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SHERMAN OAKS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

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“City Hall Comes to Sherman Oaks”

COMMUNITY MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2018 - 7:15 PM
NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL • RIVERSIDE & WOODMAN, SHERMAN OAKS

Jules Feir has once again arranged for City Hall to come to Sherman Oaks. This will be your opportunity to meet with representatives from the City who can assist you in solving problems or provide you with information to prevent problems in your neighborhood.

The participants from City Hall are Greg Spotts, Assistant Director Bureau of Street Services (repairs to City streets and sidewalks); Frank Bush, General Manager Code Enforcement, (illegal construction on private property); Kevin Keller, Executive Officer, Los Angeles Department City Planning (what can be built in your neighborhood); Martin (Marty) Adams, Chief Operating Officer, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power; Graham Everett, Deputy Chief, Los Angeles Fire Department; and Tim Fremaux, Sr. Transportation Engineer, Los Angeles Department of Transportation (traffic controls i.e., stop signs, lights, no turns).

The format for the Meeting will be different than our normal Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association (SOHA) meetings. At the beginning, each of the participants will explain their responsibilities and knowledge base. Thereafter, each of them will sit at a different table and you will have an opportunity to meet with them one-on-one.

SOHA conducts these meetings periodically because a common complaint we receive is that it is too difficult to get answers from City Hall. This will be your opportunity!

Jules Feir announces that Mendocino Farms sandwich market located at Ventura Boulevard and Hazeltine Avenue will be our Restaurant of the Month. Founders Mario Del Pero and wife Ellen Chen opened their first restaurant in 2005 and have since grown their very successful business to 13 locations.

At Mendocino Farms you will find quality foods such as a great selection of sandwiches, tasty salads and other creative menu items at an affordable price.

Please enjoy a sample of their delicious food during our Social Hour that starts at 6:15 pm.

Sherman Oaks Homeless Housing Locations. The SOHA Homelessness Committee joined with the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council (SONC) to help identify locations within Sherman Oaks for either permanent supportive housing or temporary bridge housing.

Homelessness is the single biggest issue throughout the City and community leaders and organizations throughout the City are being asked to step up and help identify locations. Since the need for this housing is immediate, the City has tasked these leaders and organizations to look for properties that are relatively easy to secure which usually means a publicly-owned site.

SOHA and SONC identified two possible locations, both of which are publicly-owned with one location at Sepulveda Boulevard north of Magnolia Boulevard and the other site at Sepulveda Boulevard and Dickens Street. Both locations were identified with the understanding that they were preliminary and required a considerable amount of public vetting including passing a feasibility analysis by the City Administrative Office (CAO).

Councilman David Ryu presented these sites in a press release/email announcement in early August 2018. Both locations, especially the location at Sepulveda Boulevard and Dickens Street, have met with a great deal of opposition by many residents who live near this site. Many of the concerns include crime, drug use, mental illness, traffic and a belief that these facilities will be unsecured and unsafe.

Councilman Ryu has, since his initial announcement of the sites, had a tremendous amount of outreach, holding several small group meetings and a large community-wide meeting held at Notre Dame High School on Thursday, September 20, 2018, attended by several hundred residents. At that community-wide meeting, the Councilman and his staff provided an overview of the process emphasizing that the two sites were just preliminary locations.

SOHA is responsive to the concerns of Sherman Oaks residents, especially the ones voiced by those who live nearest to the proposed two locations.

SOHA shares some of those concerns expressed, particularly Councilman Ryu's press release/email announcement that made it sound as if these sites had already been selected without the necessary community involvement. SOHA, however, believes that most concerns can be addressed while allowing the proposed development of the two locations to continue forward. SOHA believes that if it is determined that one or both sites are feasible, the Dickens site should be developed for a senior citizens only permanent supportive housing development and the Sepulveda south of Magnolia site be developed as bridge housing for families with children only. In this way, the community concerns will be mitigated, not only through good design and site planning, but also by limiting the homeless to certain demographics like seniors and families with children.

While the concerns voiced by those residents and stakeholders in opposition to the two locations are loud, angry and unrelenting, there are many voices in our community in support of helping provide local solutions to this housing crisis. While these voices in support are not loud nor angry, they are strong in their desire to find assistance for those less fortunate in our society as these homeless people are. The homeless throughout the City are in desperate need for our society to step up and provide local, state and federal solutions to this crisis. And, in the words of Councilman Mike Bonin of the City's Eleventh District, when he appeared on NBC's Dateline on August 19, 2018: "I get the frustration of the people who are angry about encampments in their neighborhoods. I absolutely get it. I have to walk my kid to school in the morning and there is often someone sleeping on the sidewalk. I get the frustration, but the solutions to homelessness can't be more objectionable than homelessness itself."

Finally, with a continuing community dialogue and comprehensive involvement by all residents and stakeholders within our area, Sherman Oaks will find a local solution that is agreeable to most and can hopefully be regarded as a model for other communities within the City of Los Angeles.

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Once again, showing the effectiveness of an organized group of residents concerned with the livability of their neighborhood, the residents of Sherman Oaks successfully objected to a zoning variance requested by a developer. The variance was requested for a property on Addison Street adjacent to Coldwater that now has one home. The developer wanted to construct six homes on the property, raising valid concerns over traffic and safety. Neighbors, along with representatives from SOHA, attended several Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council and Planning Department meetings voicing their concerns. Their involvement resulted in SONC indicating it would recommend to the City Planning Department that the variance be denied. This is a great victory for that neighborhood!

* * *

A committee has been formed on a proposed development called the Sherman Oaks Square to be located on the lot now occupied by the In-N-Out Burger restaurant. There will be no change to In-N-Out; The developer is proposing to add an additional story to the existing buildings for offices. In addition, a three-story parking structure on the east side of the lot adjacent to Sylmar Avenue is being proposed.

The committee is chaired by Marshall Long and includes Bob Anderson and Tom Glick. The steps ahead for the project: Project Permit Compliance with the Ventura Cahuenga Specific Plan. There is no public hearing required, Department of Transportation analysis of traffic, reviewing new impacts only, parking compliance with the Specific Plan, CEQA clearance, Findings must be made for compliance with the Specific Plan. The major issue at the site is currently traffic and ingress along Van Nuys Boulevard and Moorpark Avenue.

* * *

Sherman Oaks Beautification Committee is pleased to announce a Community Clean-up Day on Sunday, November 4, 2018 on the border of Sherman Oaks and Encino. Volunteers will meet at 9:00 a.m. in front of the Sherman Oaks Galleria where they will be cleaning up the underpass of the 405 freeway at Ventura Boulevard and going along each side of the 405 freeway and then out spotting other locations in Sherman Oaks and Encino that need attention. Lunch will be served. Community Service credit will be granted upon request. For questions and confirmation, email sirbrianpatton@gmail.com or leslie@villageatshermanoaks.com.

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Save the date for the 28th Annual Sherman Oaks Street Fair on Sunday, October 21, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Ventura Blvd from Van Nuys Boulevard to Kester Avenue. This year's event introduces some new attractions including a ZipLine, Casa Rica Tequila tasting, Kriser's Pet fun zone and an Artisan area with juried art. The event will again feature two live stages, a cocktail lounge, a Carnival, a Pet Adoption, a Climbing Wall, food trucks, delicious food and over 200 booths. Free parking will be provided and a shuttle available at IMT Sunkist, 14130 Riverside Drive at Hazeltine Avenue. For more information, email info@shermanoakschamber.org or call (818) 906-1951.

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Mark on your calendar that the November Meeting will take place on the second Wednesday of November (November 14) rather than the normal third Wednesday of the month.

Very truly yours,



Richard H. Close, President