

South Robertson (SORO) Neighborhoods Council

SORO Neighborhoods Council
P.O. Box 35836
LOS ANGELES, CA 90035
TELEPHONE: 310-295-9920
Fax: 310-295-9906
www.soronc.org



A Certified Neighborhood Council

Victoria Karan
President
Jon Liberman
Vice President
Ann Hammond
Secretary
Terrence Gomes
Treasurer

South Robertson Neighborhoods Council Revised Budget Fiscal Year 2007-2008 June 30, 2008

<i>Funds</i>	<i>Original</i>	<i>Revised</i>
Yearly Allocation	\$50,000	\$50,000
Rollover 2006-2007	\$19,000	\$43,251
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$69,000</i>	<i>\$93,251</i>

Budget

<i>Account</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Original</i>	<i>Revised</i>
100	Operations Facilities Meetings Office Supplies Utilities Website/Hosting General Operations	\$13,600	\$9,000
200	Outreach Festival Movies/Music in park Newsletter Street Banners Taste of SORO Town Hall General Neighborhood Outreach	\$27,700	\$48,036
300	Community Improvement Education Green Team Land Use Public Safety General Community Projects	\$27,700	\$36,215

<i>Fiscal Year 2007-2008</i>	<i>\$69,000</i>	<i>\$93,251</i>
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South Robertson Neighborhoods Council
Revised Budget
Fiscal Year 2007-2008
June 23, 2008
(continued)

The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council's Treasurer has compiled a revised budget for the fiscal year 2007-2008, which was presented to the General Board on June 30, 2008. The approved revised budget covers the periods of 7/1/2007-6/30/2008 and was created in accordance with the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council's By-laws and within the guidelines set forth by the City of Los Angeles and the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE).

Terrence Gomes
Treasurer
South Robertson Neighborhoods Council

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South Robertson Neighborhoods Council Proposed Budget Fiscal Year 2008-2009 June 30, 2008

<i>Funds</i>			
	Yearly Allocation		\$50,000
	Rollover 2008-2009 (includes reallocation targets)		\$12,212
	<i>Total</i>		\$62,212
Budget			
Account	Category		
100	Operations		\$10,212
	Facilities		
	Meetings		
	Office Supplies		
	Utilities		
	Website/Hosting		
	General Operations		
200	Outreach		\$26,000
	Festival	\$8000	
	Newsletter	\$3000	
	Street Banners	\$6000	
	Special Event	\$2000	
	General Outreach	\$7000	
300	Community Improvement		\$26,000
	Education	\$5000	
	Land Use	\$5000	
	Public Safety	\$13000	
	General Community Projects	\$3000	
	Fiscal Year 2008-2009		\$62,212

South Robertson Neighborhoods Council
Proposed Budget
Fiscal Year 2008-2009
June 30, 2008
(continued)

REALLOCATION TARGETS						
DATE	AMOUNT		MINUTES	Unspent Amount		
PASSED	BUDGETED	DESCRIPTION	REFER.	100	200	300
3/12/2008	\$ 1,000.00	Land Use Buses	GB031208-13			\$1,000.00
12/12/2007	\$ 2,126.25	Apple One	12122007-16	\$1,775.00		
11/28/2007	\$ 1,300.00	Logo	11282007-17		\$675.00	
1/10/2007	\$ 1,000.00	Green Team Publicity				\$806.00
12/13/2006	\$ 3,040.00	4 School Support	5.3			\$927.00
10/11/2006	\$ 3,000.00	Robertson Beautification grant	8.2			\$1,200.00
10/11/2006	\$ 550.00	Shenandoah gardening/bench	8.3			\$ 550.00
9/13/2006	\$ 50.00	Live Streaming of meetings	7.5.8	\$50.00		
9/13/2006	\$ 2,000.00	WLAPD Phone system (amount amended from \$5k)	7.3.2			\$2,000.00
8/9/2006	\$ 190.00	Modify Proposal/Pres. Guidelines (monitor/stand)		\$ 190.00		
8/9/2006	\$ 2,340.00	Urban Ranger Program	5.5.2			\$2,340.00
8/9/2006	\$ 1,375.00	9/11 Living Memorial	5.5.1			\$599.00
			Subtotal	\$2,015.00	\$675.00	\$9,422.00
			Total	\$12,112.00		

The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council Ad Hoc Budget Committee, which met on June 18, 2008, had compiled a proposed budget for the fiscal year 2008-2009, which was presented to the General Board on June 30, 2008. The approved budget covers the periods of 7/1/2008-6/30/2009 and was created in accordance with the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council's By-laws and within the guidelines set forth by the City of Los Angeles and the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE).

Terrence Gomes
Treasurer
South Robertson Neighborhoods Council

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PROPOSAL BY: Jon Liberman
DATE: June 30, 2008
TITLE: Modification to Proposal to Co-Sponsor the RAL Program for Summer, 2008
SUMMARY: To consider changes to SORO NC's support of the Program.

[Note: This is the same proposal as approved earlier this month. The only proposed change is to expand the categories for which the NC will provide support. The Police Foundation has approved its financial support and approved a grant. The only changes to the earlier SORO NC proposal will be outlined in red ink. Approval of this modification will not increase our financial commitment beyond the \$4000 currently allocated. This modification was occasioned by a determination that t-shirts for participants would not be available from the past program. When RAC asked that we provide these new shirts as part of our commitment our Treasurer indicated that the past authorization was too restrictive to accommodate this request.]

FULL PROPOSAL: The RAL program is an outgrowth of collaboration by LAPD, LAUSD, LA City Department of Parks & Recreation, the LA City Attorney, CD #5, CD#10 and SORO NC. The program was started two years ago as a consequence of gang activity that led to three murders of young people. The basic thrust of the program was to be proactive. The intent was to determine those young people who were most at risk of getting involved with gangs and to provide an alternative program to keep them out of the gangs. The program was evaluated last fall by ETI. A copy of that evaluation was sent to all Board Members on June 5th. The conclusion of that study is shown on Pages 14-15. In an effort to make this as brief as possible, I will not repeat the conclusion but I will state that the report is favorable both from the perspective of the students who participated in the program and from the perspective of the staff members, volunteers and police officers who worked the program.

Why is this program undergoing review at this time? I was concerned that with the new position assumed by Beth Ryan, the transfer out of RAC by Nicolle Griffin and her replacement by Brooke Powers, The transfer of Captain Matt Blake and his replacement by Captain Bill Eaton, and the transfer of SLO Rashad Sharif and his replacement by SLO Maria Grey; we were losing all of the people who had day to day experience in running the RAL program. Additionally it was late May and the program if it was to be ongoing needed to be up and running by the last week in June. Because of this, I asked Brooke Powers, Rashad Shariff & Maria Grey to meet with me to discuss the program and to determine whether we were going to offer a Summer, 2008 program. That meeting resolved several issues:

1. One entity needed to be in overall charge of the program. It was determined that this entity should be the Department of Parks & Recreation.
2. We needed to determine whether we could obtain the same level of support from LAPD. (It was subsequently confirmed by Captain Eaton that LAPD will supply the same support as last year. Two Officers for the entire day for each day of the program).
3. The problem with past RAL programs was inherent in the fact that they were thrown together without sufficient time to preplan the program. These caused inconsistencies between what was originally promised and the program as it was delivered.
4. We would rely on the SLO to determine those young people who should be enrolled in this program.
5. With Budgetary restraints for fiscal year 2008-2009, the Department of Parks & Recreation had to have this program come in at or under budget. They could not and would not subsidize the program above a budgeted amount.

6. We needed to obtain confirmation that the LA Police Foundation and LAUSD would participate in the program. (LA Police Foundation has authorized the Grant. LAUSD has provided preliminary notification of intent to participate.)

7. We need to plan on this being a transitional year. Rather than planning on a large number of participants; we will limit the scope to 40 youngsters this year. The age group will be 12-15.

8. Brooke Powers needed to put together a specific plan for the summer program. Once she had the plan, she would develop a budget. (Brooke Powers will present her plan and a proposed budget at the June 11th Board Meeting)

9. South Robertson Neighborhoods Council was not promising at this May Meeting that it could or would support the RAL program. What we promised was an evaluation of the prior program with a vote at the PS Committee level as to whether it wished to recommend to the SORO NC Board that the NC continue financial support of the program.

As an outgrowth of the May discussions, Brooke was invited to the June, 2008 SORO NC Public Safety Committee meeting. It was the belief of the committee that there was inherent value in continuing the RAL program. It was proposed that SORO NC co-sponsor the RAL Program and contribute up to \$4000 for the 10 week program to provide food and arts & crafts supplies any supplies, materials or other items not precluded by DONE funding requirements.

PROS AND CONS, as expressed in committee meetings:

Pro: We have a program that provides a viable alternative to the problems of gangs, graffiti and violence.	Con: cost.
Pro: The program addresses problems in LACH which is an area of SORO that has a shortage of programs and resources.	Con:
Pro: The RAL program is in a fragile and transitional state. If we abandon the program now, and ever decide to restart it; our credibility would be completely shot.	Con:
Pro:	Con:

MOTION for the Board's consideration, as proposed by the Public Safety Committee

1. To fund up to \$4000 for the Summer, 2008 RAL Program.

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PROPOSAL BY: Brian Bergman
DATE: July 09, 2008
TITLE: Create a Consent Calendar Procedure

SUMMARY: Create a Consent Calendar procedure that will save time at meetings.

FULL PROPOSAL: Add a section 8.9 to the by-laws to state the following:

8.9 – Consent Calendar. At the beginning of a Board Meeting, all agendaized motions are placed on the Consent Calendar. At any point during the Board Meeting any member of the Board or a Stakeholder may request that a motion be taken off the Consent Calendar for comment, discussion, to table the motion, and/or to vote on the motion. All motions that are on the Consent Calendar at the time the meeting adjourns are considered approved by a unanimous vote and will be reflected as such in the minutes of the meeting.

Pros:	Cons:
Meetings can run too long. This by-law will reduce the amount of time we spend on motions that the Board would approve unanimously.	It may take a few meetings for Board members to become used to the process.

MOTION for the Board's consideration:

1. That SORONC approve this motion to add a section 8.9 to the by-laws creating a Consent Calendar.

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PROPOSAL BY: Brian Bergman
DATE: July 09, 2008
TITLE: By-law to establish procedure for interpreting laws

SUMMARY: By-law to establish procedure for interpreting laws

FULL PROPOSAL: Add a section 9.5 to the by-laws to state the following:

9.5 – If a dispute arises over an interpretation of a bylaw or other law at a Board Meeting, the President, or the member of the Board presiding over the meeting in place of the President, has the authority to make a determination as to how the bylaw or other law will be interpreted. An interpretation made by the President, or the member of the Board presiding over the meeting in place of the President, may be overturned by a vote of a majority of the members present at the meeting when the interpretation is made. An interpretation may be revisited at later meetings. If the Los Angeles City Attorney’s Office notifies the President that an interpretation was made in error, the President shall act to correct the effect of the original bylaw interpretation to the extent possible.

Pros:	Cons:
We need a process for making in-meeting legal interpretations	It may take a few meetings for Board members to become used to the process.

MOTION for the Board’s consideration:

1. That SORONC approve this motion to add a section 9.5 to the by-laws.

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PROPOSAL BY: Brian Bergman
DATE: July 09, 2008
TITLE: By-law to establish rules for controlling meetings

SUMMARY: By-law to establish rules for controlling meetings

FULL PROPOSAL: Add a section 8.10 to the by-laws to state the following:

8.10 – At a Board Meeting, the President, or the member of the Board presiding over the meeting in place of the President, has the authority to limit the time of the discussion of any item as he or she reasonably sees fit. A decision by the President, or the member of the Board presiding over the meeting in place of the President, to limit discussion on any item may be overruled by a majority vote of the Board members present at the Board Meeting.

Pros:	Cons:
We need a process for regulating meetings	It may take a few meetings for Board members to become used to the process.

MOTION for the Board's consideration:

1. That SORONC approve this motion to add a section 8.10 to the by-laws.

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PROPOSAL BY: Brian Bergman
DATE: July 09, 2008
TITLE: Approve Land Use Co-Chair

SUMMARY: Approve Elizabeth Swanson as Co-Chair of the SORO NC Land Use Committee.

FULL PROPOSAL: Approve Elizabeth Swanson as Co-Chair of the SORO NC Land Use Committee.

Pros:	Cons:
Land Use Committee approved Ms. Swanson.	Ms. Swanson is not a current member of SORO NC.
Ms. Swanson is an intellectual property attorney. Her experience and background will be invaluable to the committee.	
Ms. Swanson is a former member of SORO NC	

MOTION for the Board's consideration:

1. That SORONC approve Elizabeth Swanson as Co-Chair of the SORO NC Land Use Committee.

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PROPOSAL BY: Outreach Committee (Presenter: Marjan Safinia)
DATE: 9 July 2008
TITLE: Motion to simplify food arrangements for SORO NC Board Meetings

SUMMARY: To simplify food for the board meetings to something that can be delivered to our location at Hamilton High.

FULL PROPOSAL: The idea to showcase neighborhood restaurants by ordering \$100 of food for our general board meetings has proven quite complicated. Restaurants do not feel like they are being showcased, but instead feel like we're asking for big discounts when we order food for twenty on a budget of \$100. In addition, there is significant additional complication involved in pre-ordering the food and picking it up before each meeting. Therefore we propose that we simplify the need for food at the board meetings to something that can be delivered (e.g. pizza). This might also save us money on a month to month basis. Pizza is a reliable, easy-to-eat food, and still serves the function of having something available for board members and guests.

Pros:	Cons:
Makes it easier on everyone	Not a healthy balanced diet
Can be delivered	Can be boring
Easy to eat without creating a mess	No longer "showcasing" restaurants

MOTION for the Board's consideration:

1. That we simplify food for the board meetings to something that can be delivered to our meetings at Hamilton High.

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PROPOSAL BY: Outreach Committee (Presenter: Marjan Safinia)
DATE: 9 July 2008
TITLE: Motion to fund up to \$300 for a SORO NC Board teambuilding retreat

SUMMARY: To create a half-day weekend retreat, within our boundaries and open to the public before the end of the summer for members of the SORO NC Board.

FULL PROPOSAL: The SORO NC Board could benefit from a half-day retreat focused on education about our roles as boardmembers, discussion about how we can work better as a board, and a few hours of teambuilding and getting-to-know-each-other exercises which would help foster better communication and more efficient functioning of the SORO NC Board. The \$300 would be spent to fund a few hours of teambuilding improvisational facilitation by a seasoned facilitator, as well as refreshments for the group.

Pros:	Cons:
Makes the board a stronger team	Cost
Allows us to see some of our conflicts in a different light	Could be construed as self-indulgent
Let's us really get to know each other, define what we stand for and learn more about each of our strengths.	Requires time commitment on a weekend

MOTION for the Board's consideration:

1. That SORO NC funds up to \$300 for a half-day SORO NC Board retreat with teambuilding facilitation.

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PROPOSAL BY: Doug Fitzsimmons and Vikki Karan
DATE: July 9, 2008
TITLE: Motion for SORO NC to formally oppose the passage of Proposition 8, which seeks to reverse the California Supreme Court's decision permitting gay and lesbian marriage

SUMMARY: The motion asks for SORO NC to formally oppose the passage of Proposition 8 and to object to the Proposition's inclusion on the November 2008 ballot.

FULL PROPOSAL: On May 15, 2008, the California Supreme Court struck down Proposition 22, a provision to the California Family Code that specified that only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized by the state.

In making its decision, the Court drew parallels with *Perez v. Sharp* (1948) 32 Cal.2d 711, a ruling which 60 years ago found that prohibitions on interracial marriages were "inconsistent with the fundamental constitutional right to marry...[a ruling that] makes clear that history alone is not invariably an appropriate guide for determining the meaning and scope of this fundamental constitutional guarantee."

Speaking further about the inalienable rights guaranteed by the state's Constitution,

"[The] legal rights and attributes traditionally associated with marriage [are] so integral to an individual's liberty and personal autonomy that they may not be eliminated or abrogated by the Legislature or by the electorate through the statutory initiative process. These core substantive rights include, most fundamentally, the opportunity of an individual to establish — with the person with whom the individual has chosen to share his or her life — an *officially recognized and protected family* possessing mutual rights and responsibilities and entitled to the same respect and dignity accorded a union traditionally designated as marriage."

In its ruling, the court also found that calling the union something other than marriage (such as "domestic partnership" or "civil union") "impinges upon a same-sex couple's fundamental interest in having their family relationship accorded the same respect and dignity enjoyed by an opposite-sex couple." (*In re Marriage Cases* (2008) 43 Cal.4th 757 [76 Cal.Rptr.3d 683, 183 P.3d 384])

Although the wording of Propositions 22 and 8 are identical, Proposition 8 goes further in seeking to revise the state's Constitution to once again limit the recognized definition of marriage. The Proposition was filed by initiative supporters directly, and was not voted upon by the State Legislature. Opponents argue that since the breadth of the measure would alter the state Constitution's underlying principles, it therefore requires the approval of two-thirds of each house of the Legislature before being submitted to state voters. To place the measure on the ballot in November without prior legislative approval would itself be unconstitutional.

Given the promise of equal protection under the law afforded by the 14th Amendment, the definitive ruling by the California Supreme Court, and a concern for the civil and human rights of lesbian and gay partners within

our boundaries, SORO NC should oppose the passage of Proposition 8, and further ask that the measure be removed from the ballot until such time as it is able to secure a two-thirds majority in both State Houses.

Pro	Con
The SORO NC has an obligation to both advise and act on issues that affect the social well-being of our constituents and our city. This is clearly such an issue, and one that presents the NC with an opportunity to speak in defense the civil rights of a significant portion of our constituency.	The issue is controversial, and taking a principled stand might alienate some members of the community.

MOTION for the Board’s consideration:

1. To resolve that in the interest of equal protection of the laws as guaranteed under both the U.S. Constitution’s 14th Amendment and the California Constitution, the core constitutional principle of equal citizenship, and to protect the fundamental rights of a minority population, the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council formally oppose the passage of Proposition 8.
2. To further oppose the inclusion of Proposition 8 on the November 2008 ballot on the grounds that, as a proposed revision to the state’s Constitution, the measure must first be approved by two-thirds of each state legislative house before being submitted to state voters.

