



STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Your Advocate for Studio City

November 2020

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COME TO THE SCRA COMMUNITY (VIRTUAL) MEETING

November 10, 2020, 7:00 P.M.

California Assemblyman Adrin Nazarian is our guest speaker

A ZOOM COMMUNITY MEETING



Guest speaker Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian, representing Studio City District 46, will give us an update and recap of issues being addressed in Sacramento, and discuss prospective actions by the California Assembly for the coming year that could impact Studio City. Over the last year, SCRA and other organizations, have been adamantly opposed to housing bills initiated by State Senator Scott D. Wiener that were designed to undermine our local zoning laws. Other topics will include the use of rodenticides, homelessness, Caltrans lack of responsiveness, and other local issues which are handled at the state level.

HOW TO RECEIVE A ZOOM INVITATION TO THE MEETING:

Email SCRA no later than November 6th at ZoomMeeting@studiocityresidents.org, and we will place you onto the invitation list for this meeting. On the morning of the meeting, SCRA will email you an invitation link to attend this meeting on Zoom.

PREPARING TO ATTEND THE MEETING:

We recommend that you download the Zoom app onto your device (computer, tablet, iPod, or smartphone) before the Community Meeting, as it can take a few minutes to do this and set up the app, so best to do so before the meeting. You need not sign up for a paid Zoom account to participate in the meeting. The app is available at www.zoom.us (at the top, click Resources > Download Zoom Client) and through your device App store.

JOINING THE MEETING:

When you click on the link provided, your device, or Zoom, may ask you to allow using the Zoom App, using your video, and using your audio. Allow these, then enter your name and email address as requested to join the meeting. There will also be instructions for joining by phone. As a meeting attendee, you will only watch and listen (your camera will be off, and your microphone muted). So, don't worry about anyone seeing you on-screen during the meeting.

MEETING Q & A:

We are hoping to provide an opportunity to ask questions for Assemblymember Nazarian to answer. Look for more details on this in your invitation link email.

STUDIO CITY COMMUNITY ZOOM MEETING SEPTEMBER 8, 2020 WITH COUNCIL MEMBER PAUL KREKORIAN

The complete transcript can be found on the SCRA website, www.studiocityresidents.org (keyword search: Transcript), includes the Q & A's on Homeless, City Pension funding obligations, Open Space, Federal relief funds due to the Covid-19 effect, and Upzoning.

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BEAUTIFICATION UPDATE

Meg McDonald Seltzer, SCBA President

Since our last report to you, two medians adopted and maintained by SCBA got a beauty treatment. Purple Heart ground cover was planted at the Vineland median @ Ralphs and the median @ Laurel Canyon and the 101 Freeway.

Tradescantia pallida is a perennial evergreen native and is commonly known as Purple Heart. The most striking thing about the Purple Heart plant is its foliage color. The long violet purple leaves spread easily, and on the ground, it looks like a wave of purple. When it's in bloom it'll have light pink flowers. A portion of the project was funded by a generous grant from Campbell Hall School in Studio City.



In this the season of giving thanks, SCBA gives sincere thanks to you.

Thank you for the confidence you have in the Studio City Beautification Association to represent you in the community.

Thank you for photographing the beauty of Studio City and emailing your photos to mystudiocity@gmail.com so we can post on our Facebook page and Instagram account and show off our community to the world.

Thank you for being on the SCBA team and reporting things that need attention by calling the office (818) 509-0230 or emailing studiocitybeautificationassoc@gmail.com

Thank you for the pride you take our community. It is our teamwork that keeps Studio City looking beautiful.

Thank you for your support!

As we near the end of 2020, we are still living in a coronavirus pandemic world that keeps us apart. Stay safe. We are all in this together and when it's over we will see each other again in the neighborhood.

LOUD CLASSIC CAR NOISE

The residents in the hills and the flatlands are getting more and more agitated about the classic cars racing up and down the Canyons and along Ventura Blvd., speeding and running the lights. The drivers race their motors making loud noises that can be heard for miles. Studio City Neighborhood Council Transportation Committee, chaired by Barry Johnson, Vice President of the SCRA, heard neighbors' testimony and a motion was sent to the full SCNC Board to consider. The Motion was to ask Councilmember Paul Krekorian to investigate why there is street racing emanation from the business at 11481 and 11485 Ventura Blvd, and why cars are parked on the street. The motion will go to the full board for a vote.

NEIGHBORHOOD TRANSIT MITIGATION PLAN (NTMP) HAS BEGUN IN STUDIO CITY

Councilmember Krekorian wrote a letter to the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) in July requesting LADOT to begin implementing all funded items on the NTMP. LADOT should have begun rolling out the implementation of the Studio City NTMP in mid to late October, starting with all speed humps approved for placement. The remainder of the funded items will be implemented in phases over the next 9-12 months. Councilmember Krekorian's letter also requested LADOT to work on finding funds for any NTM item that couldn't be implemented due to budget constraints.

WHITSETT AVE LOOKING BETTER AND BETTER

SCRA wishes to thank Jessica Fugate, Deputy to Councilmember Krekorian, for following up on the initial cleanup from May 2019 and returning to complete a cleanup of the ivy along Whitsett Ave between Moorpark and Sarah Streets. This second cleanup was completed in late August.



Over the years many members have complained about being unable to walk along Whitsett due to the overgrowth and trash. At one point several years back, SCBA stepped in to pay for the ivy to be cut back. Thank you, Jessica, this sidewalk can now be traversed without dodging trash and overgrown weed and ivy.

FREEWAY CONSTRUCTION ON 101

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) announces continued construction to replace the concrete median barrier on US 101 (Hollywood Freeway/Ventura Freeway) spanning 19.3 miles between Hollywood and Woodland Hills in Los Angeles. The project is 100% federally funded and does not impact the State's budget.

Replacement of the existing barrier is part of a districtwide safety goal to improve the effectiveness of the barrier and reduce median collision severity for motorists. Additionally, the increased height of the upgraded median barrier will provide glare protection from opposing traffic.

Demolition and removal of the concrete median barrier continues between Pilgrimage Bridge in Hollywood and the State Route 170/US 101 (Hollywood Freeway) connector. Residents and businesses located near the freeway are advised

(Continued, Page 3)

(Freeway, cont'd)

to anticipate noise, vibrations, and dust associated with construction activities.

Night closures are scheduled Monday through Thursday from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. and Friday, 11 p.m. to 9 a.m. Some lanes may be closed in either direction or both directions simultaneously to facilitate a safe work zone for workers and motorists. At least one or two lanes in each direction will remain open for traffic while work is underway. Also, northbound US 101 Highland Avenue on-ramp will be closed. Traffic conditions can be checked at quickmap.dot.ca.gov.

HILLSIDE FEDERATION BOARD MEETING SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

Adam Schiff, US House of Representatives, was the guest speaker

Many issues were covered but due to space limitations, we are limiting this report to the following items:

Burbank Flight patterns The Task Force that was set up issued a position paper on the noise from Burbank Airport departures. The paper was classified as "good" however FAA is not accepting it. To date, the FAA has not formally "rejected" the findings of the task force. Congressman Schiff has asked the General Accounting Office to conduct an "impact analysis". It is necessary to keep looking forward to "NextGen" of airplanes and ensure the FAA is kept on notice.

Rodenticides law AB 1788 has passed both the California House and Senate. The bill is to curtail the use of this poison because it makes its way into the food chain of wildlife other animals.

Senator Weiner's Zoning laws did not get out of committee. The law, if passed, would be imposed statewide, the target being zones of single-family residences.

LA RIVER IN STUDIO CITY IS GETTING A FACELIFT

Recreation and Parks has begun the design phase to revitalize the greenway on the LA River, Southside between Laurel Canyon and Whitsett Ave. It is anticipated that construction will begin late November, early December including new irrigation and new plantings. The project is expected to take four to six months, with an estimated completion date of June 2021.

Separately, Jackie Keene, from the Councilmember's Office, is in the planning stage of a Scout project with the Footbridge Square Neighborhood to improve the eyesore located at Valleyheart Drive. (north side of the LA River and west side of Laurel Canyon.) They are coordinating with LA City adopt-a-median program on approved planting material. The plan is to get a small section of the triangular median in front of the fence area beautified with drought-tolerant, low-maintenance plants and possibly decomposed granite. There is no irrigation, and it would be costly to install so the neighbors have volunteered to water the plants to get them established.



TO THE MARKET

The Studio City Farmers Market continues to follow all city and county COVID-19 guidelines in our efforts to make shopping at the Market a safe and pleasant experience for our customers. Masks continue to be required, as well as one entrance through Laurel Canyon and an exit through Radford.

Vendors who cook on site are still not allowed to be at the Market per the County Department of Public Health, but we are happy to welcome back Pupusas Salvadoreñas. A Market favorite, they are selling their delicious pupusas three to a pack, ready to reheat at home, along with a new dish - chile rellenos. They are also selling an array of fresh aguas frescas, including watermelon, cool cucumber, and coconut. They can be found in the small parking lot. Also back in a limited capacity is Tropical Islands, selling juice boxes filled with their own delicious flavors of aguas frescas. They can be found on the main street, on the north side near Radford.

SOME GOOD NEWS

RE: 8078 Woodrow Wilson Dr. in the Hollywood Hills

The proposed museum on Woodrow Wilson Dr. just off Mulholland Dr. has been stopped for now. The MAK Center has withdrawn its application for museum status for the Schlinder house on Woodrow Wilson. Local activists objected to turning this home into a museum not only because it is in a residential



neighborhood but there is parking for only two cars and little to no street parking on this narrow mountain road. The leader of the opposition is Mary Robins who wishes to thank the many in our communities who have made loud firm outcries of NO!!!!!!!, for months and months making the MAK Center finally rethink their position. The project may come back so Mary will maintain a vigilant watch on the zoning use of the house.

8078 WOODROW WILSON DRIVE

FITZPATRICK-LELAND HOUSE
DESIGNED BY RUDOLPH M SCHINDLER, 1936
MAK CENTER FOR ART AND ARCHITECTURE, LOS ANGELES



(Meeting, cont'd)

Harvard-Westlake Development on the Weddington Property

Councilmember Krekorian (CM): "I issued a letter back in January with a long list of my expectations, which I think reflected much of the community's expectations of Harvard-Westlake in this process. They have responded to some of those requests. For example, preserving the clubhouse and the putting green at Whitsett and Valley Spring, and ensuring that that would be open for public use".

"EIR process has not yet begun. There are no public hearings that have been held or, as far as I know, scheduled. We will continue to make sure that as we become aware of any changes, you will know about them, and when the EIR process does start, we'll also make sure that we have the broadest longest public input process possible for that project.

Sacramento Housing Bills overriding local zoning

The legislature session has ended but their efforts to continue to thrust things down our throats when it comes to housing and planning just doesn't seem ever to end. We were successful through the representation of our Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian, as well as with a lot of really strong public advocacy and we were successful in defeating the most recent bill by Senator Wiener.

(CM): "I can guarantee there will be additional efforts in Sacramento in the coming session to continue to try to expand housing stock, even at the expense of local planning prerogatives. It is imperative that we maintain local control over our own local neighborhoods even as we try to find ways to expand our housing stock. Everybody recognizes is a need. But how we do it and where we do it should be left to local officials. Not to Sacramento officials."

The City Government Scandals

(CM): "I want just to say one final thing about development. This has been a time when the city government of Los Angeles has been rocked with the scandals that have come from the council member for the 14th district and the former council member from the 12th district, who both faced federal charges and were part of an FBI investigation. And when it comes to the downtown area and council district 14 in particular, most of these" charges arose out of the most outrageous and despicable kind of corruption imaginable. Where large skyscraper-type buildings were skating through the planning process with the support of the council member and others in staff positions, after that council member, at least allegedly took cash payoffs."

(CM): "This is absolutely outrageous, criminal conduct that would certainly not be deterred by any changes in the city ethics rules. These were already federal felonies. It occurred to me that one of the things that we need to do to be able to stem any temptation for that kind of corruption is to ensure that the developers who are responsible for these payoffs do not benefit from the corruption".

(CM): "At my request, we are currently in the process of reviewing all of the projects that were referenced in these indictments, to all of the development agreements, all of the planning approvals to ensure that they be decided on the merits, and not based on illegality or the pressure from the council member for that district as a result of fraud".

(CM): "Now, that might mean that some of these multi-million even multi-billion-dollar projects grind to a halt. It may mean that some of those approvals be rescinded. It may be that the development agreements that make them economically feasible be rescinded, and if so, so be it. Because I just don't think we can permit a situation where graft and corruption results in approval of projects that would not otherwise be approved".

SCRA OFFICERS FOR 2021 NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) Nominating Committee has nominated the following candidates as officers of the association for the year 2021.

President, Alan Dymond: Vice President, Barry Johnson: Treasurer, Charles Blakeslee: Secretary, Connie Elliot.

Any person residing in the household of a Regular or Senior Member may nominate a member in good standing as an officer of the SCRA by filing a petition bearing original signatures of a minimum of twenty-five (25) members in good standing and an acknowledgment signed by the proposed officer with the Association's office no later than December 1, 2020.

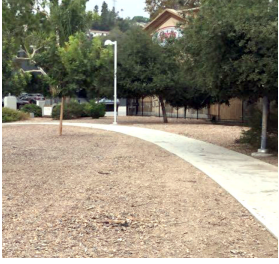
ASK THE SCRA

One of the functions of the SCRA is to empower its members, who are the eyes and ears of the community. The SCRA can assist by providing opportunities to make all of Studio City a better place to live. Please send questions to scraboard@studiocityresidents.org.

FOLLOW UP on hate graffiti: Two swastikas embedded into the sidewalk on the West side of the Laurel Canyon where it crosses over the LA River (near Valleyheart Drive), as reported in the September Newsletter, were removed as soon as they were reported. Jessica Fugate, Studio City Deputy to Councilmember Paul Krekorian reached out to her contact within Street Services for a special request given that the graffiti was etched into the sidewalk itself. This hate graffiti was removed immediately and is now gone.

FOLLOW UP on the cleanup at Campo De Cahuenga behind Ralph's. Thank you to the office of Councilmember Paul

(Cont'd, Page 5)



(Ask SCRA, cont'd)

Krekorian and Deputy Jessica Fugate. LA Sanitation Department and its Office of Urban Forestry did a great cleanup job. A picture is worth a thousand words.

Q: Help is needed to clean up the trash at the parking lot at the northeast corner of Campo de Cahuenga and Ventura Blvd in Studio City. I reported it to customer service at Caltrans. The amount of trash in and around the parking lot is disgusting & the RV's/cars being used as homes with the "excess" possessions spreading in the Caltrans lot/surrounding grounds is unacceptable. We need your help to maintain our community. Residents are being subjected to increasing amounts of harassment from the homeless community; please help these people find shelter before someone is harmed in our neighborhood on your watch.

SCRA: Jessica Fugate of Councilmember Paul Krekorian's office has been working on this problem with Caltrans. The Park and Ride lot is county land, and the fencing is Caltrans.

Efforts by both the County and Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority to make this area a 'Safe Parking' site failed. The County will not fund it. Safe Parking would include toilets, a clean area, security, and homeless service. County did do a cleanup of the lot but debris is again on the lot. Jessica will send a picture of the debris to Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's office requesting the lot to be cleaned. Members can call Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's office at (213) 974-3333 with a message to clean up this lot located at Ventura Blvd and Campo de Cahuenga (Northeast corner.)

Q: Signs going up in neighborhoods that designate streets as "Slow Streets." Could Sunshine Hill apply for this classification? I found out that we have to apply for it as a neighborhood organization. Do you know how or if we would do this?

SCRA: I have been told by the temporary "Slow Streets" program that "hillside local streets" do not qualify for the Slow Streets program. Streets, like yours, are too narrow and would put pedestrians too much at risk and hamper fire department access. The "Silver Triangle" neighborhood, (surrounded by Laurel Terrace, Ventura and Laurel Canyon), has some "Slow Street" signs. That neighborhood is not classified as "Hillside".

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Alan Dymond

For years, Studio City Golf and Tennis has been a quiet refuge. A tranquil site. Over the years it changed from being a place where the original Fernandeano Tataviam Band of Mission Indians lived and thrived alongside the Los Angeles River with its Steelhead trout and other resources. Then a sheep farm, then a palm tree nursery. Finally becoming Studio City Golf and Tennis.

The recent history of the site is significant. When the Weddington family owned the land, for a reasonable fee, the Golf and Tennis Facility was open to all no matter the race, class, sex, wealth, or perceived privileges. It was one of the first to have an active anti-discrimination policy in place. Further, the Weddington Family intended it as a "give back" to the Valley community as was acknowledged by the family for its successes in the Valley.

Today the property was purchased by a Limited Liability Company. Public records indicate that one of the two members of that company is Harvard- Westlake who is the applicant seeking to build a Sports Campus for its students and other Special Events.

Richard B. Commons, President and Head of School of Harvard-Westlake stated in an open letter dated October 30, 2017: "...we intend to allow public access to portions of the athletics center, and we look forward to developing joint use arrangements." ... "Finally, we value the tranquility of the Weddington property and know that its neighbors do as well. Our intention when designing the athletics center is to preserve as much open space as possible."

But those intentions and values are not being honored. What is now being applied for is a permit for something that is being called a "Harvard-Westlake River Park", even though it has all the characteristics of a Sports Campus for the school. Athletic opportunities for the neighborhood, as promised, are a walking path, open to the public around part of the perimeter, and a possible use of eight tennis courts if students are not using them.

Over the last 20 years, many attempts to develop this property have been successfully resisted. For 55 years this open space had been compatible with the surrounding residential neighborhood. The property must be available to all, not limited to select groups.

The Environmental Impact Report must be responded to by SCRA and its sister organization SLAROS. To file an effective response, SCRA must engage expert consultants to challenge Harvard-Westlake's experts. We have our Attorneys in place, who in the past have been successful in resisting commercial developments.

This time the challenge is different. For example: Extended fees and costs due to the number of issues this development presents. Noise, Water Reclamation, Flood Lighting, Public Address Systems, Special Events running late into the night. Scoreboard the size of a billboard Increase light pollution and noise spilling over into the neighborhood. Spectator sports and other impacts on the neighborhood and greater Studio City.

The impacts will affect the Studio City lifestyle and property values. The proposal is just too large for this tranquil area:

Now is the time that we are obligated to come back, as we have in the past, to ask for donations to fund resistance to the proposed development.

"IT IS NOT A DONE DEAL"

SCRA Officers

Alan Dymond, President
Barry Johnson, Vice President
Claudia Freedle, Admin. Vice President
Connie Elliot, Secretary
Charles Blakeslee, Treasurer

Board Members

Beth Dymond
Martha Hanrahan
Stephen Sass
Robin Seidel
Karen Younce

Beautification Association

Meg McDonald Seltzer, President
Beth Dymond, Vice President

Connie Elliot, Secretary
Charles Blakeslee, Treasurer

Board Members

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Christine Hsia
Barry Johnson
Chip Meehan
Karen Younce
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Save L.A. River Studio City Open Space Officers

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RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

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**SCRA
VITRUAL
COMMUNITY
MEETING**

Tuesday, Nov 10, 2020

**ZOOM
MEETING**

Refer to Page 1 for detailed information on joining the Zoom Meeting. Sign-up required by Nov. 6th.

AGENDA

7:30 p.m. Assemblymember
Adrin Nazarian

