



# Motion to support 5-home small lot subdivision at 8620 W Olin St

**Agenda Item:** GB021518-2  
**Date:** February 15, 2018  
**Proposed By:** LUED Committee

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## Background

The applicant and his architect presented this 5-home Small Lot Subdivision to the Land Use and Economic Development (LUED) committee at their February 6, 2018 meeting. The applicant's entitlement request is for a vesting tentative tract to subdivide the existing property at 8620 W Olin St into 5 smaller lots to build 5 separate homes per the City's small lot subdivision ordinance.

The neighborhood is a mix of single-family homes and multi-family buildings. The adjacent properties consist of a 7-unit apartment to the west and a 16-unit apartment building to the east. The applicant noticed residents within 500 feet of the property for the LUED meeting. There were no residents in attendance.

The subject property is 7,893.6 square feet after an 8-foot street dedication and zoned RD1.5-1 with a 45-foot height limit. The proposed homes are 4 stories at 43 feet tall. Each home includes an attached 2-car garage.

## Proposed Motion

Submit a letter in support of the project to City Planning Department case manager Stacy Farfan ([stacy.farfan@lacity.org](mailto:stacy.farfan@lacity.org)) to be included in case file for the small lot subdivision at 8620 W Olin St; VTT-78244-SL; ENV-2017-5400-EAF.

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## Considerations

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<b>Committee review:</b> <i>(highly recommended)</i>	Votes For: 7	Against: 0
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### Arguments for:

Besides the request to subdivide the land, the project is by right. Applicant is not requesting any variances or adjustments in his application.

### Arguments against:

Homes will be taller than adjacent apartment buildings.

The new homes will be LEED certified.

**Doug Fitzsimmons**  
President

**Ken Blaker**  
Vice-President

**Jon Liberman**  
Treasurer

**Beth Hirsch**  
Secretary

**Martin Epstein**  
Corresponding Secretary

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Stacy Farfan  
Department of City Planning  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

16 February 2018

Re: Case Number VTT-78244-SL

Dear Ms. Farfan:

I am writing on behalf of the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council ("SORO NC") to comment on the proposed 5-home small lot subdivision project at 8620 W Olin St.

At a duly-noticed meeting of the General Board on February 15, 2018, SORO NC voted 00 yes / 00 no / 00 abstain to recommend that the applicant's project be approved. The density and use are appropriate for the neighborhood. The addition of 5 single-family homes in a transit- and job-rich area of Los Angeles is much needed.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about this comment letter.

Sincerely,

**Doug Fitzsimmons**  
President

**Ken Blaker**  
Vice-President

**Jon Liberman**  
Treasurer

**Beth Hirsch**  
Secretary

**Martin Epstein**  
Corresponding Secretary

Doug Fitzsimmons  
President, South Robertson Neighborhoods Council

Cc: Jordan Beroukhim, Office of Council President Herb Wesson  
Krystal Návar, SORO NC Land Use and Economic Development Chair

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# Motion to support condo conversion at 1211 S Sherbourne Dr

**Agenda Item:** GB021518-3

**Date:** February 15, 2018

**Proposed By:** LUED Committee

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## Background

The applicant presented this condo conversion to the Land Use and Economic Development (LUED) committee at their February 6, 2018 meeting. The applicant's entitlement request is for a preliminary parcel map for condo conversion of an existing 4-unit residential building at 1211 S Sherbourne Dr. The unit count (4 units) and parking count (2 spaces per unit) will remain the same. The exterior of the building will get a fresh coat of paint and new small balconies will be added to the front and rear façades of the building.

## Proposed Motion

Submit a letter in support of the project to City Planning Department case manager Joe Luckey (joe.luckey@lacity.org) to be included in case file for the condo conversion at 1211 S Sherbourne Dr; AA-2017-2361-PMLA-CC.

**Doug Fitzsimmons**  
President

**Ken Blaker**  
Vice-President

**Jon Liberman**  
Treasurer

**Beth Hirsch**  
Secretary

**Martin Epstein**  
Corresponding Secretary

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## Considerations

**Committee review:**  
*(highly recommended)*

Votes For: 7

Against: 0

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### Arguments for:

The unit count is per zoning and the parking count is per code.

Existing units are not affordable.

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### Arguments against:

Rental units are being replaced with condos.

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Joe Luckey  
Department of City Planning  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

16 February 2018

Re: Case Number AA-2017-2361-PMLA-CC

Dear Mr. Luckey:

I am writing on behalf of the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council ("SORO NC") to comment on the proposed condo conversion at 1211 S Sherbourne Dr.

At a duly-noticed meeting of the General Board on February 15, 2018, SORO NC voted 00 yes / 00 no / 00 abstain to recommend that the applicant's project be approved. The unit count is per zoning and the parking count is per code.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about this comment letter.

Sincerely,

**Doug Fitzsimmons**  
President

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Vice-President

**Jon Liberman**  
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**Martin Epstein**  
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# Motion to create a LUED Subcommittee to investigate potential economic development opportunities in SORO

**Agenda Item:** GB021518-4  
**Date:** February 15 2018  
**Proposed By:** Jon Liberman

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## Background

At the February 6, 2018 Land Use and Economic Development Meeting a motion was considered to look at what opportunities exist to create economic development within the boundaries of the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council borders. Over the past 15 years this NC has been involved with economic development on a sporadic and piecemeal basis. We have had several items where we were able to foster economic development but always on an individual basis. This has created an imbalance where we have not been able to help foster economic development within some of our commercial areas.

Our committee is concerned that we need to look at economic development on a macro basis rather than on a case by case basis. As the City is going toward mixed use economic development within transportation hubs it is important that we look at this opportunity for commercial growth.

We propose creating a subcommittee that is charged with looking at economic development within our boundaries with a clear process and realistic timelines. The first step would be a "Listening Tour" where all stakeholders would be given the opportunity to discuss what they are looking for in our future economic development. The subcommittee would then prepare an action plan that would then be reviewed by the entire LUED Committee. This would then go to the entire SORO General Board for approval or modification.

## Proposed Motion

- I. The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council agrees with the LUED Committee to form an Economic Development Subcommittee of LUED (hereinafter called EDSC)
- II. The EDSC would be comprised of the entire LUED membership subject to the restriction that no EDS meeting be attended by less than 2-3 LUED members.
- III. The EDSC would meet with stakeholders of the following enumerated commercial areas of SORO.
  - (a) South Robertson from National Blvd to 24<sup>th</sup> Street.
  - (b) North Robertson from Olympic Blvd to Airdrome.
  - (c) Pico Blvd from Beverwill to Robertson Blvd.
  - (d) Pico Blvd from Robertson Blvd to La Cienega Blvd.
  - (e) Any other commercial area within our boundaries determined to be commercially viable.

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- IV. The EDSC would start the Listening Tour with separate meetings for each specific enumerated commercial area. In order to assure that all stakeholders are heard each meeting shall be comprised of the following stakeholders:
  - (a) Business Owners or managers of businesses located within the area. (30%)
  - (b) Property Owners of buildings located within the area (30%)
  - (c) Other Soro Stakeholders not related to business or commercial property. (30%)
  - (d) SORO NC Board Members not sitting on the LUED Committee.
  
- V. The Listening Tour will be open ended with the sole question asked by the EDSC is "How would you wish this commercial area to be economically developed?" Our sole goal is to determine what our stakeholders want in the way of future development.
  
- VI. The Listening Tour will go from April through May. After that the EDSC will take 2 to 3 months to prepare a report which will be considered by the LUED Committee. Once approved by LUED Committee the report will be presented to the SORO NC General Board for consideration.

## Considerations

**Committee review:** Votes For: -8 Against: -0-  
*(highly recommended)*

**Amount previously allocated in Committee's working budget:** \$-0-  
*(applies to funding motions only)*

### Arguments for:

1. This is needed to develop a comprehensive plan.
2. LUED is charged with economic development responsibilities.
3. There are specific guidelines and procedures to assure that all stakeholders positions are listened to.

### Arguments against:

1. This will be a major time commitment for LUED members.
2. There may be a small cost involved for refreshments at each Listening Tour meeting. (Estimate of \$200 for four meetings.)



# Motion for the City to promote the NC system

**Agenda Item:** GB021518-5

**Date:** 15 February 2018

**Proposed By:** Westside Regional Alliance of Councils

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## Background

Despite years of discussion and widespread agreement on the need for a citywide awareness campaign for the Neighborhood Council system, very little has been done outside of an NC election cycle.

## Proposed Motion

- I. South Robertson NC calls on the City of Los Angeles to create an advertising campaign to inform the public as to the existence of the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council system, and to adequately fund and administer the process.

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## Considerations

**Committee review:**  
*(highly recommended)*

Votes For: n/a

Against:

**Amount previously allocated in Committee's working budget:** \$  
*(applies to funding motions only)*

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### Arguments for:

Piecemeal efforts to publicize individual NCs are redundant, not cost-effective, and have limited reach.

### Arguments against:

No funding source has been identified.

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# Motion to Approve \$10,000 for Neighborhood Purposes Grant for 2018 Soro Festival

**Agenda Item:** GB021518-8  
**Date:** February 15, 2018  
**Proposed By:** Beth Hirsch

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## Background

For twenty-one years, the SoRo Community Festival has built bridges amongst our neighbors, local businesses and public service organizations and celebrated the cultural diversity of our community. The Festival is organized by the SoRo Community Foundation, Inc. The single-day Festival includes activities for kids, community activities, a wide range of food, a live music stage and lots of exciting artist and vendor booths.

The Festival has been the Neighborhood Council's largest single outreach effort each year, attracting over 8,000 residents. It helps build pride in our community, and gives stakeholders a chance to talk with their NC board members and tell us about their priorities for the neighborhood. The Festival also provides unique opportunities for representatives of City departments and non-profit organizations to meet with residents and give them information about their services, and for local businesses to promote themselves to their community. This year, the festival will need to continue upgrading its branding, marketing and advertising. Will purchase much needed permanent signs and banners and additional print marketing. This will help the festival go after larger sponsorships that will in turn help to make it more self-sustainable.

## Proposed Motion

- I. SORO NC approves a \$10,000 Neighborhood Purposes Grant to the SoRo Community Foundation, Inc., for the purposes of putting on the 2018 SoRo Festival.

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## Considerations

**Committee review:**  
*(highly recommended)*

Votes For: 0

Against:

**Amount previously allocated in Committee's working budget:** \$5,000.  
*(applies to funding motions only)*

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### Arguments for:

We have an additional \$5k unbudgeted.

This is the largest outreach effort to the community and raising the NC profile and our Community in Los Angeles.

### Arguments against:

Festival should be self-sustainable.

**Doug Fitzsimmons**  
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## **City of Los Angeles, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment Neighborhood**

**Council Funding Program APPLICATION for Neighborhood Purposes Grant (NPG) SORO  
Community Foundation, Inc.**

### **4) Please describe the purpose and intent of the grant. This grant is intended to support an event:**

the 21st Annual South Robertson Community Festival to be held on June 3, 2018, 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., on South Robertson Boulevard. This Festival, held annually since 1997, has become a community tradition, growing gradually each year in size, sophistication and reputation. Each year, an estimated 6,000 to 10,000 people attend. Open to the public, the Festival features local and regional entertainment, special ecological and greening pavilions (featuring energy and water conservation and waste recycling), an Eco Car Show, and over 100 booths featuring neighborhood businesses and information and quality merchants from all over the city. A particularly popular feature, which has grown each year, is the "Camp SoRo" area for children; this all-day activity engages leadership students from Hamilton High School, children from the community and their parents in creative arts and crafts activities and provides much needed community service hours for the Students and Adults who need it. The Festival celebrates the broad cultural diversity and sense affinity that exists among the some 45,000 residents in the seven neighborhoods encompassed in the South Robertson community area. It attracts local businesses and organizations and elected representatives including local legislators and heads of our public agencies. Mayor Eric Garcetti attended last year with his daughter. The Festival encourages beautification and revitalization of the SoRo corridor where people can shop, dine, and enjoy a good quality of life, and it is committed to strengthening local educational institutions. This annual Festival has broad and continuing community support and involvement, including: the City's Department of Cultural Affairs; the two local Councilmembers (CD-5 and CD-10) who represent our community; the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council; local businesses, schools, houses of worship, non-profit organizations, and individuals; and local representatives of City agencies including LAPD and LAFD. With the Festival area bounded on the south by Cattaraugus and on the north by Beverlywood, with the central point at approximately 2730 South Robertson, this site has proven to be logistically optimal for managing the event efficiently and for ensuring optimum accessibility for the community. The Festival is managed under the auspices of SORO Community Foundation, Inc., a non-profit 501(c)3 charitable organization dedicated to the revitalization and beautification of South Robertson Blvd. between the Santa Monica Freeway and Pico Blvd. and its surrounding residential neighborhoods. SORO Community Foundation, Inc. is an all-volunteer organization, and its largest activity is this Annual Festival. The Festival is organized and implemented by the Festival Organizing Committee, comprised of volunteers from SORO Community Foundation, Inc., the South Robertson Neighborhood Council (SORO NC), the local community, and staff of the offices of Council members Koretz (CD-5) and Wesson (CD-10). The Planning Committee Chaired by Beth Hirsch begins its work early in the calendar year, contacting hundreds of local businesses and organizations by mail and email with invitations to participate in and/or contribute to the Festival and firming up logistical arrangements. Committee members also visit personally many businesses and organizations to discuss the Festival and post flyers in local

businesses to raise residents' awareness. Two weeks before the Festival, Committee members post some 200 eye-catching lawn signs in strategic locations throughout SoRo neighborhoods. Articles in local media, wherever possible, as well as emails to community members, also help to encourage broad community participation. Publicity provided by the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (listing in its Festival Guide) and our own press releases to local media outlets help spread the word even more broadly in the community.

**The Festival budget (Attachment 2) and SORO Community Foundation, Inc. 501(c)3 letter (Attachment 3) are attached.** As part of the City's application and permit process for the event (Bureau of Street Services), SORO Community Foundation, Inc. obtains the insurance coverage required by the City before the permit is issued.

**5) How will this grant be used to primarily support or serve a public purpose and benefit the public at-large.**

This lively and highly successful annual event provides fun and education for the whole family. The Festival is open to the public with no admission fee. It features local and regional entertainment, emphasis on environmental issues and emergency preparedness, arts and crafts and games for children. The Festival attracts local businesses and organizations and elected representatives including local legislators and heads of our public agencies. More than 60 neighborhood businesses, non-profit organizations, and city service representatives have booths so they can provide information about their services. The Festival involves local schools, their students and their parents in arts and crafts projects and environmental issues. The Festival provides the community an opportunity to honor individuals who volunteer in their communities and businesses that practice sound environmental policies. The Annual Festival brings community members together to recognize, learn about, and celebrate the cultural, economic and social well-being of the South Robertson neighborhoods. The enhanced feeling of community the Festival engenders, and the ties with public service providers it strengthens, serves to promote, market and enhance the South Robertson neighborhoods and make them a cleaner, more attractive and safer environment in which to work, visit and live.

**11a) Do you (applicant) have a former or existing relationship with a Board Member of the NC?**

SORO Community Foundation, Inc. supports the neighborhood on community projects and outreach efforts. We invite one NC board member to attend our meetings to be fully informed about what we are doing. SORO Community Foundation, Inc. also sponsored the creation of the NC and was the group that originally had applied to DONE to create the NC. As such, some of our board members were the original NC board, replaced entirely at the first NC election. The SORO Community Foundation, Inc. board are all volunteers and receive no compensation.

Current Non-Profit Board Members that resided on the original Founding NC Board:

Susan Bursk

Christel Wilson

Terry Schonwald

Laurence DeMers



# Motion to fund up to \$500 for traffic safety yard signs

**Agenda Item:** GB021518-9  
**Date:** 15 February 2018  
**Proposed By:** Adam Richeimer

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## Background

Some areas of SORO have drivers who speed or drive aggressively through residential neighborhoods. In other areas of the city people have put up yard signs that say, "Drive Like Your Kids Live Here". We would like to purchase these signs and distribute them to a few blocks that have problems and see if people drive more carefully.

The manufacturer of the signs will sell us 50+ yard signs for \$8.50 per sign including shipping.

Another option would be to create a SORO NC branded sign and print them ourselves, potentially at a lower per-unit cost.

## Proposed Motion

The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council will fund up to \$500 to purchase traffic safety yard signs.

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## Considerations

**Committee review:** Votes For: 3 Against: 0  
*(highly recommended)*

**Amount previously allocated in Committee's working budget:** \$  
*(applies to funding motions only)*

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### Arguments for:

Yard signs could cause drivers to drive more safely preventing traffic accidents that could hurt people and pets.

Reduced traffic will help reduce noise and improve the quality of life of local residents.

Even if the effect is on a limited number of drivers for a limited amount of time, it's still worth it.

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### Arguments against:

The signs won't do anything. Bad drivers ignore signs.

Drivers will quickly get used to the signs, and any initial effects would quickly be lost.

We can spend \$500 better elsewhere.

**Doug Fitzsimmons**  
President

**Ken Blaker**  
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# Motion to fund Up to \$700 for a Battery Power Pack and Solar Panel Kit

**Agenda Item:** GB021518-10

**Date:** February 15, 2018

**Proposed By:** SORO NC Public Safety Committee

## Background

### Full Proposal

If a disaster occurs in the South Robertson area, as part of the Emergency Plan, local CERT members would organize a base of operations utilizing previously purchased and/or donated Emergency Supplies. Among supplies from the Palms Emergency Preparedness Committee (PEPC), is a battery pack.

As an Emergency situation could last for several days and nights, it is important to be able to recharge the battery pack, as well as have an additional battery pack. These supplies would aid in charging the lighting in the command post and triage areas, as well as the flashlights and radios used for search and rescue. A mounted or portable Solar Panel would be the best method to charge the battery, under a disaster situation.

### Proposed Motion

SORO NC should adopt the following: That the SORO NC will fund up to \$700.00 for the purchase of a Battery Power Pack and Solar Panel Kit.

## Considerations

**Committee review:**  
*(highly recommended)*

Votes For: 6

Against: 0

**Amount previously allocated in Committee's working budget:** \$0  
*(applies to funding motions only)*

### Arguments for:

In a disaster, having power for CERT command post is important.

Solar panel might be the only source of power.

### Arguments against:

Will require outreach to attract participants.  
Money can be used elsewhere.

Only useful in an emergency.  
Limited to 50 participants.  
Funds can be used elsewhere.

Funds can be used elsewhere.

Will rec participate

Limited

Funds

**Doug Fitzsimmons**  
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