Director of the Art Institute of Chicago. The New York Times indicated at the time of Mr. Cuno's appointment that "it was a viewed as a coup by the Getty to attract Mr. Cuno."

The Meeting will focus on the contributions the Getty Museum has brought to the community and how it has helped the stature of our City. Twenty years ago on the eve of the opening of the Getty Museum, the then Chief Executive Officer, Harold Williams, spoke at our meeting. He discussed the role the Museum would have to the future of our City.

Now on the 20th Anniversary of the Getty Museum, we are privileged to have Mr. Cuno discuss how the Museum has developed over the past 20 years. This will be a unique meeting for a very valuable international asset located in our backyard.

Jules Feir announces that Mendocino Farms will be the Restaurant of the Month. Located at 14141 Ventura Boulevard this very popular restaurant chain was founded in 2005 by Mario Del Pero and Ellen Chen. The Sherman Oaks location opened in 2013.

Devoted to partnering with local farms, the culinary team creates adventurous sandwiches and salads using fine dining-quality ingredients. This true gathering place is family-friendly in a spacious atmosphere with indoor and patio dining, and has become Southern California's beloved sandwich destination. Enjoy a sampling of their delicious foods during our Social Hour that starts at 6:15 p.m.

As previously discussed, SOHA is working with the Sunkist Project's developers, IMT, and Councilman David Ryu and his staff on this massive proposed development that will undoubtedly have a major impact on our community.

Meetings are on-going between SOHA, IMT's principals and Councilman Ryu's Planning Deputy, Julia Duncan, in which the many significant issues connected with the current proposal are being reviewed, with proper mitigations sought, notably in the critical areas of huge traffic increases and the size/scope/aesthetics proposed.

It is SOHA's goal that Councilman Ryu and IMT take all required steps to ensure that the Sunkist Project fully make public all true and accurate impacts this proposed project will cause and then create workable mitigations for each of the major issues.

After much research, SOHA has determined in fairness to preserving the quality of life in our community, IMT needs do a complete revision of its deeply flawed traffic study in order to accurately portray the real impacts that will result should the project be built as currently planned.

Hundreds of Sherman Oaks residents voiced their concerns about the flawed traffic study which fails to include mall holiday traffic and other critical omissions that fail to meet Los Angeles Department of Transportation guidelines. In addition, residents also have concerns that there will be other issues this proposed over-sized development will cause.

Nearly 300 homeowner letters were presented to Councilman Ryu and his staff during a recent meeting in which SOHA requested that, due to the vast number of egregious errors and omissions contained in IMT's Draft Environmental Impact Report, Councilman Ryu require IMT to prepare a new or revised Traffic Study in order that appropriate mitigations can be determined.

An upcoming meeting will take place this month with SOHA, IMT, Councilman Ryu's staff and IMT's traffic study creator and its architects. SOHA is hopeful that our community's interests are of utmost concern to Councilman Ryu and that IMT takes all required steps in good faith and as a good neighbor.

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Bob Anderson reports on new planning rules that will seriously impact Sherman Oaks. At a recent meeting, the LA City Planning Commission recommended approval of the Transit Oriented Communities Affordable Housing Incentive Program Guidelines. SOHA expects the Director of Planning to quickly implement the guidelines in order to facilitate development of mixed-income and affordable housing in areas with rapid transit service.

This sounds like a laudable concept based on good intentions – benefitting low-income residents who will be able to live more affordably near rapid transit. However, it will negatively impact our quality of life in Sherman Oaks because it allows higher density, more height, less open space, less required parking, and more traffic along Ventura Boulevard from Firmament Avenue to Hazeltine Avenue – and especially around the Ventura/Sepulveda and Ventura/Van Nuys intersections.

The guidelines were pushed through the system with minimal public input. SOHA submitted comments to the Planning Department and Councilman Ryu. We recommended the Los Angeles City Council place a hold on the guidelines until their negative impacts could be better reviewed and explained to the public. Unfortunately, this did not happen.

Instead, we learned that the Planning Commission not only approved the guidelines, but noted that they felt the guidelines as written don't do enough to force people out of their cars. Again, that is a laudable concept in theory – if we had viable rapid transit as an alternative. But, we don't and won't for twenty years or more. The Commission even mentioned reversing the protections that we have from Community Plans – which right now take precedence over the new guidelines. It is incredulous to even think of giving affordable housing guidelines precedence over Community Plans, but it could happen.

SOHA is monitoring this carefully and working with other organizations to see what can be done. We will keep you posted.

Board Member Jay Weitzler reports that at a recent Hearing, the Mulholland Scenic Corridor Staff reviewed an application to build a very large Hillside home on Glenridge Drive (over 11,000 square feet) and denied the project, finding it violated the Specific Plan and was too large for the site. They ordered the developers to go back to the drawing board and bring their proposal into compliance with City regulations. This represented another victory for neighbors who have insisted developers follow the law and not be granted automatic approval of homes that negatively impact their neighbors.

Good News! The trees planted by SOHA on Ventura Boulevard between Fulton Avenue and Woodman Avenue have been beautifully trimmed by City crews. With any luck (and some more City funds) the rest of the trees on the Boulevard will be trimmed with as much care.

The Ventura/Cahuenga Boulevard Corridor Specific Plan Revenue Fund provides funding for the mitigation of transportation impacts throughout the Sherman Oaks area. Councilman Ryu is working with the Department of Transportation to install traffic signals at the following locations: Ventura/Columbus; Ventura/Lemona; and Ventura/Calhoun. Councilman Ryu anticipates construction to start around March 2018.

The Village at Sherman Oaks BID has two new businesses opening soon. Blinkbar, opening their third Los Angeles location at 14516 Ventura Boulevard, offers eyelash extensions, using a one-of-a-kind European-inspired application technique.


Paradis ice cream will open their eighth southern California location at 14512 Ventura Boulevard, offering freshly made ice cream daily, including vegan and allergy-free versions.

Let's Go Green!!! We are looking for Sherman Oaks residents to join the "Recycling Committee." Let's help Sherman Oaks go green by adding "attractive" recycling containers on Ventura Boulevard. If interested, please email the Association at soha914@gmail.com.

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

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.

As is normally the case, there will be no July Meeting or Newsletter. We look forward to seeing you on June 21 and, thereafter, at the August 16, 2017 Meeting (the third Wednesday of the month).

Very truly yours,

Richard H. Close, President