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**South Robertson
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Motion to request street-corner mailboxes

Agenda Item: GB041509-3

Date: April 15, 2009

Proposed By: Doug Fitzsimmons

Summary

The US Postal has recently removed virtually all the street-corner mailboxes in SORO. While the removal of some of the less-used boxes is understandable, removing all negatively impacts many residents of our neighborhood.

Full Proposal

The policy of the US Postal Service is to only service street mailboxes that receive more than 50 pieces of mail a day. Based on that criterion, USPS recently removed virtually all of the corner boxes within SORO.

While it is understandable and desirable that the Post Office seeks to reduce operating costs, removing the boxes entirely places a burden on many non-driving residents in SORO. Many are concerned that house boxes are not secure, and increase the risk of check and/or identity theft. USPS is also currently evaluating eliminating Saturday home pick up and delivery, which would further aggravate the situation.

Proposed Motion

To authorize a letter to the Postmaster and to Representative Waxman requesting his support in reinstating as many street mailboxes as is practicable.

Considerations

Pro

Many residents are unable to drive to the Post Office

Eliminating all street mailboxes without public notice or input is unfair

Con

Mail can also be stolen from street mailboxes.

In the current economic climate, we should support government cost-cutting.

Board Notes

Votes For:

Against:

Abstain:

Proposed Amendments:



15 April 2009

Re: Street mailboxes within South Robertson neighborhoods

Dear :

I am writing on behalf of the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council ("SORO NC") to express our concern about the recent removal of street mailboxes within our area (roughly bounded by Beverly Hills to the north, Culver City to the south, Beverwil and Roxbury streets to the west, and La Cienega Blvd. to the east).

Our community includes many residents who, for a number of reasons, do not drive and cannot, therefore, easily get to the local Post Office. The removal of street mailboxes increases the likelihood of mail theft and poses an undue burden.

While our residents certainly understand the necessity of cost-cutting measures in the current economic environment, we ask that a reasonable number of mailboxes be re-installed, and ask that the US Postal Service works together with the Neighborhood Council to identify suitable locations.

We thank your for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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Motion to request changes to the Century City Neighborhood Traffic Mitigation Plan

Agenda Item: GB041509-4
Date: April 15, 2009
Proposed By: Doug Fitzsimmons

Summary

A request that the Board endorse a letter to Councilman Weiss asking that he introduce a City Council resolution to amend the CCNTMP, lifting restrictions on Motor Avenue that effectively divert traffic into surrounding neighborhoods.

Full Proposal

From the attached letter:

“On July 8, 2003, in an effort to protect the surrounding communities from increased commuter traffic that was projected from several developments in Century City, the Los Angeles City Council voted to approve the Century City Neighborhood Traffic Mitigation Plan (“CCNTMP”). On November 22, 2005, in response to feedback from the community and in an effort to remedy unintended consequences of the original resolution, additional amendments to the CCNTMP were introduced via council resolution...

“Specifically, the extraordinary accommodations that have been given to Motor have redirected a significant chunk of their traffic to all of our surrounding neighborhoods. In fact, current LADOT traffic studies confirm that the measures implemented to meet the 600 vehicle per hour cap (instituted for peak hour volume on Motor) have caused commuters to find alternate routes, thereby exploding traffic counts in neighboring communities.”

The letter has been endorsed by Beverlywood Homes Association, Castle Heights Neighborhood Association, Century City Homeowners Alliance, Century Park Place Homeowners Association, Century Woods, Inc., Le Parc, and Westwood South of Santa Monica Homeowners Association.

Proposed Motion

To fully support the attached letter to Councilman Weiss regarding traffic issues affecting neighborhoods in the SORO NC and urge the council to take immediate action to eliminate the 600 vehicle per hour caps on Motor Avenue.

Considerations

Pro

Residential streets are not designed – or intended – to handle their current traffic

Con

Wouldn't reduce overall traffic; just shifts it to another area (i.e., Motor)

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Motor is arguably better able to handle the commuter traffic

Some residents along Motor have been vocal in their support of the vehicle caps.

Board Notes

Votes For:

Against:

Abstain:

Proposed Amendments:

March 24, 2009

Councilman Jack Weiss
200 N. Spring Street, Room 440
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Councilman Weiss:

On July 8, 2003, in an effort to protect the surrounding communities from increased commuter traffic that was projected from several developments in Century City, the Los Angeles City Council voted to approve the Century City Neighborhood Traffic Mitigation Plan ("CCNTMP"). On November 22, 2005, in response to feedback from the community and in an effort to remedy unintended consequences of the original resolution, additional amendments to the CCNTMP were introduced by you, via council resolution (attached hereto). In your proposal and December 15, 2005, summary to the Mayor (attached hereto), you noted that the intent of the CCNTMP was that actions taken for any one street in the protected area to remedy a traffic problem not result in unintended consequences or burdens to any other street. Unfortunately, this is exactly what has occurred.

Specifically, the extraordinary accommodations that have been given to Motor have redirected a significant chunk of their traffic to all of our surrounding neighborhoods. In fact, current LADOT traffic studies confirm that the measures implemented to meet the 600 vehicle per hour cap (instituted for peak hour volume on Motor) have caused commuters to find alternate routes, thereby exploding traffic counts in neighboring communities.

While the mitigations that are being installed in all the CCNTMP covered neighborhoods are a valuable first step at reducing traffic and increasing safety in all of our neighborhoods, much work still needs to be done. Moreover, the existence of a vehicle cap for one street is simply unfair and contrary to the original intent of the council resolutions; it has created and continues to create severe unintended consequences across a vast number of communities that you represent.

As such, we are urging you to take immediate action, via council resolution, to amend the CCNTMP as follows:

1. Remove items #18-21 of the CCNTMP associated with setting a 600 vehicle per hour cap during AM and PM peak hours on Motor Avenue by altering signal timing and installing "No Left Turn" LED sign at Motor and National.
2. Instruct LADOT to adjust all signal timing that has been altered to meet the 600 vehicle per hour cap back to its original condition.
3. Remove no right turn restriction for westbound traffic on National at Motor (which was only implemented as a temporary measure).

On behalf of all the groups represented in this letter, we appreciate your immediate attention and your willingness to help the communities in your district. Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Best regards,

Scott Diamond
President, Beverlywood Homes Association

Larry DeMers
President, Castle Heights Neighborhood Association

Jay Hyman
President, Century City Homeowners Alliance

Irwin Daniels
President, Century Park Place Homeowners Association

Bruce Spector
Century Woods, Inc.

Lee Bronson
President, Le Parc

Barbara Broide
President, Westwood South of Santa Monica Homeowners Association



Artist in Residence for Shenandoah Elementary School

Agenda Item: GB041509-5

Date: April 15, 2009

Proposed By: Education Committee

Summary

Harold C. Haizlip from the After School Arts Program of LA's Best, approached SORONC to fund an artist in residence program for Shenandoah Elementary School.

Full Proposal

\$2500.00 has been requested to enable 20 kindergarten thru second grade students and 20 third thru 5th graders to participate in a ten week visual or performing arts program taught by an outstanding artist/teacher, utilizing the best instructional materials and supplies, planning a school-wide culminating event or performance and scheduling a related field trip to an appropriate cultural event or venue in Los Angeles. This program has been evaluated as outstanding in all categories by UCLA and by arts educators, principals, teachers, parents and the students themselves.

Due to budget cuts at LAUSD, this program provides vital, transformative experiences in the arts with long lasting impact on students' self efficacy, school attendance and participation, school completion and contributions as successful adults in our society that would otherwise be unavailable to the students at Shenandoah Elementary School

Proposed Motion

South Robertson Neighborhoods Council shall fund the LA's Best After School Arts Program with \$2500.00 for a ten week Artist in Residence program, beginning in the September 2009 / June 2010 school year.

Considerations

Pro

Advances the needs of our neighborhood children

Helps supplement Shenandoah against District wide budget cuts

Con

The students may not appreciate the program

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Snacks for SCATCH

Agenda Item: GB041509-6

Date: April 15, 2009

Proposed By: Education Committee

Summary

Provide snacks to the students participating in the SCATCH program.

Full Proposal

The students come to the SCATCH mentoring program after school and are usually hungry. We would like to provide a healthy snack when they arrive. A banana, orange, tangerine or other piece of fruit with a removable skin would be a nourishing, healthy snack. There are fifteen students currently participating in SCATCH so the cost would be \$15.00 per week. There are six weeks left in this years program and thirty weeks in the next year. The total cost would be \$540.00. The monies could come from petty cash and be reimbursed to the program on a monthly basis

The mentors are currently supplying snacks, paid for out of their own pockets

Proposed Motion

South Robertson Neighborhoods Council shall fund the SCATCH snacks with up to \$540.00 for the balance of this school year and the entire next school year

Considerations

Pro

Students will be better able to focus if they are not hungry

Enhances the relationship between student and mentor

Con

There will be some waste

Adds to the cost of the program

Board Notes

Votes For:

Against:

Abstain:

Proposed Amendments:



Motion to sponsor RAL for Summer, 2009 (\$5000)

Agenda Item:

Date: April 15, 2009

Proposed By: Jon Liberman (Presented by Harold Bock)

Summary

To join with other sponsors in providing a safe environment (and to provide a practical alternative to gangs) for "at risk" young people during the summer.

Full Proposal

SORO NC has been a co-sponsor of this program since its inception. The program was the outgrowth of three murders of SORO "at risk" students in 2006. We have joined with LAUSD, LAPD, the LA Police Foundation, The Office of the City Attorney, LA Department of Parks & Recreation, City Council Offices #5 and #10 in creating and continuing this program.

Our involvement has been beneficial to our community and to those young people who participated in the prior sessions of the RAL program. It provides something for participants to do when they are not actively in school. It is a viable alternative to gang activity in our community. The age of the participants will be from 12-15. Funding will be limited to 40 participants.

With the current economic condition some of our co-sponsors have had to cut-back on assistance to this program. (For example LAUSD has been unable to provide busses for field trips.) In spite of the challenges, Brooke Powers has come up with a schedule and a budget that will maintain the three day/week schedule. One day will be at RAC for activities, A second day will be at LACES where swimming and other activities are provided. Fridays will be devoted to a field trip.

The City of LA Department of Parks & Recreation has a newly formed 401 (c) (3) non-profit. DONE now permits Neighborhood Purposes Grants (Block Grants) to these non-profits if they fit specified criteria. We believe that this might be a preferable method of sponsorship rather than utilize our prior mechanism of purchasing enumerated goods and services.

This motion was presented to the Public Safety Committee on April 6, 2009. It was approved by a vote of 4 yes, -0- no, and 1 abstention. As approved the motion seeks approval for a Neighborhood Purposes Grant of \$5000 as SORO NC's portion of sponsoring the Summer, 2009 RAL program.

The grant would be funded by \$1000 taken out of our 2008-2009 fiscal year budget and \$4000 taken out of our 2009-2010 fiscal year budget. Should there prove problems in utilizing the NPG the default would be to fund this program by utilizing our past practice of purchasing \$5000 worth of goods and services. Approval of this motion is approval to fund this program through either the NPG funding mechanism or the "traditional" NC funding mechanism of purchasing DONE approved goods or services.

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Proposed Motion

SORO NC will be a sponsor of the Summer, 2009 RAL Program. Our contribution shall be \$5000. This amount will include \$1000 from our 2008-2009 fiscal year and \$4000 from our 2009-2010 fiscal year:

- I. If feasible the funding shall be by means of a Neighborhood Purposes Grant to the Parks & Recreation’s 401(c)(3). If this proves unworkable due to time constraints and the fact that this would be our NC’s first block grant then funding would be by the method shown below.
- II. Brooke Powers and the Chair of the Public Safety Committee will identify \$5000 worth of goods and services to be purchased by the NC. These goods and services will comply with DONE standards of acceptable items for a NC to purchase. The approval of this motion authorizes the PS Chair to make this selection on behalf of the Board. As long as the goods and services comply with DONE requirements, this list will not have to be reauthorized by a subsequent vote of this Board.

Considerations

Pro

Provides a viable alternative to problems of “at risk” youth joining gangs because of boredom and/or lack of alternative activities.

Allows the NC a vehicle to address some of the problems in underserved areas of SORO.

Con

cost.

Board Notes

Votes For:

Against:

Abstain:

Proposed Amendments:



Motion to provide \$1500 to assist in renovation of LAFD #58 front office.

Agenda Item:

Date: April 15, 2009

Proposed By: Jon Liberman

Summary

A motion to provide up to \$1500 to renovate the front office of the fire station. The money would be used to provide replacement tile and supplies for the flooring. The work would be done by the firemen. This amount would not exceed \$1000.00. We would also provide up to \$500 to purchase a flat screen tv for this office.

Full Proposal

This Neighborhood Council adopted this fire station several years ago. The station is old and needs renovation. The firemen asked if we would assist them in making a moderate grant which would pay for needed modernization.

Replacing the flooring would eliminate the need of fire personnel washing and waxing the floor as often as they now do. They currently do this in excess of once a week due to the current state of the existing tiles. They are approximately 40-50 years old.

The flat screen tv would allow supervisory and command structure personnel to keep current on LAFD efforts in major fires while remaining on their post.

This motion was proposed and passed by a vote of 5 yes, -0- no, and -0- abstention at the April 6, 2009 Public Safety Committee.

Proposed Motion

To authorize the Neighborhood Council to purchase the following items for LAFD #58:

- I. Flooring tiles and supplies in an amount not to exceed \$1000.
- II. A flat screen LCD TV for an amount not to exceed \$500.

Considerations

Pro	Con
This upgrades a shabby part of the fire station that is where the public sees. The firemen are embarrassed by the way it looks.	Cost.
Although there is a modest cost to us, it allows us to demonstrate to the firemen that we appreciate their efforts.	
It eliminates some work they do because	

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there would be less work needed to maintain the new tile floor.

Board Notes

Votes For:

Against:

Abstain:

Proposed Amendments:



Motion to support the revisiting of financial disclosure requirements for Neighborhood Council Files

Agenda Item: GB041509-9
Date: April 15, 2009
Proposed By: Doug Fitzsimmons

Summary

The requirement that Neighborhood Council members complete Form 54 prior to submitting a Neighborhood Council File with the City is potentially onerous and stifling. The motion supports efforts to revisit the requirement.

Full Proposal

The Los Angeles City Council recently adopted a requirement that Neighborhood Council members complete Form 54, a financial disclosure document, prior to submitting a Neighborhood Council File with the City. (A File allows NCs to propose legislation before the City Council.) While shorter than the Form 700 required of other elected officials, many regard Form 54 as much more intrusive.

Many NCs have expressed their opposition to the requirement, objecting to the stifling effect Form 54 would have on File submission, an important and hard-won NC ability. Councilmember Hahn has moved for the Council to revisit the issue, and the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners is working with City Ethics to develop an alternative form. Without widespread support, it is feared that Councilmember Hahn's motion will be ignored.

Proposed Motion

- I. That the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council support the motion of Councilmember Janice Hahn to revisit the issue of financial disclosure in relation to the NC Council File motions and recommend that the currently approved Form 54 be replaced with a more suitable form.
- II. To authorize a letter to Councilmembers Wesson and Weiss asking them to support Councilmember Hahn's motion.

Considerations

Pro

The level of public disclosure of personal finances required by Form 54 is inappropriate for NC members and exposes them to identity theft and other negative issues.

NC members are unlikely to submit an NC File with this requirement, depriving

Con

Open government requires transparency in financial matters to ensure that NC members are not under undue influence.

There is a risk that if BONC and City Ethics cannot formulate a new

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their constituents a powerful tool for addressing neighborhood issues.

alternative, other disclosure forms could be worse.

Board Notes

Votes For:

Against:

Abstain:

Proposed Amendments:



Honorable
Council District
200 Spring Street, Room
Los Angeles, CA 90012

15 April 2009

Re: Street mailboxes within South Robertson neighborhoods

Dear Councilmember:

I am writing on behalf of the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council ("SORO NC") to express our concern about the requirement that Neighborhood Council members complete Form 54 prior to submitting a Neighborhood Council File. We join many other Neighborhood Councils throughout the City in asserting that the level of disclosure called for in the Form is onerous and inappropriate, and would have a stifling effect on usage of this new and important NC ability.

I ask, therefore, that your support Councilmember Hahn's motion to revisit the issue of financial disclosure in relation to the NC Council File motions and recommend that the currently approved Form 54 be replaced with a more suitable form. Indeed, BONC and the City Ethics Department are currently working on an alternate disclosure form, one more suitable to the nature of NC board participation.

We thank you for your consideration and continued support of the Neighborhood Council system. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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MOTION EDUCATION & NEIGHBORHOODS

FEB 20 2009

On January 13, 2009, the City Council acted to require all individual Neighborhood Council board members who initiate a Neighborhood Council File to fill out a financial disclosure document Form 54. However, it is important to note that the Ethics Commission, the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, or its staffs, were not provided a copy of Form 54 to review prior to its submission and approval by City Council on January 13, 2009, and thus had no opportunity to comment.

Prior to this date, the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, working in tandem with the Ethics Commission and its staff, was asked to review Form 52 and Form 53, which were submitted to the Ethics Commission for consideration.

Over a period of three months, in response to this request, the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners held public hearings, conducted four Town Hall Meetings, and implemented a Neighborhood Council system-wide survey regarding the pros and cons of Forms 52 and 53.

A report issued by the Ethics Commission comparing Form 54 with Form 700, raises legitimate concerns in that Form 54 has the potential to inject severe morale problems into the entire Neighborhood Council system by demanding broad and onerous financial disclosure before a neighborhood council can submit a Neighborhood Council File to the City Council.

While there is a need for appropriate financial disclosure to prevent conflicts of interest, it may be that the Form 54, as adopted, is not the best tool to achieve this purpose.

On February 3, 2009, the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners unanimously requested that the City Council revisit its decision and direct the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners to collaborate with the Ethics Commission to replace Form 54 with a form that meets City Ethics Commission guidelines in order to achieve the twin goals of ensuring transparency and fostering public participation.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Ethics Commission be requested to report on the feasibility of replacing the recently adopted Form 54 financial disclosure document with an alternate form that meets City Council and City Ethics Commission guidelines for all individual Neighborhood Council board members who initiate a Neighborhood Council File.

PRESENTED BY *Janice Hahn*
JANICE HAHN
Councilwoman, 15th District

SECONDED BY *[Signature]*

08-0351-51

ORIGINAL

FEB 20 2009

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