

South Robertson (SORO) Neighborhoods Council

SORO Neighborhoods Council
P.O. Box 35836
LOS ANGELES, CA 90035
TELEPHONE: 310-295-9920
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www.soronc.org



A Certified Neighborhood Council

Noah Bleich
President
Jon Liberman
Vice President
Sandra Willard
Secretary
Terrence Gomes
Treasurer

South Robertson Neighborhoods Council Budget Fiscal Year 2007-2008 June 13, 2007

Funds

Yearly Allocation	\$50,000
Rollover 2006-2007	\$19,000
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$69,000</i>

Budget

Account	Category	
100	Operations	\$13,600
	Facilities	
	Meetings	
	Office Supplies	
	Utilities	
	Website/Hosting	
	General Operations	
200	Outreach	\$27,700
	Festival	
	Movies/Music in park	
	Newsletter	
	Street Banners	
	Taste of SORO	
	Town Hall	
	General Neighborhood Outreach	
300	Community Improvement	\$27,700
	Education	
	Green Team	
	Land Use	
	Public Safety	
	General Community Projects	

<i>Fiscal Year 2007-2008</i>	<i>\$69,000</i>
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South Robertson Neighborhoods Council Budget
Fiscal Year 2007-2008
June 13, 2007
(continued)

The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council Ad Hoc Budget Committee, which met on May 24, 2007, had compiled a proposed budget for the fiscal year 2007-2008, which was presented to the General Board on June 13, 2007. The approved budget covers the periods of 7/1/2007-6/30/2008 and was created in accordance with the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council's By-laws and within the guidelines set forth by the City of Los Angeles and the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE).

Terrence Gomes
Treasurer
South Robertson Neighborhoods Council



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PROPOSAL BY: , Barry E. Levine presenter
DATE: February 13,, 2008
TITLE: Shenandoah Elementary School Literacy Night book purchase
SUMMARY: Carmen Dominguez, the principal of Shenandoah Elementary School, has requested that the South Robertson Neighborhood Council help fund the purchase of books from Scholastic to be used by the school to encourage reading among the Literacy Nights attendees. The amount to be up to but not over \$500.00. The amount can be paid by credit card directly to Scholastic.

FULL PROPOSAL: South Robertson Neighborhoods Council shall fund up to \$500.00 for Shenandoah Elementary School's Literacy Night book purchases.

PROS AND CONS

Pro: The children of the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council area will improve their reading skills	Con: There will be less money left in our account for use in other areas
Pro: It is a valuable outreach to our community and will build upon our mentor program's reach into the local community	Con:
Pro: Without our help no books will be made available or students to take home to read.	Con:
Pro	Con:

1. MOTION for the Board's consideration, as proposed by Barry E. Levine: to fund up to \$500.00 for Shenandoah Elementary School Literacy Night book purchases

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PROPOSAL BY: Executive Committee (Presenter: Jon Liberman)
DATE: February 13, 2008
TITLE: Proposal re Storage of SORO NC property
SUMMARY: SORO NC has assorted items of property purchased over the past three years. These items are currently stored in the garages of some Board Members. These items are hard to access for all Board Members. In an effort to make these items more accessible to all Board Members and to the community the following is being proposed:

1. Suitable storage space be secured as close to the SORO community as possible
2. A rental truck be rented to move all items into the storage facility.
3. A Combination lock be purchased
4. An inventory is done when the items are moved into the facility.
5. The combination is disseminated to all Board Members.

The Executive Committee met on February 7th and by a vote of Y-4, N-0, A-0 is submitting to the Board a recommendation that the SORO NC Board authorize the NC to move these items to a storage facility.

FULL PROPOSAL: To authorize the NC to rent a truck (\$50), purchase a combination lock (\$20) and lease storage space (\$180/month) to store our possessions.

PROS AND CONS, as expressed in committee meetings:

Pro: Provides access to NC items.	Con: .Cost.
Pro: Provides security for property.	Con:
Pro: .allows for a inventory so that items already purchased can be utilized by the NC	Con:
Pro: .Several Board Members have allowed storage of items as an accommodation. This will permit them greater utilization of their homes.	Con:

MOTION for the Board's consideration, as proposed by the Public Safety Committee

1. To authorize the funding and implementation of this program.

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PROPOSAL BY: Land Use Committee (Presenter: Brian Bergman)
DATE: February 13, 2008
TITLE: Skin Cabaret "Police Permit" denial bill.

SUMMARY: Proposal that SORO NC takes a position in opposition to the granting of a Police Permit for Skin Cabaret

FULL PROPOSAL: On January 28, 2008 a public hearing was held at Hamilton High School so that members of the South Robertson Community could express their concerns about the adult cabaret, Skin, which has been operating at 3388 South Robertson Blvd. since December 11, 2007 under a temporary police permit. The hearing was presided over by a Hearing Examiner reporting to the full Police Permit Review Board, who will consider his recommendations before ruling on the final operating permit for the club, likely at the end of February.

As a result of strong community opposition to the club, and the successful outreach efforts of a community activist group, the No Robertson Strip Club Committee (NRSCC) over 600 stakeholders attended the public hearing. It represented the largest stakeholder protest this community has ever seen. Stakeholders voiced their concerns to the hearing examiner over the course of 3.5 hours. With the exception of one speaker, all comments addressed to the Hearing Examiner were strongly in opposition to the club. In addition, stakeholders were informed that the Police Commission has received over 650 letters bearing over 900 individual signatures from this community opposing the club, and that letters continue to arrive each day. The hearing was covered by three local news stations, and reported on the radio and online.

Community members spoke to a variety of serious concerns about the club including increased crime, traffic congestion, parking problems, aesthetic impacts and past history of the operators. Many stakeholders, including the Principal of Hamilton High School, expressed grave concerns about the proximity of the club to Hamilton High School and the impact it will have for students and parents. A representative from the Police Commission stated that he had never witnessed such scale of public outcry at a similar event. Therefore, it is incumbent on SORO NC to represent the strong and unified stakeholder opposition to the club, and take a position opposing the issuance of the Police Permit for the Skin Cabaret.

Pros:	Cons:
It is the duty of SORO NC to publicly represent the concerns of its 600+ stakeholders who attended the hearing and wrote letters of opposition.	Not all community stakeholders have weighed in on the issue.
Stakeholders will lose faith in SORO NC if it does not represent their opposition.	The club is legally zoned.
The community has never been so united on one issue.	

MOTION for the Board's consideration:

1. That SORONC publicly take a position and write a letter to the Police Permit Review Board opposing the granting of an operating permit to Skin Cabaret, 3388 South Robertson Blvd, Los Angeles 90034.

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PROPOSAL BY: Land Use Committee (Presenter: Brian Bergman)
DATE: February 13, 2008
TITLE: Skin Cabaret "Police Permit" restriction bill.

SUMMARY: Proposal that SORO NC send a letter to the Police Permit Review Board endorsing certain restrictions on Skin Cabaret's operations

FULL PROPOSAL: Skin Cabaret has been operating at 3388 South Robertson Blvd. since December 11, 2007 under a temporary police permit. The Police Permit Review Board will be ruling on the final operating permit for the club, likely at the end of February. In the event that they grant Skin an operating permit, the joint Land Use & Economic Development and Public Safety committees recommend that SORO NC should send a letter to the Police Permit Review Board recommending the following restrictions be placed on the Skin Cabaret's operating permit:

1. A restriction on club operational hours. Club hours should be 7PM to 2AM Monday to Friday and 6PM to 2AM on Saturday and Sunday. (This would help avoid school foot traffic, rush hour congestion and an influx of intoxicated after-hours patrons to the area).
2. A restriction on the minimum age to enter Skin. The minimum age to enter the club should be 19. (This would help deter high school seniors from attending Skin).
3. A restriction requiring that Skin require identification from any individual attempting to enter the club that looks under 30 years of age. (This would help deter high school seniors from attending Skin).
4. A restriction requiring the club to provide sufficient free parking spaces, whether valet or otherwise, for all clients, employees, independent contractor and other staff in parking lots controlled by Skin. If the club cannot provide adequate parking then the club should lease more lots or reduce the maximum occupancy capacity of the club. (This would help limit parking spillover problems in the community).
5. A restriction requiring that the 3300 block of South Robertson Blvd. not be used for stopping or loading and unloading of vehicles. (This would help mitigate traffic safety and congestion concerns).
6. A restriction requiring that the club not use signage that could be distracting to drivers, including neon and/or flashing signage. A sign no bigger than 18" x 24" is recommended.
7. A restriction requiring that the operators of Skin attend SORO NC Public Safety Committee meetings on a quarterly basis in order to address community concerns and/or complaints. (This would help the club be more accountable for negative impacts on the community).

Pros:	Cons:
These restrictions help mitigate commonly expressed stakeholder concerns.	These restrictions do not address all expressed stakeholder concerns.
Similar restrictions have been requested on the operating permits of other adult businesses in Los Angeles.	Not all community stakeholders have weighed in on the issue.
SORO NC needs to represent the publicly expressed concerns of its stakeholders.	

MOTION for the Board's consideration:

1. That SORONC write a letter to the Police Permit Review Board requesting the above restrictions be placed on the operating permit of Skin Cabaret, 3388 South Robertson Blvd, Los Angeles 90034.

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PROPOSAL BY: Marjan Safinia
DATE: February 13, 2008
TITLE: Suggested amendment to Skin Cabaret Restriction bill (LU-021308-7)

SUMMARY: A suggested amendment to the Land Use Committee proposal that SORO NC send a letter to the Police Permit Review Board endorsing certain restrictions on Skin Cabaret's operations (LU-021308-7)

FULL PROPOSAL: Skin Cabaret has been operating at 3388 South Robertson Blvd. since December 11, 2007 under a temporary police permit. The Police Permit Review Board will be ruling on the final operating permit for the club, likely at the end of February.

On 28 January 2008 over 600 stakeholders presented themselves at a public protest hearing about the strip club. At that meeting, The No Robertson Strip Club Committee (NRSCC) circulated a petition addressed to the Police Permit Review Panel opposing the issuance of an operating permit for Skin Cabaret, and asking that the attached list of restrictions be placed on the club's operating permit, should it be granted. This petition was signed by close to 350 stakeholders.

Since SORO NC has a responsibility to represent the voices of its stakeholders, it is suggested as an amendment to LU-021308-7 that SORO NC officially endorse the same restrictions that were supported by the 350 stakeholder signatures on the aforementioned petition.

Pros:	Cons:
These restrictions have already been seen and supported by a large group of stakeholders.	Not all community stakeholders have weighed in on the issue.
Similar restrictions have been requested on the operating permits of other adult businesses in Los Angeles.	These restrictions do not address all expressed stakeholder concerns.
SORO NC needs to represent the publicly expressed concerns of its stakeholders.	These amended restrictions have not been voted on by the join Land Use & Economic Development and Public Safety Committees.

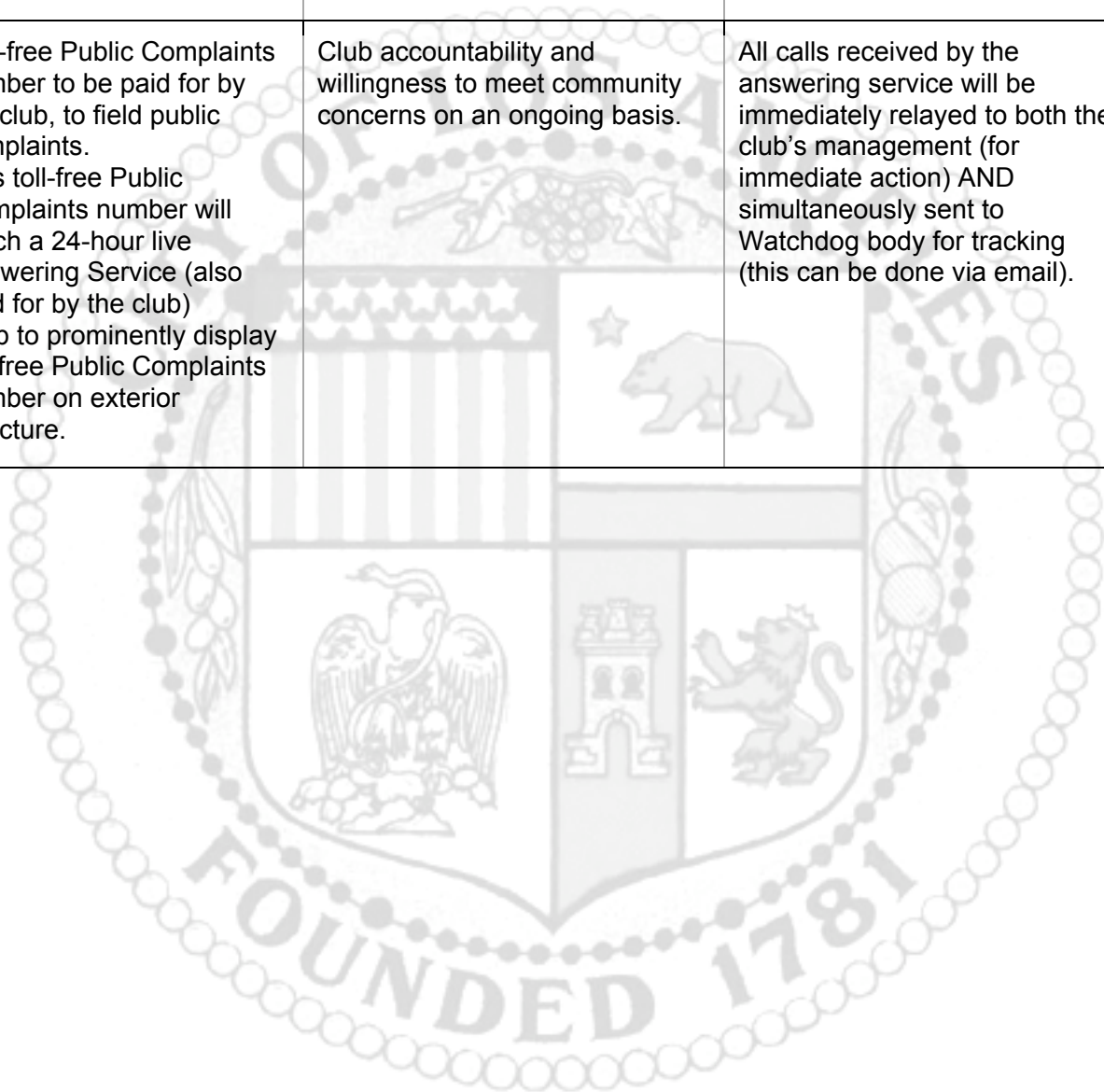
MOTION for the Board's consideration:

1. That SORONC write a letter to the Police Permit Review Board requesting the amended restrictions outlined overleaf be placed on the operating permit of Skin Cabaret, 3388 South Robertson Blvd, Los Angeles 90034.

	Restrictions & Actions	Reasons	Compliance & Enforcement
i.	Club operating hours: 7PM – 1AM.	To avoid peak traffic hours at this dangerous/ complicated area leading to and from the on and off ramps to the I-10 Freeway. To avoid high school hours, student foot traffic, and a potential increase in truancy.	Strict enforcement of closing time. No loitering after hours. Everyone must be off property 30 minutes after closing.
ii.	Raise age of entry to 20 Install electronic ID scanners with cameras to ensure no fake IDs and no underage school kids allowed.	Ensure that minors don't patronize the club.	Records from scanner should be regularly submitted to an independent review company to quantify and report to police. Expense to be borne by club.
iii.	All dancers to be hired by the club as employees. Based on guidelines of the Internal Revenue Service, we believe there is significant argument to classify the dancers as employees.	Employer/Employee status provides incentive for the club to vigilantly police its own workers/business and places an additional burden of accountability on both parties.	IRS guidelines defining employees versus independent contractors should be closely and faithfully applied.
iv.	All customers and all staff (independent or otherwise) to be breathalyzed (PAS Test) upon each entry into club. No admittance of anyone over legal limit (0.08).	Because no alcohol is allowed inside the club, it encourages nearby and offsite consumption.	If anyone leaves club they must be breathalyzed again upon re-entry.
v.	Club should be required to work with Police to maintain a list of known gang members who are enjoined from meeting other gang members in public places.	Club is located in area with known gang activity.	All patrons to be checked against this list and close records kept and reported to Police of any gang members who attend the club. Random police checks inside club.
vi.	Sufficient free parking spaces for all customers, employees, independent contractors and other staff offered by club on a lot they control (leased or owned).	Parking spillover nuisance in neighborhood.	If adequate parking spots are not available in lots for maximum capacity of club, then fire department should reduce occupancy to match with parking.

vii.	No stopping or loading and unloading AT ALL on the 3300 block of South Robertson Blvd.	Traffic safety (non peak hours) * Peak hour traffic concerns addressed by hours of operation above.	Club to pay into the LA City General Fund to cover the cost of a full traffic study by DOT/Planning and the resulting implementation of appropriate traffic mitigation measures.
viii.	No building, sidewalk or portable signage that could be distracting to drivers in this dangerous intersection. No neon or flashing signage or signage with adult graphics, imagery or lewd words.	Traffic safety.	
ix.	Club to pay for daily morning clean up of adjacent and surrounding neighborhood. Club to remove any graffiti on premises within 48 hours.	Littering and nuisance to community.	If flyers, handouts or other literature coming from the club are reported to be littering any neighboring areas, club will immediately include those areas on its daily clean up.
x.	Club to contract with licensed private security firm to provide regular security patrol passes within full 1000' radius of club during operating hours.	Community safety and safety of residents.	At least one guaranteed security patrol pass every 2 hours and one final pass 30 minutes after club's closing.
xi.	Club to pay into Los Angeles General Fund an amount sufficient to cover the costs of increasing city street lighting in the area between the club and Albertsons/CVS.	Community safety and safety of residents.	Amount to be paid into Los Angeles General Fund to be determined by Police and/or Department of Planning.
xii.	Club to annually pay into Los Angeles General Fund an amount equivalent to salary, benefits and administrative costs associated with hiring of an additional police officer.	To mitigate any additional strain the club might place on limited police resources.	After first year, this amount should be adjusted up or down according to recommendations of the Pacific Police Division.

xiii.	<p>Watchdog body to be set up to help deal with public complaints arising from the strip club nuisance, and meet regularly for evaluation of club's operation.</p>	<p>Club accountability and willingness to meet community concerns on an ongoing basis.</p>	<p>Watchdog body to be jointly monitored by representatives from the Neighborhood Council, Councilman's office, Police, Neighborhood Associations and club owners/operators. Ability to amend restrictions as needed to reflect legitimate neighborhood complaints. Watchdog body to meet quarterly or as needed.</p>
xiv.	<p>Toll-free Public Complaints number to be paid for by the club, to field public complaints. This toll-free Public Complaints number will reach a 24-hour live Answering Service (also paid for by the club) Club to prominently display toll-free Public Complaints number on exterior structure.</p>	<p>Club accountability and willingness to meet community concerns on an ongoing basis.</p>	<p>All calls received by the answering service will be immediately relayed to both the club's management (for immediate action) AND simultaneously sent to Watchdog body for tracking (this can be done via email).</p>



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PROPOSAL BY: Land Use Committee (Presenter: Brian Bergman)
DATE: February 13, 2008
TITLE: Support of Modative's Application for Variance.

SUMMARY: Proposal that SORO NC support Modative's application for a variance for its development at 8732, 8734 & 8736 Venice Blvd. & 3202 Sherbourne Dr.

FULL PROPOSAL: Modative presented its proposed 6-Lot development project to the Land Use Committee on February 5, 2008. The applicant is seeking approval for a variance for a small side yard adjustment as well as other related variances. The project's neighbor (a veterinary clinic) supports the project. The Land Use Committee unanimously supported the project.

Pros:	Cons:
Modative's development is supported by its neighbor	The units will be expensive in relation to other parts of the neighborhood
The project provides new housing in a dilapidated area.	The development replaces rental units.
The developer showed great care in taking into account the neighborhood concerns and goals.	

MOTION for the Board's consideration:

1. That SORONC publicly support Modative's request for variance relief.

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PROPOSAL BY: Land Use Committee (Presenter: Brian Bergman)
DATE: February 13, 2008
TITLE: Support of Cage Free K9's request for CUP and Variance.

SUMMARY: Proposal that SORO NC support Cage Free K9's request for a CUP and variance for its cage free dog day care and boarding operations.

FULL PROPOSAL: Cage Free K9 presented its request for a CUP and variance for its cage free dog day care and boarding operations to the Land Use Committee on February 5, 2008. The applicant is seeking approval for a variance from parking requirements, and a CUP to be allowed to have a dog care operations within 500 feet of a residential zone. The Land Use Committee supported the project.

Pros:	Cons:
Cage Free K9's operations are supported by its neighbors.	The reduction in parking spaces could create parking problems in the neighborhood.
The reduction in parking spaces will likely not effect parking in the neighborhood	

MOTION for the Board's consideration:

1. That SORONC publicly support Cage Free K9's request for a variance and CUP.

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PROPOSAL BY: Public Safety and Land Use Committees (Presenter: Doug Fitzsimmons)
DATE: February 14, 2008
TITLE: Opposition to LADOT Olympic West / Pico East Proposal

SUMMARY: Given the community concerns with the current plan, SORONC should oppose the LADOT's proposal for Olympic West / Pico East.

FULL PROPOSAL: As the plan is currently drafted, the Land Use Committee believes the LADOT's three-phase project to reduce congestion and increase traffic flow along the seven-mile stretch between La Brea Boulevard and Centinela Avenue (attached) would have significant negative impact to the local businesses and residents on and adjacent to Olympic and Pico Boulevards.

In particular, local business owners have voiced concern that the peak-hour parking restrictions implemented in Phase One would drive customers away and/or force customers to park in residential areas, in violation of existing parking covenants with Olympic and Pico businesses. Further, restriping and left-turn restrictions in Phase Three would encourage drivers to route through residential streets and make it difficult for community members to get to "upstream" local destinations. Other residents have expressed concern that the plan would, in effect, turn Olympic and Pico into cross-town highways, altering the neighborhood feel and creating dangerous situations for the area's many pedestrians.

The LADOT has described the three phases as reversible tests, but has not publicly set comprehensive success criteria nor evaluation timeframes. The community concerns listed above remain substantively unaddressed in the current plan.

Therefore, the combined Public Safety and Land Use Committees unanimously recommend that the SORONC board oppose the current plan, and further recommend that the LADOT continue to actively engage local leaders to resolve the community concerns before any plan is implemented.

Pro	Con
The LADOT plan (as currently drafted) could potentially cause significant economic harm to businesses along Olympic and Pico Boulevards	The LADOT has examined numerous alternatives, has solicited feedback, and feels that the current plan is the best compromise
Customers parking in neighborhoods could put businesses in violation of existing parking covenants, opening the possibility of lawsuits	LADOT has stated that many sections of Pico and Olympic currently are at or exceed capacity. Delaying the project further means the existing traffic issues along Olympic and Pico would continue unabated.
Restricting "upstream" traffic would push those drivers into residential streets	The plan is broken into three phases specifically to allow the success of each step to be evaluated

	before the next step begins
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MOTION for the Board's consideration:

1. To oppose the current Olympic West / Pico East plan on the grounds outlined above, and urge the LADOT to continue to confer with community leaders to address and mitigate the community impact of any change to Olympic and Pico traffic patterns.



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PROPOSAL BY: Public Safety Committee (Presenter: Jon Liberman)
DATE: February 13, 2008
TITLE: Proposal re Cell Phone System for Hamilton HS
SUMMARY: Hamilton H.S. has requested that this Neighborhood Council assist them with funding of a system that will provide for communication between the community and the H.S. security patrol. They want to purchase cell phones for use by their Security Patrol & Administrators. These phones would be dedicated as incoming only where the community would have these cell phone numbers listed on a poster that would be circulated to the community. Should individuals or groups of students be observed doing something that requires intervention by the school; the community could call the listed number and immediately be connected to the school security patrol or administration. Depending on what is happening, the school could send out the security patrol or an administrator to resolve the problem.

The Public Safety Committee met on February 4th and by a vote of Y-6, N-0, A-0 is submitting to the Board a recommendation that the SORO NC Board authorize the NC to purchase for the High School up to 5 cell phones. The total cost is to be determined by the cellular vendor chosen and whether the plan is to be paid by the month or by a "up front" a cash pay plan. The overall cost shall not exceed \$1000/year. The plan will be ongoing for a period of two years and reviewed at the end of 24 months.

FULL PROPOSAL: To provide cell phones to the HS in accordance with the proposal summarized above. The Chair of PS and the Principal shall determine which cell service best meets the needs of the program.

PROS AND CONS, as expressed in committee meetings:

Pro: .PS needs are clearly there. Each day over 3000 students enter and leave the school within a brief time frame.	Con: .Cost.
Pro:..Allows for quick response in time of emergency.	Con:
Pro: .	Con:
Pro: .	Con:

MOTION for the Board's consideration, as proposed by the Public Safety Committee

1. To authorize the funding and implementation of this program.

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PROPOSAL BY: Public Safety Committee (Presenter: Jon Liberman)
DATE: February 13, 2008
TITLE: Proposal re Sending a NC Letter to City Attorney R. Delgadillo
SUMMARY: The NRSC sent a letter to City Attorney DelGadillo which requested clarification of specific points with respect to advice that might have been provided to city officials in regard to the granting of a license to the Skin Gentlemen's Cabaret. The letter went on to request a written clarification. They (NRSC) asked whether this Neighborhood Council wished to endorse sending out a similar letter. A copy of the NRSC letter is attached to this proposal.

The Public Safety Committee met on February 4th and by a vote of Y-6, N-0, A-0 is submitting to the Board a recommendation that the SORO NC Board send a letter to City Attorney Delgadillo requesting similar clarification of their views.

FULL PROPOSAL: To join the NRSC in asking for a clarification of the Office of the City Attorney's views.

PROS AND CONS, as expressed in committee meetings:

Pro: .Overwhelming Community interest in understanding the position of the Office of the City Attorney as to the role of the City and/or its elected officials in the process regarding the licensing and regulation of this Gentlemen's Club.	Con: .None.
Pro:..	Con:
Pro: .	Con:
Pro: .	Con:

MOTION for the Board's consideration, as proposed by the Public Safety Committee

- To authorize the .sending of a letter on SORO NC letterhead consistent with the items outlined in the attached NRSC letter to the City Attorney

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PROPOSAL BY: Public Safety Committee (Presenter: Jon Liberman)
DATE: February 13, 2008
TITLE: Proposal re Sending a NC Letter to Chief Bratton
SUMMARY: The NRSC sent a letter to Chief Bratton which recognized an earlier study by LAPD on Adult Entertainment and the Public Safety problems involved with the industry. The letter went on to commend the study and request that Skin Gentlemen’s Club be added to the task force that LAPD has established to monitor the industry. They (NRSC) asked whether this Neighborhood Council wished to endorse sending out a similar letter. A copy of the NRSC letter is attached to this proposal.

The Public Safety Committee met on February 4th and by a vote of Y-6, N-0, A-0 is submitting to the Board a recommendation that the SORO NC Board send a letter to Chief Bratton of LA Police endorsing the stand of the NRSC.

FULL PROPOSAL: To join the NRSC in asking for Police scrutiny of Skin Gentlemen’s Club.

PROS AND CONS, as expressed in committee meetings:

Pro: .Overwhelming Community interest in seeing that this Gentlemen’s Club be operated in accordance with all applicable federal, state and municipal laws and regulations should a permanent permit be granted to the club.	Con: .None.
Pro:..	Con:
Pro: .	Con:
Pro: .	Con:

MOTION for the Board’s consideration, as proposed by the Public Safety Committee

1. To authorize the .sending of a letter on SORO NC letterhead consistent with the items outlined in the attached NRSC letter to Chief Bratton

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PROPOSAL BY: Doug Fitzsimmons
DATE: February 14, 2008
TITLE: Motion to establish the selection process for the Sergeant at Arms

SUMMARY: Proposal to rotate the position of Sergeant at Arms among the general board members.

FULL PROPOSAL: The Sergeant at Arms position has not been filled for some time. The position is relatively light, however—primarily consisting of timekeeping duties during general Board meetings—and could easily be shared among the non-executive board members.

To keep the position filled and the process simple, every three months a board member’s name would be drawn from a fishbowl during the general Board meeting. The chosen board member would assume the duties of the Sergeant at Arms during the next three months; and if the member finds she/he cannot attend the meetings, a new Sergeant at Arms would be drawn.

Pro	Con
The short three-month terms reduce the burden on board members	The Sergeant at Arms is selected, rather than elected
A random drawing ensures fairness	
Chosen board members who aren’t able to serve their terms are able to bow out	

MOTION for the Board’s consideration:

1. To define the selection process for the Sergeant at Arms as follows:
The Sergeant at Arms shall be drawn by lot from the non-executive BOARD MEMBERS; if at any time the chosen BOARD MEMBER is unable to perform the duties of the Sergeant at Arms, another member shall be drawn at the next General Board Meeting. Terms for the Sergeant at Arms will be three (3) months.

South Robertson (SORO) Neighborhoods Council

SORO Neighborhoods Council
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A Certified Neighborhood Council

Vikki Karan
President
Jon Liberman
Vice President
Robyn Braun
Secretary
Terrence Gomes
Treasurer

PROPOSAL BY: Doug Fitzsimmons
DATE: February 14, 2008
TITLE: Motion to add the Sergeant at Arms to the Executive Board

SUMMARY: The motion seeks to amend the SORONC bylaws to define the selection process, term, and status as executive officer for the position of Sergeant at Arms.

FULL PROPOSAL: Members of the SORONC Executive Board have expressed an interest in actively involving more general board members in the steering process. After discussing various methods of reforming or extending the Executive Board (e.g., creating one or more at-large executive seats, etc.), the Executive Board voted unanimously to recommend that the full Board amend the bylaws to add the rotating position of Sergeant at Arms as a voting member of the Executive Committee.

Note that per Article XIV, section 14.2, any amendment of the bylaws requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total number of actual board members, and is subject to approval by DONE.

Pro	Con
Because the Sergeant at Arms would change more frequently, the amendment provides the opportunity for more board members to participate in Executive Committee decisions	Due to their fluctuating meeting schedule, the proposal has not been formally considered by the Bylaws Committee
An odd number of executive officers would eliminate Executive Committee deadlocks	

MOTION for the Board's consideration:

- To amend Article VII, section 7.10 of the current SORONC bylaws to read (substantive changes in **bold**):
The EXECUTIVE BOARD will consist of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and **Sergeant at Arms**. The President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary shall be filled by a majority vote of the BOARD. **The Sergeant at Arms shall be drawn by lot from the non-executive BOARD MEMBERS; if at any time the chosen BOARD MEMBER is unable to perform the duties of the Sergeant at Arms, another member shall be drawn at the next General Board Meeting.** Non-executive board officer positions shall be determined by the BOARD as needed and filled by a majority vote of the BOARD. Terms for the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary, and non-executive board officer positions created by the BOARD shall be two (2) years; **terms for the Sergeant at Arms will be three (3) months.** All board officer terms shall be subject to other terms in these bylaws.

For reference, section 7.10 currently reads:

The EXECUTIVE BOARD will consist of President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary and be filled by a majority vote of the BOARD. Non-executive board officer positions shall be determined by the BOARD as needed and filled by a majority vote of the BOARD. Terms for executive officers and non-executive board officer positions created by the BOARD shall be two (2) years and subject to other terms in these bylaws.



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PROPOSAL BY: Doug Fitzsimmons
DATE: February 14, 2008
TITLE: Motion to facilitate inter-NC communications

SUMMARY: The motion would create an ad-hoc committee to reach out to other Neighborhood Councils on issues of common interest, sharing of best practices, etc.

FULL PROPOSAL: It is becoming clear that SORONC cannot act wholly in a vacuum. Our goal-setting exercises and recent events have underscored that:

- Many of the specific issues we address are also of concern for other neighborhood councils. By collaborating on solutions, our voice within LA government and the media is strengthened.
- As we realign our bylaws to support the needs of our stakeholders and the active vision of the Board, it is critical that we seek best practices from other NCs.
- Fostering community involvement in local issues is perhaps our most important mandate. Other neighborhood councils have developed successful programs that we can learn from—and we in turn should share *our* successes.

Given the sporadic and unpredictable nature of inter-NC issues, an ad-hoc advisory committee is arguably the most appropriate mechanism for creating on-going relationships and dialogue. The committee would be charged with bringing issues before the Board and/or appropriate Action Committees as they develop, and serve as a conduit for initiating and facilitating inter-NC discussions.

Pro	Con
Greater opportunity to share ideas and best practices	Must proactively involve and collaborate with existing Action Committees to avoid becoming an information bottleneck
Potentially speeds drafting of additions and changes to bylaws	
Inter-NC co-operation increases the clout of the SORONC Board within the city	

MOTION for the Board's consideration:

1. To create an ad-hoc advisory committee comprised of members of the Board, whose membership shall be less than the quorum level established by the bylaws, whose mission shall be to aid in initiating and facilitating inter-NC discussions on issues of common interest.