

"Together  
we have  
clout!"



HYDEE FELDSTEIN SOTO



FAISAL GILL

## ZOOM COMMUNITY MEETING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2022 - 7:15 PM

JOIN FROM ANYWHERE - VIA COMPUTER, TABLET, SMARTPHONE OR TELEPHONE

## WHO WILL BE LA'S NEW CITY ATTORNEY?

**Fox 11 News anchor/reporter  
Phil Shuman moderates our debate**

The LA City Attorney is crucial to our everyday lives. The City Attorney's office writes municipal laws, advises the Mayor, City Council, and all city departments, defends the city in litigation, files lawsuits on behalf of the city, and prosecutes misdemeanor crimes such as domestic violence, drunk driving, and vandalism. Our next City Attorney will be either Hydee Feldstein Soto or Faisal Gill. You probably know little about either candidate. Attend our debate and find out who they are, what they stand for, and why they are running for this critical office.

Hydee Feldstein Soto is a lifelong Democrat who has proudly called Los Angeles home for 40 years, originally born in Puerto Rico. Her decades in private practice made her one of the country's most respected attorneys, known for her no-nonsense approach and can-do ability to solve difficult problems. As a community leader, Hydee spent years informing and protecting our LA residents and neighborhoods. She has been endorsed by the Los Angeles County Democratic Party, Planned Parenthood Action Fund, LA Times, LA Daily News, and a growing roster of organizations and elected officials. She focuses on positive change for issues that affect our daily lives – safety of our neighborhoods and streets, homelessness, unaffordable housing, and more.

Faisal Gill is an immigrant, civil-rights attorney, husband, and father, originally born in Pakistan. He was raised in a heavily working-class immigrant community. His father drove a taxi in Washington DC and his mother worked in retail. Faisal's path in life was guided by a very sobering message from his father, "You can either be in the front seat of the cab or the back seat of the cab. The choice is up to you." Throughout his career as a civil-rights attorney, he has been determined to help those who face discrimination from their employers, our government, and our immigration systems. He wants to bring his perspective as an immigrant and attorney to the LA City Attorney's office and restore trust and transparency in local government.

Please email candidate questions to [SOHAZoomMtg@gmail.com](mailto:SOHAZoomMtg@gmail.com) before noon Tuesday October 18th.

The Zoom ID is 856 5282 3250 with passcode SOHA914. Sign in by 7:10. The meeting starts promptly at 7:15 pm.



We're making SOHA more environmentally friendly and want to know your preference for receiving our monthly newsletter. We can deliver it by email, US mail, or both. Contact us at [SOHA914@gmail.com](mailto:SOHA914@gmail.com) or (818) 377-4590 with your full name, mail address, and email – and let us know how you want your newsletter delivered.



**! You can find our virtual meeting Zoom link on SOHA's website - [SOHA914.com](http://SOHA914.com)**

## **STUDIO CITY – SHERMAN OAKS – ENCINO COALITION SAYS “NO” TO BAD PLANNING**

Keeping you informed on what’s happening in Sacramento has been Maria Kalban’s SOHA Legislative Committee’s goal for the last five years. They have watched and reported as our state legislators slowly took local control over land-use decisions away from communities. This loss of local control and a city’s right to regulate land-use policy occurred slowly with little newspaper and TV coverage. Many of Sacramento’s bills now mandate certain projects to be “by right” which means they are not required to address infrastructure, environment, water, fire, or minimum parking concerns or come before the public for any review. Our state legislators have passed these bills because they worry more about pleasing their legislative bosses in Sacramento than the needs of us, their constituents. The state now has a “strike force” created by the governor that will sue or impose major fines on cities that do not comply with these new state housing laws. An individual developer or special interest group can sue the city if a project is denied.

This brings us to Sherman Oaks and the state’s Housing Element mandate. SOHA has always wanted to be part of the housing solution. We know that affordable housing is a major concern in our city and state. But our state’s legislative leadership has always had disdain for single-family neighborhoods – some have called them immoral. Introducing legislation ending such neighborhoods has been a priority. But the real question is this – is the basic goal to find appropriate sites for more housing or to get rid of single-family neighborhoods? Why target our neighborhoods when we have lots of commercial space throughout our communities where we can and should add new housing? The governor just signed a bill that allows commercial corridors to be used for housing. In LA, we have always had that option. That’s why attacking single-family neighborhoods here in LA never made sense to us.

Because the city does not want to run afoul of Sacramento, the Planning Department is looking everywhere for more places to add housing. Councilmember Raman has introduced a motion to have the Planning Department study the viability of using affordable housing overlays throughout the city including single-family areas (see next article). The overlays would add height (up to 33 additional feet) and unlimited density to our neighborhoods. We don’t need apartment houses among our single-family homes. We have plenty of room on our corridors.

We established a Sherman Oaks-Encino-Studio City Coalition that recently presented detailed proposals to Councilmember Raman showing how to add more housing in our communities while protecting neighborhoods. She is currently “slowly” considering our proposal and seems hesitant to remove housing overlays in our single-family neighborhoods. Our proposal is responsible and achievable. We are not saying “no” to more housing – **but we are saying “no” to bad planning.**

Everyone’s goal should be solving the housing crisis. SOHA believes our coalition has done that. We will see if the councilmember is willing to work with us collaboratively. We might need to make some noise if she doesn’t! If you have any questions, please contact Maria at [mpkalban@gmail.com](mailto:mpkalban@gmail.com).

## **BEWARE OF COUNCILMEMBER RAMAN’S AFFORDABLE HOUSING OVERLAY ZONES**

Tom Glick of SOHA’s Planning and Land Use Committee reports that our Councilmember Nithya Raman is pushing for Affordable Housing Overlay Zones that will be used in all future Community Plan Updates as the main justification for “up zoning” our communities. What overlay zones currently look like is not yet well defined. But the Planning Department will be implementing them as another tool to attack single-family neighborhoods.

This concept was conceived by Councilmember Raman in August 2021 and marketed as an effort to create more affordable housing in higher-resource neighborhoods. In August 2022, the City Council voted 12-0 to support her Overlay Zone motion and directed the Planning Department to prepare an ordinance that would expand incentives for developers to create more affordable housing citywide. The City Council also instructed the Planning Department to report back on recommendations for a local incentive ordinance with emphasis on these higher-resource areas.

The problem is that 76 percent of Los Angeles’ higher-resource areas are zoned single-family. As stated by Councilmem-

ber Raman, "I want to make sure that balance looks a little better for Los Angeles moving forward." Presumably, that balance will include up zoning our single-family neighborhoods. We need to make it clear to the councilmember that it's acceptable to look for affordable housing incentives in existing under-utilized multi-family zones, commercial areas, transit corridors, parking zones, and publicly owned land – but not acceptable to destroy our city's fabric by up zoning single-family neighborhoods.

Councilmember Raman has yet to support any proposals by our Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council's Vision Committee or by United Neighbors, who have both presented her very valid and logical ideas to generate affordable housing citywide without touching single-family neighborhoods. We need to stay vigilant and keep the pressure on the councilmember and the Planning Department that our single-family neighborhoods are not there for the taking. If you have questions, please contact Tom at SOHA914@gmail.com.

## **SOHA STARTS FUNDRAISING TO ENSURE VALLEY GETS FAIR SHARE OF SEPULVEDA PASS TRANSIT PROJECT**

Bob Anderson, SOHA's VP and Transportation Committee Chair, is concerned about Metro conducting a fair and honest evaluation of its rapid transit alternatives from the Valley to the Westside through the Sepulveda Pass. So concerned that SOHA has started fundraising to help us ensure the Valley gets its fair share of this critically important transit project. You can donate to our fund on the SOHA website at SOHA914.com which will help us keep you informed, make Metro more honest and transparent, and even take legal action if necessary.

Metro is looking at six alternatives – three affordable monorails on the 405 and three unaffordable subways – one of the "subways" with elevated train tracks above Sepulveda Blvd – but only on the Valley's side. No one can understand why Metro is looking at subways that will cost three to four times Metro's available budget and take two or three times longer to build than monorail – but they are. Some people will tell you that subways have much higher passenger capacity than monorails – but they don't. Metro's monorail alternatives have about 12 percent higher capacity than its subway alternatives. Why is Metro still looking at subways? They tried and failed to explain this at their recent public meeting. Maybe they just want to drill tunnels so the project takes a lot longer – job protection?

How could Metro screw the Valley again on rapid transit? Easy. Metro wants to prove it can tunnel under the Pass, so late next year they will choose a subway alternative under either Sepulveda Blvd or Van Nuys Blvd in the Valley. They then can throw out the monorail alternatives. Too affordable and quick to build? A while later, Metro will admit they don't have enough money to build the subway and tell the Valley it instead gets noisy elevated trains above Sepulveda Blvd – and maybe even a few less Valley stations. Sound familiar? It's happened before. And SOHA ain't gonna let it happen again!

### **METRO MUST SELECT AN ALTERNATIVE THAT ENHANCES, NOT DESTROYS, OUR COMMUNITY!**

If you have any questions or want to donate to our fund, please contact Bob at bobhillsideordinance@gmail.com.

## **SOHA TOY DRIVE – GELSON'S MARKET ON SUNDAY DEC. 11**

For 23 years, thanks to the generosity of the Sherman Oaks community, SOHA has been supplying donated toys that are distributed to underprivileged and fostered children at LA County's Department of Children and Family Services Valley Holiday Party. Last year, our community's donations totaled more than \$30,000 worth of toys.

SOHA's 24th Toy Drive will be **Sunday December 11th at Gelson's Market, 4520 Van Nuys Blvd, Sherman Oaks from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.** Gelson's will again provide a variety of sandwiches and desserts. Don't miss your chance to put a smile on a child's face!



**PLEASE BRING YOUR UNWRAPPED TOYS TO THE DECEMBER 11 SOHA TOY DRIVE.  
LET'S MAKE LOTS OF CHILDREN HAPPY THIS YEAR!**



# HOMESTATE RESTAURANT PARKING ISSUE NOT RESOLVED

Tom Glick of SOHA's Planning and Land Use Committee reports that HomeState restaurant's parking issues with their surrounding neighborhood have only marginally improved. The neighborhood south of HomeState is still experiencing problems with street parking.

While Councilmember Raman and her staff have said they will be working with HomeState to find short-term solutions, the fact is HomeState operates under several alcohol-sales conditions they must meet. To date, neighborhood leaders have had little significant response to their problems and have not been included, as they requested, in discussions with HomeState. Stay tuned. We will keep reporting on this issue until it is resolved. Contact Tom Glick for further information at SOHA914@gmail.com.

## JOIN LAPD VOLUNTEERS AT VAN NUYS STATION

Be a volunteer and help LAPD keep our community safe. LAPD offers many volunteer opportunities such as high-visibility patrols in city-marked electric vehicles, direct-dispatch communications with LAPD radios, support for detectives and front desk personnel, traffic radar control, assistance with undercover surveillance, and more! Volunteers train once a month at the LAPD Van Nuys Station. Become a part of the solution for crime in your community! Our volunteers are the very necessary extra eyes and ears of law enforcement and have assisted in recovering stolen vehicles, arrests of felony suspects, and much more. Contact Officer Jason Jimenez at 38903@lapd.online for further information.

## USEFUL CONTACT INFORMATION FOR SHERMAN OAKS

MyLA Call Center (Mon-Fri 7am to 7pm, Sat-Sun 8am to 4:45pm)	311 or (213) 473-3231
MyLA website	<a href="https://myla311.lacity.org">https://myla311.lacity.org</a>
LAPD Senior Lead Officer Jose Saldana (south of Ventura Blvd)	30853@lapd.online
LAPD Senior Lead Officer Mariana Romo (north of Ventura Blvd)	40229@lapd.online
Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Prosecutor - Andy Soliman	andy.soliman@lacity.org
LAPD Non-Emergency calls	(877) 275-5273
LAFD Sherman Oaks Station 88	(818) 756-8688
LAFD Brush Clearance	(800) 994-4444
US Senator Dianne Feinstein - LA office	(310) 914-7300
US Senator Alex Padilla - LA office	(310) 231-4494
US Congressman Brad Sherman - Sherman Oaks office	(818) 501-9200
CA Senator Bob Hertzberg - Valley Office	(818) 901-5588
CA Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian - Valley office	(818) 376-4246
County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl - Valley office	(818) 901-5588
City Councilmember Nithya Raman - Sherman Oaks office	(818) 728-9924
City Councilmember Nithya Raman - General Concerns and Inquiries	contactCD4@lacity.org
City Councilmember Nithya Raman - Sherman Oaks Field Deputy Ryan Ahari	ryan.ahari@lacity.org
Village at Sherman Oaks Business Improvement District	info@VillageAtShermanOaks.com
Sherman Oaks Chamber of Commerce	hello@shermanoakschamber.org

# MATT EPSTEIN'S NEIGHBORHOOD COMINGS AND GOINGS

My wife Jane and I were recently driving around the neighborhood and talking about how crazy the world has become. One of the topics of course was the homeless situation. We all know this is a major problem and one that can't be ignored when driving through our community or, for that matter, any Southern California community. Even with all the crazy homeless issues that we all face, we still love living in Sherman Oaks ... Call us crazy!

Having grown up in Sherman Oaks I've seen a lot of change. And I'm happy to say I see much has remained the same ... including the quality of the neighbors that live here. There's an eclectic mix of personalities that still choose to call Sherman Oaks home. We purchased our house 28 years ago in 1994. Back then Sherman Oaks was starting to come out of a real estate down market. But after the earthquake of '94, the market started to slow down again. Crazy, right? 28 years in the same house? 64 years in Sherman Oaks? Crazy ...

While driving around, we were talking about how long-time resident Marsha Hunt had just passed away at 105 years old. Marsha was a wonderful woman who would often come to the Sherman Oaks Homeowner Association meetings and share some stories about her days as an actress as well as her days being blacklisted in the 1950s. Marsha had lived in her home in Sherman Oaks since she purchased it in 1946 – that's 76 years ago! World War II had just ended ... and gas sold for as low as 21 cents a gallon. Wow!



That got us talking about how many people we know who have lived in Sherman Oaks for such a long time. We thought about the 28 years that we've lived in our home and realized that compared to others it hasn't been that long. Even if you take the fact that I grew up in Sherman Oaks as a kid, I haven't lived here as long as Marsha or for that matter many other Sherman Oakies. Again, our wheels started turning and we started talking about how three of our SOHA board members – John Isen, Marshall Long, and Jay Weitzler – have all been in their homes for almost 45 years, since 1978. The Vietnam War had just ended a few years before and when they purchased their homes the price of gas was up to 63 cents a gallon. Another Board member and the honorary Mayor of Sherman Oaks, Jules Feir, has been in his home for 37 years.

It is so obvious that people love living in Sherman Oaks. So, here's an idea. I have been reporting on the Comings and Goings in Sherman Oaks for a while now. I would love to hear from you all if you know someone who has loved living in Sherman Oaks for as long or longer than at least our Board members. I would be so surprised if anyone will ever top Marsha's 76 years under one roof. Please share your stories of people that you know who have lived or better yet owned homes in Sherman Oaks for a long time, and I will share what I learn. Send your stories to me at [somatt@aol.com](mailto:somatt@aol.com).

## PLEASE JOIN SOHA AND HELP US HELP SHERMAN OAKS

The Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association is a volunteer-run, non-profit community organization dedicated to improving and protecting everyone's quality of life in Sherman Oaks. We are supported by only our member dues. This makes us uniquely independent of city, county, and state influence. So, we can tell it like it is – and always do. SOHA has been dedicated to achieving the best outcomes for our community since our founding in 1964 – over a wide range of areas including homelessness, crime, community planning, housing legislation, traffic challenges, rapid transit, airplane noise, local business support, beautification, and safety.

And SOHA also gives you a front-row seat to major events, such as last month's LA County Supervisor debate between Senator Bob Hertzberg and Councilmember Lindsey Horvath.

**PLEASE SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER** with a neighbor (or many) and **ENCOURAGE THEM TO JOIN**. Membership is vital and we need your support right now! It's only \$45 per year and well worth it.

If you're not a member, go to [SOHA914.com](http://SOHA914.com) and click on the "Join SOHA" button to join by credit/debit card, PayPal, or check. It's so easy! And so important! And it makes a big difference in YOUR community. Please contact Nancy Sogioan, Chair of SOHA's Membership Committee, with any questions at [JoinSOHA@gmail.com](mailto:JoinSOHA@gmail.com). We can only do what we do because of your membership and support!

# SHERMAN OAKS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

The **ONLY** member-supported,  
volunteer-run, non-profit  
community organization  
dedicated to preserving and protecting  
the quality of life here in Sherman Oaks.

★ **BECOME A MEMBER** —  **STAY INFORMED** —  **MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

IT'S EASY! SIMPLY GO TO [www.SOHA914.com](http://www.SOHA914.com) AND CLICK "JOIN SOHA"



**SHERMAN OAKS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION**

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