



Martin Epstein
President

Ken Blaker
Vice-President

Jon Liberman
Treasurer

Vacant
Secretary

Charlie Stein
Corresponding Secretary

**South Robertson
Neighborhoods Council**

PO Box 35836
Los Angeles, CA 90035

P: (310) 295-9920
F: (310) 295-9906
E: info@soronc.org

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Motion to re-approve the Encumbrance Request Form submitted on June 30, 2020

Agenda Item: GB071620-3
Date: July 16, 2020
Proposed By: Executive Committee
**Include motion in NO
Consent Agenda?**

Background

On June 22, 2020 this board approved a Fiscal Year 19-20 Catchall Motion. GB 062220-4. Included in this motion was the City Clerk’s Encumbrance Form. The motion was approved and the packet including the encumbrance form was submitted to the City Clerk. Today (July 13, 2020) the City Clerk has requested that the encumbrance form be resubmitted to the Soro NC board to have our board re-approve the form and to acknowledge our Board’s understanding that these encumbered funds must be spent during fiscal year FY 2020-2021.

Proposed Motion

- I. The Soro NC Board re-approves the form developed by the City Clerk (Encumbrance Request Form) and previously submitted to the City Clerk on June 30, 2020. The Board also acknowledges that these encumbered funds will be spent during FY 2020-2021.

Considerations

Committee review: Votes For 4: Against: 0
(highly recommended)

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

Arguments for:	Arguments against:
1. Without re-approval the City Clerk will not allow the encumbrance.	1. The form was developed by the City Clerk. If they wanted this language, they should have included it in the form.



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Motion to support proposed 29-unit TOC apartment building at 3123 Livonia Ave

Agenda Item: (Navar / GB061820-11)

Date: June 18, 2020

Proposed By: Land Use Committee

Include motion in Consent Agenda? No

Background

The project team presented this proposed 29-unit apartment building to the Land Use Committee at their March 05, 2020 meeting. The applicant's entitlement request is for a Tier 3 TOC (Transit Oriented Communities) apartment building. 3 units will be set aside as Extremely Low Income affordable units. The remaining 26 units will be market rate units. In addition to the base incentives of increased density, decreased parking, and increased Floor Area Ratio (FAR), the project utilizes an additional on-menu TOC incentive to increase the building height by 11 feet from 45 feet to 56 feet.

(The TOC program, a result of Measure JJJ passed by voters in 2016, encourages developers to build more affordable housing and to locate said housing near transit by offering incentives, which the developer can select from a menu.)

The subject property, located at 3123 Livonia Ave, on the west side of Livonia Ave, north of National Blvd and south of Kincardine Ave. The neighborhood is comprised of mostly 2-3 story apartment buildings on R3-1 zoned lots.

The project site is 12,866.7 square feet. The proposed building is 5 stories and 31,046 square feet. 15 parking stalls are located in a semi-subterranean parking garage.

Many residents attended the March Land Use meeting to discuss the project. Primary comments expressed concern over displacement of current residents, the size, and the design of the project. Two committee members recused themselves from the discussion and vote, as they are residents of the existing building to be demolished.

Proposed Motion

Submit a letter in support of the application to City Planning Department staff Helen Jadali (helen.jadali@lacity.org) to be included in case file for the TOC apartment building at 3123 Livonia Ave; DIR-2019-3727-TOC.

Considerations

Committee review: <i>(highly recommended)</i>	Votes For: 5	Against: 1
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Arguments for:

The project utilizes the TOC Guidelines to add 3 affordable units, as well as 26

Arguments against:

An existing fourplex will be demolished.

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Helen Jadali
Department of City Planning
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

17 July 2020

Re: Case Number DIR-2019-3727-TOC

Dear Ms Jadali:

I am writing on behalf of the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council ("SORO NC") to comment on the proposed TOC apartment building at 3123 Livonia Ave.

At a duly-noticed meeting of the General Board on July 16, 2020, SORO NC voted 00 yes / 00 no / 00 abstain to recommend that the applicant's project be approved. The addition of 29 units, 3 of which are designated Extremely Low Income affordable units, to a transit-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,

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Martin Epstein
President, South Robertson Neighborhoods Council

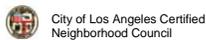
Cc: Aviv Kleinman, Office of Council Member Paul Koretz
Krystal Nívar, SORO NC Land Use Committee Chair

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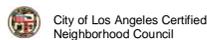
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Motion to fund up to \$500 for City Council District 10 candidate forum

Agenda Item: (Barclay-Strobel / GB071620-4)

Date: July 16, 2020

Proposed By: Jessica Barclay-Strobel

Include motion in Consent Agenda? (No)

Background

SORO NC and 7 other neighborhood councils that have constituents in L.A. City Council District 10 co-sponsored a candidate forum in January 2020. SORO devoted around \$1,000 to that forum.

Those same neighborhood councils are exploring whether to co-sponsor another candidates forum for the remaining 2 candidates. The forum would be by video (not in person) and likely on September 12 or 19. Funding would include the cost of graphic design, flyer printing, and distribution.

Proposed Motion

SORO NC shall approve funding up to \$500 for a City Council District 10 candidate forum in 2020.

Considerations

Arguments for:

This forum will be another opportunity for the public to learn about all the candidates before the November 3, 2020 election.

Arguments against:

By September and with the narrowed field, folks might be more focused on national or other electoral issues.



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Motion to support 4-home Small Lot at 1417 S Doheny Dr

Agenda Item: (Land Use / GB071620-5)

Date: July 16, 2020

Proposed By: Land Use Committee

Include motion in Consent Agenda? No

Background

The project representatives presented this proposed 4-home small lot subdivision to the Land Use Committee at their June 07, 2020 meeting. The applicant's entitlement request is for a tentative tract map to subdivide the existing property at 1417 S Doheny Dr into 4 smaller lots to build 4 separate homes per the City's small lot subdivision ordinance.

The property is located south of W Pico Blvd, east of S Oakhurst Dr, west of S Canfield Ave, and north of Alcott St. The neighborhood is a mix of 1-story single-family residences and 2- and 3-story apartment buildings. The property shares a rear alley with a 30-unit apartment building and an alley to the north shared with the C4 properties along Pico Blvd. The proposed homes are 4 stories with a roof deck at 45 feet tall. Each home includes an attached 2-car garage. The homes' vehicular access is off of the alley to the north.

The applicant noticed residents within 500 feet of the property for the Land Use meeting. There were no neighbors in attendance to speak either in favor or against the project.

Proposed Motion

Submit a letter in support of the project to City Planner Dylan Sittig (dylan.sittig@lacity.org) to be included in case file for the small lot subdivision project at 1417 S Doheny Dr; AA-2020-1495-PMLA-SL-HCA.

Considerations

Committee review:
(highly recommended)

Votes For: 5

Against: 0

Arguments for:

Proposed project adds 3 homes to the housing supply. (4 - 1 = 3)

The R3 zone is a transitional density between the C4 zone on Pico and the R1V2 zone one block south.

Arguments against:

1 existing single-family residence will be demolished.

The new homes will be taller than the surrounding buildings.

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Dylan Sittig
Department of City Planning
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

17 July 2020

Re: Case Number AA-2020-1495-PMLA-SL-HCA

Dear Mr. Sittig:

I am writing on behalf of the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council ("SORO NC") to comment on the proposed 4-home small lot subdivision project at 1417 S Doheny Dr.

At a duly-noticed meeting of the General Board on July 16, 2020, SORO NC voted 00 yes / 00 no / 00 abstain to recommend that the applicant's project be approved. The proposed 4 homes are appropriate per the density, with the R3 zone acting as a transitional zone between the C4 zone on Pico Blvd to the north and the R1V2 zone one block south. Therefore, we support the request for a Tentative Tract Map. The addition of 4 single-family homes in Los Angeles is much needed.

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

Sincerely,

Martin Epstein
President, South Robertson Neighborhoods Council

Cc: Aviv Kleinman, Office of Council Member Paul Koretz
Krystal Návar, SORO NC Land Use Committee Chair

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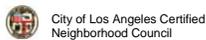
Charlie Stein
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Motion to File Community Impact Statement Urging No Prosecution of Nonviolent Protestors

Agenda Item: (Barclay-Strobel / GB071620-6)

Date: July 16, 2020

Proposed By: Jessica Barclay-Strobel

Include motion in Consent Agenda? (No)

Background

In 2017, members of Refuse Fascism were arrested and prosecuted for their alleged role in planning or participating in peaceful protests.¹ In late June 2020, those charges were dismissed after several trials revealed that the Los Angeles Police Department "placed an informant inside of [this] non-violent political group" and recorded its meetings at a religious institution. Reporting also revealed that, when surveilling Refuse Fascism, "LAPD did not conduct any similar surveillance operations on right-wing political groups." As a Refuse Fascism member explained upon learning of the dismissal while awaiting her third trial on these charges, dismissal was timely and important given that recently "LAPD arrested thousands of people for violating curfews or failing to obey dispersal orders during days of protests in response to George Floyd's murder."

The LA City Council has the opportunity to vote on a motion (Council File 20-0718) urging no prosecution of protestors who were arrested for violating curfews or failing to obey dispersal orders. Dropping charges and foregoing prosecution now would mean that these protestors do not have to wait the three years it took for Refuse Fascism members to obtain dismissal of their charges.

Concerned that prosecution of peaceful protestors chills free speech, the Palms Neighborhood Council voted on July 2, 2020, to submit to the abovementioned Council File a similar community impact statement to the one attached here.

Proposed Motion

SORO NC shall file by August 2, 2020, the attached community impact statement in Council File 20-0718.

¹ This background and quotations are from the following LA Times articles: (1) <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-06-25/city-attorney-drops-all-charges-against-anti-trump-protest-group-that-lapd-spied-on> and (2) <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2019-07-19/lapd-informant-recorded-trump-protesters>



Council File: 20-0718

Community Impact Statement

As adopted by vote of the SORO NC governing board:

Yes: No: Abstain: Ineligible: Recuse:

Adopted:

Position: For

The South Robertson Neighborhood Council extends its support to this motion (Council File 20-0718) calling for the City Attorney to not prosecute and to drop all charges against protestors whose crimes are curfew violations or failure to comply with orders to disperse. The protestors in question were exercising their right to free speech and were not engaged in theft or property damage. Protecting freedom of speech is essential to our democracy. Our neighbors need to feel safe to demonstrate peacefully without fear of fine or imprisonment.

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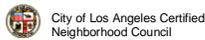
Submitted by:

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E: info@soronc.org

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Motion to Send Notices to Tenants in Projects That Come Before the Land Use and Economic Development Committee and General Board

Agenda Item: (Outreach / GB071620-7)

Date: July 16, 2020

Proposed By: Outreach Committee

Include motion in Consent Agenda? No

Background

Representatives of development projects that request conditional use permits or variances or that fall under transit-oriented developments or transit-oriented communities are required to appear before the Land Use and Economic Development (LUED) Committee—and eventually the General Board. These representatives are asked to present their project before the board and public to provide more information and to answer questions.

Additionally, developers and/or their representatives are required to send notices to residents and/or individuals living in the vicinity notices about their appearance before the neighborhood council. These notices allow those with a vested interest in the project to speak about it.

Although developers are required to verify with LUED that they sent notices about meetings to tenants and adjacent dwellings that are affected by their project, tenants have commented during public comment that they did not receive notices from the developers. As a result, the Outreach Committee proposes this motion that empowers the committee to notify tenants of projects about meetings in which projects impacting them will be discussed.

Proposed Motion

- I. In collaboration with LUED, the Outreach Committee will obtain a mailing list from developers containing with contact information of tenants and adjacent individuals who will be affected by their project.
- II. The Outreach Committee will send a notice about LUED and General Board meetings to the list of individuals. Although it's preferable to send notices via email, a U.S. Postal Service solution might be the only option.
- III. The Outreach Committee will propose a budget to cover mailing costs.



Considerations

Committee review:
(highly recommended)

Votes For:

Against:

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

\$

Arguments for:

Arguments against:

The General Board can be assured that those who need to receive notice will have gotten them from SORONC.

There is a lot of legwork in sending physical correspondence to tenants and adjacent affected individuals.

This allows SORONC to do due diligence in making sure the intended recipients of notices receive them.

There is not enough bandwidth within the Outreach Committee to undertake these types of administrative duties.

SORONC can serve as a redundancy for developers who did not notify affected parties of their project.

Coordination between LUED and the Outreach Committee will be complicated, especially since the LUED chair position is current vacant.

This effort will give SORONC more reach in the community; those who receive the notices will also have an opportunity to learn about SORO.



Motion to Write a Letter of Recognition for West LAPD Senior Lead Officers Community Relations

Agenda Item: (Public Safety / GB071620-8)
Date: July 16, 2020
Proposed By: Public Safety Committee
Include motion in Consent Agenda? NO

Background

In the past four years, the West LAPD Community Relations program has been very successful. In particular, the Senior Lead Officers assigned to the South Robertson area have proven to be great assets in our community, assisting Stakeholders with various issues throughout the neighborhoods.

This letter of recognition offers the appreciation and praise that they deserve, as well as identifies several individual examples of their involvement and dedication.

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Charlie Stein
Corresponding Secretary

Proposed Motion

- I. For the SORO NC to send a letter of recognition to West LAPD Captain Jonathan Tom, and CC: Mayor Eric Garcetti, LAPD Chief Michael Moore, Los Angeles Police Commission, Councilmember Herb Wesson, and Councilmember Paul Koretz.

Considerations

Committee review: Votes For: 6 Against: 1
(highly recommended)

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

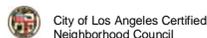
Arguments for:	Arguments against:
Officers should get acknowledged for positive actions.	Praising police might be perceived as tone-deaf to some community members

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Captain Jonathan Tom
West Los Angeles Police Department
1663 Butler Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90025

July 16, 2020

Re: Community Relations and WLAPD Senior Lead Officers

Dear Captain Tom:

The SORO NC would like to recognize the success of the LAPD Community Policing program, and specifically praise the Senior Lead Officers that have been assigned to the South Robertson area over the past 4 years. They have regularly interacted with Stakeholders at Public Safety Committee meetings and are an important part of several annual SORO NC sponsored events such as Coffee with A Cop, SOROFEST and the Los Angeles Homeless Count.

Among the numerous emails, calls and reports the Public Safety Committee has received about LAPD, there has been a growing number of good comments from the community regarding how our SLOs are addressing situations and affecting positive outcomes in their service to South Robertson.

Examples:

- SLO Chris Baker- meeting with Reynier Park neighbors to address various problems (Reynier Park calls to LAPD have significantly decreased since SLO Baker took over.)
- SLO Matt Kirk- meeting with Crestview Neighbors in efforts to reduce home burglaries and thefts.
- SLO Chris Baker and Officer James Allen (Acting SLO)- assisting Social Workers to provide residents of several homeless encampments with City and County Services.
- SLOs Chris Ragsdale and Matt Kirk- mitigating complaints by neighbors of the owner of 8755 W Olympic.
- SLO Chris Baker- Stepped up to expedite LAPD response to a 911 call that was ignored
- SLOs Matt Kirk and Chris Baker- Distributing Fireworks Advisory letter to all the students.
- SLOs Chris Baker and Matt Kirk- Coordinating a successful Citizen Patrol program.
- SLO Chris Baker- Town Hall meetings addressing Anti-Semitism in the Jewish Community
- Neighborhood Watch Meetings (multiple).
- SLO Chris Baker- Personally walking the beat on Pico Blvd., proactively identifying Safety needs of businesses and religious institutions along Pico Blvd.
- SLOs Chris Baker and Matt Kirk- Personal dedication to protecting Houses of Worship from terrorism threats.
- "Active Shooter" Training presentations in the community.
- SLO Matt Kirk- has been very responsive in dealing with Gang graffiti and communication with the WLA Gang unit on their activities.
- SLO Chris Baker- Coordinated with Narcotics officers and City Attorney to shut down illegal marijuana dispensaries and drug trafficking.



Motion to Sponsor a Bicycle Registration and Safety Event

Agenda Item: (Public Safety / GB071620-9)
Date: July 16, 2020
Proposed By: Public Safety Committee
Include motion in Consent Agenda? NO

Background

The event would be co-hosted with LAPD, where Stakeholders can bring their bikes to register them (on-line using SORO NC tablets), while receiving instruction and educational materials on bike safety.

The event would be tentatively scheduled for Sunday August 23rd from 9am-1pm at a location TBD.

Proposed Motion

- I. For the SORO NC to Sponsor a Bicycle Registration and Safety Event, and fund up to \$500 to cover outreach and refreshment costs.

Considerations

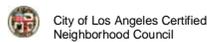
Committee review: Votes For: 8 Against: 0
(highly recommended)

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

Arguments for:	Arguments against:
Great outreach event for SORO NC	Only a percentage of the community rides bikes. Money could be used elsewhere

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Motion to create an ad hoc committee to evaluate the Soro NC website

Agenda Item: (Liberman / GB071620-10)

Date: July 16, 2020

Proposed By: Executive Committee

**Include motion in
Consent Agenda?** No

Background

Our current website is several years old. When it was originally set up it was state of the art with all of the bells and whistles. Today it is showing its age. It is based on an older platform (Drupal) which is now used less frequently. Also, our website is no longer compliant with current ADA regulations involving access to hearing or sight impaired individuals.

Additionally, our version of Drupal is no longer supported by the developer. There is a newer version of the Drupal platform which may be good choice to migrate into but it needs to be evaluated as to whether it is better than the newer platforms. Another factor to be considered is that with newer platforms being more prevalent we may find a shortage of website developers who use Drupal.

Proposed Motion

- I. Soro NC will create an ad hoc committee to evaluate the council's website requirements. This Committee will be Co-Chaired by the Treasurer and by Doug Fitzsimmons. Participating board members will be Ken Blaker, Terrence Gomes and two other board members to be selected later.
- II. The specific charge to the committee will be a review of:
 - a) The current website's functions and capabilities.
 - b) The requirements established by Soro's Outreach Committee as to what the items need be included in any future website.
 - c) Any deficiencies in the current website as to either ADA compliance, security or ease of use.
 - d) What programs should be considered for any future website (Drupal, Word Press, or ??)
 - e) Whether Soro NC has the capability to handle the migration to a newer version of Drupal or another platform without professional assistance? If not, who are the developers available and what are their costs?
- III. The Committee will report back to the Board with its recommendations within 120 days.



Considerations

Committee review: <i>(highly recommended)</i>	Votes For 4:	Against 0:
Amount previously allocated in Committee's working budget: <i>(applies to funding motions only)</i>		\$

Arguments for:	Arguments against:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We need to determine what a migration to a new website entails. 2. We need to determine whether this is something we have the capability to handle on our own or whether we need the involvement of an outside developer. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Another committee will need to be staffed. This could overwork some board members who already serve on multiple committees.