

SORO NC Board Applicant Statements

21 October 2010

Nick Burkhart

Candidate for Zone 7 Seat

Although I am a relatively new resident of Zone 7, I look forward to serving my new community with passion and experience. I would bring to this position several years of experience in municipal land use and environmental services planning, having previously served as a voting member of municipal commissions outside of the city of Los Angeles.

The following principles would drive my approach to community planning in South Robertson:

- Frequent interaction among neighbors of all backgrounds and ages, whether taking place on the sidewalks, inside local business, or at our parks, boosts community cohesion and creates a 'safety net' that helps to prevent or quickly respond to crime.
- Providing resources promoting environmentally sustainable living (Community Supported Agriculture programs, resource conservation, xeriscaping), promotes responsible citizenship and encourages community involvement.
- Economic development starts at home – I fully support the SOROCARD and any other endeavors that will encourage stakeholders to buy locally.
- All stakeholders, regardless of the mode of transit they choose, deserve access to safe and efficient transportation infrastructure.
- When considering new land use plans, mixed-use developments combining residential, commercial, and/or entertainment-oriented space offer tremendous benefits and ought to be given preference.

I am currently a Ph.D. student in Geography at UCLA, and I hold a B.S. from the School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning at Arizona State University.

Alexander Chavarria

Candidate for School 1 Seat

English

My name is Alexander Chavarria and I am seeking appointment to the School Seat position with the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council (SORONC). Although I do not currently live within the SORONC Boundaries, it is my 4th year attending Hamilton High School. From 2007 to 2009, I lived in Zone 4 with my family, an area of SORONC that has had a bad reputation. However, I am a product of Zone 4 and also proud to call myself a Hamilton Yankee.

I wish to show our community that students not just from Hamilton but all schools in the area work hard to improve their communities and I am an example of that. Through the skills I have gained participating in Hamilton's Student Government, mentoring 9th graders, and volunteering at Kaiser Permanente Hospital, I aim to use my talents for the betterment of all zones by representing students in SORONC.

After all, our schools mirror the diversity found in this great community which I still call home.

Español

Mi nombre es Alexander Chavarría y deseo que me nombren a la posición escolar del Consejo vecinal del sur de de Robertson (SORONC). A pesar de que no vivo actualmente dentro de los límites de SORONC, es mi cuarto año asistiendo a la secundario Hamilton. Entre 2007 y 2009, viví en la zona 4 con mi familia, una área de SORONC que ha tenido una mala reputación. Sin embargo, soy un producto de la zona 4 y orgullosamente me llamo un Yanqui de Hamilton.

Deseo mostrar a nuestra comunidad que todos los estudiantes, no solamente los de Hamilton, trabajan duro para mejorar sus comunidades y soy un ejemplo de ello. A través de las habilidades que he adquirido participando en el Gobierno estudiantil de Hamilton, aconsejando a los nuevos estudiantes del noveno grado, y dando servicio como voluntario en el hospital Kaiser Permanente, mi objetivo es utilizar mi talento para mejorar todas las zonas al representar a los estudiantes de SORONC.

Después de todo, nuestras escuelas reflejan la diversidad de esta gran comunidad que todavía es mi hogar.



Motion to organize and fund (\$250) a 3 month Robertson Food Truck Night pilot program

Agenda Item: GB102110-5

Date: October 21, 2010

Proposed By: Terrence Gomes

Promote a Food Truck Night to increase visibility of Robertson Blvd and to increase economic development.

Full Proposal

Robertson Blvd south of Cadillac has 24 vacancies, with two more merchants wanting to move to either Culver City or Beverly Hills. One of the problems cited by tenants is the lack of pedestrian traffic. Having a Food Truck Night will increase awareness of the area and increase pedestrian traffic.

Proposed Motion

- I. The SORONC to sponsor a three-month pilot program of Food Truck Night to increase visibility of Robertson Blvd and increase pedestrian traffic.
- II. To fund up to \$250 for advertising expenses to promote the events.
- III. To have the pilot program overseen by the Robertson Economic Development Ad hoc committee.

Considerations

Pro	Con
Will promote pedestrian traffic	Will cause increase traffic
Will increase food availability	May harm current restaurants (2)

Board Notes

Votes For:

Against:

Abstain:

Proposed Amendments:

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Motion to oppose the current development proposal at 2037 La Cienega Blvd.

Agenda Item: GB102110-6
Date: October 21, 2010
Proposed By: Terrence Gomes LUEDC

To write a letter to the Zoning Administrator of the City of Los Angeles against the development as currently proposed at 2037 La Cienega Blvd.

Full Proposal

On October 5, 2010, the developer of the property at 2037 La Cienega Blvd presented a proposal for a 54-unit condominium project with retail. Community members from PICONC, United Neighbors, and residents of La Cienega Heights testified against the current project as proposed. Their concerns consisted of:

1. Traffic issues- Cadillac and Chariton, Chariton and Guthrie
2. Fortress Architecture- front and rear. No landscape
3. Possible loss of market
4. Impact on resources and City services
5. Ownership vs. rental, low income housing

Proposed Motion

- I. SORONC will have a letter sent to the Zone Administrator of the City of Los Angeles against the current proposal of the project at 2037 La Cienega Blvd outlining the concerns of the community.

Considerations

Pro

First argument in favor.

Second argument in favor.

Con

First argument against the motion. Try to be fair.

Doug Fitzsimmons
President

Brian Kite
Vice-President

Gerald Chavarria
Secretary

Terrence Gomes
Treasurer

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Board Notes

Votes For:

Against:

Abstain:

Proposed Amendments:



Motion to Support the Beverlywood HOA Traffic Proposal

Agenda Item: GB102110-7
Date: October 21, 2010
Proposed By: Public Safety Committee

Motion to support a proposal by the Beverlywood Homes Association to CD-5, requesting actions to reduce neighborhood traffic.

Full Proposal

Scott Diamond and Craig Karlan (Beverlywood Homes Association) presented a proposal for SORO NC's support to address neighborhood traffic concerns at the October Public Safety Committee meeting.

A letter has been drafted on behalf of the Beverlywood HOA ([Beverlywood Traffic Calming Proposal](#)), asking Council District 5 and LA Department of Transportation to institute measures to reduce "cut-through" traffic on Beverly Dr. and Beverwil Dr., created as a result of very low traffic "caps" that were implemented on Motor Ave. as part of the Century City Traffic Mitigation Plan.

These measures would include metering traffic at the entrance points to the Beverlywood community, a pilot metering plan, and public hearings.

Proposed Motion

That the SORO NC support the Beverlywood Traffic Calming Proposal, to be presented to Council District 5 by the Beverlywood Homes Association.

Considerations

Pro

The residential streets in Beverlywood were never designed to act as major thoroughfares.

Would have a significant impact on quality of life with very limited financial investment for infrastructure.

Con

Could increase "cut-through" traffic on other already congested neighborhood streets, including Robertson.

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Board Notes

Votes For:

Against:

Abstain:

Proposed Amendments:

Beverlywood Traffic Calming Proposal

The Century City Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan (CCNTMP) was created to provide a means of mitigating the peak hour traffic to and from Century City and through the surrounding neighborhoods. The Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) prepared the CCNTMP in consultation with Council District 5 and various community and homeowner associations, including the Beverlywood HOA, with funding for implementation provided by various development projects in Century City. CCNTMP projects have been designed specifically to deter cut-through commuter traffic and to permit neighborhood streets to function as they were originally intended.

The residential streets in Beverlywood were never designed to act as major thoroughfares. Due to the increase in speed and volume of north/south traffic on Beverly Drive, Beverwil Drive and Castle Heights Avenue between Pico Blvd and National Blvd, we are asking for the assistance of the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council in supporting our traffic mitigation proposal as a companion element to and component of the CCNTMP.

The speed and volume of traffic along Motor Avenue in Cheviot Hills was one important concern of the CCNTMP. There have been various changes to Motor Avenue to reduce traffic on that street including the construction of bump outs and the installation of stop signs. One of the most effective traffic calming measures for Motor Avenue has been metering traffic at critical points along Motor to reduce the likelihood that drivers will choose Motor Avenue for their cut through driving.

We propose building similar traffic calming measures including metering traffic at the entrance points to the Beverlywood community. As in Motor Avenue to the west, this metering should reduce car flow and have a significant impact on quality of life with very limited financial investment for infrastructure.

The Beverlywood community is asking for the LADOT to develop a pilot metering plan that would address this issue. Furthermore, the Beverlywood HOA would conduct public hearings to discuss this plan with the community prior to the commencement of any such plan and hold additional meetings after implementation to determine the effectiveness of the metering plan.

The Beverlywood HOA would like the support of the SORO Neighborhoods Council for its plan to improve traffic in Beverlywood.

--Beverlywood HOA



Motion to propose that CD5 reevaluate Motor Ave. traffic limits

Agenda Item: GB102110-8
Date: October 21, 2010
Proposed By: Public Safety Committee

Motion that SORO NC propose that Council District 5 reevaluates the traffic limits on Motor Ave. to secure a more equitable level of traffic distribution.

Full Proposal

The Century City Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan (CCNTMP) was created to provide a means of mitigating the peak hour traffic to and from Century City and through the surrounding neighborhoods.

One of the most effective traffic calming measures for Motor Avenue has been metering traffic at critical points along Motor to reduce the likelihood that drivers will choose Motor Avenue for their cut through driving. The plan reduced traffic from 1000 cars/hour down to 600/hour.

However, this has adversely affected cut through traffic in adjacent neighborhoods. A request was made 18 months ago by Councilman Jack Weiss to rescind the cap, but it was never acted upon. Adjusting the cap (or other measures) could have a significant impact in distributing traffic more evenly throughout the neighborhoods.

Proposed Motion

That SORO NC proposes to Council District 5 to perform a reevaluation of the traffic limits on Motor Ave., in order to secure a more equitable level of neighborhood traffic distribution.

Considerations

Pro

Equity of traffic levels throughout neighborhood streets.

Possible solutions to overall traffic congestion.

Con

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Board Notes

Votes For: **Against:** **Abstain:**

Proposed Amendments:



Motion to approve funds for the services of a stenographer at SORO NC Board meetings

Agenda Item: GB102110-9
Date: 21 October 2010
Proposed By: Terrence Gomes

Hires a temporary stenographer for monthly Board meetings to increase accuracy of minutes

Full Proposal

The Secretary's position is a difficult one: to accurately transcribe the business of the Board during meetings, while still being engaged enough to participate in the general discussion.

Historically, the SORO NC Board minutes have also included detailed descriptions of the actual ebb and flow of Board debate, presentations, public comment, etc. Maintaining that level of accuracy has been challenging.

The motion funds a temp stenographer for 12 months* from one of the city's approved vendors. The Secretary would review and edit the stenographer's work and be responsible for its accuracy.

*Final bids were not available at posting time, but price will be introduced via amendment at the Board meeting.

Proposed Motion

- I. To approve a yearly budget of up to \$TBD to hire a stenographer for monthly SORO NC General Board meetings

Considerations

Pro

Increases accuracy and detail of minutes

Frees the Secretary to actively engage in Board meetings

Con

We may not need that level of detail

Hiring a temp is expensive--and past experiences have not been good

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Board Notes

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Against:

Abstain:

Proposed Amendments:



Motion to approve \$500 for SORO NC 2010 Town Hall expenses

Agenda Item: GB102110-10
Date: 21 October 2010
Proposed By: Doug Fitzsimmons

Funds additional expenses for the 2010 Town Hall

Full Proposal

At the September Board meeting, the NC voted to approve an initial \$750 for promoting the 2010 Town Hall.

As expected, additional promotional and operational expenses have cropped up, including (but not limited to) an additional \$100 (approximately) for the yard signs (for clarity, we are printing separate Spanish language signs), hall rental at Shenandoah Elementary, and, if needed, extra chairs and tables for the hall. The amount would also cover sundry items needed for running the event.

The motion is written to be up to \$500--so if the expenses are less, we aren't committed to spending the entire amount.

Proposed Motion

I. To approve up to \$500 for expenses related to SORO NC's 2010 Town Hall

Considerations

Pro	Con
The Town Hall is mandated by our Charter	Cost

The total amount is modest.

Board Notes

Votes For:

Against:

Abstain:

Proposed Amendments:

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Funding Program
Department of Neighborhood Empowerment
334-B East 2nd Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

20 May 2010

The undersigned hereby **resolve and affirm** that the following motions were duly passed with no amendments at the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council meeting of 20 May 2010:

- Motion to organize and fund (\$250) a 3 month Robertson Food Truck Night pilot program (GB102110-5)
- Motion to approve \$500 for SORO NC 2010 Town Hall expenses (GB102110-10)

Copies of the motions are attached to this resolution.

Sincerely,

Doug Fitzsimmons, President

Brian Kite, Vice President

Gerald Chavarria, Secretary

Terrence Gomes, Treasurer

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