



STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Your Advocate for Studio City

March 2024

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SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING

Bridges Academy Tuesday, March 12, 2024
Meeting from 7:15 PM to 8:45 PM

Todd Gilman, Deputy City Attorney for the LA City Attorney's Office

Todd works as a member of the Community Law Corps unit within the City Attorney's Office. The Community Law Corps works on non-prosecutorial solutions to nuisance, blight, and public safety issues. Here, the Community Law Corps often works to solve party houses, squatter properties, and neighbor disputes.



Prior to joining the Community Law Corps, Todd worked at the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office as a Neighborhood Prosecutor and as the Supervising Attorney for the Los Angeles Homeless Court. Todd also previously prosecuted felony and misdemeanor crimes as a Deputy District Attorney at both the Ventura and Los Angeles District Attorney's Offices.

Q&A to follow and the LAPD, if available, will be there to give a report.

CONGRATULATIONS CONNIE ELLIOT



Connie is a long-time Officer and Board member of the SCRA. She has served in the position of Secretary of the SCRA and the SCBA since 2007. And has done an incredible job keeping all our records and duties straight.

In 2018 Connie received the "Member of the Year" award for her service to the Police Activities League. She was commended for her years of support to the PALS organization as a board member and for hands-on help at PALS functions or events.

Connie also serves on The Community Police Advisory Board and the Board of Campo de Cahuenga Historic Site where she is currently acting Vice President.

(Continued, Page 2)

UPDATE FROM SLAROS

Status of Weddington Golf and Tennis

SCRA and SLAROS have filed a lawsuit naming the City of Los Angeles as Respondent. Harvard-Westlake School and the County of Los Angeles as Real Parties in Interest. Our organizations want to hold these parties accountable.

Here is a brief timeline of what has transpired since the filing of our lawsuit and what to expect in the upcoming months.

12/13/23 Our attorney filed a Petition for a "Writ of Mandate(click here), as part of our lawsuit against the City of Los Angeles.

488 violations of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

8 violations of Planning and Zoning Laws

13 violations of the Los Angeles Municipal Code

(Continued, Page 2)



(SLAROS, cont'd)

The Surplus Land Act (click here) related to LA County Property

12/30/23 A Mandatory Conference was convened with all parties: SCRA, SLAROS, Harvard-Westlake School, County of Los Angeles, and City of Los Angeles. We did not hear any responses from the opposing counsel to date. We will be expecting to proceed to the next step of the lawsuit.

4/03/2024 During the holidays, Harvard Westlake informed the public they will officially terminate all existing tennis and golf operations on this date. The property will be closed to the public at this date. Read their letter here.

Jan-May 2024 "Administrative Record" will be compiled by the city. The deadline for this process was originally in March, but will possibly be extended to April. This is similar to the discovery phase of a typical lawsuit.

May/June 2024 The Honorable Judge Leiter will be presiding over the litigation of our lawsuit.



We will be diligent in updating our members on this important case that will affect the public for generations to come. As you

know, any green open space that a developer will bulldoze will never be able to return to its previous state. Please IMMEDIATELY CONTACT Save LA River Open Space (saveopenspace@slaros.org) if there are any pending signs of demolition. We can not risk any irreparable damage by this developer prior to the decision on this lawsuit. Please donate to the legal fund at SaveLARiverOpenSpace.org

HOUSING ELEMENT:

Single-family residents will be exempt

Studio City, Sherman Oaks, and Encino formed a coalition to work with Planning to develop a community map to identify areas in each community where housing units could be built. Maria and Jeff Kalban of Sherman Oaks recently met with the Deputy Director of Citywide Policy Planning, Director of Planning Policy, and Deputy Mayor of Housing and they have confirmed that R1 zones (single family) are exempt from any overlays or rezoning.

At the meeting, Maria was told that our community maps were shared with Planning and the Mayor. All were very impressed by the willingness of so many communities to engage in finding solutions and how impressive those solutions were.

The Community Plan Updates

The Community Plans are how the city moves from the 30,000 ft view of the city (Housing Element) to the ground

(Connie, cont'd)

The Studio City Community, The Studio City Residents Association, and the Studio City Beautiful Association are honored to have Connie on our side.

Connie is the recipient of the Fran Quigley Award. It is the highest Studio City Cares Award that is given.

In February, Connie retired from her board duties and is moving from Studio City. Her passion and commitment to this community have made Studio City a great place to live. **Thank you Connie.**

view (The Community Plan Updates). The knowledge we have of our communities and the solutions we have identified should lead to good planning. SCRA will continue working within the coalition with our collective voices to help each other.

MAYOR BASS' ED 1

Executive Directive (ED) 1 streamlines the process for 100% Affordable housing by bypassing much of the community input on housing developments.

The mayor's office is working on an ordinance that will make ED 1 permanent. This directive was introduced quickly, with few guidelines or restrictions that would prevent harm to communities. Many of the proposed projects ask for as many as eleven (11) waivers from the permit process. SCRA is following this issue and will keep you informed.

NEIGHBOR



TO

NEIGHBOR

The SCRA is a voice for all Studio City residents. Thanks for amplifying our gratitude, concerns and making individuals feel heard.
- Maddie Clark

The Clark family has found The SCRA such a valued resource with a focus to inform and help care for our community.
- Morgan Clark



Studio City Friends Hiking! SCRA Members Maddie & Morgan Clark and Friend Fiona Hutton, with pup Lilly

BEAUTIFICATION UPDATE

Meg McDonald Seltzer, SCBA President



Nesting, Eagle-Eye, and Teamwork sum up our beautification report to you.

Most types of birds in Southern California nest between February and August 31. So, trimming trees and pruning palms should be done outside nesting season. California Fish and Game Code 3503 states, "It is unlawful to take, possess or needlessly destroy the nest or eggs of any bird." Also, other Municipal Codes, State Codes, and Federal Codes were enacted to protect our bird population. When these three blue Robin eggs hatch, they will become living creatures that need our help to survive.

We want to assure you that your Studio City Beautification Association always arranges for palm pruning and tree trimming to be done outside of nesting season.

It's also worth mentioning that trees support a variety of nesting creatures in addition to birds. Trimming trees and other greenery in spring and summer could not only destroy nests and valuable nest sites, but it could lead to the intrusion of pests which is detrimental to the health of trees. The best time to prune conifers is in the fall. The best time to prune deciduous trees is late winter before the leaves appear.



Continuing SCBA's careful and close watch on our Studio City nature neighbors and keeping our neighborhood beautiful a big thank you to our eagle-eyed residents who let us know when something needs our attention like a broken irrigation line, graffiti on our welcome signs, unsightly litter, vehicle vandalism or anything else that takes away from the beauty of Studio City.

While we do walk our sites often, we rely on the community to keep us informed. And we are especially grateful to you for taking the time to alert us about a problem by emailing studiocitybeautificationassoc@gmail.com or calling the office at (818) 509-0230.

The Studio City Beautification Association is an all-volunteer organization and it's our teamwork with you that keeps Studio City looking beautiful.

Stay safe and see you in the neighborhood.

COMMUNITY ACTIONS

Hillside Federation

The SCRA and 43 other HOAs make up the membership of the Hillside Federation. The Federation Board addresses matters that affect the hillside areas of Los Angeles and its environs.



TO THE MARKET

As the vibrant hues of spring blossom in Studio City, the Farmers Market becomes a haven for fresh, local delights. Embrace the season's bounty at the Studio

City Farmers Market, where the air is filled with the promise of blooming flowers and the tantalizing aromas of farm-fresh produce and artisanal offerings. We are happy to announce a wonderful addition to the Market - reBroth Bone Broth, a new vendor committed to providing all-natural bone broth made from regeneratively sourced, organic, and biodynamic bones. Slow-cooked to perfection in small batches, their broth is gluten-free, carb-free, and has no preservatives.

Reminder: While you savor the market experience, kindly leave your furry friends at home, as dogs are not allowed at the market per the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (with the exception of qualified service dogs). Therapy dogs, though wonderful companions, are not considered service animals. So, lace up your walking shoes, breathe in the spring air, and explore the Studio City Farmers Market's array of exceptional offerings, sans your pets.

Newly proposed Noise Ordinance:

A brief outline: LA City had a very comprehensive noise ordinance which was scrapped by Director of Planning, Vince Bartoni, with a replacement ordinance called Appendix G. Now Bartoni is pushing through a new ordinance that will basically give developers the right to make as much noise as they want to. The citizens of Los Angeles could never protest the noise levels in their neighborhoods because we could never meet the levels that Bartoni is setting. The argument is that in an urban environment, we already have noise levels that high so we would not notice any difference.

And as egregious as this is, Bertoni is arguing that he has the right to make these changes without City Council approval.

The Hillside Federation is drafting a letter in opposition to this power grab by Bertoni. He is not elected by us but appointed by the mayor.

The SCRA Board is joining the Hillside Federation in opposition to this ordinance.

Digital signs lawsuit:

It was brought to the attention of the Hillside Federation Board that a lawsuit in opposition to the Digital Signs ordinance has been filed by Citizens for a Better Los Angeles. The SCRA board is sending a contribution to Citizens for a Better Los Angeles to help with attorney fees.

www.hillsidefederation.org

Come and visit our newest Little Free Library, located at 4536 Irvine Avenue



FROM YOUR BOARD

Many of you have asked about the status of the proposed 8-story, 94-foot-tall Sportsmen's Lodge Apartments. SCRA, as well as two other entities, each filed Appeals to the Los Angeles City Planning Commission's decision to approve this never-before seen in Studio City building height. The three Appeals were to be heard on Tuesday, January 16th at the Los Angeles City Council Planning & Land Use Management Committee's afternoon meeting. Three hours before the meeting, the entire meeting was mysteriously canceled. We later learned that the developers had asked for a delay anyway on our specific item, even if the entire meeting had not been canceled. We still don't know why the developers asked for this delay (the second delay they have asked for in the City Council File record) ... perhaps it has something to do with one of the other Appellants (Erewhon) who also coincidentally has an ongoing lawsuit against the developers. In the meantime, we are waiting for notification from the City on a rescheduled Appeal Hearing date. The developer has asked for an extension to March 29th:

Developer's Consent to Time Limit Extension:
https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2023/23-1098_misc_01-16-24.pdf

To see the three "Appeal Justification" letters from all three of the Appellants (including SCRA) check out the following links:

SCRA's Appeal Justification letter:
<https://planning.lacity.gov/pdiscaseinfo/document/MTM5NDk0/382be727-91db-4e5c-88e0-bb0f216d41aa/esubmit>

Erewhon's Appeal Justification letter (scroll down to Page 5): https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2023/23-1098_misc_100_10-02-23.pdf

UNITE HERE Local 11's Appeal Justification letter:
<https://planning.lacity.gov/pdiscaseinfo/document/MTQwMzI0/382be727-91db-4e5c-88e0-bb0f216d41aa/esubmit>



SCRA, YOUR COMMUNITY ADVOCATES FOR 61 YEARS AND COUNTING...

Benefits of your SCRA membership

Digital Newsletter option available. You can Opt-in to receive the Digital version of our newsletter, email us at SCRANewsletter@studiocityresidents.org and we will add you to our digital mailing list. Enjoy the ease of receiving in your inbox, save a tree, and enjoy the full-color digital version.

'News & Notes' email blasts cover breaking Studio City news, police advisories, community events, calls to action, and so much more. If you are missing out on these advisories, email us at SCRABoard@studiocityresidents.org and we will add you to our email mailing list.

Get to know our website

In this issue, we are spotlighting:
COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS.

studiocityresidents.org/our-community/community-organizations

There are quite a few organizations within Studio City or the surrounding area. Links to those organizations can be found on our website.

www.StudioCityResidents.org



Candidate Forum—January 2024 Annual General meeting Candidates for CD4: Ethan Weaver and Nithya Raman

Thanks to all who turned out for this very important and informative meeting.



WHO WE ARE

SCRA OFFICERS

Barry Johnson, Acting President
Stephen Sass, Vice President
Claudia Freedle, Admin. Vice President
John Hartich, Secretary
Sharon Udkoff, Treasurer

BOARD MEMBERS

Alan Dymond, President Emeritus
Beth Dymond
Martha Hanrahan
Bonnie Kalaf
Lana Shackelford
Karen Younce

BEAUTIFICATION ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Meg McDonald Seltzer, President

Beth Dymond, Vice President
Marsha Lewis, Secretary
Sharon Udkoff, Treasurer

BOARD MEMBERS

Barry Johnson
Marsha Lewis
Lynette Berg Robe
Doug Short
Karen Younce
StudioCityBeautificationAssoc@gmail.com

SAVE LA RIVER OPEN SPACE OFFICERS

Dale Fernandez, President
Beth Dymond, Secretary
Sharon Udkoff, Treasurer
Barry Johnson

Holly Noelle-Levy
SaveOpenSpace@SLAROS.org

STUDIO CITY FARMERS MARKET

(818) 655-7744
StudioCityFarmersMarket.com

NEWSLETTER

Graphic Design: Kevin Lewis
(818) 667-6647 Kevin@KevLew.com

STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 1374, STUDIO CITY, CA 91614
PH: (818) 509-0230 FAX: (818) 206-3419

SCRABOARD@STUDIOCITYRESIDENTS.ORG

Hello Again.

The SCRA Member Discount Card is back for our 5th year! Join us as we continue celebrating our 60+ years advocating for you. When you renew your membership, you will receive your new Member Discount Card that is welcomed at these local businesses: (New cards available on or after July 1st)

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Anna Cheselka Dance | Floaty Swim School |
| April Davis Investigations | Gisele Tune Clothing |
| Arnold's Copy & Print | Gramercy Boutique |
| Auto Plaza | Habit Boutique |
| Back to Wellness | James Thomas Stained Glass |
| Belle Bakery Cafe | La Knitterie Parisienne |
| BLVD Hotel & Spa | Matthew's Jewelry Store |
| Charlies' Shoe Repair | Panache Boutique |
| Chateau de Luce | Pepe's Pizza |
| Classic Toys | Prosecco Trattoria |
| Cocoa and Candy | Rain Bar & Lounge |
| Creation Station Studio | Rouge |
| City | SALT. Optics |
| Dana Kathryn Jewelry | topdrawer |
| Danielli Menswear | The Village |
| Diana's Boutique | Vitello's Restaurant |
| Eye Candy Optometry | Wild Flora |
| Eyedentity Eyewear | |
| Flair Cleaners | |



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STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



P.O. Box 1374, Studio City, CA 91614

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MAR 2024
PRINTED WITH SOY-BASED INKS

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There is strength in numbers!

SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

AGENDA

7:00 p.m. Meet and Greet
7:15 p.m. Meeting Begins

● **Featured Speaker:** Todd Gilman, Todd Gilman is a Deputy City Attorney for the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office. Todd works as a member of the Community Law Corps unit within the City Attorney's Office. LAPD, if available, will be there to give a report.

MEETING LOCATION

Bridges Academy
3921 Laurel Canyon Blvd
Studio City, CA 91604

Free parking in school lot.
Enter on Maxwelton.



SCRABcar d@studiocityresidents.org
www.studiocityresidents.org

