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SHERMAN OAKS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

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Steve Soboroff, President, Los Angeles Police Commission

***Our Next Police Chief?**

***Body Cameras – Use and Release of the Video**

***Commission Review of Alleged Abuse**

COMMUNITY MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 2018 - 7:15 PM
NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL • RIVERSIDE & WOODMAN, SHERMAN OAKS

Steve Soboroff, President of the Los Angeles City Police Commission, will be the featured speaker at our April 2018 Meeting. Commissioner Soboroff has been a member of the Police Commission since 2013 when he was appointed by Mayor Eric Garcetti. In September of last year, he became President, succeeding Matt Johnson, who is a resident of Sherman Oaks and a previous SOHA speaker. Commissioner Soboroff is famous for his collection of typewriters that were previously owned by famous individuals such as Ernest Hemingway and Orson Welles. And yes Jacob Soboroff of NBC News and MSNBC is Steve’s son.

At our April Meeting, Soboroff will discuss actions being taken by the Police Commission. The Commission is in the process of interviewing a list of nominees to become the next Los Angeles City Police Chief. The final list will be submitted to Mayor Garcetti and then the Los Angeles City Council will confirm the Mayor’s choice. What do you think should be the qualifications for the next Chief? He will also discuss recent regulations providing for the release of police officer body cam videos. Do the rules go far enough or are there privacy issues? Other areas of concern include the use of drones by the Los Angeles Police Department. Should they be allowed?

Jules Feir is happy to announce that the recently opened Wild & Free will be our Restaurant of the Month. They are located at 4550 Van Nuys Boulevard at the former Solley’s Deli location. Wild & Free offers a comfortable and casual dining experience with a selection of savory rotisserie and crispy delicious chickens. Other menu highlights are fresh and nutritious salads, rice bowls and mouthwatering chicken sandwiches. One very popular side dish is their creamy gluten-free Mac & Cheese. There is something for everyone including “plant-based chicken” that is available for vegan and vegetarian guests.

We welcome owner Terry Heller to the community and wish him the best of luck. We look forward to enjoying a sample of their delicious foods during our Social Hour starting at 6:15 p.m. and thank them for their community support.

* * *

Maria Pavlou Kalban, Chairwoman of our Committee on SB 827, reports that our Councilman David Ryu authored the City Resolution to oppose SB 827. He secured the support of his colleagues that led to a 13-0 vote in opposition to SB 827 by the Los Angeles City Council. We are very grateful for Councilman Ryu’s actions.

As a quick review on SB 827, this Bill would eliminate all local zoning restrictions on height, density, parking, and set backs on developments within a 1/2 mile radius of a major bus line. In the case of Sherman Oaks, this would affect most sections of our community’s single family residential areas. So to be clear, this would mean that a house in your neighborhood could be torn down and replaced with a 4-8 story apartment building with no way for you to oppose it. This is what we are fighting against.

Our Committee continues to fight against this legislation and, to that end, Committee Members, Bob Anderson, Jay Weitzler, Tom Glick, Marshall Long and Chairwoman Maria Pavlou Kalban met with our Senator Bob Hertzberg and our Assemblyman Adrin Nazarian to express our concerns and opposition. We have received their verbal opposition to this Bill. These two representatives in Sacramento are trying to find solutions to this housing crisis while protecting the character of our single family neighborhoods. Letters of opposition have also been sent by the Committee to many Senators in Sacramento.

SOHA remains committed to solving our housing needs by supporting the maximizing of underutilized properties already zoned for higher density. SOHA feels that local control is important and that Sacramento cannot properly legislate local zoning.

We extend our thanks to Councilman Ryu for his political courage to take on this Bill.

* * *

Mayor Eric Garcetti and the Los Angeles City Council in their efforts to fight the growing number of homeless people throughout all parts of the City of Los Angeles have reached out to community leaders and organizations to help assist City leaders and agencies to determine where and how the homeless can be safely housed within the City.

To assist in this effort, the Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association has established a committee called the SOHA Homelessness Committee. This committee will research, review and recommend possible areas within Sherman Oaks that could be used for homeless housing.

All alternatives will be considered by the committee with the primary goals of assisting the City on possible locations within Sherman Oaks and to ensure that all recommendations will not negatively affect larger established neighborhoods within Sherman Oaks.

The Committee is Chair Tom Glick as well as Jules Feir, Maria Pavlou Kalban, and Jay Weitzler.

* * *

Nancy Sogoian, Board Member and Co-Chair of the SOHA Sunkist Committee, reports:

For the past year and a half, SOHA's Sunkist Committee has steadfastly worked with IMT (Sunkist's developers) and Councilman Ryu and his staff to help ensure that the finished project benefits our community while traffic and other negative impacts are lessened.

Encouraging news includes word from IMT that they will present to their architects the site plan changes jointly supported by SOHA and SONC (Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council) in an effort to re-design the project to better suit the community and the site's limitations.

SOHA's requested plan changes include reducing the number of apartments by no less than 20%, and significantly increasing the Hazeltine-facing green space by movement westward of the northeast building and either placing the proposed Hazeltine parking structure underground or (as we prefer) eliminating the proposed 64-unit apartment building at the southwest corner and relocating the parking structure there.

Elimination of the planned 64-unit apartment building is vital to protect tenants from significant, known hazards due to poor air quality adjacent to the freeway. SOHA requests for safety purposes that the northern Hazeltine driveway be closed except for emergency vehicles, and that IMT pay for restricted parking permits by request of residents adjacent to the site. We appreciate the efforts of Renee Weitzer, Councilman Ryu's Senior Planning Deputy, and the cooperation of IMT as we move forward.

* * *

Bob Anderson reports that the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority (Metro) has a lot going on in the San Fernando Valley – especially in and around Sherman Oaks. The Sepulveda Pass Transit Corridor Feasibility Study is underway to evaluate several high-capacity rail transit alternatives between the Valley and LAX. Metro began the study last December and is looking at various routes and station locations, with several in Sherman Oaks. Metro plans to finish the Study in Summer/Fall 2019, and its results will set the basis for future environmental analysis and project refinement.

The Sepulveda Pass Transit Project will bridge the Santa Monica Mountains natural barrier between the Valley and Westside. More than 400,000 people travel through this area every day to commute to work, school, and other destinations along the I-405. This freeway is already ranked as one of the most traveled urban highways in the nation, and the Federal Highway Administration estimates the number of vehicles traveling through this corridor will grow by nearly 50 percent – and they all go through Sherman Oaks!

This June, Metro will finalize its findings and recommendations for the East San Fernando Valley Transit Corridor Project (from Sylmar MetroLink along Van Nuys Boulevard) and present them to the Metro Board of Directors. The findings will summarize more than 900 comments received in public reviews last Fall (many from SOHA and SONC), and make final recommendation to the Board – from doing nothing to building Bus Rapid Transit or Light Rail Transit. In June, Metro is making service changes to the current Orange Line and launching a brand-new shuttle service in the Warner Center area.

Metro staff will be at our May 16, 2018 SOHA meeting to give us an "Update from Metro" on all these projects and how they will impact Sherman Oaks.

* * *

Board Member Jay Weitzler recently attended the recent Hillside Federation meeting and was pleased to learn that the Los Angeles Beautification Team, whose mission is to improve the quality of life in Los Angeles, partners with local schools to clean up trash and graffiti and much more. If you see a lot that needs to be cleaned or graffiti to be removed or perhaps a large area that could use some trees, contact Ryan Allen at rallen@labteam.org or (323) 962-2163. Ryan is the Director of Environmental Programs and may be able to help you, free of charge.

* * *

The Village at Sherman Oaks BID welcomes Saffron Mediterranean Grill located at 14518 Ventura Boulevard. The restaurant features a variety of Middle Eastern dishes. "The owners' idea is to bring these delicious foods together and represent a sense of peace between all cultures and religions in the Middle East," the business explains.

* * *

At our February meeting earthquake expert Margaret Vinci discussed Blue Water (shelf life of 50 years). Members have requested more information. To learn more, go to www.bluecanh2o.com.

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Very truly yours,



Richard H. Close, President

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SHERMAN OAKS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION



Deliver By April 17

