



General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 19, 2011, 7:00pm

Hamilton Senior High School Auditorium
2955 S. Robertson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90034

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

SORO NC Board President Doug Fitzsimmons called the meeting to order at 7:20.

Board Members Present (16): Rachel Lester, Kimber Smith, Harold Bock, Bette Billet, Michael Lynn, Nick Burkhart, Paula Waxman, Brian Kite, Nahed Guirguis, Terrence Gomes, Barry Levine, Marj Safinia, Martin Epstein, Susan Burden, Doug Fitzsimmons, Victor Mity

Board Members Absent (6): Robyn Braun, Joe Gjonola, Benjamin Bellet, Gerald Chavarria (excused), Alex Chavarria, Erick Morales

Guests: Elizabeth Carlin, David Giron, Joseph Hari, Assistant Chief Patrick Butler, Captain Joe Holguin and Luz Echavarria

II. Community Briefing

The change of venue to the auditorium forces changes in meeting: Community Briefing moved up in agenda; Public Comment and Business Seat applicants moved back in agenda.

Luz Echavarria from LA Department of Transportation spoke about their traffic safety program, and presented the Council with 110 Watch the Road signs with the NC's name printed on them.

Assistant Chief Patrick Butler spoke at length about the LAFD's new deployment plan. He noted that even after its introduction in July, the Department will continue to monitor response times and make any necessary adjustments. The City Council also approved funding to retain 318 reserve firefighters. After providing a brief outline of the plan, the decision-making process, and the projected impact, Chief Butler took questions from the floor.

Summary of Q&A responses

The plan is not set in stone; will continue to adjust as necessary. Reports on Fire Department response times are updated on the LAFD website. Chief agreed that if people obey laws about giving emergency vehicles right-of-way, response times would decrease.

Firefighters today give greater medical assistance in the field than before, so having larger EMS/Paramedic teams responding to calls is necessary. Goal for medical response: < 5 minutes, and they hit or beat that 90% of the time.

Concerns by rank and file Firefighters are understandable. The Chief admitted that they could have done a better job communicating the plan to Firefighters, but that the plan was data-driven. They had to consider the needs of the entire City.

The reality is that there are not unlimited funds, and they have to manage against a budget. Not sure what the "ideal number" of staff would be, and it's unclear if we were better served by pre-2009 levels. The new plan saves \$200 million over 4 years, which puts the City on stronger financial footing. Council can revisit budget. Chief Peaks feels this is THE plan: lowest funding without compromising safety.

Doug Fitzsimmons
President

Brian Kite
Vice-President

Gerald Chavarria
Secretary

Terrence Gomes
Treasurer

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1994 funding (Northridge Earthquake): \$330 million. 2008: \$561 million. 2009: \$496 million. 2010: \$481 million. They'll be able to meet disaster needs through surge capability.

Culver City's Fire Department is too small to consistently supplement the area. Private ambulances were tried in 1993, but response times were too slow city-wide.. The reductions in funding have meant less ability to do inspections (now on a 3 year cycle), but fortunately building construction standards are better.

They'll be able to handle overlapping calls the way they do now: dispatching from nearest available station. Yes, it may take longer to respond when they do that (depending on location), but plan to still beat target response times.

Chair calls for 10 minute recess.

III. General Public Comment

In the absence of the Secretary, Doug Fitzsimmons took notes.

Doug reported that Marj Safinia has been honored by Sen. Curran Price as one of this year's SHeros.

IV. Applicants For Open Business Seat 5

Sam Jaffee absent. Troy Richardson confirms that he was not notified of the meeting date. (Note: after the meeting, Sam Jaffee forwards an email about the election from the NC that mistakenly lists May 20 as the meeting date.) With Troy's consent and apologies from the Board, election postponed to June.

V. Old Business

Draft Board Meeting Minutes of April 7, 2010 (Chavarria / GB051911-1).

- Nick moved to approve the draft minutes, Harold seconded.
- **Vote: Y-14, N-0, A-2. Minutes approved.**

Treasurer Report and vote to approve monthly expenses (GB051911-2).

- Terry moved to approve the report; Marj seconded.
- **Vote: Y-16, N-0, A-0. Report approved.**

VI. Community Reports

LAPD Report. No report (SLOs were unable to stay through the lengthy Community Briefings)

Office of Councilmember Wesson. Liz Carlin announced the Diabetes Expo on May 21 (<http://www.diabetes.org/in-my-community/expo/los-angeles-expo-2011/>), the Art Walk in , Palms NC's bicycle rodeo, and the CD10/UNNC eWaste drive on

Office of Councilmember Koretz. (report given after NC reports). David Giron reported that CM Koretz is a strong supporter of the Fire Department, and only supported the current plan after the Council adopted several key amendments. David also announced that planning for a revamped Robertson Recreation Center is beginning.

Office of the Mayor. Joseph Hari, the new West LA Area Director, introduced himself and gave an overview of his career. He will also be working as the Mayor's city-wide NC coordinator and will report directly to Larry Frank. He also discussed Operation Pothole, a major effort to combat the City's decaying streets.

Office of Senator Price. No report.



Robertson Recreation Center. No report.

VII. Committee Reports

Executive. Overview of annexation effort: competing application from Mid City NC; effort by Palms NC to annex part of SORO's existing area. BONC hearing set for July 5. Finance committee will meet June 9 to develop draft FY 2011-12 budget.

Land Use. Museum of Tolerance issue heating up again.

Education. No report.

Green Team. Zero-waste goal for SoRo Fest. Needs volunteers.

Public Safety. Movement on Safe Sidewalk program.

Outreach. Outreach has established a single Facebook and Twitter presence for the NC. The Board was urged to check official email regularly.

Michael, Rachel, Harold, and Nahed leave. Michael calls back in on his phone. Votes taken via roll call.

VIII. New Business

Motion to accept official Board committee memberships (GB051911-3)

Board members asked to select committees, but not voted upon given the late hour.

- Motion withdrawn by Doug

Motion to approve Board absence requests (GB051911-4)

- Motion withdrawn by Doug

Motion to submit comment letter on the proposed LAFD Deployment Plan (GB051911-5)

Consensus was that the motion would serve little purpose, as the City Council had already voted to approve FY 2011-12 budget.

- Motion withdrawn by Doug

Motion to submit comment letter on the proposed reduction in NC funding and suspension of 2012 NC elections (GB051911-6)

Again, given that the Council has voted on the budget, an amendment was offered to remove the language in the letter about "opposition to the proposed funding cuts, particularly the culling of rollover funds" and to include BONC in the recipient list.

- Marj moved to approve the amendment; Brian seconded.
- **Vote: Y-12, N-1, A-0. Amendment approved.**

- Marj moved to approve motion as amended; Kimber seconded.
- **Vote: Y-12, N-0, A-1. Amended motion approved.**

Call to consider motions GB051911-7 through -15 via consent calendar

Given the very late hour, a consent calendar was proposed for the remaining items.

- Brian moved to create calendar; Terry seconded.
- **Vote: Y-13, N-0, A-0. Remaining items placed on consent calendar.**

Consent calendar:

- Motion to approve Outreach strategic plan (GB051911-7)
- Motion for Watch the Road Signs approval (GB051911-8)
- Motion to approve up to \$60.00 for certificate, certificate sleeve, and decal for the "Outstanding Green Citizenship Award" (GB051911-9)



- Motion to spend up to \$300 for Waxman and Hess to attend Urban Tree Seminar (GB051911-10)
- Motion to spend up to \$750 for SORO NC t-shirts (GB051911-11)
- Motion to fund \$1500 for Movies in the Park in conjunction with CD-10 (GB051911-12)
- Motion to spend up to \$500 for outreach efforts and presentation materials for orphan areas hearing (GB051911-13)
- Motion to request an increase in FY 10-11 Q4 purchase card limit to \$10,000 (GB051911-14)
- Resolution to approve May funding motions (GB051911-15)

Vote to approve all items in consent calendar

There were no objections or requests to remove items.

- Barry moved to approve all items; Brian seconded.
- **Vote: Y-13, N-0, A-0. All items on calendar approved.**

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 p.m.



Vote Tally

Y: yes | N: no | A: abstain | R: recuse | X: missed vote

Motion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	C	Consent Calendar								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	6	C	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	
						A			7	8	9	0	1	2	3	4	5
Rachel Lester	Y	Y				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Kimber Smith	Y	Y				Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Harold Bock	Y	Y				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Robyn Braun	X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Bette Billet	Y	Y				Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Michael Lynn	Y	Y				Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Nick Burkhardt	Y	Y				Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Joe Gjonola	X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Paula Waxman	Y	Y				Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Zone 10																	
Brian Kite	Y	Y				Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Nahed Guirguis	A	Y				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Terry Gomes	Y	Y				Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Ben Bellet	X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Gerald Chavarria	X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Barry Levine	Y	Y				Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Marj Safinia	Y	Y				Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Martin Epstein	Y	Y				Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Business 5																	
Sue Burden	A	Y				Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Doug Fitzsimmons	Y	Y				N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Victor Mitry	Y	Y				Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Org 4																	
Erick Morales	X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
School 2																	

Numbers correspond to motion ID: e.g., 01 = GB051911-01. 06A refers to the amendment vote. CC to the creation of a consent calendar. Motions 03, 04, and 05 were withdrawn.