



STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Your Advocate for Studio City

May 2018

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LOS ANGELES CITY ATTORNEY MIKE FEUER TO ADDRESS MAY SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING



Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer will provide Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) members and guests with a crime and safety update at the association's bi-monthly community meeting on May 8, 2018. This session continues the SCRA's focus on safety issues. Feuer has long been one of California's leading lawyers and lawmakers. As Los Angeles' chief lawyer and prosecutor since July 2013, Feuer has brought an innovative, problem-solving focus to the office that combines tough and effective

prosecution with creative initiatives to improve public safety and quality-of-life throughout the city. His efforts have also sparked change throughout the state and the nation. Feuer has nearly tripled the Neighborhood Prosecutor Program, won a settlement against Wells Fargo's conduct, fought elder abuse, cracked down on patient dumping, combated wage theft, tackled substandard housing and instituted a program to protect immigrants from fraud. He has been the first in the state of California to enforce new legislation designed to ensure women have full information about their reproductive choices when they go to so-called pregnancy crisis centers. The SCRA Community Meeting takes place at Rio Vista Elementary School, 4243 Satsuma Avenue, Studio City, CA 91602. Meet and greet the community at 7:00 p.m. with refreshments. The program begins at 7:30 p.m. Parking is available in the school parking lot. All members of the public are invited to attend.

SIGN UP NOW AND DON'T BE LEFT OUT: SCRA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

June 1, 2018 marks the annual renewal date for Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) members. The SCRA is a major advocate for the community, and our power is in our numbers. The more members who belong to the SCRA, the more impact the association can have. Using the on-line renewal process saves postage. Please go to www.studiocityresidents.org and join or renew. You do not need to be a PayPal subscriber to pay online. The "Pay Now" button takes you to PayPal, where you have a choice to either pay from your PayPal account or pay by credit card. (Just click "New to PayPal" where you can pay by credit card as a guest.)

Please encourage your neighbors to join by visiting studiocityresidents.org and feel free to share this newsletter so prospective members can learn of the many issues and challenges the SCRA tackles on behalf of residents in the community. All current members with a 6/18 date in the address section of this newsletter will be receiving a renewal reminder in the mail. (6/19 date means you are paid up to June 2019.)

SCRA members who provide the SCRA with their e-mail address receive updates throughout the month on important breaking issues in Studio City. The SCRA staff strives to keep these messages short and to the point.

Feel free to call SCRA volunteers at 818-509-0230 regarding any questions about the SCRA or Studio City. The office is open Monday-Friday from 10:00 a.m. - noon. If there is no answer, please leave a message and your call will be returned.



FROM YOUR BOARD

The SCRA board sent letters to our elected officials in support of or in opposition to the following Senate Bills and a comment letter to the Commissioner of Planning as follows:

Opposed: Senate Bill 827. This bill out of Sacramento overrides local zoning codes and permits increased density and taller buildings along "Transit-heavy corridors" which have not been defined or identified. It would permit minimum heights of 45 to 85 ft tall. This bill is in the name of providing housing as decided by Sacramento.. Prior experience in Studio City under Senate bill 1818 led to a decrease in affordable housing without any appreciable benefits to the community at large. (Edit: Los Angeles City Council opposed **SB 827**. see lead article in March 2018 newsletter)

Support: Amending Los Angeles Municipal Code (**Sec. 12.21 et sec.**) to update the existing code to extend protected status of certain shrubs to Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) and Mexican Elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*). Letter sent to City Planning Commission.

Opposed: Senate Bill 946-Street Vendors. The bill would allow sales in parks without any local oversight. Permit vendors to occupy sidewalks outside of business without any control or remedy for those directly affected. The bill is seen as overreaching by state government in dictating to local authorities how to manage local business affairs.

Comment letter: Trees and shrubs are being removed by Cal Trans that were installed to reduce sound to those affected. The purpose for removal is to deny shade and shelter to those without homes who then will move onto other city locations. This state agency should join in local efforts in finding solutions to the problem yet maintain the sound and aesthetic value of these trees and shrubs.

Opposed: Senate Bill 905: A five year pilot program to extend closing hours for bars and restaurants to 4:00 a.m.

MOTION: The board of the Studio City Residents Association is opposed to SB905, that would include the city of Los Angeles in a pilot program. It would authorize, with or without conditions, the selling, giving or purchasing of alcoholic beverages at the licensed premises between the hours of 2am and 4am. Studio City's many restaurants are primarily located in the

commercial corridors along Ventura Blvd and along Moorpark Street. Both these corridors are immediately adjacent to suburban residential neighborhoods, which would experience noise and other disruption as a result of these extended hours.

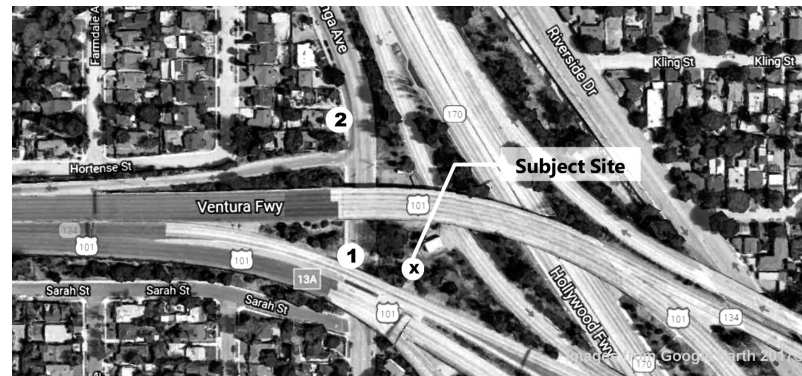
Letters sent can be found at www.StudioCityResidents.org 'Our Community' - 'Board Actions'

We encourage our member contact Sen. Hertzberg (818) 901-5588 and Assemblymember Nazarian (818) 376-4246 with their comments.

CELL PHONE TOWER 101 FWY AND 170 FWY

Verizon has applied for a permit to erect a cell phone tower on the border between Studio City, Valley Village and West Toluca Lake between the 101 and 170 freeways. The application includes a monopine pine tree to mask the tower. The tower will facilitate the area's improved coverage.

The SCRA notified the neighborhood to receive input. Epithelial-Mesenchymal Transition (EMT) - Cell Signaling Technology is outside the purview of the Zoning Administrator, therefore there is nothing we can do to stop the installation. Aesthetics and visual blight etc. is very much a concern and mitigation measures can be addressed only to those points.



SPRING IS IN FULL BLOOM!

From your Studio City Beautification Association

Spring is the season of new beginnings, a time of rebirth and regrowth and with the warmer temperatures, you will see our plants as they slowly evolve from their winter dormancy. Soon our photographer will be re-visiting our

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(Beautification, cont'd)

various locations to capture the ever-changing and emerging beauty. Be sure to like us on Facebook and visit our website, studiocitybeautification.org, as we post all the latest photos.

Unfortunately, the warmer weather also seems to bring about an increase in the homeless who continue to take up 'residence' at some of our sites, particularly at the Oasis, the pocket park across from Marshall's. We have volunteers who continuously monitor all our locations and immediately report any homeless activity and the resulting trash problems, to the city using the My311 App. If you spot a homeless camp, we urge you to report it immediately using the My311 App and if possible, include a photo. We need to stay vigilant and your help is appreciated.



On a more positive note, the section of the city's sidewalk project on Ventura Blvd, west of Fairway Ave is slowly nearing completion. Once completed, we will be able to proceed with our plans to adopt that median, the steep triangle shaped

hillside in front of the Crowne Media Building. We have been talking to several local Landscape Designers who came recommended by you, our members, and we thank you for sending these very talented designers to us. We are still in the preliminary stages for this project and are very excited at the possibilities that will help us 'beautify' this site.

IN MEMORY OF DOROTHY BARRETT



SCRA honored Dorothy Barrett in 2014 with the Studio City Cares Award, Service to Youth Development. Dorothy lived to the age of one hundred and one and had been a mainstay and a guiding light to numerous children and young people over

the years teaching dance and theater to young performers at the American National Academy of Performing Arts in Studio City.



SCRA AND STUDIO CITY CHAMBER FOUNDATION MAKE THE FARMERS MARKET HAPPEN

Spring is in the air, and in no time the Farmers Market will be bursting with succulent stone fruit - peaches, plums, apricots and so much more. The weather has been great, and even the rain has helped this year, promising a bounty of spring and summer's best fruits and vegetables.

In other news, the Market is pleased to announce that Ace Ranch, growers of those amazing organic avocados, now has a booth selling avocado toast. Using fresh ingredients from the Market, including organic bread from Frog's Bakery, the booth has a huge following after only three weeks at the Market. Ace Avocado Toast can be found on the north side of the Market near Laurel Canyon.

The Market is also pleased to welcome Amaze Bowls, makers of some of the tastiest (and most beautiful) açai bowls in Los Angeles. Using only the best ingredients and all natural, organic açai, Amaze Bowls has a devoted clientele. Studio City is their first foray into Farmers Markets. Welcome them at the end of April and try a free sample. They will be on the north side of the Market near Laurel Canyon.

HILLSIDE FEDERATION

The Hillside Federation is a coalition of homeowner groups of which the SCRA is a member. This coalition watches over our hillside communities and creates a powerful voice to protect the hills of Los Angeles. Below are measure that the Federation addressed at its last board meeting.

Party House Ordinance: The ordinance became effective April 15th. For new rules visit LACity.org/search. Search keywords Partyhouse Ordinance.

SB 827 Reported elsewhere herein and opposed by the SCRA: would allow 8 and 4-story buildings within 1/4 mile of transit undermining local zoning and community plans. The Hillside Federation joined with many other organizations in opposing this bill.

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(Hillside, cont'd)

Prop 68 Clean Water & Safe Parks Act - Tori Kjer of the Trust for Public Land made a presentation to the Federation which voted to support the measure. Sen. Portantino is co-author of the bill. Prop 68 will be on the June ballot. \$4 billion state bond measure on the June 5 ballot for parks, natural resources protection, climate adaptation, water quality and supply and flood protection. Roughly two-thirds of the money would go to build and maintain parks, and a substantial amount is set aside for park-poor communities such as those in the Central Valley. The rest of the bond is allotted to critical priorities such as getting clean drinking water to impoverished communities; protecting Californians from floods, wildfires and mudslides; replenishing groundwater; shoring up the levees in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta; and making it easier for homeowners and farmers to conserve water. SCRA will be discussing its position at the next board meeting. (Members comments are welcome.)

Los Angeles Beautification Team (LABT) - Know a lot that needs to be cleaned? Graffiti to be removed? An area that could use some trees? Contact Ryan Allen rallen@labteam.org (323) 962-2163.

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.

Q: There is an area of Studio City – Sarah St and Colfax Ave – on the Northwest corner – that is attracting trash and the homeless. It is State Property. There is a gate – but no lock – and signs of people living there as well as a lot of debris. Attached are some photos. We were hoping the area could be cleaned up and a lock attached to the gate. In addition to the human debris there is a lot of natural debris – was hoping that could be cleaned up as well. In fact all 4 corners of the freeway underpass could use a thorough cleaning. Thanks in advance for your help in this matter. (Request written to Steve Fukushima, Office of Senator Robert Hertzberg)



SCRA: Senator Bob Hertzberg's District Representative Steve Fukushima, submitted a request for cleanup and followed up with information on a huge cleanup operation in coordination with CHP,

the HOPE team, Cal Trans, Street Maintenance, Building and Safety, LAHSA and several other homeless outreach representatives. The cleanup will cover the area along the 101 FWY between Riverside and Weddington.

Q: Those of us on the north side of the LA River, behind Romanov's, the Chinese restaurant and Olive and Grill, 12229 Ventura Blvd., are again being subjected to amplified music from the Olive and Grill. On Friday, March 30, we finally called the restaurant at midnight and said we were calling the police. The music stopped shortly after. They know there's an agreement not to play amplified music, especially late in the evening. The music and their talking into a microphone is so loud it sounds like it's in our homes. They've just now started again at 2:45 pm, Sunday, April 1.

SCRA: Lisa Sarkin researched this site and discovered that there was an outstanding Department of Building & Safety (DBS) investigation on Olive and Grill. After contacting the DBS Director, SCRA found out that numerous violations have been forwarded to the legal department for further enforcement. SCRA will continue working with DBS until all violations are resolved.



Q: I'd like to figure out who is responsible for cleaning up trash and trimming back the overgrowth between the street and the sidewalk on the west side of Whitsett between Riverside and Moorpark. It's a popular area for people staying overnight in their cars on the street and the amount of trash

and human waste filling the walkway is ruining the area. Does the city of Los Angeles handle something like that? Or is there a more local solution to the problem within Studio City? Thank you!

SCRA: SCRA contacted Jessica Fugate, Field Deputy to Councilmember Paul Krekorian. Jessica first sent out a street investigator who refused to ticket surrounding homes. So Jessica arranged for city contractors to do the work which has been completed. As follow up, our member is reaching out to the city department that is responsible for removing old tree limbs.

Q: What is the story about the Hilton expansion at Universal City?



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(Ask SCRA, cont'd)

SCRA: The SCRA was contacted by the Hilton Universal and asked if they could make a presentation to members of the proposed expansion of the hotel. Hilton has

submitted plans to add 365 rooms. SCRA declined the invitation for a presentation by Hilton Universal at this time as the proposal is before the courts.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Alan Dymond

The Draft Environmental Report (DEIR) on Weddington Golf and Tennis filed by the prior owners for a condominium development for this site has been withdrawn. The property now owned by Harvard-Westlake (HW) is for a different use therefore (HW) will have to file a new DEIR. Once the DEIR is filed with the Planning Department and made available to the public, SCRA and SLAROS and other stakeholders may file their responses and attend public hearings.

A meeting was held between HW and a potential candidate architectural firm. (HW are in the process of formally retaining their architects.) SCRA and SLAROS met with HW and the architect to give initial input of the community's positions and objectives. The following is taken from the notes of the meeting.

- 1. The motivation for the project is the impact of the property on people, not the projects profile. (The actual athletic requirements of HW were not available at this time.)*
- 2. Water issues. It was recommended a drive around the neighborhood and property when it is raining would give a sense of the drainage issues. Any plan on water issues would need to be responsible and work in concert with the natural features of the property and neighborhood.*
- 3. It was suggested that open space and greenery will be priorities and the goal will be to integrate the athletics-based features of the project with the natural feel of the site.*

Other meetings are planned with HW and their architects at which SCRA and SLAROS will bring other issues for consideration to the table (See bullet points below.) In the meantime, HW is seeking input from all stakeholders. (Visit hw.com/weddington/Feedback and make your comments in the message box.)

SCRA intends to raise the following at further meetings plus other concerns that are brought to our attention.

- HW has a copy of prior technical feasibility studies for water reclamation that estimates water runoff from over 200 acres can be captured for infiltration into the ground water. How does HW intend to incorporate the water reclamation elements of those studies?*
- Parking: What is the purpose for the below-grade garage? How many parking spaces are proposed?*
- If it is not feasible to build a parking structure below grade, what alternate plans does HW have to accommodate parking requirements?*
- What athletic programs are planned for the site? How will lighting, noise, traffic and other impacts be mitigated to retain the tranquility of the property and immediate neighborhood?*
- Valleyheart Drive is a paper road and the community strongly opposes building it out. What are HW intentions for Valleyheart Drive?*
- Tennis courts are a valued asset to the community. What access will the community have to the courts, as well as to the golfing facilities? How will public access to recreational facilities by the public be assured?*
- There is concern that HW is planning to build intrusive structures on the property, such as a gym. Does HW plan to build a gym and other structures on the site?*

SCRA understands that Harvard-Westlake will need time to develop their requirements so the above questions cannot be readily answered for now. SCRA, however, has stated that it needs to be fully involved in each step of the evolution of the concepts. Too many times over the past eighteen years in the history of developing this property presentations were made of a finished product. SCRA understands that HW is not adopting this model and welcomes this private/public partnership that will continue the vision of the Weddington property as public accessibility to open space.

Alan Dymond

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SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING

Tuesday, May 8, 2018

AGENDA

7:00 p.m. Refreshments/meet your neighbors.

7:30 p.m. Speaker: Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer; Todd Gilman, neighborhood prosecutor; Senior Lead Officer Shawn Smith

MEETING LOCATION:

**Rio Vista Elementary School
4243 Satsuma Avenue
Studio City, CA 91602**

Located on the corner of Whipple Street and Satsuma Avenue.

Free parking is available in the school parking lot along with street parking. Do not park opposite the school on Satsuma Ave. Follow the signs to the meeting.

