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Adrin Nazarian
Our Assemblyman

- *Should Marijuana be Legalized?**
- *Housing for Homeless – What is Needed?**
- *Is The State Legislature Helping You?**

COMMUNITY MEETING
 WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2016 - 7:15 PM
 NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL
 RIVERSIDE & WOODMAN, SHERMAN OAKS

Our October 19, 2016 speaker will be our State Assemblyman Adrin Nazarian. Previously he served as Chief of Staff for Los Angeles City Councilman Paul Kerkorian who represented a portion of Sherman Oaks. Since Assemblyman Nazarian is familiar with Sherman Oaks, he is well aware of the issues that concern our community.

Assemblyman Nazarian will focus on key issues on the November 8, 2016 Ballot including the question of whether recreational marijuana use should be legalized in California. This measure is on your November Ballot. In addition, he will discuss this past year’s State legislation and how it is important to Sherman Oaks.

He was elected in November 2012 and is a Member of the Assembly Committee that focuses on entertainment, tourism and internet media. Assemblyman Nazarian also serves on the Committee pertaining to transportation. He lives with his wife, Diana, and their two sons, Alex and David, in West Toluca Lake.

We want to learn from Assemblyman why there is so much activity in Sacramento by developers trying to eliminate local control over local developments. Bills have been introduced to eliminate Los Angeles City’s ability to control projects in our neighborhoods. What is the status of this effort?

Also at the meeting will be a firefighter from the LAFD who will discuss the city’s hillside brush clearance requirements. What are the best methods and timing for fire prevention and control?

Please remember that there are serious consequences for hillside residents who do not comply with the city rules.

We realize that the final Presidential Debate will take place starting at 6:00 p.m. on the date of our Meeting. Our suggestion would be to record the Presidential Debate and come to the Meeting to explain to our Assemblyman what actions need to be taken to enhance and protect our community.

Jules Feir announces that once again Poquito Mas will be our Restaurant of the Month.

They are located at the former Ventura Club location at 13924 Ventura Boulevard. Poquito Mas offers delicious and wholesome Mexican dishes and has grown into a very successful chain in the San Fernando Valley and beyond.

Their commitment is “We don’t serve fast food. We serve fresh food as fast as we can.” This statement best says it all.

Enjoy a sampling of their delicious foods during our Social Hour that starts at 6:15 p.m. We thank the owner, Edgar Escalante, for his community support.

* * *

Metro’s Measure M on the November ballot adds Los Angeles County’s fourth half-cent transportation sales tax increase since 1980, and would give Metro two full cents in “forever” sales taxes. Our sales tax would rise to 9-1/2 percent, and taxpayers would be giving Metro more than \$3 billion each year. SOHA studied Metro’s plan and truly wanted to support it. However, it is seriously flawed and we recommend a NO vote. Please send a message to Metro and make them come up with a better plan for the 2018 ballot.

Measure M does not have strong guarantees that Valley projects will really be built. Metro ignored public requests for guarantees and has reneged on promises in the past. That is how the Valley ended up with only two Metro rail stations out of 87 in the County and an Orange Line busway that was over capacity since the day it opened.

Measure M completely ignores car parking and focuses on bicycle parking. Shouldn’t Metro have a detailed car parking plan in place before putting Measure M on the ballot? Not all of us can walk or ride our bikes to Metro stations.

SOHA is worried about Metro’s capability to manage all these huge projects at the same time. Their management performance on the I-405 improvement project was fraught with errors, including a \$400 million lawsuit against Metro by the project contractor.

And, the promised projects are far from perfect. Of the seven major Valley projects in Metro's plan, the first four are slow, inefficient (i.e., cheap) busways without dedicated rights-of-way meaning they stop at lights for cross traffic. Why are we supposed to be happy with buses, instead of high-speed subways like other parts of the County?

Vote NO on Measure M. Give Metro two-years to fix their plan.

What is the construction activity at Ventura and Beverly Glenn Boulevards? Information from the City indicates that there is a proposal being studied for a 52,000 square foot supermarket possibly being built at that location. Current activity involves mitigation of environmental problem for the site from prior use of the property.

A traffic assessment has been prepared. If you would like a copy of the traffic study, please email the Association at soha914@gmail.com. No plans for the project have been submitted to the City. The obvious question is: What supermarket is possibly coming to the site? Rumor has it that it may be a Whole Foods. (It is a common ploy of developers to try to convince the community that a project is tremendous by using the name of a desirable tenant. Many times that desirable tenant disappears.)

We will keep you informed as this project moves forward. The obvious concerns are going to be volume of traffic, flow of the traffic and parking.

SOHA Board of Director Member Elke Heitmeyer was reappointed to the Prop K Regional Oversight Committee by Councilman Ryu. Prop K allows the City to collect \$25 Million annually for the acquisition of parks and facilities serving our youth. This year the proposal includes replacing the lighting at Sherman Oaks Van Nuys Park with LED lights. It is estimated that this will be accomplished within the next 2-years.

Having lived in Sherman Oaks for 20 years, Elke Heitmeyer, has come to really appreciate the community and has contributed in various ways to make it even better. She is now leaving the area and regretfully resigns from the board. She would like to encourage other locals to step up to the plate, join a Committee and participate with SOHA to protect and improve our wonderful neighborhood. Please join us at the October 19, 2016 meeting to wish her farewell.

Councilman Ryu introduced a motion that successfully pushed to stop the repeal of the City's existing laws concerning secondary dwelling units. Instead the City Council instructed the City Attorney to write new regulations to protect single-family neighborhoods while complying with state law. In addition, a number of families caught in the limbo of this debate, and were in the middle of construction, will be grandfathered in to finish their projects. Councilman Ryu expressed his understanding of building homes and creating communities that are sensitive to the needs of growing and extended families; however, he urged Los Angeles City Council to do all it can to ensure real estate speculators do not abuse the City's land use laws.

The Coalition to Preserve LA has qualified its reform-minded Neighborhood Integrity Initiative for the March 7, 2017 ballot. This is the first ballot initiative to take on developer influence of City Hall since Prop. U's victory in the 1980s. Prop. U stopped office towers from being built adjacent to residential areas in the Valley and elsewhere.

The Neighborhood Integrity Initiative targets backroom deals between developers and City Council members in which developers get exempted from zoning rules. The measure requires the City Council to follow the zoning rules and return to its core job, of writing and following a five-year General Plan for parks, roads, water, sewers, housing and safety services aimed at serving residents and neighborhoods. The initiative was featured in an op-ed in the Daily News on September 18, 2016 by campaign director Jill Stewart, headlined, "Taking Back L.A. From City Hall: The Fight Begins."

The Coalition will hold a series of Town Halls throughout the city in late October and early November to provide details on the Initiative to city stakeholders. The first Town Hall is scheduled for the San Fernando Valley on Saturday, October 22, 2016 the time and location is TBD. For information about a Town Hall, or to sign up for updates on the Initiative, go to 2PreserveLA.org.

The 26th Annual Sherman Oaks Street Fair will take place on Sunday, October 16, 2016 between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. The Fair will be held on Ventura Boulevard between Van Nuys Boulevard and Kester Avenue. The Association will have a booth at the event. We hope you drop by and say Hello.

The Village BID welcomes two new businesses to Sherman Oaks.

Kalban Architects, an award-winning architecture firm dedicated to melding the aesthetics of art and architecture, art and function has moved into the Tower building at 14724 Ventura Boulevard, Suite 410, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403; Phone 310- 441 9313, website: <http://www.kalbanarchitects.com>.

TLC Foot Massage located at 14519 Ventura Boulevard, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403, Phone: 818-387- 8122.

Be sure to check out our website, www.villageatshermanoaks.com. We have a business directory for all Village BID businesses.

Very truly yours,

Richard H. Close, President