

"Together we have clout!"

★ ★ COMMUNITY MEETING AND DEBATE ★ ★

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2024 - 7:15 PM — SOCIAL HOUR/DINNER - 6:15 PM

SHERMAN OAKS EAST VALLEY ADULT CENTER • 5056 VAN NUYS BLVD

WHO SHOULD BE SHERMAN OAKS NEXT ASSEMBLYMEMBER?

THIS IS THEIR FIRST AND MAYBE ONLY DEBATE

Tony Rodriguez



THE ISSUES

- Eliminating Local Homelessness
- Addressing Climate Change
- Reducing Education Costs
- Improving Public Safety
- Fixing California's Unfriendly Business Environment
- Protecting Residential Neighborhoods

Nick Schultz



Tony Rodriguez knows it's time to elect someone who's not a career politician – someone who has managed a budget and believes that individuals and families should supersede the desires of lobbyists – someone who brings common sense solutions to our state's problems. Tony is a 25+ year US Army Veteran. He promises to focus on parental rights, public safety, and small businesses that feel they have been abandoned and left voiceless by the majority of legislators who've forgotten who they work for.

Tony knows it's essential to respect differing viewpoints and work toward solutions that balance the values of our diverse society – because political policies change through democratic processes and public engagement. He is a former member of the State Disability Board for the Self-Determination Program, and member of the American Legion and West Valley Warner Center Chamber of Commerce.

Nick Schultz earned his Bachelors and Juris Doctor degrees from the University of Oregon. He's currently a Deputy Attorney General with the California Dept. of Justice, where he investigates and prosecutes local, state, and federal criminal cases primarily related to public corruption, officer-involved shootings, human trafficking, mortgage fraud, tax evasion, and other financial fraud. Before that, he was elected to the Burbank City Council with strong support from organized labor and firefighters.

As Burbank councilmember and mayor, he helped pass the city's most robust greenhouse gas reduction plan, reduce the city's homeless population by nearly 10%, and reduce crime by 10%. He advocates for housing affordability and voted for more than 1,000 new housing units in Burbank, including more housing for low- and very low-income Californians than had been created over the past ten years.

Our current Assemblymember Laura Friedman will provide a short summary of the recent legislative session before the debate. Learn the fate of key bills prepared by the state legislature this year. Phil Shuman of Fox 11 News will moderate our debate. Email your questions for the candidates to SOHAZoomMtg@gmail.com no later than noon Tuesday October 17. Streaming starts at 7:15. The Zoom ID is 883 8725 1672 with passcode SOHA914. You can find the Zoom link on SOHA914.com, and we email it to members a day before the meeting. The meeting video will be available about a day after the meeting – search YouTube.com for "SOHA Community Meeting".

 RESTAURANT OF THE MONTH - SWEET BUTTER - SOHA SOCIAL HOUR @ 6:15 PM

A VISCIOUS LA REZONING BATTLE NOT FOR THE FAINT OF HEART!

by Maria Pavlou Kalban, Legislative Committee Chair

The process to approve the “Housing Element” document that rezones our City of Los Angeles is a long process. As we have reported, it started for us two years ago with Draft 1 of the Housing Element that had major areas of our single-family neighborhoods targeted for rezoning to allow apartments. We fought that first draft with community maps showing where we could add enough housing on our commercial corridors to meet the housing needs of our city while protecting existing residential areas. The Planning Department presented an updated Draft 2 at the end of June 2024 – it removed the rezoning of single-family and historic districts. SOHA supported Draft 2.

Then in July 2024 at a Zoning hearing to approve the Planning Department’s Draft 2, a large number of people organized by the pro-development group Abundant Housing complained that protecting these residential neighborhoods from development was socially unjust and racist, insisting that apartments be allowed in single-family neighborhoods. In September 2024, the Planning Department released Draft 3 – again our single-family neighborhoods were protected. However, unbeknown to us, Exhibit D on page 830 of the 2,050-page Draft 3 document offered seven options for rezoning single-family neighborhoods – the least restrictive option allowing apartments in any neighborhood. Draft 3 headed to the Planning Commission for approval on Thursday September 26 – ten days after being released to the public. The Planning Department’s staff report advocated for Draft 3 without the options to end single-family neighborhoods. However, the options were included in the report and the Planning Commission could include them should they wish.

At the Planning Commission hearing, more than 100 people spoke in favor of ending single-family neighborhoods – only ten of us were allowed speak in support of the draft without the single-family-neighborhood-destroying options before the allocated time for public comment ended. Because so many speakers demanded the options be considered, many Planning commissioners wavered on whether to include the options, but at the last moment passed Draft 3 with no options added. The Commission noted that the City Council would deal with this “options” issue.

Draft 3 now goes to the Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) Committee of the City Council and then to the full City Council for a final vote. We have already heard from some council offices that they are considering adding the options back into Draft 3. This would end single-family neighborhoods as we know them. At this point, if you care about neighborhoods – all neighborhoods – working class neighborhoods, Latino neighborhoods, Black neighborhoods, middle-class neighborhoods, wealthy neighborhoods – YOU NEED TO SPEAK UP NOW!

Adding apartments in single-family neighborhoods will not bring down the price of housing. Vancouver was among the first cities to add apartments in single-family neighborhoods – and years later they found that house prices continued to climb.

Los Angeles needs to fund affordable housing which will require more funding than the city has. This is why the city keeps giving away more and more “incentives” to private developers – hoping these can “solve” the city’s affordable housing problem. But developers build to make a profit and building needed affordable housing is not economically feasible for them. The city is even willing to needlessly end our single-family neighborhoods to get developers to build apartments. There are solutions – but pro-development groups that want single-family neighborhoods rezoned drown out more nuanced voices. Even Mayor Bass – who has always praised our Sherman Oaks housing study – stays pretty quiet about protecting single-family homeowners.

Keep an eye out for our email blasts as this process advances rapidly over the next few weeks. And please be part of the solution and make your voice heard. Opening up single-family neighborhoods should be discussed publicly with input from everyone in LA – not determined by a group of well-paid lobbyists. Stick with us. This is not for the faint of heart.

IF YOU’RE NOT A SOHA MEMBER YET, PLEASE JOIN

It’s only \$45 per year. Go to www.SOHA914.com and click “JOIN OR RENEW SOHA” to pay by credit card – or mail a check with your name, address, and email to:
SOHA Membership, PO Box 5223, Sherman Oaks, CA 91413-5223

By Jane Kaplan, Restaurant Chair – From the moment that they opened close to 15 years ago Sweet Butter Kitchen’s word of mouth success has always remained a constant in our community. We are thrilled to confirm that Sweet Butter will be our October Restaurant of the Month. Opening Sweet Butter Kitchen occurred simply because founder Leslie Danelian was tired of seeing an empty graffitied space at 13824 Ventura Blvd with a sign that read “Restaurant Opening Soon”. So, in 2010 after both of her kids left home for college she opened Sweet Butter. She had worked as a personal chef and caterer, as well as a recipe writer. She decided to take a chance and open her first restaurant. It was an immediate success. People were raving from the start about the food at Sweet Butter, and they’re still raving.

Sadly, five years after opening Sweet Butter, Leslie succumbed to cancer. Leslie’s daughter Emily and son Andrew are now running the business and have for close to 10 years with great success. The quality of their food has always been top of the line. They use only the best ingredients. People crave their brussel sprouts salad, croque monsieur, soups, amazing salads, fantastic omelets, sandwiches, and amazing desserts. The food is great, the baked goods are great, and it’s all homemade. We are very lucky to have this restaurant gem in Sherman Oaks. I love this place and am very much looking forward to having them as a Restaurant of the Month!

NEIGHBORHOOD COMINGS AND GOINGS

by Matt Epstein, President

Sherman Oaks is leveling up its game, and who would’ve guessed it’s becoming quite the posh little haven? Believe it or not, we now have not just one, but two stores exclusively dedicated to caviar! Yes, you heard that right – caviar! One of these gems is a chic caviar boutique nestled on Ventura Boulevard near Woodman, and now Pava Caviar has opened its elegant doors closer to Fulton on Ventura at 13259 Ventura Blvd. Caviar aficionados rejoice—our once humble neighborhood is stepping into some seriously fancy territory. www.pavacaviar.com

I’m loving this transformation! Back in the day, if I ever craved caviar (which, let’s be honest, was pretty rare), I’d have to make the trek to Gelson’s or Grandma’s deli in Studio City. But now? We’re covered – caviar cravings can be satisfied locally with no extra travel required. Talk about convenient decadence!

On the flip side, though, if you were a fan of Public School 818’s tasty bites, I’ve got some bittersweet news. Sadly, they’ve closed their doors. But don’t despair, because as one door closes, another one opens, and I will keep you posted soon on who is moving into their spot!

Panini Kebab Grill has moved in at Fashion Square, right across from the parking structure. If you’re like me and can’t resist a good panini, this is definitely a silver lining worth savoring.

Speaking of exciting new arrivals, remember Red Window Coffee? That tiny but beloved coffee hut at the front of the Iroha parking lot has made the big leap to a full-fledged brick-and-mortar shop! It’s now located in Sherman Oaks at 13365 Ventura Blvd, near Menchie’s. They started small but quickly grew, winning over locals with their perfectly brewed coffee and delicious pastries. It’ll be fun to see how this cozy spot evolves in its new home. Here’s hoping they keep thriving!

Have you spotted the stunning new building at 13460 Ventura near Sunnyslope? Three new businesses are setting up shop there, each offering a little something special. First, there’s LASH, likely catering to those who want to perfect their lash game with extensions, lifts, and perms. Then we have The Alchemist Salon, a welcoming haven where getting your hair done feels more like a laid-back hangout with friends. Their motto? Sit back, unwind, and get pampered. And finally, there’s Lynx Coffee, which aims to become your next go-to spot for that perfect cup of coffee. With so many new coffee brands popping up, it’s all about finding the one that hits the spot for you!

As for Donny’s Spicy Wings and Fries, and Donny’s Breakfast Spot located between Nagle and Dixie on the south side of the street, it seems like these much-anticipated openings are still on pause for now. Fingers crossed they’ll sort things out soon, because who doesn’t love a good local wing joint?

Our little slice of the Valley is always changing, always growing, and that’s what makes it so exciting. If you hear of anything new or noteworthy, don’t hesitate to share it with me – I love keeping up with the pulse of our vibrant community!

MAYOR BASS AT OUR NOVEMBER 20 MEETING

LA Mayor Karen Bass will give her update on LA - Don't Miss It!

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IN THIS ISSUE OF SOHA NEWS

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Determine who should be Sherman Oaks next
Assemblymember, at their first and maybe only debate! ◀

▶ **Find out about the vicious rezoning battle that's not for**
the faint of heart, and discover some exciting
new restaurants and services coming to our neighborhood! ◀