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## SHERMAN OAKS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

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## Councilman Bob Blumenfield

### \*Recreational Cannabis – Asset or Problem?

### \*Short Term Rentals and Other Issues Facing Los Angeles Residents

COMMUNITY MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 2018 - 7:15 PM  
NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL - RIVERSIDE & WOODMAN, SHERMAN OAKS



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Our speaker on Wednesday evening, June 20 will be Los Angeles Councilman Bob Blumenfield. He represents the 3<sup>rd</sup> Council District, which includes Tarzana, Woodland Hills, Canoga Park and other areas of the west San Fernando Valley. Councilman Blumenfield is no stranger to the Sherman Oaks area since over 20 years ago he was the District Director for Congressman Howard Berman. He assisted in obtaining funding for necessary projects that still affect Sherman Oaks residents today. He served in the State Assembly from 2008 to 2013 and was the first freshman Democrat Assemblyman to serve as Chair of the Budget Committee. For many years, he has attended our annual Toy Drive and assisted with efforts to make Sherman Oaks a great place to live.

Councilman Blumenfield will discuss issues related to recreational cannabis and short term rentals. He is an active City Councilmember from the San Fernando Valley and is committed to making sure that Sherman Oaks and the surrounding areas get the resources needed to enhance our community.

Jules Feir announces that Costco will be the Restaurant of the Month. It is always a treat to enjoy the delicious sandwiches, salads and desserts that Costco provides during our Social Hour starting at 6:15 pm. We thank them for their continued community support.

Recently Councilman David Ryu announced a series of traffic mitigation strategies in the West Sherman Oaks Hills, between Stone Canyon and the 405, that would prioritize public safety on our narrow, residential streets and also remain feasible and enforceable.

The Los Angeles Department of Transportation recently began to install these mitigations. There are 14 traffic mitigations in total, and they will direct traffic during peak rush hour times by restricting right and left turns down some of our narrower hillside roads which cannot sustain heavy use.

The Los Angeles Police Department Valley Traffic Division will be enforcing the new signs and turn lanes as they are installed in the coming weeks. Waze-led cut-through traffic remains at crisis levels in the Sherman Oaks hills and many other parts of Los Angeles, and that is why Councilman Ryu continues to urge Waze to come to the table to enact solutions, and urges the Los Angeles City Attorney to seek legal options to ensure those substantive discussions occur.

If you have any questions, you can reach Councilman Ryu's Sherman Oaks Office at (818) 728-9924 or by emailing [cd4.issues@lacity.org](mailto:cd4.issues@lacity.org).

Board Member and Sunkist Committee Co-Chair Nancy Sogolan provides great news on Sunkist: After years of negotiation and tireless work by SOHA on behalf of our community, we are happy to report that IMT has incorporated virtually all our priorities in its revised plan for Sunkist!

To lessen negative impacts (like traffic), create a more inviting look and feel and enhance community benefit, revisions include: Reducing number of both units and bedrooms (249 units, down from 298); reduction of commercial footage, addition of a 58' wide publicly-accessible greenspace stretching the length of the property along Hazeltine Avenue; the elimination of one entire apartment building, and the movement of the parking structure to the site's southwest corner at reduced height. Safety revisions include limiting the northern Hazeltine Avenue driveway to right turns in and out and increased on-site roadways.

Architectural improvements include increased set-backs to 15-feet along Riverside Drive and flipping around the two large apartment buildings, creating open space along Riverside Drive and eliminating the design's initial monolithic look. Additionally, IMT assures plenty of on-site parking and permit parking if desired by residents of adjacent streets. The creation of two left-turn lanes into Westfield mall parking from southbound Hazeltine Avenue will help prevent traffic backups at high traffic periods.

Our sincere thanks to IMT for their cooperation, to SONC for its fine contribution, and our thanks and appreciation to Councilman Ryu and his Deputy Renee Weitzer for their support of our community.

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Maria Pavlou Kalban reports: Senate Bill SB 827 which would have allowed 4-5 story apartment buildings to be built in single family neighborhoods that were within a half mile radius of a transit corridor was defeated last month. This bill would have changed the character of most of the neighborhoods in Sherman Oaks.

SOHA's committee on SB 827 wrote letters to all the senators that were hearing this bill in the Transportation and Housing Committee and made it very clear that this bill would not solve the housing problem and would ruin our neighborhoods. Letters were sent and meetings scheduled with our own elected officials; Senator Robert Hertzberg, Assembly Member Adrin Nazarian, Councilman David Ryu to make sure they were aware of our position. Our own Councilman Ryu introduced a resolution to oppose this bill and succeeded in get unanimous support from the Los Angeles City Council. When SB 827 was amended in order to gather more support, we again sent letters of disapproval to all the senators involved.

We are very aware that another SB 827 will be reintroduced next year. The SOHA Committee will continue to monitor any bills (not just SB 827) that might be introduced that will negatively impact our neighborhoods. Our committee will also study alternative methods for solving the housing crisis and meet again with Senator Hertzberg. This SOHA Committee will continue to voice concerns to any legislation that doesn't properly protect Sherman Oaks neighborhoods.

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Will Elon Musk be drilling his own rapid transit tunnels under Sherman Oaks? There is a strong possibility! SOHA Board members Jay Weitzler and Bob Anderson attended a presentation by Musk's The Boring Company where he discussed his new Loop rapid transit concept. Loop would use small 16-passenger pod-like Skates running at 150 miles per hour in underground tunnels to whisk you around the county very quickly. His proposed concept has one main line from Sherman Oaks to Long Beach, and another from Dodger Stadium to LAX - with lots of stations in between. You get on a Skate and zip directly to your location with minimal interim stops. It's all still in the early developmental stages, but The Boring Company plans to start work soon on boring a 2.7-mile test tunnel from Culver City to Westwood. SOHA is monitoring this all very closely and will keep you informed as we learn more.

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Tom Glick reports on our Homeless Committee. The Sherman Oaks Homeless Committee has continued its discussions with the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council's Vision Committee on identifying sites within Sherman Oaks for permanent and temporary housing locations. Last month at the Vision Committee, the sole topic was the identification of sites within Sherman Oaks that would be perfect candidates for either Permanent Sustainable Housing or Bridge Housing. A few sites were identified as preliminary candidates which are good, solid locations which adhere to the established goals and appear to be the preferred choice locations. One idea that was raised is a community-wide round table discussion with several key persons in the field. With the issue of homelessness, especially identifying locations for temporary and permanent housing, it is an important that any locations offered are fully vetted with the community.

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Keep SOHA strong: Tell a Friend, Bring a Neighbor! As a non-profit, 100% member-supported organization, SOHA is as strong as its support from our community. All residents of Sherman Oaks, whether homeowners or not, benefit from a strong Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association. Why? Because SOHA works tirelessly to protect, preserve and enhance the quality of life for all Sherman Oaks residents! *If you are not a member, please join!* Your \$30 annual membership is a great investment in your community! Please share our new membership flyer with your neighbors, encourage them to join and bring them to a meeting where they can learn what's happening in Sherman Oaks, speak one-on-one with our illustrious speakers and enjoy delicious food from a different local restaurant every month!

Go to our website [www.shermanoaks914.com](http://www.shermanoaks914.com) or send your name, address and email address to our address at P.O. Box 5223, Sherman Oaks, CA 91413.

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Councilman Ryu and the City Council has been preparing the budget for fiscal year 2018-19 to ensure that the City's nearly \$10 billion budget tackles the City's biggest challenges as well as fundamental quality-of-life issues. Added to this year's budget is a \$10 million increase in funding for sidewalk repairs. Also, the Los Angeles City Council has agreed to increase its budget for homelessness by \$430 million to build much-needed housing and fund extra enforcement of encampment laws. Finally, the City is increasing the Los Angeles Fire Department budget by \$9.3 million to hire an additional 195 firefighters, at a crucial time of heightened fire risk.

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We have had complaints about lack of Verizon cell service in the Stone Canyon - Valley Vista section of Sherman Oaks. We have spoken with Verizon. They indicate that the earliest they will have better cell service in that area of Sherman Oaks is at the end of March 2019.

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Sherman Oaks Chamber of Commerce announces the opening of the Bluebird Brasserie, 13730 Ventura Boulevard, a Belgian brew pub with master brewer, Noah Regnery who won "Small brewpub brewer of the year."

As is normally the case, there will be no July Meeting or Newsletter. We look forward to seeing you on June 20, 2018 and, thereafter, at the August 15, 2018 Meeting (the third Wednesday of the month).

Very truly yours,



Richard H. Close, President