

# Motion to support LAPD sponsoring a Carnival on Pico Blvd.



**Agenda Item:** GB031810-3  
**Date:** March 18, 2010  
**Proposed By:** Public Safety Committee (Hammond)

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## Summary

Motion to support LAPD sponsoring a Carnival on Pico Blvd.

## Full Proposal

At the February 18, 2010, SORO NC General Board meeting, LAPD Captain Durrell asked SORO NC to support LAPD holding a Carnival within SORO boundaries. The SORO NC President referred them to the Public Safety Committee.

Captain Durrell and a representative of Signature Events & Catering (3133 Jack Northrop Ave. Hawthorne, 90250 [www.events4.biz](http://www.events4.biz)) attended the March 1, 2010, Public Safety Committee and verbally presented a proposal for a weekend street Carnival to raise funds for West LAPD programs. This would be the first such fundraiser by the West LAPD, although other precincts have hosted such Carnivals. Butler Avenue, in front of the West LA police station, is not sufficiently wide to hold the Carnival (including required fire lane), and nearby Santa Monica Blvd. is prohibited because it is a highway (Rte. 2). Cheviot Hills Park is not possible because of conflicts with scheduled sports events. The company representative said they do not believe an event in Pacific Palisades would be financially successful because, based on the company's experience, these events are better in less affluent areas.

The Carnival would entail street closure from Thursday through Sunday: Thursday for set-up, Friday morning for inspection, Carnival open Friday evening through Sunday afternoon, tear-down on Sunday evening. Based on experience in other LAPD precincts, the company said Carnivals have netted between \$5,000 and \$30,000 for police programs. (For example, see [lapd.com/events/southwest\\_spring\\_fest\\_carnival/](http://lapd.com/events/southwest_spring_fest_carnival/))

They initially proposed to hold the Carnival on South Robertson Blvd. between Beverlywood and Cattaraugus, the first weekend in May 2010. Public Safety Committee members present at the meeting supported the event in principle, based on the understanding that it would raise funds to help LAPD improve public safety in this area, but did not support either the proposed site or the proposed date, due to the scheduled SoRo Festival the first Sunday in June in that exact site. After discussion, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend to the Board to consider supporting a Carnival on Pico Blvd, between La Cienega and Shenandoah, with timing not to affect adversely the SoRo Festival.

## Proposed Motion

Support LAPD sponsoring a Carnival on Pico Blvd., provided it does not adversely affect the SoRo Festival on June 6, 2010.

**Doug Fitzsimmons**  
President

**Jon Liberman**  
Vice-President

**Ann Hammond**  
Secretary

**Terrence Gomes**  
Treasurer

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## Considerations

**Pro**

Would raise money for LAPD programs

Would demonstrate support of LAPD

Would not cost SORO NC money

Might be fun for the neighborhood

**Con**

Unclear how much money would be raised and, of that, how much would benefit SORO community directly.

Would disrupt traffic on a major thoroughfare for four days (Thursday through Sunday).

If in later April or early May, might adversely affect participation in SoRo Festival one month later.

Uncertain community reaction

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## Board Notes

**Votes For:**

**Against:**

**Abstain:**

**Proposed Amendments:**



# Motion to send letter to West LAPD Traffic Division requesting ordinance enforcement

**Agenda Item:** GB031810-4  
**Date:** March 18, 2010  
**Proposed By:** Public Safety Committee (Romm)

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## Summary

Motion for SORO NC to send a letter to West LAPD Traffic Division asking them to enforce existing vehicle prohibition ordinances in La Cienega Heights.

## Full Proposal

Residents of residential La Cienega Heights have struggled for years with a noise and safety hazard presented by vendor produce trucks in their neighborhood. Residents report the problem has worsened over the years. An initial problem of a single produce truck and single ice cream truck in afternoons has grown to at least three produce trucks and two ice cream trucks blasting cucaracha horns on every street, several times an hour, all day long, 365 days a year, with the noise reaching as far north as Airdrome, as well as an endless supply of bicycle horn-honking foot vendors.

Residents have repeatedly asked vendors to turn down horns, and vendors have reportedly responded with aggressive disregard and outright hostility, even though the reported use of horns appears to be a violation of City ordinances regarding disturbances of the peace. Residents are also concerned about public safety, as the presence of these large trucks in the narrow streets constitutes a traffic obstruction dangerous to residents and those attempting safe passage through the neighborhood.

Some say that these vendors are an important source of food and nutrition for many of those who live in and around La Cienega Heights and who have limited mobility and financial means. They say that the honking horns are important to announce to residents that the vendors have arrived.

La Cienega Heights residents and the Public Safety Committee have asked LAPD to issue citations to those vendors who are in violation of City laws regarding vendor licensing, traffic laws, and noise. LAPD has replied that it is trying to do so, but it is not possible to be present 24/7 to identify non-compliant vendors at the time of the offense. Residents have provided assistance by identifying names and vehicle license numbers of offending vendors and providing this information to LAPD. However, there is no clear indication that these efforts have mitigated the problems.

Most recently, through action of La Cienega residents, the matter has been referred to the City's Office of Dispute Resolution, which has scheduled a meeting of vendors (6 have been invited) and residents for Tuesday, March 16, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Proposals to be considered at that meeting include limitations on cucaracha horn honking, requirements for vendors to have permits to do business consistent with existing City laws, a transition period during which vendors could give customers flyers explaining the new method of business, and specifying and enforcing time frames and locations where vendors could legally park to serve their customers.

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Another possible solution to be considered, for those not otherwise able to shop at alternative vendors (grocery stores), is for vending trucks to park on La Cienga Blvd or pay the owners of the warehouse shoe store at La Cienga/Cadillac as a semi-permanent location, thereby meeting the needs of local residents, alleviating the nuisance factor, and setting up established hours that conform with neighborhood standards.

In the meantime, at its meeting on March 1, 2010, the Public Safety Committee agreed to ask the Board to approve a letter to be sent to the West LAPD Traffic Division, asking them to enforce existing ordinances regarding presence of vehicles in excess of 6,000 pounds in the La Cienga Heights neighborhood. Regardless of the outcome of the dispute resolution process, there is no rationale for any over-sized vehicle to violate existing prohibitions in this neighborhood.

### **Proposed Motion**

Motion for SORO NC to send the attached letter to West LAPD Traffic Division asking them to enforce existing vehicle prohibition ordinances in La Cienga Heights.

### **Considerations**

**Pro**

Positive action to address public safety concerns of neighborhood

**Con**

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### **Board Notes**

**Votes For:**

**Against:**

**Abstain:**

**Proposed Amendments:**

**DRAFT** March 19, 2010



Captain Nancy Lauer  
Commanding Officer  
Los Angeles Police Department  
West Traffic Division  
4849 Venice Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90019-5664

Dear Captain Lauer:

We write to ask you to enforce the DMV Vehicle Code (#\_\_\_\_) in the La Cienega Heights neighborhood.

This residential neighborhood has signs, clearly posted, stating that No Vehicles over 6000 pounds may drive through.

Nevertheless, produce vendors driving vehicles clearly weighing more than 6000 pounds drive to La Cienega Heights at all hours of the day and night. They park for hours, blocking the narrow streets, blaring their cucaracha music and horns. In addition to disruptive noise, presence of these large trucks in the narrow streets constitutes a traffic obstruction dangerous to residents and those attempting safe passage through the neighborhood.

We have asked West LAPD to cite these vendors. However, as violations continue unabated, citations are either an ineffective or insufficient deterrent. We are also supporting La Cienega residents who are seeking action through the City's Dispute Resolution program. However, any action that may result over time from the dispute resolution process does not relieve vendors from their ongoing responsibility to comply with existing Vehicle Codes.

Therefore, we respectfully request that the West Traffic Division effectively enforce the posted codes.

Sincerely



# Motion to elect an Assistant Treasurer

**Agenda Item:** GB031810-5  
**Date:** March 18, 2010  
**Proposed By:** Executive Committee

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## Summary

Motion to elect an Assistant Treasurer.

## Full Proposal

At the February 28, 2010 General Board meeting, the SORO NC voted to approve a motion establishing the position of Assistant Treasurer (GB021810-6). This decision was based on the time-consuming nature and importance of the position of Treasurer. Having an additional person trained and authorized to perform the Treasurer's duties will help distribute the burdens of the office and lessen periods of unavailability.

Because this position is not specified in the SORO NC bylaws, it is a non-Executive officer, equivalent to that of a committee chair, with duties including but not limited to:

- Conducting all responsibilities of the Treasurer in the absence of the Treasurer.
- Completing any required financial training as mandated by DONE.
- Aiding the Treasurer in the execution of his/her duties upon request.

The Assistant Treasurer will be elected by a majority vote of attending Board members. Eligible candidates are current Board members who volunteer to serve in this capacity.

After the April 2010 election, the Board may consider whether or not to add the position to section 7.7.1 of the SORO NC bylaws.

## Proposed Motion

Elect an Assistant Treasurer.

## Considerations

### Pro

Gives the Board greater depth and expertise in NC financial matters

Lightens the load on the Treasurer, especially at this challenging time.

### Con

The person elected may serve a relatively short time.

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Treasurer

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## Board Notes

**Votes For:**

**Against:**

**Abstain:**

**Proposed Amendments:**



# Motion to allocate \$10,000 to SoRo Inc. to manage the SoRo Festival

**Agenda Item:** GB031810-6  
**Date:** 18 March 2010  
**Proposed By:** Marjan Safinia

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## Summary

That SORO NC allocate \$10,000 to SoRo Inc to manage the SoRo Festival.

## Full Proposal

Recent budgetary cut backs by the City of Los Angeles pose a significant threat to the survival of the SoRo Festival since many costs that were traditionally borne by the City will no longer be covered. These costs include the costs associated with closure of the street, personnel from the Department of Transportation to manage the street closure, rental of port-a-potties, tables and chairs etc., permits, fees and so on.

Since the SoRo Festival is the single largest outreach opportunity that we have, and the festival may be the only time in the year that the majority of our stakeholders really connect with the NC and the community as a whole, we feel it is prudent to allocate significant funds to ensure the continuation of the festival.

## Proposed Motion

I. That SORO NC allocate \$10,000 to SoRo Inc. to manage the SoRo Festival.

## Considerations

### Pro

It's the single most significant outreach opportunity for the NC and the neighborhood as a whole.

If the choice faces us to spend our money locally or risk losing funds in the City's budget reshuffles, it would be prudent to commit this money for local expenditure, as it was originally intended.

### Con

It's a large sum of money.

The City's in the hole and could probably do with the cash

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## Board Notes

**Votes For:**

**Against:**

**Abstain:**

**Proposed Amendments:**



# Motion to Approve \$6,000 for Community Emergency Preparedness Plan and Supplies

**Agenda Item:** GB031810-7

**Date:** Tuesday, August 18, 2010

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

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## Summary

Motion to approve \$6,000 for SORO, Inc. to administer development of a community emergency preparedness plan and purchase of supplies.

## Full Proposal

A large concern for Los Angeles communities is imminent threat of natural and man-made disasters that can tax public safety components of our city. During large-scale disasters such as earthquakes, brush fires, and mudslides, the fundamental objective for City police and fire department resources is to protect life, the environment and property. City protocols and systems in place to mitigate these disasters are guided by strategies to benefit the greatest number of residents. This means that public safety personnel may be delayed in responding to our neighborhood immediately following a disaster. A local system implemented at the neighborhood council level, complete with short-term supplies, is needed.

The City expects Neighborhood Councils to take a lead on developing community-based emergency plans and, in case of an emergency, help ensure their residents have access to emergency supplies. Necessary steps include: (a) developing a Community Disaster Plan; (b) ensuring a critical mass of residents trained to help the community in case of a disaster; (c) holding a community emergency fair to educate residents and provide background materials to help them implement household emergency plans; and (d) ensuring the SORO NC community has emergency supplies on hand.

(a) Although DONE is currently working on language and establishing what each NC will be responsible for with regards to emergency preparedness, the Public Safety Committee has initiated work on a Community Disaster Plan.

The goal of the plan, ultimately to be presented for Board consideration, is:

- Augment the overall public safety capability of the City of Los Angeles as it relates to Police and Fire Departments;
- Form partnerships with various entities such as members of the local police and fire stations, business and neighborhood associations, and religious organizations; and
- Develop a comprehensive system within SORO-NC boundaries to implement preventive and ongoing measures including training stakeholders how to help during community emergencies.

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- In addition to helping to meet community safety needs, such a plan aims to:
- foster a sense of community by promoting stakeholder participation in developing and implementing the plan;
  - encourage other NCs to adopt “responsible” plans of their own; and
  - encourage overall commitment by stakeholders to our community.

(b) Under the leadership of Gerald Chavarria and Baila Romm, CERT training has been arranged two years in a row, marketed primarily to SORO NC neighborhoods. They will continue this initiative on an annual basis. All NC Board members are strongly urged to participate in CERT training.

(c) An emergency preparedness fair, either as a stand-alone event or as a featured activity within the annual SORO Community Festival, would help educate and prepare the community.

(d) Based on particulars of the Disaster Plan and City requirements for communities, emergency preparedness materials will need to be purchased, perhaps at short notice. These are likely to include battery-powered radios, flashlights, household tools, gloves, water, canned food, can openers, toiletries, clothing, and first aid supplies. Specific items and quantities will be based on inventory of supplies already on hand and needs identified through development of the Disaster Plan.

Given the nature of this project and its ties to local community resources, it is proposed that SORO, Inc. administer this project, under the guidance of the Public Safety Committee.

## Proposed Motion

Motion to approve \$6,000 for SORO, Inc. to administer development of a community emergency preparedness plan, including holding an emergency preparedness fair and purchase of supplies to meet immediate and priority community needs in the event of a disaster.

## Considerations

### Pro

A community-specific disaster preparedness plan and supplies will help keep our community members safe in the event of a disaster.

Given the City’s current financial situation, having plans and supplies on hand will help ensure our community’s needs will be met.

### Con

It would be preferable to have our plan be part of a City-wide plan for Neighborhood Councils, but the timing for such a plan is uncertain.



# Motion to allocate \$5,000 to SoRo Inc. to manage the expansion of Fresh Fruit program to Castle Heights and Canfield

**Agenda Item:** GB031810-8

**Date:** 18 March 2010

**Proposed By:** Barry Levine

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## Summary

That SORO NC allocate \$5,000 to SoRo Inc to manage the expansion of the Fresh Fruit program to include Castle Heights and Canfield Schools.

## Full Proposal

With the success of the current Fresh Fruit of Fridays program running at Shenandoah Elementary school, we propose an expansion of the program to include students at Castle Heights Elementary and Canfield Elementary schools in conjunction with our existing partners at the La Cienega Farmers' Market.

As with the current program, each participating student will receive a weekly piece of fresh fruit or produce from the Farmer's Market, together with a short geography lesson about the origins of the produce and a short nutritional lesson about the benefits of healthy eating and a diet rich in fresh fruits and vegetables.

## Proposed Motion

- I. That SORO NC allocate \$5,000 to SoRo Inc. to manage the expansion of the fresh fruit program to include Castle Heights Elementary and Canfield Elementary schools.

## Considerations

<b>Pro</b>	<b>Con</b>
Educating young kids about the value of eating right is of critical importance	Cost
If the choice faces us to spend our money locally or risk losing funds in the City's budget reshuffles, it would be prudent to commit this money for local expenditure, as it was originally intended.	The City's in the hole and could probably do with the cash .

**Doug Fitzsimmons**  
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## Board Notes

**Votes For:**

**Against:**

**Abstain:**

**Proposed Amendments:**



# Motion to approve \$9,000 for a brochure to promote community development and attract businesses

**Agenda Item:** GB031810-9  
**Date:** 3/18/10  
**Proposed By:** Land Use Committee

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## Summary

Motion that SORONC provide SORO, Inc. with \$9,000 for the creation of high-end marketing material to promote the economic development of the South Robertson corridor.

## Full Proposal

In a survey conducted among SORO NC stakeholders in 2009, the overwhelming majority of stakeholders expressed that their number one wish for the neighborhood was the economic revitalization of the South Robertson corridor to provide more neighborhood friendly businesses that residents could enjoy. With a large number of our storefronts now empty, SORO NC feels it is critically important to make the economic revitalization project a priority. In the coming years the Expo Line will bring many new visitors to our neighborhood, and we want to be primed to capitalize on this attention and place SORO firmly on the Los Angeles map as a vibrant neighborhood in the city.

After conversations with our representatives from CD 10 and CD 5 over the past year, and following consultation with different groups who have successfully revitalized pockets of the City in recent years, we have decided to create high-end marketing materials to promote the South Robertson corridor to potential commercial interests and highlight the virtues of the neighborhood to potential developers, commercial real estate agents and desirable businesses that we wish to attract.

Given SoRo Inc.'s previous experience with the LANI program and funds awarded for Soro Village, we propose that SORO NC allocate the sum of \$9,000 to SoRo Inc. for the management of an Economic Revitalization Program for South Robertson.

This sum will go toward the creation and printing of a high end brochure that can be used to attract businesses and developers into the area's many empty commercial storefronts. Costs will include:

- Artists renderings, elevation and map designs of South Robertson and the vision for the revitalization
- Research and collation of demographic information about the neighborhoods
- Layout, design and printing for full color brochure
- Costs associated with promoting this brochure to interested parties

## Proposed Motion

Motion that SORONC provide SORO, Inc. with \$9,000 for the creation of high-end marketing material to promote the economic development of the South Robertson corridor.

**Doug Fitzsimmons**  
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## Considerations

**Pro**

The Community has expressed its interest in the economic revitalization of South Robertson.

**Con**

It's a lot of money.

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## Board Notes

**Votes For:**

**Against:**

**Abstain:**

**Proposed Amendments:**



# Motion to approve \$3,000 for two community clean-up projects

**Agenda Item:** GB031810-10

**Date:** 3/18/10

**Proposed By:** Land Use Committee

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## Summary

Motion that SORONC provide SORO, Inc. with \$3,000 to be used for community cleanup projects.

## Full Proposal

Motion that SORONC provide SORO, Inc. with \$3,000 to be used for community cleanup projects, including but not limited to, street cleaning/power washing.

## Proposed Motion

Motion that SORONC provide SORO, Inc. with \$3,000 to be used for community cleanup projects.

## Considerations

### Pro

It's dirty out there.

### Con

The last time we paid for a cleanup, people complained that they thought we did not get enough for our money.

**Doug Fitzsimmons**  
President

**Jon Liberman**  
Vice-President

**Ann Hammond**  
Secretary

**Terrence Gomes**

Treasurer

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## Board Notes

**Votes For:**

**Against:**

**Abstain:**

**Proposed Amendments:**

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# Motion To Allocate \$12,000 from the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council to Soro Inc., to Manage Three On-Going Green Team Programs

**Agenda Item:** GB031810-11

**Date:** March 18, 2010

**Proposed By:** Paula Waxman, Co-Chair, SORO NC Green Team

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## Summary

Allocate \$12,000 to Soro, Inc to manage and fund three programs:

1. \$9,000 for trees to be planted and maintained for a period of one year along South Robertson Boulevard between Pico Boulevard and Cattaraugus Street.
2. \$2,000 for educational programs and field trips, teaching a better understanding of the environment for Shenandoah Elementary School, Castle Heights Elementary School, Canfield Elementary School and Hamilton High School.
3. \$1,000 for maintenance of the Hami Garden, a learning garden established on the Hamilton High School campus for use by teachers, students, school garden and environmental clubs, and the community.

## Full Proposal

The \$12,000 will be used to fund three programs:

1. **TREES ALONG ROBERTSON FROM PICO TO CATTARAUGUS BOULEVARDS.** This is only part of a larger project that the Green Team has been working on with Councilmen Weise (then Koretz) and the Los Angeles Conservancy. A motion to fund the project was delayed when we discovered we would need additional trees to replace 4 which were destroyed in a windstorm. We have asked the LA Conservancy, who will be helping to plant and maintain the trees for a period of one year, to resubmit an estimate with the adjustments. Their informal estimate was \$9,000. The purpose of the tree planting is to beautify the boulevard and thus encourage new, higher-end businesses to relocate in currently an economically depressed business area.
2. **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND THE ENVIRONMENT.** Landfills receiving Los Angeles black bin waste will reach capacity in 2011. The Green Team plans to take students from Shenandoah Elementary School, Castle Heights Elementary School, Canfield Elementary School, and Hamilton High School on field trips to visit both a recycling facility and a landfill so that they can see the enormity of the problem. Rental buses will run approximately \$1400 and incidentals around \$600 for a total of \$2000.

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3. MAINTAINING THE “HAMI GARDEN”. The Green Team was recently awarded a grant from the Office of Community Beautification and the Soronc to plant a learning garden on the campus of Hamilton High School. Although the grant will cover things like irrigation, fencing, plantings, tools and tool sheds, it will not cover the ongoing costs of plant replacement, tool replacement, science equipment, textbooks, repairs and soil amendments. These expenses will run about \$1000 per year. The Green Team will support the garden for the first post-planting year until the school gets their own support system up and running.

## Proposed Motion

Motion to allocate \$12,000 from the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council to Soro Inc., to manage three on-going programs initiated by the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council Green Team: 1. \$9000 for trees to be planted and maintained for one year by the LA Conservancy, along South Robertson Boulevard between Pico and Cattaraugus to beautify the area and stimulate business, 2. \$2000 for field trips to recycling facilities and landfills for students from Shenandoah, Canfield, and Castle Heights Elementary Schools, and Hamilton High School, and 3. \$1000 to maintain the “Hami Garden” one year beyond the initial set up phase, which would include repairs, plant and tool replacements, science equipment and textbooks, and soil amendments.

## Considerations

### Pro

These programs help to stimulate business growth, increase community happiness and satisfaction, augment our children’s awareness and understanding of the consequences of societal waste, and increase our children’s knowledge of biology and nutrition.

### Con

Robertson beautification should be a responsibility of the businesses along Robertson, not the community.

Children don’t necessarily need to see recycling and landfill facilities to be made aware of the problems created by trash.

We have provided Hamilton with a garden; they should be responsible for maintaining it.

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## Board Notes

**Votes For:**

**Against:**

**Abstain:**

**Proposed Amendments:**