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SHERMAN OAKS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

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District Attorney Jackie Lacey

*The Challenges of Prosecuting Sexual Assault Cases

COMMUNITY MEETING

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2018 - 7:15 PM

NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL • RIVERSIDE & WOODMAN, SHERMAN OAKS

Our featured speaker at our August meeting will be Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey. She has been District Attorney since December 2012 and oversees a department of approximately 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 staff members. The office prosecutes roughly 183,000 cases per year with more than 71,000 of those cases consisting of felony charges.

District Attorney Lacey has been a longstanding member of the District Attorney's executive management team. Since 2004 she has reviewed almost every major case involving public corruption, police misconduct, organized crime and complex fraud. She is a well-respected leader and has overseen the development of several groundbreaking crime-fighting initiatives. These initiatives include the nation's first Animal Cruelty Prosecution Program, the Graffiti Prosecution Program and the Project Safe Neighborhoods Gun Prosecution Program.

District Attorney Lacey will discuss controversial questions concerning prosecution of cases such as allegations of sexual assault and police shooting. Most people do not understand the process that the District Attorney needs to follow in deciding which cases should be prosecuted.

Learn first-hand how the District Attorney's office makes their determinations especially when decisions can be controversial and unpopular.

Curious about what's happening at the Sunkist site? Board Member Nancy Sogolian is pleased to announce that IMT (developer/owners of the Sunkist site) will be at SOHA's August 15 meeting to show our community the current design for its Sunkist Project.

A PowerPoint presentation will illustrate the design at inception, the changes made, and how it looks today, after the significant improvements contributed by SOHA's Sunkist Committee, and the added input of the Neighborhood Council (SONC) along with the terrific support of our Councilman David Ryu and his Senior Chief of Planning, Renee Weitzer.

As a result of SOHA's focus on reducing negative impacts (like traffic) and our contribution of major design changes to help create a development that better fits the site and the neighborhood, incorporated with SONC's contributions increasing greenspace and improving aesthetics, via this joint community input, the project looks to be a vastly more beneficial addition to Sherman Oaks – and we thank IMT for its cooperation to that end. Attend our August 15 meeting and bring your neighbors!

Jules Feir announces that Gelson's Market will be the Restaurant of the Month. Gelson's has served Sherman Oaks since 1999. Known for their best-in-class fresh meats and seafood, great tasting produce, chef-created salads and entrees from their kitchen, and delightful floral arrangements. Gelson's also offers a full array of groceries for the discerning shopper. In addition, their very popular carving cart features fresh carved delicious turkey, prime rib and ham.

We look forward to enjoying some of their delicious foods during our Social Hour that begins at 6:15 pm. We thank them for their continued community support at the August Meeting and each year with the SOHA annual Toy Drive.

Congratulations to Michel Moore our new Chief of Police for the City of Los Angeles! Chief Moore is a 36 year veteran of LAPD and has risen through the ranks of the Department as a police officer, detective, sergeant, lieutenant and captain before taking on various high command roles.

On July 3, 2018, the Homelessness Committee sent a letter to Councilman David Ryu supporting the position of the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council on identifying two key locations within the Sherman Oaks community for either temporary/bridge housing or permanent supportive housing.

Both locations were researched and vetted in the community at various events.

The site identified for permanent supportive housing is a 20,000 square-foot lot located at 13514 Dickens Street and is currently a City parking lot. This site could be developed with 40-50 units. The other site, initially identified for bridge housing, has no address but is adjacent to the north side of Fire Station 88 located at 5101 Sepulveda Boulevard.

This site is currently vacant, approximately 22,000 square feet and owned by the US Army Corp of Engineers. Both sites are good locations in close proximity to both transit and commercial/retail services, but not near any established residential areas. The letter urged the City to move forward on the next steps towards acquiring and developing these sites.

Marshall Long is exploring unusual low income housing solutions currently being used in other areas of the Country. These fall into several categories including the 1) use of innovative materials, 2) preexisting structures, 3) purpose built developments and 4) other approaches.

Bob Anderson reports that Metro is currently studying six rapid transit concepts through the Sepulveda Pass and the Valley portion of every concept is located almost entirely in Sherman Oaks. Some of the concepts are very good – such as a fully underground heavy rail subway from the Orange Line at Van Nuys Boulevard and Oxnard Street to the Westside (and eventually LAX). Some are not so good – such as a much less costly aerial monorail running above Sepulveda Boulevard through the heart of Sherman Oaks.

SOHA's position is simple. First, we want the highest-capacity transit system that can actually significantly reduce the 412,000 daily drivers that travel on the I-405 through the Sepulveda Pass. Second, we will only support a system that is fully underground within our community boundaries and will strongly fight against any system that has any street-level or aerial segments in Sherman Oaks.

SOHA has already submitted 41 comments to Metro on this Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project. Our comments detail why the project needs high capacity, SOHA concerns with each Metro concept, the criticality of using the lowest possible tunnel cost metrics (including those for Elon Musk's tunnel technology at his Boring Company), and how Metro could improve transparency for their public comment process. SOHA plans to submit further comments on the project.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please email them to Bob Anderson at BobHillsideOrdinance@roadrunner.com.

Maria Pavlou Kalban reports her SB 827 Committee continues to fight against the intent of Senate Bill 827 that would have allowed 4-5 story apartment buildings to be built in single family residential neighborhoods. SOHA helped defeat the bill, but understands similar legislation will be reintroduced. Members of the committee met with Senator Robert Hertzberg in July to talk about possible ways to solve the housing shortage without destroying single family residential neighborhoods. This was a long and productive meeting. There will be a follow up meeting in the fall. Senator Hertzberg continues to be a great advocate for our community.

Our Councilman Ryu reports that the Department of Transportation has installed new crosswalks near Dixie Canyon Elementary School, at the intersection of Dixie Canyon Avenue and Ventura Boulevard. This updated crosswalk will help local families be safer as they walk their children to school in the morning.

During the Council recess, Councilman Ryu and LA Family Housing have been planning a Homeless Connect Day at the Van Nuys-Sherman Oaks Park Recreation Center to be held on Thursday, August 23, 2018. This event will connect individuals and families struggling with homelessness to services and solutions, and is a key step toward ending our City's homelessness crisis. For more information, visit davidryu.lacity.org or email CD4.issues@lacity.org.

Lilli, our Social Media Director since 2016, has recently graduated Notre Dame High School in Sherman Oaks and will attend the University of Washington in Seattle this fall. While SOHA is sad to see her go, we are happy she is making her way onto greater things. She plans to stop by Meetings and visit when she is in town.

SOHA is excited to welcome Norte Dame High School student Maria as our new Social Media Director. At Notre Dame, Maria has participated in journalism classes, photography, Varsity Lacrosse, and multiple empowerment clubs making her a great choice for the position. Maria will be making her way around Sherman Oaks, writing, interviewing and posting on our Facebook page – so look forward to meeting her shortly.

Our September Meeting is on a special date – the second Wednesday of the month, September 12. Please mark it on your calendar. August Meeting – the regular third Wednesday of the month. September Meeting – the second Wednesday of the month.

Very truly yours,



Richard H. Close, President