

STAT MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at 6:00PM

1. **Call to Order:** Pat Kramer, STAT chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM
2. **Roll Call/Quorum:** Pat Kramer, chair; Jon von Gunten, cochair; George Arakel, member; Dante Calvo, member; Quorum of four established.
 - **Also attending:** Ricardo Flores, CD7 Deputy and an unidentified caller.
3. **Chairperson's Message**
 - Pat announced that on Sunday, 2/22, ten people mulched 90 trees on the north side of Foothill Blvd. plus another 10 on the south side. New people came to help from Sierra Club, Simi Valley and even West LA. As always, CD7 provided the mulch. It was a fun event, well carried out. A new man with a pickup repeatedly filled up the bed with buckets and delivered them to mulchers.
 - Ricardo says City of LA will plant 18 trees in S-T. Locations are TBD. However, the City requires a written commitment to water the tree for three years from each business at each location.
 - Pat wants STAT to print cards for motorists warning them about speeding with messages like "Drive like your kids live here!" Jon foresees some difficulties. George likes it. Dante says an LAPD 'Knock 'n Talk' might work, per his talk with Officer Godoy.
 - LAPD has a DUI demo car that can come to Earth Day on 18 April.
 - Pat said the March mulching event will improve various Sunland trees.
 - Pat will continue to use Sierra Club and STAT Facebook pages to promote our Tree Care events and can now get them onto the Sierra Club calendar, and from there, to LA Times Calendar Section!
 - A couple in their 20s offered many 5-gallon plastic pickle buckets, from Burbank's Firehouse Pizza.
4. **Approval of the Jan. 2026 STAT Minutes.** George moved, and Jon seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved.
5. **CD7 Ricardo Flores reported:**
 - New tree locations are being reviewed by the City along Sunland and Foothill Blvds. The four that have already been approved are in front of Tile Max, the former S-T Chamber of Commerce, K-Mart, La Mía Bakery, a bus stop and Sunland Medical.
 - Regarding ways to slow down traffic, Ricardo will inspect possible locations

for left-turn lanes and signage on Wednesday, 2/25, and finish the project in a few months. Left turns from Foothill onto Valmont are a major hassle. Ricardo says the south side of Haines Canyon at Foothill needs a "No Left Turn" sign.

- Pat reminded Ricardo that we've requested another LAPD traffic officer because Foothill is dangerous due to criminal speeding drivers. Ricardo said he would propose it to CD7. He notes that accidents are often mid-block. LAPD doesn't do a report unless there's a fatality or injury. Our numbers are low cf. 2021. Ricardo starts on maintenance and striping. Pat reasserted the need for law enforcement for those who don't obey traffic signs. Two public surveys STAT has done both reveal our residents unequivocally want more LAPD traffic enforcement.
- Ricardo said it is not so easy as LAPD wants physical reports of injury accidents or property damage.

6. **LADOT Study:** <https://ladot.lacity.gov/speed-safety-system>.

- 125 "Speed Safety Systems"—license-plate reader cams—will be installed across LA "where speeding and crashes happen most often and where children, seniors, and other vulnerable people are concentrated." This includes "stakeholder input from racial equity, civil liberties, and economic justice organizations."

7. **Plans for a Traffic Town Hall in March or April.**

- Pat suggested April or mid-May on a midweek evening at NVCH.
- Jon thinks the results are already known from previous surveys. People want more officers giving out more citations. Pat offered other things we can talk about such as: changes on Foothill lanes and signage; knock 'n talks.

8. **Earth Day event – April 18th.**

- STAT will have a table in the parking lot behind CD7 to talk about tree adoptions, tree watering, answer questions from stakeholders, do public outreach and to recruit more STAT members.

9. **Latest Tree Care event – Feb. 21st. Next tree care event: April 25th.**

- For February, see above.

10. **Committee Reports:**

- **Outreach to businesses on tree adoptions.** Pat asked for help with this.
- **CPAB report** – Cheryl can no longer make it to STAT meetings and is being taken off the roster as it affects our quorum.
- **NW Updates and LAPD Stats** – Jon reported on the recent Neighborhood Watch meeting.
 - LAPD Officer Venegas didn't define any new info about the car colliding into a Sunland residence except to say there weren't any

injuries as there would have been a report. Jon will recontact with tighter parameters for the officer.

- **Promos for our committee/Tree locations** – Dante will finish laminating the "Plasticized Tree Cards" he made to help Pat assign trees during events, then get the cards back for reuse. They'll be credit card-sized to easily fit into wallet or pockets.
- **Outreach to Armenian community using cards for Tree Adoptions - George**
 - George found success in talking with local businesses about STAT Committee activities. He used our printed cards.

11. **Public Comments:** None.

12. **Meeting Adjourned at 7:15**

Minutes by Jon Von Gunten