



Motion to Write a Letter to the L.A. Co. Agricultural Commissioner Requesting Removal of Poison Bait Traps until Proper Use Established.

Agenda Item: GB012110-3
Date: November 19, 2009
Proposed By: Paula Waxman

Summary

Steve Coker, a resident of the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council region, discovered that the L.A. County Agricultural Commission has set unmonitored poison bait traps along both sides of the I-10 freeway which could pose a threat to humans, pets, and wildlife.

Full Proposal

Mr. Coker has done his homework on this issue. He has been authorized by Caltrans to take care of the freeway border along our neighborhood, on the south side of I-10 for 15 years now and has been entrusted with keys that give him access to this area. He discovered the traps set in August and, as time passed, realized that they were not being monitored or cared for. He researched the dangers of the poison bait through the manufacturer, called the city agencies involved and concluded that there was a problem.

Proposed Motion

Kurt E. Floren
Los Angeles Co. Agricultural Commissioner
Director of Weights and Measures
12300 Lower Azusa Road
Arcadia, CA 91006-5872

Dear Mr. Floren:

It has come to the attention of the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council (representing about 40,000 residents) that, on or about August 19, 2009, your department installed more than a dozen Rodent Control Bait Stations in a portion of our neighborhood. With permission from the CA Dept. of Transportation (Caltrans), these traps were installed in the landscaped area on both sides of the Santa Monica (I-10) freeway, between National Blvd. and Cattaraugus Ave.

According to Caltrans, the request for these Bait Stations came from the CA Environmental Health Services Dept. However, the bait stations have labels identifying your department as the owners. One of our stakeholders spoke with a member of your staff, who acknowledged that your department installed them. This employee answered a number of questions concerning the bait, the traps, their history, general use, and potential risks to neighborhood residents, their pets, and wildlife. All of this information was forwarded to the South Robertson Neighborhood Council's Green Team Committee. The labels on the traps identify the type of bait

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used as .005% Bromadiolone- a concentration frequently used for rodent control. There is information about it available on at least one manufacturer's website.

No government agency, elected official or city representative has informed the stakeholders in the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council region that there might be a rodent problem in the area and that poison traps would be installed. In addition, we are not aware of any education program going on, nor have we been asked to be a part of any such program. Vermin infestation seems to be a problem in which preventative measures would help. We conduct outreach education with residents on a regular basis, but only when we know there is a problem and how to mitigate it.

Questions and concerns:

- What is the extent of the problem that this poison bait is trying to address?
- Was there a problem reported at the specific location of the traps?
- Would mechanical traps be a better solution than poison bait? (Would pets or wildlife get trapped?)
- What would prevent a domestic animal, such as a cat or a dog, from feeding off poisoned animals that consumed the bait?
- There is no regularly scheduled maintenance/inspections of the devices, according to the marking flags on the trees they are mounted to.
- There is no scheduled trap or dead rodent removal date or method of removal.
- There is no monitoring of vermin levels before/after bait installation..
- There is no known monitoring of unwanted problems caused by the bait traps (such as dead pets or wildlife).
- There is no mechanism to report problems with the bait traps.
- There are insufficient warning labels.
- There are unlocked freeway gates and broken fencing allowing people/animals unrestricted access to the traps.

It would appear that manufacturer's warnings (monitoring, label warnings, protection of non target species, proper trap handling and disposal, etc.) are not being heeded. **Until our questions and concerns are addressed, we would like to formally request that all of these bait traps be removed immediately.**

If the traps are safe and effective, several months have passed since their installation. Therefore we see no need for them to remain. If they are not safe and effective, they should be removed. If you believe a problem still exists, we would like to know what the problem is and discuss additional measures you feel warranted.

In the future, when problems require poison bait traps, we would appreciate your department keeping Neighborhood Councils, city council members, or the general public, informed through outreach efforts. We would rather endorse and assist your efforts, than have to investigate, react to, and explain them to concerned stakeholders.

Thank you for all that you do on behalf of our neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Considerations

Pro

According to the manufacturer, unmonitored, poorly maintained bait traps pose a threat to humans, pets, and wildlife.

Con

Removing the traps might create a vermin problem that would pose a greater threat to the safety of the community.



Motion to approve 2010 General Board meeting calendar

Agenda Item: GB012110-4
Date: 21 January 2010
Proposed By: Doug Fitzsimmons

Summary

Motion to approve the attached 2010 General Board meeting date calendar.

Full Proposal

In an effort to allow full community and Board input into SORO NC's General Meeting dates, this motion seeks to establish an approved meeting calendar for 2010.

In the past, some stakeholders and Board members have expressed concern about meeting scheduling. The NC has endeavored to avoid conflicts with other events, holidays, and celebrations, but it hasn't always been possible. Opening the schedule to public discussion—while it still may not fully satisfy all parties—will ensure a more transparent process.

The attached schedule includes research on potential conflicts.

Proposed Motion

- I. To adopt the attached 2010 SORO NC General Board meeting schedule.
- II. This motion does not supersede any aspect or procedure set forth in the NC bylaws, particularly Article X, Special Board Meetings.

Considerations

Pro

Setting a yearly meeting calendar allows for community input into our schedule.

Con

The dates may still need to be amended as emergencies arise or if we are unable to secure a meeting location on those dates (however unlikely).

Meeting on a consistent date (i.e., the third Thursday of the month) may be more easily remembered by stakeholders.

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Board Notes

Votes For:

Against:

Abstain:

Proposed Amendments:



January 21

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (start) (Christian) First celebrated in 1908. The days of 18-25 January were originally chosen because they covered the days between the feast of St Peter and the feast of St Paul. Some churches and regions use a different week.

February 18**March 18****April 15**

14th is Birthday of Guru Nanak (Nanakshahi calendar), founder of the Sikh religion (14 April 1469). This festival is also currently celebrated according to the Lunar Calendar, but this may change. Hola Mohalla is also currently celebrated according to the Lunar Calendar, but this may change.

May 20

May 19th, Shavuot (1st day) (Jewish) Shavuot is a two-day festival that marks the time when the first harvest was taken to the Temple. Also known as the Festival of Weeks. Work is not permitted for the duration of the festival.

June 17**July 15**

St Swithin's Day (Christian) Swithin (or Swithun) was a Saxon bishop in the 9th century. Legend has it that the weather on his feast day, 15 July, will determine the weather for the next 40 days.

13-15 Ulambana (Obon) ** - Buddhist

August 19

Jamshedi Noruz (Shenshai) (Zoroastrian)

Zoroastrian New Year's Day in the Shenshai calendar.

September 16**October 21****November 18****December 16**

Ashura (Muslim) Islamic holy day observed on the 10th of the Islamic month of Muharram. Shi'ite Muslims regard it as a major festival marking the martyrdom of the Prophet's grandson, Hussein.



Motion for translation services for the 2010 SORO N.C. election

Agenda Item: GB012110-5

Date: January 21, 2009

Proposed By: Jon Liberman

Summary

To provide the N.C. with the option of providing translation services for our election.

Full Proposal

The Neighborhood Council has been requested by the City Clerk to determine whether it wants the option of translation ability for the upcoming election.

The City will translate specific enumerated forms at no cost (At-Poll voting instructions, Candidate filing form, Stakeholder registration form, Vote by Mail application, and/or Vote by Mail Instruction forms). The City will pay for translation of these forms into two enumerated languages upon approval of and completion of the NC Translation Request Form. There is no charge to the N.C. for this service.

The City will provide for up to two translators on Election Day at our polling place. These translators will be available to assist Stakeholders who are not fluent in English. We need to approve and complete the NC Election Day Language Assistance Request Form. There is a charge to the NC of \$50/language for this service.

There are significant numbers of SORO Stakeholders who could be affected. The SORO NC Executive Committee discussed this and decided to bring this item before the Board. We feel that the cost is reasonable and recommend use of the services for translation in Spanish and Farsi.

Proposed Motion

- I. To approve the motion as outlined above and to forward to the City Clerk requests for translation services in Spanish and Farsi.

Considerations

Pro

1. Recognizes a significant number

Con

1. None.

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of our Stakeholders may not be fluent in English.

2. Will increase participation in the electoral process.

Board Notes

Votes For:

Against:

Abstain:

Proposed Amendments:



Motion to approve up to \$2,700 for community outreach for 2010 SORO NC Board elections

Agenda Item: GB012110-6
Date: January 21, 2010
Proposed By: Roy Nwaiser, Chair, Ad Hoc Election Committee

Summary

Motion to approve up to \$3,000 for community outreach for 2010 SORO NC Board elections.

Full Proposal

At its December 17, 2009, Special Meeting, the Board approved a motion for community outreach for the 2010 SORO NC Board elections, designed to encourage a maximum number of individuals to submit applications during the January 11 to February 10 window. As stipulated in that motion, this motion covers steps and attendant costs to encourage a maximum number of SORO NC stakeholders to vote in the April 11th election:

1. Between February 19 and March 5, the City will duplicate and return to SORO NC 25,000 copies of the attached flyer (printed black/white, 8-1/2 x 11, 2-sided English/Spanish). Estimated cost: \$900
2. Between February 19 and March 18, lawn signs will be printed per the attached (2-sided, red print, English). Estimated cost: \$300
3. Between February 19 and April 1, Board members will ask CDs 5 and 10, local houses of worship, heads of neighborhood associations, and other relevant organizations to post notice of the elections in their newsletters. SORO NC will post information on its website, including links to the City's website for election information. Cost: \$0
4. Between March 22 and 26, a professional distribution company will deliver up to 20,000 copies of the flyer door-to-door to all homes and businesses within SORO NC boundaries. Estimated cost: \$1,400.
5. Between March 15 and 26, Board members will distribute—by email and door-to-door—flyers to houses of worship, schools, businesses and organizations within SORO, This includes up to 5,000 flyers to schools for students to take home. Cost: \$0
6. Between March 24 and 28, Board members will post the lawn signs in designated areas throughout SORO. Cost: \$0
7. On Thursday, April 1, starting at 6:30 p.m., Board members will host a Candidates' Forum at Hamilton High School Cafeteria. Cost (refreshments): \$100

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Proposed Motion

To approve up to \$2,700 for community outreach activities of (a) printing and distributing a flyer and lawn signs and (b) hosting a Candidates' Forum so applicants for the Board can address the community and respond to questions.

Considerations

Pro

Comprehensive outreach/
marketing plan to attract as many
voters as possible.

Plan attempts to reach all eligible
voters.

Plan uses multiple means of
communication to deliver
message.

Plan is cost effective for the
number of people it will reach.

Plan will increase community
awareness of SORO NC.

Plan is consistent with City
guidelines for NC election
outreach.

Con

\$2700 will not be available for
other worthwhile uses.

Board Notes

Votes For:

Against:

Abstain:

Proposed Amendments:

Vote and Be Heard!

Make a Difference in Our Community!

Vote for South Robertson Neighborhoods Councilmembers

Candidates' Forum: Thursday, April 1, 2010 – 6:30 p.m.

Election: Sunday, April 11, 2010 – 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

A Neighborhood Council is an officially recognized advisory body that is part of the Los Angeles Citywide Neighborhood Council (NC) System. The NC advocates and represents our community's wants and/or needs to local government officials and entities; builds partnerships with government so that government is more responsive to local needs; fosters a sense of community; and decides how to spend the City's annual financial allocation (\$45,000 this year) for priority community activities and projects. NC Board members help in outreach to community members; represent our community to government officials; and make decisions that will affect our community.

Who votes? Anyone age 15 and above, who lives, works, goes to school, or is a member of an organization within the South Robertson Neighborhoods boundaries (see www.soronc.org).

Vote-By-Mail (VBM) will be offered only to voters who physically are unable to go to the polling location due to disability and who affirm under penalty of perjury that they meet this requirement. Voters must call (213) 978-8050 to receive a VBM Application; those in need of TTY assistance dial 311. VBM applications must be submitted by Thursday, April 1, 2010.

Save These Dates:

April 1: Meet the Candidates at the Candidates' Forum

6:30 p.m. – Hamilton High School Cafeteria

2955 S. Robertson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90034

April 11: Vote for the Candidates of Your Choice

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. – Robertson Recreation Center

1641 Preuss Road, Los Angeles, CA 90035





www.soronc.org

www.lacityneighborhoods.com



Using the same format at the Run for Office lawn signs, the VOTE lawn signs would be in Fire Red with the following wording:

Vote

South Robertson Neighborhoods Council

ELECTIONS

**April 1: Candidate Forum 6:30 p.m.
Hamilton High School Cafeteria**

**April 11: Election 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Robertson Recreation Center**

www.soronc.org

Run For Office

South Robertson Neighborhoods Council

ELECTIONS

Candidate Information

January 14 and 25

6:30 p.m. Robertson Library

www.soronc.org



Nomination of Jon Liberman as SORO NC Representative to C-PAB

Agenda Item: GB012110-7

Date: January 21, 2010

Proposed By: Ann Hammond, Co-Chair, Public Safety Committee

Summary

Motion to appoint Jon Liberman the SORONC representative to C-PAB.

Full Proposal

At its meeting on October 15, 2009, the SORO NC Board decided in principle to appoint a representative to the West Los Angeles Community Police Advisory Board (C-PAB), and Board members were encouraged to express interest. At the Public Safety Committee meeting on November 10th, several possible representatives were considered. It was agreed at that Committee meeting that all Board members should be encouraged to join C-PAB if interested, but that only one SORO NC Board member should be designated as the official representative to ensure a single voice. In addition, it was agreed at the Committee meeting that the official SORO NC representative should not be representing any other constituency to avoid any potential for real or perceived conflict of interest.

At the November 2009 Board meeting, the Board asked the Committee to re-consider all Board members who had expressed interest in serving in this capacity. At its meeting on January 4, 2010, the Public Safety Committee did so, and decided to nominate Jon Liberman as the SORO NC representative to C-PAB. Jon has served SORO NC for many years in a number of different capacities, including several years as Chairman of the Public Safety Committee. He is fully familiar with community public safety issues and has a long history of effectively representing community interests with City policymakers and decisionmakers.

Proposed Motion

To appoint Jon Liberman to serve as SORO NC Representative to the West Los Angeles Community Police Advisory Board (C-PAB).

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Considerations

Pro

Would put onto the C-PAB Board an experienced NC Board member.

Would further strengthen SORO NC ties with community leaders in public safety issues.

Con

It would entail an additional investment of Jon's time.

Board Notes

Votes For:

Against:

Abstain:

Proposed Amendments:



Nomination of Terrence Gomes as alternate SORO NC Representative to C-PAB

Agenda Item: GB012110-8

Date: January 21, 2010

Proposed By: Ann Hammond, Co-Chair, Public Safety Committee

Summary

Motion to appoint Terrence Gomes as alternate SORONC representative to C-PAB.

Full Proposal

At its meeting on January 4, 2010, the Public Safety Committee decided to nominate an alternate SORO NC representative to C-PAB, who would attend C-PAB meetings in a representative capacity when the SORO NC representative was not able to do so. The rationale was that it should maximize the number of C-PAB meetings that a SORO NC representative would be in attendance (i.e. assuming that the representative may not be able to attend every meeting).

The Committee decided to nominate Terrence Gomes to serve in this capacity; he was the only other Board member who had expressed interest in serving as SORO NC representative to C-PAB. (Baila Romm had previously expressed interest but withdrew herself from consideration.) Terry has served SORO NC for many years in various capacities, including several years as Treasurer. He is familiar with community public safety issues and has a long history of representing community interests with City policymakers and decisionmakers.

Proposed Motion

To appoint Terry Gomes to serve as alternate SORO NC Representative to the West Los Angeles Community Police Advisory Board (C-PAB).

Considerations

Pro

Would designate an experienced NC Board member as official back-up to

Con

It would entail an additional investment of Terry's time.

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the Representative.

Would help to ensure official SORO NC representation at a maximum number of C-PAB meetings.

May cause some confusion as an alternate would attend some C-PAB meetings in a representational capacity (when the official representative was not in attendance) and other meetings not in a representational capacity (when the official representative was in attendance).

Board Notes

Votes For:

Against:

Abstain:

Proposed Amendments: