

SORO NC Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Recap

Outreach Events: 11

- Movies In The Park w CD 5 and CD10
- Splishsplash w/ CD 10
- Community Cleanup on Pico Blvd
- Rec Center Fall Festival
- Winter Wonderland w CD 10
- Festival of Lights w CD 10
- Robertson Rec Center Spring Fair
- LAFD Bookreading to Children at Library
- Citywide Community Sustainability Project
- SORO NC Elections

Outreach Items: 7

- Stakeholder Concerns Postcards
- Medallion Magnets
- Open Board Lawn Signs
- Election Banners
- Elections Candidate Lawn Signs
- Elections Vote Lawn Signs
- Elections Postcards

CISs: 8

Letters: 15

GB Meeting Attendance:

Standing Committee Meetings:

- Education 5
- Homelessness 0
- Outreach 10
- Public Safety 10
- Transportation 8

General Board Meeting	Total Absences	July-24	August-24	September-24	October-24	November-24	December-24	January-24	February-24	March-24	April-24	May-24	June-24
Avihi Youshaei	3	A	A	A	Removed								
Baila Romm	3		A	A								A	
Barry Levine	3				A					A	A		
Benji Karben	1	A	Resigned										
Beth Frankel	0												
Cheryl Holstrom	4		A				A	A		Removed			
Eitan Gershov	2	A							A		Term Ended		
Holly Hubsher	4					A		A	A	A	Removed		
Jason Plummer	1										A		
Joel Weinberger	3			A			A			A			
Jon Liberman	0				Resigned								
Joseph Mollaie	3			A		A			A				
Katelyn Best	2						A		A	Resigned			
Ken Blaker	0												
Kevin McCarthy	3		A	A	A	Removed							
Laurie Levine	4		A		A				A		A		
Mallory Smith	1										A		
Margarita Guzman	1										A		
Marlene Katz	4				A				A	A		A	
Michael Lynn	0												
Michelle Frankel	3	A	A	A	Removed								
Mitch Cohen	1									A			
Noah Damsky	4	A			A	A					A		
Ryan Spivey	0												
Sandy Block	3				A		A	A					
Sara Messall	5	A		A	A				A	A	Removed		
Shirley Traum	5	A		A	A			A		A	Removed		
Stuart Weiss	2							A				A	
Terrence Gomes	2								A			A	
Tiffany Miller	0		Resigned										
Vahid Jebelli	1											A	
Total per Meeting		7	6	8	8	3	4	5	9	7	6	5	0

No longer on Board

SORO NC Committee Memberships as of 5/15/25

(Board Members)

Land Use Committee	Barry Levine, Ken Blaker, Joseph Mollaie, Mitch Cohen , Stuart Weiss, Noah Damsky, Jason Plummer, Margarita Guzman, Laurie Levine
Public Safety Committee	Michael Lynn, Terrence Gomes , Ken Blaker, Laurie Levine, Baila Romm , Joesph Mollaie, Stuart Weiss, Beth Klein, Ryan Spivey
Outreach Committee	Terrence Gomes, Barry Levine, Michael Lynn , Baila Romm, Stuart Weiss, Marlene Katz, Mallory Smith
Transportation Committee	Barry Levine, Joel Weinberger , Terrence Gomes, Michael Lynn, Jason Plummer ,
Homelessness Committee	Terrence Gomes , Barry Levine, Michael Lynn, Ken Blaker, Laurie Levine, Marlene Katz,
Education Committee	Barry Levine, Margarita Guzman , Michael Lynn
Bylaws Committee	Ken Blaker , Michael Lynn, Terrence Gomes, Barry Levine, Joel Weinberger, Joseph Mollaie
Budget & Finance Committee	Terrence Gomes , Barry Levine, Michael Lynn, Baila Romm
Board Development	Stuart Weiss
Tree Removal Notification- Ad Hoc	Barry Levine
Board Selection- Ad Hoc	Jason Plummer, Joseph Mollaie, Stuart Weiss, Terrence Gomes,
3-On-3 Basketball- Ad Hoc	Margarita Guzman



south robertson neighborhoods council

City of Los Angeles Certified Neighborhood Council

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Office of Mayor Karen Bass
200 N. Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Office of Councilwoman Heather Hutt
200 N. Spring St, Room 420
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Office of Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky
6380 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 800
Los Angeles, CA 90048

Dear Mayor Bass, Councilwoman Hutt, and Councilwoman Yaroslavsky,

In Fiscal Year 2025-26, the City of Los Angeles will face huge budget challenges. We trust the City will address its most pressing legal and moral obligations. One of these obligations is the voter-approved Measure HLA, which is not only a legal requirement, but one such moral obligation for protecting the approximately 300 people killed and thousands more injured each year in traffic collisions in the City. We, the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council (SORO NC), believe the City can and must act to fulfill these obligations, especially in those areas described by the Budget Advocate.

HLA requires the City's resurfacing projects to include both curb ramps and mobility improvements to build out the networks included in Mobility Plan 2035 (MP2035). Notably, these are also largely required under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as well.

The City can begin to address these in a budget-neutral way by:

1. Improving the coordination between the Bureau of Street Services and the Department of Transportation so the pavement preservation program prioritizes MP 2035 projects.
2. Realign the City's pavement preservation and access ramp funding allocations to ensure that the resurfacing program is driven by pavement condition and mobility needs, rather than limited to streets that do not require curb ramp work.
3. Ensure that the Prioritized Critical Hiring process (PCH) does not impede departments from filling and refilling authorized and funded positions that support the resurfacing program, including curb ramps, and MP2035 implementation.

However, additional resources are needed to ensure the City is both fully compliant with these legal and moral obligations.

LADOT

LADOT faced significant cuts in the FY25 budget, and in light of fiscal constraints has submitted a modest budget proposal for FY26 that restores critical services and mitigates financial risks. We hope that these requests will be fully funded.

At LADOT, we ask for restoration of \$1.5m to Paint & Sign budget to support both HLA compliant project delivery. Failure to maintain existing striping and signage, or to install long-approved safety improvements, exposes the City to significant liability risks.

Streets LA

Although the Proposed FY24-25 Budget included a stated intention to avoid layoffs, it inadvertently omitted funding for more than 100 filled positions in StreetsLA, and did not include funding for ADA-mandated curb cuts. For that reason, the Council's modifications to StreetsLA's budget were almost entirely focused on restoring funding for filled positions and providing limited funding for legally-mandated curb ramp work.

At StreetsLA, we ask for:

1. Increased funding for curb ramps. The FY24-25 budget provides funding for approximately 200 new curb ramps per year, which is far short of the actual need. As a consequence, the City's resurfacing program is increasingly determined by streets that do not need curb ramp work, rather than improving mobility and safety, or even maintaining PCI. The FY24-25 Budget should fund curb ramp work at a level necessary to maintain or increase the number of lane miles resurfaced.
2. Increased funding for implementation of grant-funded projects. StreetsLA has a portfolio of \$330 million in Active Transportation Program projects, which are focused in disadvantaged communities. StreetsLA is not funded or staffed to complete these projects in accordance with grant deadlines, which increases project costs, jeopardizes grant funding, impedes the City's ability to obtain new grants, and – most importantly – delays needed safety and mobility improvements in the communities that need them most.
3. Approval of the Capital and Technology Improvement Expenditure Program (CTIEP) request for Mobility Plan 2035 corridors and HLA implementation. Approving this request now is critical for having the needed first/last mile facilities ready by the Olympics.

PCH Process

On the City's PCH process, we believe there are several important changes and improvements that could be made.

There are a large number of LADOT positions that are currently unfilled (around 130), which is causing the department a number of challenges to the department.

These should be filled where they are budget neutral and/or do not raise the budget. The PCH process is hindering this.

1. Positions approved after the FY25 budget that right-sized departments to meet fiscal challenges should not be subject to PCH.
2. Positions that do not have a General Fund impact should not be subject to PCH.
3. Positions becoming vacant due to people retiring or leaving departments should not be subject to PCH.
4. Council should consider getting rid of the PCH process altogether. Lastly, we believe there is significant funding dedicated to transportation that is not being used as the voters intended, so where possible, this should be redirected to fix these positions.

We believe these changes are vital to implementing the legal obligations of the City under HLA. As more people are killed and injured every year due to traffic collisions, this is not the time to back off the moral—as well as legal—obligations to protect our citizens.

Sincerely,

Michael Lynn
President



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May 15, 2025

Mayor Karen Bass
City of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

City Council Members
City of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: CF 25-0600

Dear Mayor Bass and City Council Members,

The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council (SORO NC) requests that the Mayor and City Council restore the amount annually allocated to at least the current \$32,000 and supports the rollover of all unexpended funds from this fiscal year to next year, as currently proposed in the Mayor's Budget.

Also, the SORO NC requests that the proposed cuts to the five Department of Neighborhood Empowerment Project Coordinator, Class Code 1537 positions, be restored as well.

Sincerely,

Michael Lynn
President
South Robertson Neighborhoods Council

CC: Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, Carmen Chang
CC: City Controller, Kenneth Mejia
CC: Chief Administrative Office, Matt Szabo