



STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Your Advocate for Studio City

February 2011

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THREE CITY COUNCILMEMBERS SPEAK OUT ON PROPOSED MEASURES AT SCRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Studio City is one of the few communities represented on the Los Angeles City Council by three councilmembers: Paul Krekorian, Tom LaBonge and Paul Koretz. All three formed a panel at the Annual SCRA General Meeting in January to discuss the ten city measures that will be on the March election ballot. These ten measures will amend and add to the City Charter and will have a lasting effect on the fiscal health of Los Angeles. Following is a brief

review of the points made by the councilmembers. The complete list of measures is available on the SCRA website at studiocityresidents.org on the Home page under Community Meetings.

Charter Amendment N: According to Councilmember Krekorian, this measure provides a necessary adjustment to the City Charter to avoid lawsuits against the City. The measure will bring the City Charter into compliance with the U.S. Supreme Court decision in Citizens United vs. Federal Election Commission. The Supreme Court ruling had the effect of invalidating the City's ethics law that limited independent expenditures for campaign contributions to \$500. Special interest groups making such contributions usually have "feel good" names for the public, but the names do not reflect or indicate the special interest behind the money. On the other hand, **Charter Amendment H,** Contract Bidder Campaign Contributions and Fundraising Restrictions will ban bidders on contracts more than \$100,000 from contributing to city officials or those with authority to approve contracts. Charter Amendment H will also eliminate the \$8 million cap on the campaign matching funds program so that the City may temporarily borrow from excess money in this fund.

Charter Amendment L, Los Angeles Public Library Funding: According to Councilmember La Bonge, this measure would dedicate a specific dollar amount (a percentage formula) from the General Funds to the public libraries. There were two schools of thought on this measure from the panel. While they suggested the libraries are very important, they also said there are many other vital city services that need support. Dedicating dollars in this fashion would restrict the budget process from moving funds around as circumstances dictate.

Proposition M, Taxation of Medical Marijuana Collectives, and **Proposition O,** LA Oil Production Tax: According to

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CITY CONTROLLER WENDY GREUEL TO ADDRESS MARCH SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING/SCRA STUDIO CITY CARES AWARDS



While there is no February SCRA Community Meeting - meetings happen every other month starting in January 2011 - SCRA members and guests will be treated to a presentation by City Controller Wendy Greuel at the March 8, 2011 Community Meeting.

The SCRA will also be presenting the SCRA Studio City Cares Awards in appreciation to those individuals who have worked to make Studio City the great community that it is.

The meeting will be held 7:30 p.m. at the Beverly Garland's Holiday Inn Theater Room. Light refreshments and an opportunity to meet community members and neighbors begin at 7:00 p.m.

(Councilmembers, cont'd)

Councilmember Koretz, Proposition M would generate \$15 million and Proposition O would generate \$4 million. There is no impact to Los Angeles citizens with either of these taxes; however, the panel warned those at the meeting that citizens should expect a huge campaign against the oil tax with tactics predicting a raise in gas prices. Councilmember Koretz explained that any tax Los Angeles puts on each barrel produced will not affect the price at the pump. All oil produced in Los Angeles goes into the world wide supply, and oil produced here is distributed from this supply.



Charter Amendments I and J relate to the relationship between the City Council and the Department of Water and Power (DWP). Charter Amendment I calls for procedures to establish transfer of power revenue funds to the City and the submission of a preliminary DWP budget to the City for informational purposes. Charter Amendment J will provide the City Council the authority to establish an Office of Public Accountability Ratepayer Advocate.

IT'S HAPPENING IN STUDIO CITY

Studio City Library **12511 Moorpark Street.**

For additional information about the following events, contact the main library at 818-755-7873.

Book Donations: Every Saturday, from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Accepting used books in "good enough condition for resale," as well as videos, CDs, DVDs and books on tape. No textbooks please.

Monthly Book Sale: Saturday, February 26, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Varied selection of books, DVDs, videos, CDs and more. Please bring bags or boxes for purchases.

Studio City / Beeman Park **12621 Rye Street (on Rye St & Beeman)**

Senior Exercise Class: Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. For all seniors from 55 to 95. Join this fun class and exercise your whole body. Includes chair exercises. For more information, call the park at 818-769-4415 or Marge at 818-763-6779.

FROM YOUR SCRA BOARD

First Board Meeting of 2011

All outgoing SCRA board members agreed to continue on the board in 2011 and were duly appointed. The board unanimously approved a motion to appoint Martha Hanrahan to the board. Martha has been working with the SCRA for three years and has accepted the position of office manager for the organization.

Los Angeles City March Election

The SCRA board passed a motion to make recommendations on the ten city measures that will be on the March 2011 ballot. The board formed a committee to review the measures along with member comments and input. The results of the committee's work will come before the board at the February SCRA board meeting and reported to SCRA members in the March newsletter.

NBC/Universal DEIR

Responses to the "Draft Environmental Impact Report" on the proposed development at NBC/Universal had to be filed with the Los Angeles City Planning Department by February 4, 2011. The SCRA has several board positions on Communities United for Smart Growth (CUSG), an organization comprised of the organizations in the communities surrounding NBC/Universal. The SCRA is working with CUSG and the Studio City Neighborhood Council to file a comprehensive response, and the SCRA also filed a separate response.

Studio City Farmers Market Update

The Studio City Farmers Market Board is investigating a pilot program to allow the use of credit cards at the Market. In keeping with the IRS rules for community benefit non-profits, the Studio City Farmers Market Board will continue to review and terminate any vendors who do not qualify under the rules and conditions imposed by the IRS.

SCRA SPONSORS CERT TRAINING

The training for Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) will be held on Wednesday evenings starting May 4, 2011 through June 15, 2011. Training involves seven classes on consecutive weeks and is taught by firefighters and paramedics. The course will be given in Studio City. Anyone interested in joining the team should email ScraBoard@StudioCityResidents.org or phone the SCRA office at 818-509-0230 to leave a message indicating interest in participating in this important community group.



TO THE MARKET

The Studio City Farmers Market has recently added a few new vendors, including Homeboy Industries, the non-profit started by Father Boyle. This popular bakery is a big hit. Also new is East, West Bolani, offering delicious Afghan flat bread and pestos (low fat and vegan). In the non-food area, the Market now features a local vendor, Victoria, who makes a line of natural cleaning products. Starting soon, the Market will welcome a new vendor with at least 12 gourmet salsas and homemade chips. February is the month of love, and the Market has a lot of gifts for that special someone, including flowers, plants and jewelry.

The Studio City Farmers Market is presented jointly by the Studio City Residents Association and the Studio City Chamber of Commerce Foundation. Free parking is available at the CBS lot on Radford.

COMMUNITY CRIME REPORT

By Studio City Lead Officer Mike Lewis

Thanks to the SCRA for purchasing the warning signs that are being mounted at Fryman Park by LAPD officers. For years, the community has faced numerous problems at this location, including car burglaries, in the parking lot of Fryman Park and up and down Laurel Canyon Blvd. These signs serve to warn hikers about the car break-ins. We want to educate the community not to leave purses, GPS devices and other expensive items in their cars. The SCRA has purchased six signs (each about the same size as a Neighborhood Watch sign).

About three weeks ago, one of the signs was placed in the park parking lot. Since then we have not had one report of any car break-ins. We were waiting for the City to assist by putting them up along Laurel Canyon Blvd., but, unfortunately, the City nixed the idea. The officers responded by asking area residents if we could post the signs on their properties. We have thus far placed two more signs along Laurel Canyon Blvd., which will hopefully educate the public as well as scare off the thieves.

Studio City continues to be plagued by elder distraction burglaries, which are also happening throughout North Hollywood Division. The scams often follow this pattern: Sometime in the late morning or afternoon, a victim, usually in his or her 80s or 90s, hears a knock on the door and answers it. He or she is greeted at the door by what appears to be a very nice man, described as a either a male White or Hispanic,

mid 30s, short black hair, average build and height. This person, who is extremely personable and friendly, offers a false reason as to why he is there. In the past, the excuse has included everything from telling the victim that the person lives down the street and has lost his cat, or he tells the victim he is a roofing contractor and noticed the roof is in bad condition.

Whatever the lie, the suspect's ultimate goal is to have the victim exit the house and go in the backyard. At that point, a second suspect will secretly enter the house via the now unlocked front door. This second suspect goes straight to the victim's bedroom and takes all the jewelry and as many expensive items he can grab. Please make your neighbors aware of this scam and keep an eye on them.

On January 27 and Friday January 28, the North Hollywood Division participated in a major task force. The Division, along with officers throughout the Valley, conducted probation and parole searches of suspects who live within North Hollywood Division and/or are suspected of committing crimes within the division. For months, I have been keeping a list of possible suspects, who I believe may be involved in committing property crimes throughout Studio City. In total, we have more than a hundred names. The goal of the efforts is to deliver the message that we will not forget who these people are and will keep them on our radar.

VANDALISM MAY NOT BE RANDOM

In the last couple of months, two Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA) projects have been vandalized. One at the Oasis has been hit twice. The SCRA was told by Studio City Senior Lead Officer Mike Lewis that vandalism on the east side of Studio City has increased, but the SCBA is questioning, "Why us?" The replacement letters on the welcome monument at Campo de Cahuenga will cost the SCBA \$800. The damaged mite box, the plants and now the damaged sign on the Oasis are not as expensive to replace, but their destruction is heartbreaking for the volunteers who worked so hard and long to improve this stretch of Ventura Blvd.

The SCBA is asking the North Hollywood LAPD to see if the vandals have been captured on any video cameras that surround the affected properties.



Please do not leave valuables in your vehicle.

This area is being targeted by thieves who are searching for items such as purses, cell phones, GPS devices, and laptop computers. When they see these items in a vehicle, they will break in. Remember, it takes a thief less than 10 seconds to break in to your vehicle and steal your property.



Emergency Calls 9-1-1, Non-Emergency Calls 818-623-4036
North Hollywood Area Auto Theft Section: 818-623-4085
During non-business hours or weekends call: 1-877-549-2647
Anonymous calls: CrimeStoppers, 1-800-222-TIPS (800-222-8477) or
Text to 274637 (C-8-A-M-E-S), all texts should begin with the letters "LAPD"

VITAL COMMUNITY NEWS

Colfax Bridge Update

On January 20, 2011, the community participated in a one hour meeting at Councilmember Paul Krekorian's office about the Colfax Bridge construction. The group discussed the final design elements of the project. In attendance were members of the Colfax community, SCRA and SCBA board members, SCNC board members, Council District 2 Staff and the Bureau of Engineering (BOE), which is responsible for engineering, lighting and other architectural elements.

The discussion started with the overhead lighting on the bridge, which is supposed to feature "cobra-head" style light fixtures. The light fixtures have been fabricated and are ready to be installed; however, in response to community concerns, the Council office will research whether these fixtures can be relocated and used at another location and a more pleasing style consistent with the design features of the community installed on the bridge. An update on this request will be provided at the next meeting, including an answer about how much light will shine onto the pedestrian bridge, which is located immediately to the east of the bridge.

The design of the hand railing on the bridge was called into question in that the hand railing could permit someone to climb up and possibly fall over the side. BOE explained the railing has to be able to resist and withstand the impact of a car. To address the safety issue, the BOE will obtain costs for a design using bolted perforated metal that could be unbolted for maintenance purposes. This revised design should solve any concerns for pedestrian safety.

In other matters, the proposal to stain the bridge was opposed. BOE agreed to eliminate this line item from the contract. Further discussion took place on how best to install some form of landscaping for screening purposes and general appearance. This will also be addressed at a future meeting.

Update on 11154 - 11170 Aqua Vista Street Apartment Development

In February 2007, a condo project comprising 123 units and 310 parking spaces was supported by the SCNC and SCRA with negotiated conditions attached; however, the project never broke ground due in part to the recession. The property went into foreclosure and changed hands in June 2009. Now the new developer, Pearl Development of Beverly Hills, has decided to build 125 apartment units with 219 parking spaces. Because this land was formerly zoned for apartment buildings, the developer can build this by right and needs no community approval as long as he sticks to the code for apartment



Aqua Vista Development

buildings. So far, the developer is in compliance. The SCRA would always rather see more than less parking spaces: neither of the two buildings will be more than 45 feet in height. The SCRA will monitor this project closely.

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: The Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA) has received several inquiries about the damaged "Welcome" monument near Ralph's on Ventura Blvd. at Campo de Cahuenga Way.

SCRA: Vandals stole the "S," "O," and "C" in December. The SCBA has contacted a sign fabricator to tool the missing letters. The fabricator has been on site and temporarily removed the "I" to use as a template letter. The sign will be restored and floodlit again very soon.

NEEDED: SCRA OFFICE VOLUNTEER

SCRA is looking for an office volunteer who can work in the association's office on Ventura Place from 10:00 a.m. to noon one day a week. (Hours can be adjusted as needed.) The job includes answering the phone, forwarding messages and doing some light computer work. The volunteer should be familiar with Microsoft Word and have a basic knowledge of computer functions; Internet knowledge is not necessary. The computer work will involve updating the SCRA membership database. The office manager will train the new volunteer and be available for any problem solving. Interested parties should email the SCRA at SCRABoard@StudioCityResidents.org or call the office at 818-509-0230.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Alan Dymond

Upcoming City Measures

In this newsletter, you will find a report from the SCRA board, which decided it would make recommendations to SCRA members on the upcoming City measures on the March ballot. There is also an article on the first page about the discussion that took place at the last SCRA Annual General Meeting in January at which our three councilmembers, Paul Koretz, Paul Krekorian and Tom LaBonge, discussed the upcoming measures.

These measures will have the effect of changing the City Charter: those that pass and are adopted by the City Council will have a distinct impact on how Los Angeles is governed for the foreseeable future. Your SCRA board, therefore, considers these measures of such importance to the future wellbeing of Los Angeles that it decided the SCRA should offer its perspective.

To that end, the board is inviting members to offer their opinions on the proposed measures before it issues its comments and recommendations. Please take a few moments to review the measures and forward your comments, pro and con, to the board. The measures have been posted on the SCRA website at studiocityresidents.org/home/community-meeting.html Please do not call or leave a message at the SCRA office with your input unless you do not have computer access. Instead, please email your comments to Alan.Dymond@StudioCityResidents.org

NBC Universal

In other matters, there is still no decision by Councilmember Paul Krekorian on the proposed Residential Floor Area proposal for the flatland part of Studio City. All sides on the discussion have exchanged their respective positions with documents and public and private in-person meetings, some of them under the auspices of the Council office, and by conference call. The necessary next step is for the proposed overlay to be placed on the Planning and Land Use Management Committee (PLUM) agenda for action; thereafter, the Committee recommendation has to be submitted to the City Council. At the time this newsletter went to press, the matter has not been placed on the PLUM agenda for consideration.

Alan Dymond



MONTHLY COMMUNITY MEETING

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

7:00 p.m. Refreshments

**7:30 p.m. City Controller
Wendy Greuel**

**SCRA Presents
Studio City Cares
Awards**

Meeting Location

**Beverly Garland's Holiday Inn Theatre
4222 Vineland Avenue, Studio City**

*When entering the hotel driveway, turn left and go through the parking turnstile. Drive to the end and turn right. Go to the large back lot. The handicap entrance is from this lot. Walk to the southwest corner of the lot, and signs will direct you to the Beverly Garland Theatre. **PARKING WILL BE VALIDATED** at the sign-in-table.*



SCRA Committees

Burbank Airport, Chair: Chris Barnes
Crime and Safety
Los Angeles River Committee
Membership
Overlay
Planning and Land Use
Studio City History Project

Officers

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Mark Batterman, Exec. Vice President
Bonnie Goodman, Exec. Vice President
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Bill Harmond, Executive Director
Francesca Corra, Director
Michael Klausman, Director

Park Advisory Board Liaison

Mark Batterman

Director of Animal Welfare

Robin Seidel

Save L.A. River Studio City Open Space

Co-Directors
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Art Howard, Patty Kirby
saveopenspace@SLAROS.org

School Liaisons

Carpenter - Bonnie Goodman
Oakwood - Tammy Lundgren
Walter Reed - Bonnie Kalaf

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