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SHERMAN OAKS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

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**LAPD Deputy Chief Kris Pitcher
Commander of the Valley
Strategic Direction For The Police Department**

COMMUNITY MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2019 - 7:15 PM
NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL • RIVERSIDE & WOODMAN, SHERMAN OAKS

The featured speaker at our January 16, 2018 meeting will be Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Deputy Chief Kris Pitcher. He has been a member of the LAPD for 24 years and has worked in a variety of assignments throughout the years. Currently, he is the Commander for all police department activity for the San Fernando Valley. The Valley Bureau has a population of approximately 1,400,000 and covers 226 square miles.

Deputy Chief Pitcher has a very analytical approach to policing activities for the Valley. He will discuss his innovative approach to policing and how it will benefit Sherman Oaks residents.

Jules Feir announces that The Great Greek will be the Restaurant of the Month. Located at 13362 Ventura Boulevard, this premiere Greek restaurant which was established in 1984 is owned by Vicki West and managed by Dionisi Arakilisianos. The Great Greek is one of the most popular restaurants in Los Angeles.

They offer world class music and the best in contemporary Greek cuisine in an inviting and friendly environment. Many restaurant critics including Yelp have given a 4-plus star rating to The Great Greek.

We look forward to enjoying a sample of their food during our Social Hour that starts at 6:15 pm.

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Our 20th Annual Toy Drive was a great success! A record number of toys were collected for the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services. The Agency held a Holiday event for foster children and the toys you donated were the only ones distributed at the event.

Thanks to the following officials for attending the event: City Attorney Michael Feuer, our Councilman David Ryu, Councilman Paul Koretz, and LAPD Chief Michel Moore.

Many thanks to Jules Feir (Chairman of the Event), Matt Epstein (fantastic antique cars to hold the toys), Chuck Betz, Goodway Printing and, of course, Marshall Long (Santa Claus). Special thanks to Gelson's for use of their parking lot, their advertising of the event and the foods and drinks provided to everyone. Police and Fire equipment and a trash truck were there for children to explore. Also, a special thank you to Council Deputy Daniel Eyal for arranging the City equipment and personnel.

* * *

Maria Kalban reports: Senate Bill SB 827 that was defeated last year has been reintroduced as SB 50. As you might recall, SB 827 would have allowed 4 to 5-story apartment buildings in single-family neighborhoods in areas within a 1/2 mile radius of transit stops – transit-rich communities. This new bill not only identifies Transit-Rich corridors for more density, but also now identifies Job-Rich areas as well. What does that mean to us? It means any community identified as having jobs, higher-income residents, and good schools would now be open for 4-story apartment buildings in single-family neighborhoods.

The SOHA Committee is researching this bill and will be composing a letter to be sent to Sacramento as soon as the bill is assigned to a Senate Committee. We have been meeting with Senator Bob Hertzberg throughout the year regarding our concerns and our ideas for more housing. The committee has also reached out to other Homeowner Associations in the Valley to fight this bill together.

* * *

Jay Weitzler indicates that in response to local outcry, the Bob Hope Burbank Airport has asked the FAA to allow a new path for takeoffs in an attempt to reduce the noise we are all hearing. Additionally, Councilman David Ryu specifically, and the Los Angeles City Council generally, have written a letter to the FAA demanding that the flight paths be altered to reduce the frequency of takeoffs and the noise and pollution descending upon Sherman Oaks.

It also appears that the FAA, in response to massive local objections to their new flight paths, will conduct an Environmental Assessment before finalizing any changes, a process that may take from 12 to 18 months. The two organizations spearheading the opposition against the takeoffs in our neighborhood are Uproar, L.A., co-founded by SOHA member Christine Kim, and the Studio City For Quiet Skies group, both of which are diligently working to protect our peace, health and neighborhood tranquility.

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The Processes and Procedures Ordinance is City Planning Department's first public attempt to unveil its comprehensive revisions to the City's Zoning Code, as known as re:code LA. This draft is the first part of a multi-part effort, which began in 2013, to give the Code, originally adopted in 1946, a new, modern look and feel or as the City's webpage states: "Shape the future of Los Angeles by shaping the future Zoning Code."

The draft Processes and Procedures Ordinance was part of an almost 1,000 page staff report that was enthusiastically approved by City Planning Commission in October 2018 and is pending review and adoption by the Los Angeles City Council.

However, this first attempt at a simplified Code has been met with skepticism and distrust by many established and well-respected community organizations throughout the City. Many of its opponents see this first attempt as a "power grab" by City Planning to reduce the abilities of communities to get involved in the review of proposed developments.

Many feel that the City Planning's approach by presenting the new Code in parts piece-meals the processes making the comprehensive revisions harder to understand and by definition, not transparent.

The fact that the staff report to City Planning Commission was almost 1,000 pages lends to this belief. SOHA is working with our elected representatives, including Councilman David Ryu, to make sure any revisions to the Zoning Code are not detrimental to interests of our Members.

* * *

Homelessness Committee: At our November 2018 meeting, Councilman David Ryu announced that both identified sites in Sherman Oaks for either permanent supportive housing or bridge housing were not feasible to develop. Councilman Ryu also announced at the meeting that his office has been approached by a housing developer interested in developing a site for homeless in Sherman Oaks but, at present, no announcement has been made by Councilman Ryu's office as to the location, developer, or any specific project details. We continue to pledge our support to helping the City find solutions within our community to help combat homelessness.

* * *

The Ernie's Walk Beautification Committee was formed by Sean Kurzweil concerning the lack of upkeep of Ernie's Walk next to the Los Angeles River in Sherman Oaks. The Committee decided on a planting project on city land that is along the curb of Valleyheart Drive (between Cedros and Kester Avenues).

Councilman David Ryu has obtained mulch (which was obtained from the city's Parks and Recreational Department) and large stones to the harden barren areas of soil along the curb. Councilman Ryu's office has also requested additional trash cans for the curbside area and new LED lights will be added to a few of the empty poles. Councilman Ryu's office has ordered additional signage to remind people to keep their dogs on leashes and not to dump on the city land.

Sean Kurzweil reached out to the Beverly Hills City Architect to learn more about needed additional lighting. She provided information about lighting that Beverly Hills has installed on the walking/jogging path along Santa Monica Boulevard. The lighting poles are about two-feet high and could be a solution to lighting the curbside along Valleyheart and Ernie's Walk.

The Committee is looking for more volunteers. If you want to help, email us at soha914@gmail.com.

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As you may have seen in a recent issue of the Los Angeles Times, the Boring Company has finished their first mockup of the smaller subway that they are proposing to construct. The Los Angeles Times photographs show the narrowness of their tunnel design, which is about half the diameter of the proposed Metro design. Bob Anderson, Jay Weitzler and Marshall Long made an initial visit to the working end of the construction project and were impressed with many of the innovations that they had introduced. One was to collect the dirt that was excavated from the tunnel and compress it into a version of a concrete block, which could be used for construction. The project is in its early stages and there are a number of engineering challenges to be addressed, but it is impressive what progress has been made.

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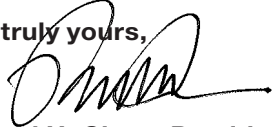
Jay Weitzler has some Good News for Sherman Oaks. According to LAPD SLO Jose Saldana, 2018 will end with a decrease in Property Crimes of 8% and a 4.88% decrease in Violent Crime from last year. The best way to avoid becoming a victim is to remove all valuables from your car every time you leave it. Finally, please know that, Nextdoor.com, Twitter, and your SLO's City cell phone/email is not for reporting crimes or for generating radio calls. For non-emergencies call 1-877-ASK-LAPD (1-877-275-5273), and for emergencies dial 911.

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At the end of its 2018 legislative session, our Councilman David Ryu reports that the Los Angeles City Council passed regulations on short-term rentals. These regulations allow a 120-day cap on primary residence home-sharing, better enforcement of Councilman Ryu's party house ordinance, and control the unruly Airbnb rentals that have been popping up throughout Sherman Oaks.

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Visit the Association's Website at www.shermanoaks914.com. Have you seen the website recently? Click the Current Development tab. See the status of development projects in Sherman Oaks.

Very truly yours,

Richard H. Close, President