



STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Your Advocate for Studio City

July 2010

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UPDATE ON BURBANK AIRPORT IMPROVEMENTS



Mark D. Hardyman, Director of Noise and Environmental Programs, and Victor R. Gill, Director of Public Affairs of the Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport Authority (Bob Hope Airport) spoke at the June SCRA Community Meeting to inform Studio City residents about recent activities at the airport, including proposed improvements. The Airport Authority's mission is to balance airport activities with the surrounding neighborhoods and communities. Chris Barnes, SCRA Bob Hope Airport Chair, moderated.

The Authority has immediate plans to build a "Regional Intermodal Transportation Center," which the Authority hopes to open in late 2012. This structure, which will be located at the southeast corner of Hollywood Way north of the railroad tracks, will be a transportation hub for cars and buses. It will be connected to the Amtrak station with moving sidewalks to the terminals. This facility will house the rental cars and will feature the ability to clean, wash and refuel them at the center rather than at an offsite location, helping to reduce traffic on nearby streets. There will be a compressed natural gas fueling area for the shuttle bus fleet; that facility will be open to the public driving CNG vehicles. The roof of the facility will capture solar power.

In 1978, the principal environmental issue at the airport was aircraft noise. Recently, the Authority failed to get the FAA to grant the Authority's request for a mandatory curfew on flights in and out of the airport. A voluntary curfew is still in place between the hours of 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. for the major carriers. However, general aviation can still pose a noise issue. For more information, residents can visit www.bobhopeairport.com, which was recently launched to provide a comprehensive resource on airport issues.



The Authority is tasked with employing ways to reduce its carbon footprint; as a result, the Bob Hope Airport will see waste disposal improvements, LEED certified buildings, energy efficient initiatives and clean air programs, all of which will take place this year.

The SCRA will continue to provide input to the Airport Authority on noise abatement, air traffic, plans for expansion and all other aspects related to SCRA and the community's relationship with the Bob Hope Airport.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

NO COMMUNITY MEETINGS IN JULY AND AUGUST 2010

There will be no July or August 2010 SCRA Community Meetings given the summer vacation schedules of both SCRA Board and SCRA members. SCRA Board and Committee work will continue without interruption during this time. SCRA members will continue to be updated on key issues with the September SCRA meeting and SCRA News and Notes eblast. The next SCRA Community Meeting with Paul Krekorian will be held on Tuesday, September 14, 2010.

SHOULD THE CITY ATTORNEY BE GRANTED SUBPOENA POWERS?

Sponsored by Senator Gil Cedillo, Senate Bill 1168, presently before the California Assembly, would grant grand jury authority with subpoena powers to the City Attorney. It passed the Senate by a wide margin with bipartisan support. The power to empanel a grand jury is granted to the Superior Court, not the City Attorney; therefore, the City Attorney's office would have to show cause to the Superior Court why a grand jury should be

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called. The Court would provide oversight to prevent mis-use of the grand jury and subpoena tools.

The proposed grand jury could not be used to investigate the City of Los Angeles. As the City is the client of the City Attorney, there are rules of confidentiality that the City Attorney must abide by: the subpoena power could not be used in this way. It is the LA County District Attorney who investigates governmental corruption, not the LA City Attorney's office.

SB 1168 provides a test period for the grand jury and subpoena tools to see if they can be put to use effectively. The bill includes a "sunset" provision. If, after three years, the grand jury and subpoena tools are not working, these tools will be eliminated.

Cost savings could be substantial. An example is the case of People v. Health Net, where the investigative cost was \$147,899 in time and expenses. If a grand jury had been in place, the City Attorney's office could have taken a lower-cost approach by issuing a subpoena for the documents: the investigative cost in manpower would have been \$6,804, a savings of \$96,179. Considering the number of investigations that the City Attorney's office does, the savings provided by the tools in SB 1168 will be sizable.

Some have questioned whether the City Attorney's office should have gone to the City Council and asked for a Charter amendment. Going to the State Senate and/or Assembly is an established method for pursuing legislation that affects the City. Currently, the Mayor has a bill before the California legislature that was not brought first to the City Council. In the past, LA mayors, city attorneys and others have used the same approach. The present process used by the City Attorney to initiate legislation in the California Senate is neither unique nor unusual.

The SCRA Board supports this bill. SCRA members can offer their input and opinions by contacting the California Assembly Public Safety Committee at the following:

Tom Ammiano - Chair

Assemblymember.Ammiano@assembly.ca.gov

Curt Hagman - Vice Chair

Assemblymember.Hagman@assembly.ca.gov

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WELLS FARGO SUPPORTS BEAUTIFICATION IN STUDIO CITY

Wells Fargo Bank's new LEED gold certified branch office at Coldwater Canyon and Ventura Blvd. celebrated its opening by donating \$11,000 to local nonprofit organizations. The Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA) received \$2,000 towards its continued efforts to beautify Studio City. The SCBA is not only working on its 2010 new projects, it continues to fund the landscaping and maintenance of prior projects. The SCBA thanks Wells Fargo for its support.



SCRA WATCH: WORKING FOR A BETTER STUDIO CITY

Editor's Note: In this space, we report about things that are broken or problems in our community, including information about who is responsible, what has been repaired and who in the City made it happen.

Street Trees Scheduled for Removal: The two old growth Indian Laurel Fig trees at 11000 Ventura Blvd. (corner of Ventura Blvd. and Vineland Avenue) are scheduled to be removed to make way for a Walgreen's Drug Store and to widen Vineland Avenue south of Ventura.

Action that can be taken by SCRA members: To be notified of the hearing date, log on to <http://bsspermits.lacity.org/treepostings>. Click "Enter." On the left-hand side, click "Pending Removals" and click on #273. This will bring up the posted notice screen. On the left side, click on "Request to Be Notified" and fill in the information along with your comments. Or call Troy Collaris at (213) 847 3077.



PLEASE BE OUR EYES AND EARS. Is something broken in your neighborhood and not being repaired? Call the SCRA at 818-509-0230 or email: scraboard@studiocityresidents.org

COUNCILMEMBER PAUL KREKORIAN HONORS SAVE LA RIVER OPEN SPACE

Save LA River Open Space (formerly Save Studio City Golf & Tennis) recently received a Certificate of Recognition from Councilmember Paul Krekorian. The certificate recognizes the SCRA sister organization for its commitment to preserving open space in Studio City, improving the watershed, greening the Los Angeles River and building community support for improvements. According to Krekorian, "Your efforts have helped create a positive vision that we can now work to realize." The SCRA and Save LA River Open Space are extremely grateful for Councilmember Krekorian's recognition and support of the effort to permanently preserve the precious open space at Weddington Golf & Tennis.

OP-ED: Postponed Again, But Not Foiled Again: The Status of Baseline Mansionization in Studio City

by Alan Dymond, President, SCRA

The hearing before the City Planning Commission on the Studio City Overlay has been continued one more time to July 22, 2010. If and when it is passed by the City Council, the "Overlay" will determine how big a single family residence in Studio City can be built on what size lot.

Many residents of Studio City, as with other residents of Los Angeles, have become more and more concerned about large homes being built without regard for the size of the lot. This concern led to the demand for action by the City Council. A Baseline Mansionization Ordinance (BMO) was proposed that set the ratio of livable space at 50 percent of the lot size; however, when the ordinance came before the Council for approval (August 2008), an amendment was tacked onto the ordinance, increasing the ratio to 60 percent. This was done without any notice to the public; as a result, all builders had to do was add a feature, such as a setback in the façade in order to qualify for a 60 percent lot coverage. This was exactly the way things were being done before enactment of the BMO.

In Studio City, two years prior to enactment of the BMO, houses were being built to 60 percent livable space of the lot size. Subsequent to passage of the BMO in 2008, homes were built in Studio City at 60 percent livable space of the lot size. Nothing has changed.

The BMO did not limit mansionization in Studio City. The City did not address the concerns of the residents and act to prevent this overbuilding. The amendment was a last minute end run by the City Council, allowing the problem to continue. Information derived from research of City records from January 2004 to July 2006 indicates 39 houses were built with lot coverage from 50-61 percent.

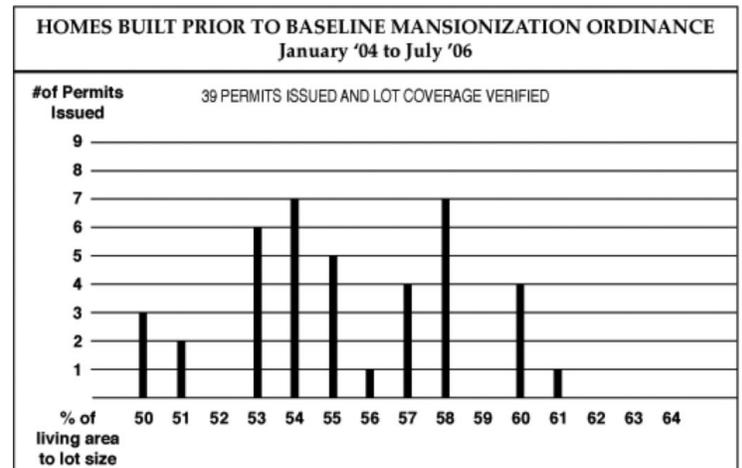


TO THE MARKET

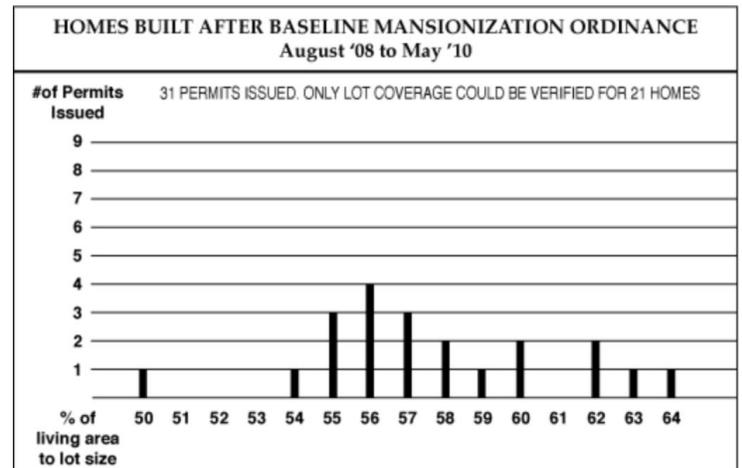
SCRA members are asking the question, what do we do with the kids now that school is out? A trip to the Studio City Farmers Market offers

fresh air, a fabulous kids section and lots of sun-ripened fruits and vegetables, including gourmet popsicles made with ingredients from featured farmers. This month, the Studio City Farmers Market introduces new vendor, "Chill Frozen Yogurt," a local company with the best frozen yogurt around. Stone fruits are here, and their sweet flavors reflect an exceptional season. Tennerelli Farms is back and the quality of their fruit never disappoints. Look for the colorful peppers that have just arrived, along with melons, figs and cantaloupes.

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.



After the BMO was passed, 20 houses were built, all with the same range of lot coverage. Records for lot coverage of these 20 houses were available, but no records were available to check the lot coverage for 11 other homes. Of these 20 houses built, the majority of the permits show lot coverage started at 53 percent then went up to 64 percent.



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Today, the same issue remains. Twenty-one permits were issued after the BMO for up to 64 percent lot coverage: this amount of lot coverage is exactly the condition of overbuilding that gave rise to the movement to stop masionization in the first place. The present BMO is not working. And that is why the lot coverage for Studio City has to be reduced considerably from the 60 percent that is permitted under the BMO.

COMMUNITY CRIME REPORT

by Studio City Lead Office Mike Lewis

Here is an update on recent crime statistics in Studio City. In the month of May 2010, Studio City had:

BFMV	31	(Burglary from Motor Vehicle)
Burglary	10	(Residential or Commercial)
GTA	5	(Grand Theft Auto)
Robbery	3	(Taking of property by the use of force or fear)
Total	49	

On May 24, 2010, at approximately 2:00 p.m., there was a shooting at the subterranean parking garage at 12265 Ventura Blvd. to the rear of Jamba Juice and CPK. When officers arrived, they noticed the victim had been shot three times. He was laying on the ground still smoking his cigar and didn't want to give it up before being placed in an ambulance. The victim said he had no idea who shot him and refused to talk. But, in the end, the detectives were able to piece together the events that led up to the shooting and ultimately arrested two suspects. They all knew each other, and the shooting was over a business dispute in which they were involved.

For hours after the recent Lakers Championship game, the LAPD dealt with the unruly crowds that victimized, vandalized and created havoc for so many. A day before the game, the police chief and the Mayor warned that Angelenos who engaged in criminal behavior after the basketball game would go to jail. Who are we warning? Who are the people throwing rocks and bottles at the police? Who are those destroying the property of others, including lighting cars on fire? A few months back, I wrote an article about the dichotomy I have witnessed between two different worlds: the one here in Studio City as well as many similar places in Los Angeles and other areas, like some just up the street from our community. Not only do these two different worlds live so closely together, often times they participate in the same activities, such as watching a basketball game. There are many attending the game who don't think it is inappropriate to throw a rock at the police or destroy someone's property. Then there are others at the same game who have a completely different moral and ethical compass and do find something wrong with throwing bricks at the police or burning cars.

It makes me sad we have come to expect this behavior. Somehow, while the Lakers won, we are still losing.

CELEBRATE JULY 4TH AND WIN!

Stop by and visit the SCRA booth at this year's July 4th celebration on the CBS lot. Sign up for a FREE DRAWING which will take place at the end of the day. Winners need not be present to win.

The SCRA thanks area retailers who graciously donated items for the drawing:

TRADER JOE'S \$50.00 in groceries
Laurel Canyon & Ventura Blvd.

Armstrong Garden Centers \$35.00 gift certificate
12920 Magnolia Blvd.

 **Twelve months of coffee**
(one pound per month)
12215 Ventura Blvd.

Many other assorted prizes will be given away.

IT'S HAPPENING IN STUDIO CITY

CBS Studio Center, 4024 Radford Ave in Studio City

4th of July Fireworks Festival: Sunday, July 4, 2010 4:30-9:30 p.m. A fun-filled family festival featuring exhibits, music, food, fireworks, kids fun zone and business expo. Gates open at 4:30 p.m. with the event starting at 5:00 p.m. Presale general admission tickets are \$15 for adults, \$8 for kids. Prices increase on the day of the event to \$20 and \$10. VIP tickets are \$100 for adults and \$50 for kids. Contact the Chamber office at 818-655-5916 or email info@studiocitychamber.com.

Studio City Library, 12511 Moorpark Street

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

Monthly Book Sale: Saturday, July 31, 2010 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Varied selection of books, DVD's, videos, CD's and more. Please bring bags or boxes for purchases.

Studio City / Beeman Park, 12621 Rye Street

Senior Exercise Class: Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9:00-10:00 a.m. for all seniors from 55-95. Includes chair exercises. For more information, call the park at 818-769-4415 or Marge at 818-763-6779.

FROM YOUR SCRA BOARD

Community Meetings: The monthly SCRA Community meetings for July and August will not be held given summer vacations. The meetings will resume in September on the usual schedule of the second Tuesday of the month.

Membership: SCRA membership renewal is going exceedingly well with renewals running well above average for this time of year and new members being added.

SCRA Website: The SCRA website will be undergoing a restructuring with upgrades and better content. The SCRA welcomes a new volunteer, Justin Walker, who recently became a member and indicated his interest in reworking the website.

Studio City Overlay: Survey results are running two-to-one in favor of the proposed Floor Area Ratio. The SCRA continues to be committed to seeing that building "mansions" on small lots is brought under control.

GOLF TOURNAMENT TO SUPPORT RIO VISTA ELEMENTARY

Studio City residents who like to play golf and who want a chance to win a new BMW or a trip to Pinehurst, S.C. or Phuket, Thailand, should visit www.RioVista-BMW.com to request a registration form for the annual Rio Vista Golf Tournament. This event will be held on Monday, August 23, 2010 at Braemar Country Club. The tournament includes a full day of lunch, golf, dinner and silent auction with all proceeds benefiting Rio Vista Elementary, one of the LAUSD schools serving Studio City. Funds will be used for the school's art and music programs, physical education, classroom aides and a much-needed computer lab. For more information, call Rose at Century West BMW at 818-432-5839 or Susan with the Rio Vista PTA at 818-762-5323. The registration deadline is August 2, 2010.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Alan Dymond

Since my last President's Report in the June SCRA newsletter, there has been some discussion regarding the Studio City Wash and my statement, "The car wash was ordered to remove the mural in no uncertain terms." Notwithstanding comments challenging the above statement, the SCRA has not been provided with information regarding the Car Wash's order to comply or correspondence contradicting that statement, despite our requests for that information. We had been informed that the language used was "remove the mural." If that is an inaccurate statement, the SCRA will be glad to correct the record.

But the point of all this is that it could have been avoided: Studio City could have its mural. On February 25, 2010, the City Planning Department -- subsequent to a public hearing on January 11 2010 -- issued a Recommendation Report that stated "Inclusion of the applicant's business in the mural makes it a business identification sign located on a free standing wall and is a violation of the Specific Plan;" however, the report goes on to recommend conditional approval of a zone variance if references to the portions that advertise the Studio City Car Wash are removed. With this condition, the mural would be considered a fine art mural. The February report stated it would be in the best interest of the community to keep much of the mural sign intact in order to improve the character of this portion of Ventura Boulevard; removal of the sign in its entirety would negate a positive artistic contribution that captures a sense of the history and place of Studio City. In other words, remove the advertising reference, and the mural can and should stay. The Planning staff did note that when they visited the site, they observed the existing pole sign (the hand, the car and the sponge) appears more than sufficient to provide the necessary exterior identification for the car wash.

But for some reason the conditions were not acceptable; the Car Wash wanted a Specific Plan exception and zone variance to leave the mural as is: advertisement and all. The South Valley Area Planning Commission ruled against the applicant. Thereafter, the Car Wash did not file an appeal, and the time lapsed to do so. (The deadline to file an appeal was April 16, 2010).

There is a broader issue concerning murals in Los Angeles. Murals are part of the Los Angeles scene, and the artistic content adds a pleasant dimension to the cityscape. However, changes are needed to zoning codes that will allow murals that do not violate the intent, spirit and application of Specific Plans. Los Angeles needs its murals: they bring a benefit. What Los Angeles does not need, want or require are advertisements being slipped through under the guise of being an artistic or historical depiction.

Alan Dymond



NO MONTHLY COMMUNITY MEETING IN JULY

BE SURE TO RENEW YOUR SCRA MEMBERSHIP

The SCRA is pleased to report membership renewals are pouring into the SCRA mail box. The enthusiasm that our members have for the preservation and power of the SCRA is a boost to the work of the volunteers who continue to strive to make Studio City the best ever. Be sure to check the mailing label on this newsletter. If it shows 6/10, then the SCRA has not received your renewal. You can renew online at www.studiocityresidents.org or mail your check to the SCRA office. Please include your address, phone number and e-mail address.



ASK THE SCRA

Q: I have lived on Colfax Avenue between the bridge and Moorpark for 20 years. The dirt and debris has been building up, and the street has never been cleared to my knowledge. There is also stagnant water sitting nearby, which poses a health hazard. Now that Spring is here, the mosquitoes will be spawning. Please let me know why Colfax is such a low priority.

SCRA: The problems need to be separated out by what is relevant to specific City Departments, e.g., stagnant water, street sweeping and sandbag removal. Take the problems one at a time. Obtain the exact address of the stagnant water and sandbags and the street parameters of the street cleaning and call 311, the direct link to Los Angeles City Departments. You will get a live operator (however, with the budget cutbacks, you will be on hold for a while). Ask for the Department that removes or sprays stagnant water. Then call back and ask to be connected with the Street Sweeping Department, etc. The City will be responsive, and the person you talk with will let you know if the problem can be solved or not.

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