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L A Fire Chief Ralph Terrazas:

- *The New San Fernando Valley Bureau**
- *Reducing Response Times**
- *Revising Recruitment Procedures**

COMMUNITY MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2015 - 7:15 PM
NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL
RIVERSIDE & WOODMAN, SHERMAN OAKS

The new Los Angeles City Fire Chief, Ralph Terrazas, will be the guest speaker at our Wednesday evening, March 18, 2015 Meeting. He was appointed by Mayor Garcetti after there were complaints about questionable response time statistics. The new Chief has now reorganized the Department and created four Bureaus. One of the Bureau's is located in Sherman Oaks and will be in charge of the San Fernando Valley. Deputy Chief Daryl Arbuthnott is in charge of the Valley Bureau.

Response times are of particular importance because 80% of the calls for service for the Fire Department are medical related. Every moment that is delayed can have adverse and/or fatal consequences.

Attend our March 18, 2015 Meeting and discuss with the Chief your questions and concerns about the operation of the Los Angeles Fire Department and their emergency medical program.

Jules Feir is proud to announce that "The Great Greek" will be the Restaurant of the Month. Opened in its current location at Ventura Boulevard and Dixie Canyon in 1984, this very popular restaurant is managed by Dionisi Araklisianos along with his long time chef/manager Andy Arwanda. It is one of the most successful restaurants in the Valley.

Over the years they have won numerous review awards and deservedly so. Some of their popular menu items are the Classic Greek Salads, traditional Avgolemono Soup, Mediterranean Pastas, Hellenic Plate specialties including Seafood and Lamb. And, of course, the Feast they made famous.

If that is not enough, you can enjoy live entertainment and dancing with your dinner and full bar. Enjoy a sampling of their delicious foods during our Social Hour that starts at 6:15 p.m.

Marshall Long, Jay Weitzler and Kimberlee Gerston met with Jeremy Byk, the design team for IMT, and liaison Ira Handelman to review revised plans for the redevelopment of the Sunkist property. IMT has been listening to the concerns of the community and have made some improvements to the original design. These include a proposed widening in the entrance corridor off of Riverside Drive by 75 feet. Additional space has been added for truck loading and unloading for the market and commercial areas. The buildings facing Calhoun Avenue have been stepped back from the street. The number of residential units has been reduced by nine.

We are looking forward to seeing the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) which will be released in the coming months and provide insight on how the traffic will impact the corner of Riverside Drive and Hazeltine Avenue and the surrounding thoroughfares and intersections.

Due to the anticipated significant negative traffic impacts on nearby streets, additional reductions in units are needed. There also needs to be parking and unloading areas for moving vans, etc.

A developer has purchased an existing 167 unit apartment structure on Weddington Street, between Sepulveda Boulevard and the 405 Freeway, north of the 101 Freeway. The intent is to tear down the existing structure and build another multi-family building of 200 units. The application was filed on December 30, 2014 to avoid new limitations which went into effect this past January. This will have a large impact on the existing residents. We are working with Jonathan Brand of Councilman Tom LaBonges' office on the project.

Residents of Sherman Oaks and all of Los Angeles County will soon have a way to officially

remove, and \$2.00 per square foot after that. There are rules on what you can replace the lawn with and how you irrigate it. There are also special rules for a parkway, if you have one (that strip of lawn between the street and sidewalk). The most important rule is that you need to get pre-approval before you start by providing photos of your existing lawn and estimates of your lawn's square footage. It's not hard to do, and pre-approval typically takes only a couple of weeks, which gives you time to line up a landscaper to do the work.

Take lots of photos as you proceed to prove everything that you did. The great news is that you can save hundreds and even thousands of gallons of water each month, which is a lot of showers. The bad news is that many lawn replacements cost more than the rebate you will receive, and you do not get that rebate payment until your replacement is completed and approved.

If you have any questions, email them to soha914@gmail.com or ask SOHA's Bob Anderson at the next meeting.

In February, the City Attorney's Office obtained an animal cruelty conviction against a Sherman Oaks woman. Georgeanne Leong, 54, had nearly 250 chickens, 21 ducks, and 4 guinea pigs inside her 1,400 square foot home in Sherman Oaks.

During a second visit last October, investigators from the Department of Animal Services found a duck which Leong admitted to performing an operation on without anesthesia, resulting in an infection.

Leong was sentenced to a 48-session animal cruelty counseling program and 60 days of community labor. She also cannot own or care for any animals or participate in any animal rescue activities for 3 years. "Our animals should be cherished, and my office takes protecting their welfare and safety very seriously," said Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer. "Animal hoarding often results in horrendous conditions that threaten the health and safety of animals and humans alike. We will continue to vigorously prosecute these cases." Deputy City Attorney Tamar Galatzan prosecuted the case. The first round of the election for a new Los Angeles City Council Member is over.

The runoff between the top two candidates from the March 3, 2015 election to represent Sherman Oaks will be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2015.

If you did not vote,

If you want to Vote by Mail, it is easy. For each election you will receive a ballot by mail.

To sign up to Vote by Mail, go to the County website: www.lavote.net/documents/permanent-vote-by-mail-application.pdf. (Email us at soha914@gmail.com if you have a problem printing the County form and we will email you a PDF copy). Print the form, fill it in and mail it to the address indicated. This is the easiest way to make sure that you vote.

Are you concerned about McMansions? There are houses being built in Sherman Oaks and in other areas of the City that are out of scale for the neighborhood.

Are you concerned there will be a house built next to you or behind your home that towers over your house and yard? Are you concerned about the loss of privacy from a McMansion?

The City of Los Angeles adopted a Baseline Mansionization Ordinance in 2008 and a Hillside Mansionization Ordinance in 2011 to restrict the size of single family dwellings citywide. However, both ordinances contain loopholes that permit out of scale homes. The City is considering amending both ordinances to close some of the loopholes. However, it may take years before the City acts. In the meantime, many smaller homes are being demolished and replaced by McMansions. Councilmember Koretz is proposing an Interim Control Ordinance (ICO) to close some loopholes in several Westside neighborhoods. An ICO provides short term protection for a neighborhood pending citywide action.

Should our Councilmember propose an ICO for parts of Sherman Oaks although the ICO process itself could take 6-12 months? Please provide us with your opinion at soha914@gmail.com.

Do you receive our email updates? If not, we do not have your email address. Email it to us at soha914@gmail.com. If you would like to see snippets from our past Meetings, go to www.youtube.com and search officialSOHAvideo to see portions of the Meeting.

Very truly yours,



Richard H. Close, President