

# South Robertson (SORO) Neighborhoods Council

SORO Neighborhoods Council  
P.O. Box 35836  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90035  
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A Certified City of Los Angeles Neighborhood Council

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

## DRAFT General Meeting Minutes October 15, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. Hamilton Senior High School 2955 S. Robertson Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90034

### I. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Jon Liberman, Acting President.

**Board members present:** Brian Bergman, Bette Billet, Harold Bock, Robyn Braun, Doug Fitzsimmons, Gary Garcia, Terrence Gomes, Anne Gross, Nahed Guirguis, Ann Hammond, Gina LaBeaud, Barry E. Levine, Jon Liberman, Marjan Safinia

**Board members absent:** Christine Aghassi, Susan Burden, Daniel Fink, Roy Nwaiser, Sandra Willard

**Guests present:** Jennifer Badger, Elizabeth Carlin, Brooke Powers, Adeena Bleich, Sonia Madan, Har Simran Khalsa, Jenny Savitsky

### II. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

- a. **Mary Earl:** Jon introduced Mary Earl, newly elected President of SoRo, Inc. She said she looks forward to working with SORO NC. She reported there is currently approximately \$4,200 in the SoRo, Inc. account available to SORO NC for recommended expenditures to benefit the SoRo community. She said SORO NC should be applauded for its wonderful progress over the past months. She suggested SORO NC decide exactly what it would like to see in this year's Festival to ensure those elements can be taken into account in the planning, and asked for those decisions by December 2008. She also invited SORO NC Board member to participate in the Festival Planning Committee.
- b. **Victoria Karan:** The former President, SORO NC, Vikki individually thanked every Board member present and applauded all on their hard work and accomplishments on behalf of the SoRo community. Liz Carlin and Jennifer Badger presented Vikki with a certificate of appreciation from the Councilmember's office and praised her on her effectiveness as SORO NC President.

- c. **Marcie Adavalos:** Representing California for Solar & Clean Energy, she presented arguments for voting “yes” on Proposition 7 during Public Comments, as she had not arrived earlier.

### III. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Sonia Madan, a teacher at Hamilton High School, asked for community support for purposes of a grant to the City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department for \$10,000 to paint a mural to help beautify the neighborhood. Terrence offered use of some materials SORO NC has on hand, including base paint and paint equipment. Jon and Doug offered to post a notice on the SORO NC website and to send word out to the community through the bethechange email distribution list.

Jenny Savitsky, representing Friends of Canfield, reported that Canfield Elementary, which lost Title I funding two years ago, will sponsor a Beautification Day, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., on October 27<sup>th</sup>. They will plant drought-resistant plants, for the purposes of beautifying the school, teaching students about indigenous plants, and saving the school costs of repairing the sprinkler system. The day will also feature recycling, for which the community is invited to drop off electronics no longer needed. Friends of Canfield welcomes volunteers for the day. A second Beautification Day will be held in April; Jenny explained they would again welcome community volunteers as well as financial support. Brian invited her to attend the next Land Use Committee meeting to discuss these programs further and prepare a motion for the Board’s consideration. Jon will send out a note to the community about the October 27<sup>th</sup> through the bethechange email distribution list, and Doug will post a notice on the SORO NC website.

Har Simran Khalsa thanked CD-5, CD-10, Brooke Powers and the individual SORO NC Board members who helped to make the September 21<sup>st</sup> Peace Picnic so successful.

### IV. READING OF THE MINUTES AND APPROVAL

Doug moved to approve draft minutes of the General Meeting of September 10, 2008 with Brian seconding. **Minutes approved unanimously.**

### V. REPORTS

- a. **Office of Speaker of the House Karen Bass:** No report was made as no representative was present.
- b. **Office of Councilmember Jack Weiss (CD-5):** Field Deputy Jennifer Badger reported on two issues. First, she explained that Councilmember Weiss has been fighting billboard blight in the neighborhood, and there is currently a motion before the Council to address the issue throughout the city. Second, she noted residents’ concerns that a tree in the 1700 block of Canfield Avenue may have to be removed because its roots are damaging the sidewalk. She met recently with residents and the Department of Urban Forestry. Doug added that he understands electronic billboards are easier to fight before

they go up rather than after posted, and asked if it is too late to try to stop the one about to be connected on Robertson and Gibson.

- c. **Office of Councilmember Herb Wesson (CD-10):** Councilmember Herb Wesson's Aide Liz Carlin congratulated the norobertsonstripclub.com group on the outcome of the Police Permit Review Panel hearing earlier in the day. She also reported that, altogether, more than 2,000 people participated in the summer Movies in the Park series. As a result of this success, the Councilmember plans to hold this series again next year; she will coordinate with the SORO NC Outreach Committee to help ensure more advance notice and cooperation than was possible this year. This year, parks such as Reynier Park, that are within neighborhoods, had the best attendance; therefore, Reynier Park will definitely be included again next year. Liz also announced that the Councilmember plans two events during December. On December 18<sup>th</sup>, turkeys and hams will be given away to those living in CD10 who are in need and who have contacted the office beforehand to reserve (phone: 323-733-8233). On December 20<sup>th</sup>, a holiday event will be held in the CD-10 parking lot; working through elementary schools in the district, toys will be available for children, with a focus on the those most in need. Liz said they welcome financial and volunteer support for these two activities. In closing, Liz thanked SORO NC for being such a collaborative partner.
- d. **LAPD:** No report was made as no representative was present. Jon noted that Officer Gray had to attend another meeting.
- e. **DONE:** No report was made as no representative was present.
- f. **Robertson Recreation Center Report:** Brooke Powers, Recreation Facility Director at Robertson Rec Center, distributed the Center's Fall 2008 newsletter. She announced that a Halloween Carnival will be held on Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, 4:00 - 8:00 p.m., at the Center, featuring many arts and crafts activities, games and prizes. Volunteers are needed to help decorate the Center and work at the Carnival. She also reported that the Center is aiming for another RAL program in the winter, and the bus trip postponed from the summer RAL program was held October 9<sup>th</sup>.

## V. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

- a. **President's Report:** Jon reported there are six vacancies for the SORO NC Board. Notice has been posted on bethechange. So far, one application from Zone 6 has been received and one person from the business community has contacted Marj. Jon emphasized that potential Board members need to be realistic about the time commitment involved in serving on the Board. Jon summarized the selection process for vacant Board and officer positions: applications for Board member need to be received seven days before the next Board meeting (i.e. by November 5<sup>th</sup>), and any Board member can be a candidate for an officer position, including President. He suggested that anyone interested in being a candidate for President advise the Secretary and send a brief biographical sketch to her for circulation to the Board.

Jon also reported that he will re-send the goals upon which the NC agreed and asked each Committee Chairman to say where they stand on implementation of goals. Bette

and Marj clarified that the aim is to send a report to the community at the end of the year summarizing what the NC has accomplished. It was agreed that each Committee Chair would discuss its Committee's progress at its next meeting, and each Committee Chair would prepare a brief paragraph at the end of the year to be incorporated into an end-of-the-year report to the community.

Jon said the Executive Committee has started work on a records retention policy to ensure the NC has copies of all documents including letters that have been sent on behalf of the NC. The first step is checking with the City to see what requirements and procedures may be in place with which the NC must comply. Ann has received a large policy document from Barry Stone, and she will review it for guidance.

- b. Treasurer's Report:** Terrence presented Treasurer's Reports for the past two months. Ann and Nahed said they had not been able to open the Excel spreadsheets on line to see the whole work book, which Terrence explained had nine tabs in all. Jon said he brings a paper copy to each meeting, which anyone can review as needed, so it is not necessary to make extra copies to distribute at the meeting. Ann asked if the format was easy for everyone to understand. Robyn said it is in a format that is familiar. Brian moved to approve; Marj seconded. **Vote: 12-Y; 0-N; 2-A.**

## VI. OLD BUSINESS

None.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Motion to request that SORO, Inc. make a donation of \$500 towards yard signs to promote the SORO NC Town Hall (Safinia) (GB101508-4).** Marj introduced the motion, clarifying that 50 signs are needed and the price is not exact. She will get several quotes, and turnaround time would be a critical factor given the timing of the November 10<sup>th</sup> Town Hall event. She said SoRo, Inc. has indicated its willingness to provide funds for this expense. Gary asked if flyers could also be made available to him, so that he could publicize the event at Hamilton High's October 22<sup>nd</sup> College Night and October 23<sup>rd</sup> Parent's Night. Doug moved to approve, Brian seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**
- b. Motion to purchase 30 lawn signs to announce SORO NC meetings (Bock/Hammond) (GB101508-5).** Harold explained that lawn signs have proven useful in increasing attendance at Board meetings, emphasizing that they are effective only if Board members take responsibility for posting them in a timely manner and removing them promptly after meetings. Discussion focused on durability of the signs and emphasized that dry erase markers would need to be used. Doug clarified that the signs would use the new SORO NC branding. Terrence said he has old signs that can be recycled. Anne suggested there be more signs made so they could be used to direct people the night of the meeting to the Cafeteria, as it is a difficult place to find on the high school campus. It was agreed that the signs would be used on an experimental basis. Brian proposed an amendment, that 40 signs rather than 30 would be procured; Jon seconded. **Proposed amendment to the motion passed unanimously.** Doug moved to approve the amended motion; Jon suggested. **Amended motion passed unanimously.**

(Gina LaBeaud left.)

- c. **Motion to purchase 30 lawn signs for SORO NC Board member recruitment (Bock/Hammond) (GB101508-6).** Harold clarified that these signs would be generic so can be reused. Brian suggested they be placed in areas where there are Board member openings. Signs will direct people to the SORO NC website. Doug will ensure notice of Board openings is put on the website. Signs would have the SORO NC branding. Anne suggested a flyer also be created and distributed to sites such as the local library to encourage people to consider running for the Board. Harold agreed, and he noted that individual referrals by Board members will continue to be the most effective recruitment method. Brian moved to approve the motion; Jon seconded. **Motion approved unanimously.**
- d. **Motion to incorporate Board member training as agenda item (Bock/Hammond) (GB101508-7).** Ann explained that the motion was designed to meet the dual needs of keeping Board members up-to-date on skills and information needed while being efficient with respect to their time and availability. The Ad Hoc Board Development Committee will take responsibility for prioritizing topics and ensuring they are included on the agenda. For the next meetings, Terrence will be responsible for training on forms to be completed when the Board approves expenditures. In response to the Grievance Panel report and recommendations, Roy will be responsible for training the Board before the end of the year on bylaws, as soon as the approved set of bylaws is received back from DONE. Brian moved to approve the motion; Doug seconded. **Motion approved unanimously.**

## VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. **By-Laws:** Jon reported that a complex form needs to be filled out before the revised bylaws, along with minutes of the meetings at which the proposed changes were approved, can be sent to DONE for approval. He has been working on it and committed to send it to DONE by Monday, October 20th. He noted that Barry Stone is leaving at the end of this month. Doug acknowledged Jon's tremendous contribution in getting his work done, and all present applauded in agreement.
- b. **Education:** Barry reported that the Committee did not meet this month. There are currently 9 volunteer mentors working with 13 children; more mentors are needed. The school is eager to have a presentation on storm water conservation, and Ann will provide the contact information. He also needs contact information for Paul Reykes. Gary distributed flyers for Hamilton High School's planned School Safety Night on Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. Gary also thanked the Education Committee and SORO NC for the cell phones to ensure a Safety Zone around the school, and he distributed the flyer setting out the process to be followed, including names and phone numbers in order of those to be called.
- c. **Green Team:** Given the lack of success in identifying a new Committee Chair for the Green Team, it was agreed that this would be incorporated under the Land Use Committee.

- d. **Land Use:** Brian reported that the Land Use Committee has been working on the tree issue on Canfield, mentioned earlier by Jennifer Badger, and on an automotive repair shop request for variance at Guthrie and La Cienega.
- e. **Outreach:** Marj reported that, earlier in the day, the Police Permit Review Panel hearing on the Skin Cabaret permit led to a decision by the Panel not to grant the permit at this time but rather to exercise its subpoena power to call on the owner to appear to respond to issues that have emerged. Marj also reported that Outreach suggests postponing the Board retreat to January, when a new Board President and new Board members will be in place. She said several speakers have been lined up for the Town Hall meeting on Energy and Savings on November 10<sup>th</sup>. Doug reported there has been progress on the website, it is now functional, and it will be built up by the end of the year. Marj added that the permit for additional banners between 18<sup>th</sup> and Pico is in process, and it is expected that new banners will be up come January 1<sup>st</sup>.
- f. **Public Safety:** Jon reported there had been no meeting this month. He aims to have a joint meeting with Outreach. There have been reports of crime in Reynier and Beverlywood. Baila Romm has been developing the Neighborhood Watch program. Gary asked for letters of support for the Safe Passage program.
- g. **Ad-hoc Board Development Committee.** No report was made.
- h. **Ad hoc Inter-NC Committee:** No report was made.

X. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Last printed 11/8/08 10:32 PM

## Voting record, by agenda item

Representing	Name	1015 08-1	1015 08-2	1015 08-3	1015 08-4	101508-5 to amend	1015 08-5 as amend ed	1015 08-6	1015 08-7
Zone 1	Daniel Fink								
Zone 2									
Zone 3	Harold Bock	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y
Zone 4	Robyn Braun	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y
Zone 5	Bette Billet	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y
Zone 6									
Zone 7	Jon Liberman	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y
Zone 8	Sandra Willard								
Zone 9									
Zone 10									
At-large 1	Brian Bergman	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y
At-large 2	Christine Aghassi								
At-large 3	Terrence Gomes	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y
At-large 4	Anne Gross	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y
Business 1	Marj Safinia	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y
Business 2	Barry Levine	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y
Business 3									
Business 4									
Business 5	Roy Nwaiser								
Org. 1	Doug Fitzsimmons	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y
Org. 2	Ann Hammond	Y	A	A	Y		Y	Y	Y
Org. 3	Nahed Guirguis	Y	A	A	Y		Y	Y	Y
Org. 4	Susan Burden								
School 1	Gina LaBeaud	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y		
School 2	Gary Garcia	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y
Totals		Y-14; N-0; A-0	Y-12; N-0; A-2	Y-12; N-0; A-2	Y-14; N-0; A-0		Y-14; N-0; A-0		

Key: Y=Yes; N=No; A=Abstain

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(Vacant)  
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**PROPOSAL BY:** Brian Bergman  
**DATE:** November 12, 2008  
**TITLE:** Motion to support applicant request for variance at 2001 La Cienaga Blvd. (Business is an auto repair facility)

**SUMMARY:** The applicant's auto body repair facility at 2001 La Cienaga Blvd. has been operating under an existing Conditional Use Permit ("CUP") for over 10 years. The applicant is seeking to renew its CUP. Recently the City of Los Angeles altered the development standard rules for auto body repair facilities. As such, the applicant requires certain variances in order to receive a new CUP without having to alter certain existing elements of its facility and business practices.

**FULL PROPOSAL:** The Applicant requests SORONC's support for the following variances:

1. Support variance request to allow facility to maintain windows in their current size and transparency/translucence.  
  
Board Member Committee Vote: 4-0-0  
Stakeholder (Audience) Vote: 4-0-2
2. Support variance request to allow facility to maintain its "Bay Doors" in their current configuration in lieu of No Bay Doors within 100' of an A or R Zone.  
  
Board Member Committee Vote: 4-0-0  
Stakeholder (Audience) Vote: 4-0-2
3. Support variance request to allow facility to maintain an existing 6 foot wrought iron fence.  
  
Board Member Committee Vote: 2-2-0  
Stakeholder (Audience) Vote: 4-0-2
4. Support variance request to allow an existing pole sign at location.  
  
Board Member Committee Vote: 2-2-0  
Stakeholder (Audience) Vote: 4-0-2
5. Support variance request to allow existing landscaping setback (4 feet) in lieu of new requirement to have a 5 foot landscaping setback.  
  
Board Member Committee Vote: 4-0-0  
Stakeholder (Audience) Vote: 4-0-2

6. Support variance request to allow pre-existing spray painting operations

Board Member Committee Vote: 2-2-0  
Stakeholder (Audience) Vote: 4-0-2

In addition to the applicant's request for variances, the following additional measures were suggested by Board members.

7. Applicant shall provide off-street parking for its full-time employees.

8. The "North Facing Door" on Guthrie shall be closed at all times except for ingress and egress of vehicles and deliveries.

<b>Pros:</b>	<b>Cons:</b>
Without the variances the applicant would be required to undertake changes to its operations that seem unnecessarily burdensome.	The City's new development rules for auto body repair shops are meant to improve neighborhoods.
SORONC is not just supporting the applicant's variances, but also putting forth its own suggestions for regulating the applicant	
The applicant appeared to be serious about being a good neighbor. Both the owner of the property and the manager of the business appeared at the committee meeting.	

MOTION for the Board's consideration:

1. That SORONC support the 8 items discussed above.

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PROPOSAL BY: Brian Bergman  
DATE: November 12, 2008  
TITLE: Motion to support efforts to save a street tree on the 1700 block of Canfield.

SUMMARY: A homeowner wishes to fix his sidewalk. The homeowner has been informed that if he fixes his sidewalk his street tree will have to be removed. The homeowner's neighbors want to save the street tree.

FULL PROPOSAL: That SORONC publicly state that all possible efforts be undertaken to save the street tree on the 1700 block of Canfield.

Pros:	Cons:
Many members of the community have expressed their desire to see the street tree saved.	The individual homeowner is likely within his legal rights to have the street tree removed.

MOTION for the Board's consideration:

1. That SORONC publicly state that all possible efforts be undertaken to save the street tree on the 1700 block of Canfield.

# South Robertson Neighborhoods Council FINANCIAL AND PRIVATE CONVERSATION DISCLOSURE PLAN

November 12, 2008

## RECOMMENDATION:

That South Robertson Neighborhoods Council adopts the following positions:

1. That the City Council NOT ADOPT any requirement for neighborhood council board members and others to submit financial disclosure forms.
2. That the City Council or Board of Neighborhood Commissioners ADOPT a requirement that at the beginning of each neighborhood council meeting, each board member state whether or not they have reason to believe they have a conflict of interest (as defined by the State Political Reform Act) regarding any item on the agenda that involves the allotment of public funds, and whether or not they have had any *ex parte* (private) communications with those who would receive the funds, or recuses themselves from the vote and the discussion.
3. That the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment form a collaborative working group that includes the Office of the City Attorney, the City Ethics Commission, and neighborhood councils to discuss the possibility of realistic sanctions for those who violate this requirement, such as loss of their board seat for blatant violators.
4. That the City Council ADOPT the recommendation made by the City Attorney on December 18, 2007 in response to a motion by Councilmember Wendy Greuel ([C.F. 07-3294](#)) that the City Council adopt a uniform policy that would apply to all city commissions regarding prohibiting or disclosing *ex parte* communications on quasi-judicial and quasi-adjudicative matters.
5. That the Office of the City Attorney provide advice on the legality of extending the *ex parte* disclosure regulation to commissions, not just when discussing contracts and when participating in quasi-judicial and quasi-adjudicative matters, but also when adopting policies.
6. That the City Council ADOPT a City Council Rule that would require City Council members, at the start of each meeting of the Council and its committees, to disclose any *ex parte* communications regarding contracts, fiscal matters, policies, and legislation.
7. That the City Council ADOPT a regulation that would require city general managers and executive directors, when presenting verbal or written recommendations to the City Council, its committees, and city commissions, to disclose any *ex parte* communications they have had with registered lobbyists.

## RATIONALE:

The Neighborhood Council Review Commission came to a clear and obvious conclusion: a fundamental goal of the City Charter is to promote greater public participation in government, and actions that make it more difficult for people to participate “raise the cost of participation” and work against this goal.

Acting on some creative legal research by the Office of the City Attorney, and wishing not to create a “chilling effect” on participation in neighborhood councils, the City Council previously exempted neighborhood council board members from filling out the same financial disclosure form (Form 700) that is required of City Council members and other high-level city officials,

although the prohibitions on conflicts of interests defined by the State Political Reform Act still apply. This eliminated the need for 1,700 neighborhood council board members to generate paperwork, and for some city agency to distribute, collect, and store it, and enforce the regulations.

Producing this degree of paperwork is unnecessary for boards of directors that, most of the time, are merely adopting positions of advice to the city's decision-makers.

Neighborhood councils are quite a bit like small towns. Everyone pretty much knows everyone else's business.

An annual filing, even of a shorten form, would still have the disadvantages of burdening the neighborhood council board members, requiring city staff to collect and maintain the forms, not revealing recently developed conflicts of interest, and not revealing private conversations that board members may have had with interested parties.

Recent research by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment has found that rumored or suspected conflicts of interest are rare, especially when weighing them against the enormous number of votes taken each year by 1,700 board members.

The Board of Airport Commissioners, Board of Harbor Commissioners, and the defunct Information Technology Commission adopted resolutions that provide, in part, a simpler solution is possible to the neighborhood council conflict of interest issue.

At the beginning of each meeting, the commissioners are asked if they have had any *ex parte* communications with third parties, including other commissioners and staff, regarding certain matters on its agendas. The concept of forbidding *ex parte* communications on quasi-judicial and quasi-adjudicative matters, such as certifying a neighborhood council, is so that all of the commissioners are making their decision based upon the same public information.

The motion by Councilmember Wendy Greuel recognizes that each commission handles this matter differently, and therefore that there should be a uniform standard established. For example, the airport commission requires commissioners to fill out a form, while the harbor commission accepts verbal disclosures.

The concern over possible conflicts of interest involving neighborhood council board members should be limited to actions that involve the expenditure of public funds.

By discussing this issue in the narrow context of the proposal to allow three neighborhood councils to cause the creation of an official City Council file, the larger issue of conflicts of interest is being ignored.

Both the issue of financial conflicts of interests and *ex parte* communications could be effectively and simply addressed if board members were required at the start of each meeting to disclose possible conflicts of interest they may have, and private communications they have had. This constant reminder at each meeting would also make it difficult for board members to claim that they forgot about the rules.

State law defines a conflict of interest and provides for penalties. Additionally, the "Sunshine Law," proposed by the Neighborhood Council Review Commission, may provide the city with a more effective means of dealing with violators. And the *ex parte* disclosure would also reveal any recently formed conflicts.

The City Attorney advises that requiring City Council members to disclose *ex parte* communications may not be legally defensible. However, the City Council should be able to

adopt it as a policy or rule that it would impose on itself to promote and enhance the integrity of the decision-making process.

Finally, anyone who has ever had a remote connection with government understands the importance of the reports and recommendations from staff in affecting the final decision. Anyone who wants their point of view to prevail, would be wise to ensure that it is included in the staff recommendation. Lobbyists know this.

That's one of the reasons why the financial disclosure requirements for heads of city agencies are as high as those for members of the City Council and commissioners.

What the public and the decision-makers are usually not aware of are the private influences of lobbyists in the shaping of their recommendations. Therefore, the City Council, again to enhance the integrity of their process, should require general managers and executive directors to disclose the private conversations that have had with lobbyists whenever they present a recommendation to the City Council, its committees, and city commissions.

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**PROPOSAL BY:** Outreach Committee (Presenter: Christine Aghassi)  
**DATE:** 12 November 2008  
**TITLE:** Motion to provide up to \$1000 to co-sponsor a CD-10 Winter Wonderland event for needy families.

**SUMMARY:** Motion to request that SORO NC provide up to \$1000 to co-sponsor a Winter Wonderland event to be held Saturday December 20<sup>th</sup> 2008 at Council District 10's District Office at 1819 S. Western Ave.

**FULL PROPOSAL:** Councilmember Wesson is hosting a CD-10 Winter Wonderland Event to be held on Saturday December 20th at his District Office: 1819 S. Western Ave. This event targets needy families from schools throughout CD-10. SORO NC has an opportunity to co-sponsor this event and in return, CD-10 will add 10 additional slots for needy families in the SORO community (for a total of 20 SORO families.)

This event engages with needy children and families and offers them a Holiday Spirit filled experience. Children have an opportunity to visit with Santa, participate in arts and crafts, play on a bounce house, play in the snow and meet exotic reptiles. Every child under 12 receives an age-appropriate toy, and all families and attendees (additional relatives) receive a free lunch.

SORO NC has the opportunity to co-sponsor this event, have a table at the event, and be promoted as a co-sponsor of the event wherever other sponsors are mentioned.

<b>Pros:</b>	<b>Cons:</b>
Serves needy stakeholders in our community at a special time of year.	Only serves a limited number of stakeholders
Spreads Holiday Cheer	Takes money away from other possible events
Allows us to continue our close working relationship with CD-10	We do not need to fund CD-10 events in order to work closely with them.

MOTION for the Board's consideration:

1. That SORO NC provide up to \$1000 to co-sponsor a CD-10 Winter Wonderland event to be held 12/20/08

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**PROPOSAL BY:** Public Safety Committee (Presenter: Jon Liberman)  
**DATE:** November 12, 2008  
**TITLE:** Proposal to co-sponsor an anti-car theft awareness program  
**SUMMARY:** To fund \$ 500 as our portion of a public information program to reduce car theft

**FULL PROPOSAL:** The Community Policing Advisory Board asked us at the October Public Safety Committee to consider co-sponsoring a public information program to raise the awareness of the public that car theft is increasing and that we as responsible drivers can act to reduce the problem. The intent is to create and place stickers on all WLA parking meters informing drivers to take valuable items out of their cars while parking or risk loss of the item due to car theft. A number of WLA Neighborhood Councils have agreed to co-sponsor this program. We have been asked to contribute \$500 as our portion.

At the November Public Safety Committee meeting, a presentation was made and it was approved.

**PROS AND CONS, as expressed in committee meetings:**

Pro: The program is untested. However the potential for saving thousands of dollars in stolen computers, cell phones, purses, briefcases or Christmas presents vs. the relatively inexpensive cost makes it an attractive use of funds if the program works to bring a greater awareness of the public good in taking items out of your auto.	Con: cost.
Pro:	Con:
Pro:	Con:
Pro:	Con:

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

1. To fund \$500 for the program.

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TELEPHONE: 310-295-9920  
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www.soronc.org



A Certified Neighborhood Council

(vacant)  
President  
**Jon Liberman**  
Vice President  
**Ann Hammond**  
Secretary  
**Terrence Gomes**  
Treasurer

PROPOSAL BY: Public Safety Committee (Presenter: Jon Liberman)  
DATE: November 12, 2008  
TITLE: Proposal to support Fire Station #58 efforts to provide better security at their station  
SUMMARY: To pay up to \$1100 for an iron security gate

FULL PROPOSAL: The Fire Station is undergoing renovations that are being subsidized by LAFD firemen taking out personal loans or soliciting contributions for work at their station. Our NC has adopted this fire station and was asked if we would consider helping them. After meeting with the firemen we were asked to pay up to \$1100 for an iron gate to secure their parking lot. This amount would be invoiced us directly from the vendor. This gate is needed to provide security for their personal vehicles while the firemen are out on calls.

At the November Public Safety Committee meeting, a presentation was made and it was approved.

PROS AND CONS, as expressed in committee meetings:

Pro: Provides our fireman with peace of mind that their property is secured while they are on calls.	Con: cost.
Pro: It is simply wrong that the LAFD personnel have to take out personal loans to bring their station into a habitable state.	Con:
Pro:	Con:
Pro:	Con:

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

1. To fund \$1100 for the Gate.

## South Robertson (SORO) Neighborhoods Council

SORO Neighborhoods Council  
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PROPOSAL BY: Public Safety Committee (Presenter: Jon Liberman)  
DATE: November 12, 2008  
TITLE: Proposal to Co-Sponsor the RAL Program for Winter, 2008  
SUMMARY: To extend the program through the Winter Break.

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 5<sup>th</sup>. 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. The program was reviewed by this Board in June, 2008 and we committed up to \$4000 to fund a portion of the summer program. Of this amount \$2100 was not used. The Los Angeles Police Foundation funded a substantial portion of the program. CD #5, CD#10 and the LAUSD all provided busses for field trips.

At present, the program is ineligible for the grants under the City Anti-Gang program because it is not in a specified gang area. However, the Anti-Gang program is going to ultimately extend beyond these enumerated boundaries. We intend to file a RFP application and have the city determine if the RAL program can ultimately qualify under the expanded Anti-Gang program. For the present if this program is to be funded we need to handle this like we did this summer. That means that we and the LAPF would have to provide funding and would need to seek additional in-kind contributions from both council districts and from LAUSD.

At the November Public Safety Committee meeting, a presentation was made and it was approved. We forward for your consideration and action a budget from Brooke Powers which calls on us to fund \$4100 for the winter program. This amount is a request for the amount allocated but not spend for the Summer program plus an additional \$2000. These funds if approved would be available for food, field trips, and supplies of any sort. In addition the PS Committee required that an amount at least equivalent to our contribution be committed to by the LAPF before the program could start. A further stipulation was that we obtain the criteria that the LA City Anti-Gang unit has developed and see how our program matches up to those criteria. This would have to be done some time in the future.

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 \$4100 for the Winter, 2008 RAL Program.

