

SORO NC Board Applicant Statements

21 August 2014

Candidates for At Large Representative 3

Partial term expiring 2016

Ken Blaker

I moved to SORO in 2006. I was born in Philadelphia (where I was civically involved even as a teenager - the city's school district chose me to represent all Philadelphia students at a wide variety of events, and on television, including a series of interviews with the Governor that were aired on Public TV throughout Pennsylvania). I have lived in about a dozen other locations throughout the country – and I love living in SORO. I am married with 2 pre-schoolers. I have my own business here in SORO. My wife and I own a condo in SORO, and we have both served as Presidents of the condo Home Owners Association. I am the President of the that HOA currently. We are active with the parent council of our children's school. We are people who get involved.

As a member of the council I will focus on people oriented activities to promote neighborhood beautification, along with promoting social interactions to solidify community-wide acceptance and respect for all members of our diverse community.

I also feel compelled to focus on supporting a positive business environment. Our business community is largely comprised of small businesses. We don't have any big-box stores here. We have few chain restaurants and few chain supermarkets. We have a lot of single location businesses and services. And we have a growing number of empty commercial properties. As much as the Council already does, I believe there is more that can be done to support our business community, and the people who depend on those businesses.

Please support my candidacy.

Ken Blaker

Tiffany Miller Cohen

My husband and I are thrilled to be moving our family into a house on 24th street. As residents of Soro for over 5 years, we were very excited when our hopes of owning a home in the neighborhood became a reality. As my husband and I are nonprofit professionals, we strongly believe in community. I welcome an opportunity to give back to my community and to help create a neighborhood in which my daughter can thrive.

In my current job in South Los Angeles, I am very involved with community, economic and educational development and would be happy to put my skills to use in my own community.

Pieter Severynen

20+ year career with US Department of Housing and Urban Development as Landscape Architect and Community Planning and Development Representative.

Long involvement with neighborhood organizations funding and set up.

Extensive involvement with LA City and County bureaucracies.

Very long time neighborhood resident; familiar with neighborhood issues, especially at outdoor, planning, and tree level.

Want to stimulate more outdoor water saving measures; have necessary expertise.

Meryl Chambers

I am an attorney and I've lived in this neighborhood ever since moving to Los Angeles after college. My parents live in the Beverlywood neighborhood. I love this community and can't imagine living in any other part of the city. I'm so excited about the direction this neighborhood is moving, with modern Kosher restaurants as an example, and would love to be a part of that progress.

Robyn Braun

I have served on the SORO NC Board since 2006 as the Zone 4 representative. Although great strides have been made to improve the quality of life in La Cienega Heights, there is so much more to do here and throughout the SORO boundaries. I would like to be considered for the At Large Representative Seat to continue supporting the goals of our NC and community as well as stakeholder concerns. I am continuing membership on the Public Safety Committee. I look forward to working with the new esteemed SORO NC.

Thank you for your consideration.

Robyn Braun

Rich Bloom

I am very active in the Pico-Robertson community and am very invested in its welfare. I am a member of the Los Angeles Intercommunity Kollel (LINK) at 1453 S. Robertson Blvd. as well as the Happy Minyan at 9218 Pico Blvd. and the Chevra. Nearly every Jewish sabbath, I walk back and forth between my home in Laurel Canyon and Pico-Robertson (5.7 miles each way). In addition, I patronize establishments, regularly shopping as well as eating at restaurants in the Pico-Robertson area. Many vitally important issues to the Pico-Robertson area are important to me, including safety, beautification, home expansion/mansionization, and interpersonal relations (person-to-person and resident-to-business). It would be an honor for me to serve as an at-large representative on the Pico-Robertson neighborhood council. Thank you for your consideration.

Michael Friedman

I am a Civil Litigation attorney at a boutique Century City firm. I grew up in this neighborhood and have a history of working to give back and strengthen our community.

I volunteer as an Advocate for Public Counsel's Homelessness Project, helping those who are unable to help themselves, and building a stronger community. I am also invested in the Soro Community. During my time as the Director of an Israeli Prime Minister's Special Initiative I managed a \$200,000 budget, focusing my efforts on local programming and community engagement.

I also have leadership experience. During my time in law school, where I was a merit scholar, I served as the President of the Student Government where I revitalized student life.

I plan to take these skill to help connect the SORONC to its members. To incorporate what our residents want into a larger picture of Los Angeles and to work with our government representatives to make sure the interests of SORO are made a priority.

Krystal Návar

Dear Members of the SORO NC Board,

I have been a resident of the neighborhood for 7 years, and have been working in this neighborhood for the same amount of time. My husband owns an architecture and construction firm where I am a designer and project manager. We have built in this neighborhood and feel compelled to build more here, as it is our home. I am also a mother of a 2-year-old daughter and a 7-year-old doggy.

I would bring a thoughtful, fresh, design-minded perspective to the board and hope to be considered for the open position.

Thank you for your consideration,

Krystal Návar

Candidate for Zone 3 Representative

Partial term expiring 2016

Melissande Colton

I am an energetic, motivated and full of positive ideas to help this community grow and prosper. I am a native Angeleno, love this city and am happy to do whatever it takes to move it forward in a positive direction.

Candidates for Organization Representative 4

Partial term expiring 2016 / Will become At-Large Representative 5 upon City approval

Barry Levine

I served on the Board of the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council for about eight years and currently chair the Education Committee.

We created the SCATCH program which tutors Shenandoah Street Elementary School children with one-on-one tutors for about twenty third, fourth and fifth graders. We partnered with YULA girls High School, involving about twenty High School students with peer to peer tutoring.

We also instituted a Fresh Fruit on Fridays program that supplies a piece of fresh produce, a geography lesson, a health lesson a biology lesson all centered on the produce provided. This last year funding shifted to the SORO Foundation but they have requested matching funds for future years.

We also organized a candidate forum for the LAUSD District One seat this current year.

I am most proud of the position we at the Education Committee moved through the Neighborhood Council board, the City Council of Los Angeles (by unanimous vote), and eventually the voters of Los Angeles: in November of 2013, a 74% majority approved a city ballot measure calling on our elected officials to support a US Constitutional Amendment stating 1) corporations are not people and shouldn't have constitutional rights, and 2) money is not free speech. This advisory resolution has passed both the State Senate and the State Assembly is now on the Governor's desk awaiting his signature to place the issue on the November 2014 state ballot.

I am actively pursuing a computer code-writing program for third graders to begin this next school year. My work continues even though I am no longer on the Board and would appreciate being reinstated by appointment to the Board.

Dan Berkovitz

I am involved in the community and desire to be more involved in the community. I am a person who takes action. I lost the council election by 4 votes but that doesn't stop me, I'm still applying to be on the council. I want to do good.

Mark Hecht

My whole life takes place in the area that is governed by the soro community council and it is extremely important to me to take an active role in lending my thoughts and ideas to improve all aspects of this great neighborhood. I also have meaningful relationships with many people in the neighborhood that I can leverage to bring awareness, participation and excitement to the council. I am an excellent candidate and I feel I would be a tremendous asset to the council



Motion to Send Letter of Support for California State Legislation AB 1147 Massage Therapy

Agenda Item: GB082114-7

Date: 8/21/2014

Proposed By: Beth Hirsch

Full Proposal

Write letter of Support to be sent to Authors of AB1147 (Bonilla, Gomez, Holden)
CC: Senator Ted Lieu, Governor Jerry Brown, Councilman Paul Koretz, Councilman Herb Wesson, City Attorney Mike Feuer.

AB 1147 is California State legislation that would fix the unintended consequences of **SB 731** (2008). While SB 731 prohibited employees to provide massage if they are not certified by the California Massage Therapy Council (CAMTC,) the bill precludes the ability of local jurisdictions to regulate massage therapists and massage businesses that employ certified massage therapists. Specifically, jurisdictions can only regulate massage establishments using CAMTC-certified massage professionals if jurisdictions apply the same regulations to other professional services in a uniform manner. In addition, the legislation provides that certified massage therapists have the right to practice massage without any other license, permit, or other authorization.

Other provisions in SB 731 requires local governments to charge the lowest business license fee of any professional service to massage establishments and prohibit the requirement of restrooms, showers or other facilities not uniformly required of other professional services. All of these caused unintended loopholes that allowed the proliferation of illicit massage businesses whose sole purpose was promoting, prostitution and human trafficking and left the city and the local law enforcement no tools to combat it. The statute is set to expire on Jan 1, 2015.

AB 1147 returns land use control back to locals by authorizing cities and counties to adopt and enforce any local ordinance governing zoning, business licensing, or reasonable health and safety requirements for massage establishments and for local governments to address establishments that are masquerading as massage businesses, promoting human trafficking and prostitution. AB 1147 will allow the city to once again collect fees that would help recoup additional costs of regulating this industry.

The law, if passed, would reconstitute the CAMTC's board and add positions for law enforcement, public health, government and members of the public instead of a board made up primarily of massage therapists and massage business owners who were previously less than cooperative with local law enforcement and the public.

Urgent: AB 1147 needs to pass both houses by August 31, 2014, the date that the Legislative Calendar ends.

Proposed Motion

- I. Write letter in Support of AB 1147 to Bill Authors (Bonilla, Gomez and Holden) or other officials deemed necessary as legislation progresses. Cc:s will include Senator Ted Lieu, Senator Holly Mitchell, Assemblyman Mark Ridley-Thomas, Sebastian Ridley – Thomas, Assemblyman Richard Bloom, Governor Jerry

Doug Fitzsimmons
President

Kevin Gres
Vice-President

Terrence Gomes
Treasurer

Aimee Zeltzer
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Brown, Councilman Paul Koretz, Councilman Herb Wesson, City Attorney Mike Feuer, Mayor Eric Garcetti.

- II. Support creation of informational presentation on AB 1147 and it's impact on land usage and law enforcement to other NC's, LANCC and WRAC if bill is signed into law.

Considerations

Committee review:
(highly recommended)

Votes For: 0

Against:

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

\$ N/A

Arguments for:

City of Los Angeles needs land use control returned so they can adopt and enforce any local ordinance governing zoning, business licensing, or reasonable health and safety requirements for massage to address establishments that are masquerading as massage businesses, promoting human trafficking and prostitution. AB 1147 would provide this again.

Arguments against:

The legitimate Massage Industry, especially Massage establishments. Do not want to be regulated again by the cities. Before SB 731 was created giving them a state certification, they felt they were unfairly fined/regulated and treated as adult entertainment establishments. They feel that the cities might try to do that again.



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The Honorable Susan Bonilla
California State Assembly
State Capitol Building, Room 4140
Sacramento, CA 95814

Date:

RE: AB 1147 (Bonilla, Gomez, Holden). Massage Therapy Act of 2014. (as amended on August 4 2014)

The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council supports AB 1147, which would completely revise and recast the law (SB 731) pertaining to massage therapy, including returning land use control back to the city's governments.

AB 1147 allows local governments to adopt or enforce any local ordinance governing zoning, business licensing, or reasonable health and safety requirements for massage establishments, while still maintaining a balance of fairness to legitimate massage practice. Having this authority returned will allow local governments and law enforcement to prevent businesses operating under the auspices of massage therapy from engaging in prostitution and human trafficking.

While AB 1147 does not replace CAMTC with a board or commission, it does reconstitute the CAMTC's Board and adds qualified, civil and public members as well as a position for a police chief rather than a board made up primarily of massage industry professionals. We are confident that this will lead to more cooperation from CAMTC with cities and local law enforcement. Finally, the bill would authorize local governments to recoup their costs of protecting the public.

It's been reported by the LAPD Human Trafficking Division that the city of Los Angeles went from fewer than 50 massage establishments in 2009 to more than 1000 currently. We have counted more than 35 in South Robertson in approximately 3 square miles. Many have been able to open and stay open in apartment buildings, storefronts facing residential neighborhoods and flourish next to schools and other childcare facilities. We strongly urge that the Senate resist allowing the bill to be further weakened by amendments that make exceptions for massage chains and sole proprietors. This will continue to widen the loopholes for criminal activities, further tying the hands of law enforcement.

We believe AB 1147 addresses most of the concerns of the SORO NC and will begin to allow the City of Los Angeles to better protect public safety and quality of life in our neighborhoods .

As such, we support AB 1147as amended.

Sincerely,

SORO NC

cc: Senator Ted Lieu, Senator Holly Mitchell, Assemblyman Sebastian Ridley-Thomas , Assemblyman Mark Ridley-Thomas, Mayor Eric Garcetti, City Councilman Paul Koretz, City Councilman Herb Wesson, City Attorney Michael Feurer, Governor Jerry Brown