



# Motion to Request City Council Members to Communicate Stakeholder Outrage and Concern to LA District Attorney George Gascón Over Policies

**Agenda Item:** GB061721-07  
**Date:** June 17, 2021  
**Proposed By:** Public Safety Committee  
**Include motion in Consent Agenda?** NO

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## Background

Upon taking office in December 2020, George Gascón has instituted several reform policies within the LA County District Attorney Office. Although these reform policies may be beneficial to defendants in criminal cases, they have resulted in negative consequences to the residents and businesses of Los Angeles.

Stakeholders in the SORO NC boundaries have expressed grave concern regarding the increase in crimes in the area, experiencing a growing number of burglaries, robberies, and violent assaults. Many of the policies of District Attorney Gascón are severely exacerbating the situation, especially those policies that end cash bail and the practice to ban sentencing enhancements, among others.

Our police officers spend countless hours to arrest suspects of criminal activity, only to have them right back on the street to commit more crime. Year-to-date crime statistics show city wide homicides up 21.6%, shooting victims up 58.7%, aggravated assaults up 8.8%, and motor vehicle thefts up 12.8%.

In South Robertson specifically, we recently had an event where one of our residents was the victim of a violent assault. This was caught on video, which led to the arrest of the suspect with an extensive criminal record and gang ties. This dangerous suspect was released into the public (without any bail) and had subsequently not shown up to scheduled court hearings until June 7th- and may very well skip his trial with extraordinarily little repercussions under Gascón. This would never have happened under any previous DA.

As of June 3<sup>rd</sup>, seventeen other cities have taken vote of no confidence against the District Attorney, including Beverly Hills, Santa Clarita, Arcadia, Manhattan Beach and Lancaster. DA Gascón's directives are

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**Ken Blaker**  
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**Jon Liberman**  
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placing the safety of the general public at risk. DA Gascón’s policies are restricting victims’ rights and imperiling the safety of South Robertson and residents and businesses of Los Angeles.

### Proposed Motion

For the SORO NC to write a letter to all of the Los Angeles City Councilmembers, Mayor Garcetti, and LA City Attorney Mike Feuer to strongly request that they:

- I. communicate our Stakeholders’ concern and outrage directly to LA County District Attorney George Gascón regarding his policies.
- II. send DA Gascón’s response immediately to the SORO NC.

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### Considerations

Committee review: <i>(highly recommended)</i>	Votes For: 7	Against: 0
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Amount previously allocated in Committee's working budget: <i>(applies to funding motions only)</i>	\$ N/A
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Arguments for:

City Council might be able to persuade DA Gascón to change his policies.

Arguments against:

Some residents like DA Gascón’s policies and do not want them changed.

Dear Councilmembers Paul Koretz, Mark Ridley-Thomas, Gil Cedillo, Paul Krekorian, Bob Blumenfield, Nithya Raman, Nury Martinez, Monica Rodriguez, Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Curren Price, Mike Bonin, John Lee, Mitch O'Farrell, Kevin De Leon, Buscaino, Mayor Eric Garcetti, and City Attorney Mike Feuer;

The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council (SORO NC) would like to bring to your attention, and strongly request that LA City Council take immediate action regarding criminal policies of Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascón.

Stakeholders in the SORO NC boundaries have expressed grave concern regarding the increase in crimes in the area, as well as around Los Angeles. We have experienced a growing number of burglaries, robberies, and violent assaults, among others. We acknowledge that there are several reasons for this increase, however many of the policies of District Attorney Gascón are severely exacerbating the situation. Specifically, those policies that end cash bail and that ban sentencing enhancements, among others.

Our police officers spend countless hours to arrest suspects of criminal activity, only to have them right back on the street to commit more crime. Year-to-date crime statistics show city wide homicides up 21.6%, shooting victims up 58.7%, aggravated assaults up 8.8%, and motor vehicle thefts up 12.8%.

In South Robertson, we had an event several months ago where one of our residents was the victim of a violent assault. This was caught on video, which led to the arrest of a suspect with an extensive criminal record and gang ties. This dangerous suspect was released into the public (without any bail) and had subsequently not shown up to several scheduled court hearings (until June 7<sup>th</sup>) - and may very well skip his trial with extraordinarily little repercussions under DA Gascón. This has never happened under any previous DA.

As of June 3<sup>rd</sup>, seventeen other cities have taken votes of no confidence against District Attorney Gascón- including Beverly Hills, Santa Clarita, Arcadia, Manhattan Beach and Lancaster to name a few. DA Gascon's directives are placing the safety of the general public at risk. DA Gascón's policies are restricting victims' rights, as well as imperiling the safety of South Robertson and the residents and businesses of Los Angeles.

Again, the SORO NC strongly requests that you communicate our Stakeholders' concern and outrage directly to Mr. Gascón, regarding his policies and directives. We also look forward to your immediately relaying his response within 60 days to the SORO NC, as well.

Sincerely,

Charlie Stein

President, South Robertson Neighborhoods Council

DRAFT



# Motion to send letter of concurrence with the NASE appeal of the ZA determination regarding Case No. ZA-1989-17683, ENV-2020-1328-CE (Drill Sites)

**Agenda Item:** GB071521-18

**Date:** July 15, 2021

**Proposed By:** Executive Committee

**Include motion in Consent Agenda?** No

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## Background

The board position regarding the West Pico Drill Site, in the midst of our community, has been to support calls for the City and oil company to comply with existing regulations and laws to assure the safety to our community.

Without performing or requiring any environmental studies the Zoning Administrator (ZA) ruled, on June 2, 2021, that the site is in compliance, despite voluminous evidence to the contrary, much of which was recognized by the Zoning Administrator.

This illogical and improper ruling is abhorrent and has been appealed by NASE (Neighbors for A Safe Environment), a California nonprofit environmental organization formed by our neighbors in 2000 due to concerns about the West Pico Drill Site. Details of their appeal are attached. Details of the ZA ruling are also attached.

## Proposed Motion

In keeping with the board's responsibility to represent the interests of the community, including our collective interest in protecting the environment and public safety, it is proposed that we send the proposed letter of support (attached) for the NASE appeal in Case No. ZA-1989-17683, ENV-2020-1328-CE.

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## Considerations

### Arguments for:

The June 2, 2021 ZA Determination is not supported by required inspections.

The ZA Determination ignores the health and welfare of SORO stakeholders.

### Arguments against:

This appeal undermines the authority of the ZA.

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West Los Angeles Area Planning Commission Department of City Planning  
200 N Spring St  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Sent Via Email to: [apcwestla@lacity.org](mailto:apcwestla@lacity.org)

Re: ZA-1989-17683-PA2-1A  
West Pico Drill Site, 9101 & 9151 W. Pico Blvd, Los Angeles, CA, 90035

To the West Los Angeles Area Planning Commission,

In regard to Case No. ZA-1989-17683, ENV-2020-1328-CE, the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council (SORONC) fully supports the appeal filed by NASE (Neighbors for A Safe Environment), a California nonprofit environmental organization formed by our neighbors in 2000 due to concerns about the West Pico Drill Site.

We have attached a letter by NASE's attorney Amy Minter of Chatten-Brown, Carstens & Minter LLP, and the letter's attachments and addenda, which delineate the basis for the appeal.

As Ms. Minter's letter points out, the West Pico Drill Site is operating in violation of:

- the conditions under which the project was approved,
- the Los Angeles Municipal Code
- the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and
- the 2001 Settlement Agreement with NASE which requires periodic reviews and corrective actions for environmental and operational defects.

SORONC is charged with affirmatively acting to support the health, safety, and welfare of our stakeholders. City laws and regulations that are supposed to govern the operation of the drill site are expressly intended to protect public safety and health., Likewise for CEQA, the State of California's landmark environmental law.. Therefore we find the ZA Determination abhorrent due to the determination's utter disregard for City laws and regulations, and its evasion of the requirements for environmental review under CEQA. This puts the safety, health, and welfare of our stakeholders at unnecessary risk.

SORONC stakeholders of all ages live, work, eat, play, learn, socialize and invest in close proximity to the West Pico Drill Site.

Our position is not new. We have documented it in submissions to the ZA in 2020, but are repeating it now in reaction to the dangerously unfortunate ZA Determination, which should not be allowed to stand.

Sincerely,

General Board  
South Robertson Neighborhoods Council

cc:

Theodore Irving, Associate Zoning Administrator  
Dylan Sittig, Assistant to Associate Zoning Administrator  
Irving Estineh Mailian, Chief Zoning Administrator  
Edber Macedo, Assistant to Chief Zoning Administrator Mailian  
Terry Kaufmann-Macias, Assistant City Attorney  
Jennifer Tobkin, Deputy City Attorney  
Paul Koretz, Council Member CD5  
Joan Pelico, Chief of Staff CD5  
Daniel Skolnick, Land Use Deputy CD5  
Andy Shrader, Environmental Policy Director CD5  
Professor Michael Salman  
Rabbi Yonah Bookstein  
Richard S. Weiner, Secretary NASE  
Dr. Rae R. Drazin, President NASE