CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA

Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council
Special General Board Meeting
Minutes

Draft

Wednesday, August 12, 2026, 6:45 pm

IN CONFORMITY WITH THE JANUARY 1, 2026 ENACTMENT OF CALIFORNIA SENATE BILL 707 (DURAZO) AND LA CITY COUNCIL FILE 23-1114, THE SUNLAND-TUJUNGA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED VIRTUALLY.

1. **CALL TO ORDER –** Melissa Sagastume, 6:48pm - Call to Order & Roll Call, Confirm Quorum

   A. Announcement regarding new required training for all board members: The NC Funding Training for all board members has been updated to incorporate the recently updated policies and guidelines. This virtual training offers board members the flexibility to complete it at their own convenience. All board members are required to finish the training and pass the NC Funding Training quiz by August 31.

   - Board members were reminded that the updated Neighborhood Council Funding Training and quiz must be completed by August 31.

   B. Providence Community Health is offering Mental Health First Aid 8 hours of FREE training, includes certification for three years. This is a request for volunteers to arrange with Providence the partnership for this training.

   - Providence Community Health is offering free eight-hour Mental Health First Aid training with three-year certification. Members interested in helping coordinate the training were asked to contact the Secretary.

   C. STNC Community Survey.

   - The community survey is available in the board packet and on the website.

2. **DETERMINATION OF QUORUM / ROLL CALL -** Determination of Quorum /Roll Call, Report on Voting Eligibility - Karen Moran

Board Member	Roll Call	Funding Voting Eligibility	Board Appointment
Lydia Grant	Present	Yes	President
VACANT	N/A	N/a	1st VP
Melissa Sagastume	Present	Yes	2nd VP
Carol Hutchinson	Present	Yes	Treasurer
Cindy Cleghorn	Present	Yes	Correspondence Sec
Karen Moran	Present	Yes	Recording Sec
Leny Freeman	Present	Yes	Region 1 Rep
VACANT			Region 1 Rep
Sherry McCoy	Present	Yes	Region 2 Rep.
Mikal McEnany	Absent	Yes	Region 3 Rep
Dillon Dorothy	Absent	Yes	Region 3 Rep
Jon von Gunten	Present	Yes	Region 3 Rep.
Vicky Cerpa	Absent	No	Region 4 Rep.
Dante Jose Calvo	Present	Yes	Region 4 Rep
Mark Seigel	Present	Yes	Region 4 Rep
Ross Herman	Absent		Region 4 Rep
Cheryl Schmidt	Present	Yes	Public Safety Rep
Nina Royal	Absent	Yes	Senior Rep
Vartan Keshish	Absent	Yes	Community Interest Re
Members of the Community (MC) with information as identified.			
Anthony Espinoza			
Arturo Gonzalez			MC

Board Member	Roll Call	Funding Voting Eligibility	Board Appointment
David Meraz			MC
Gibson Nyambura			
Joshua Franco			MC
Monique Lukens			
Paola Reyes			
Rachel Belolsky			
Lionel Mares			
Vicky Nailing			
11 present; 6 absent (17 total)			

3. **Discussion/Motion:** To accept resignation of Armen Mardirousi, First Vice-President.
   - Cindy noted that Armen had submitted a resignation letter already for the Board and the LUC; his schedule doesn't allow continuing at this time. A Motion was made by Cindy and seconded by Melissa. A Vote taken which passed.

Item 3 Motion to Accept resignation of First Vice President Armin Mardarusi **Motion: Sagastume Second: Grant**					
Yes	**No**	**Abstain**	**Ineligible**	**Recuse**	**Absent**
Cleghorn, Sagastume, Hutchinson, Moran, Freeman, McCoy, von Gunten, Calvo, Seigel, Schmidt ***10 yes, 1 no, 0 abstain, 1 ineligible, 5 absent, 17 total***	Grant		Cerpa		McEnany, Dorothy, Herman, Keshish, Royal

4. **Discussion regarding candidates** for First Vice President, Region 1, Region 2, Region 4, and Education Board and committees. Discussion/Motion to approve Vickie Nailing to STNC Education Representative.

- Vicky introduced herself and gave a synopsis of her very impressive background as an educator. She is currently working with the Lion's Fight Club (a martial arts academy located at 7206 Foothill Blvd, Tujunga, CA 91042); the Lion's Fight Club has a focus on working with children and the community. Vicky has a passion for teaching children. The Education Committee has not been active in STNC for about 3 years. A motion was made by Cindy and seconded by Cheryl. A vote was taken to approve Vicky as the Chair for the Education Committee which passed.

Item 4 Motion to approve Appointing Vicky Nailing as Education Representative **Motion: Cleghorn Second: Schmidt**					
Yes	**No**	**Abstain**	**Ineligible**	**Recuse**	**Absent**
Grant, Cleghorn, Sagastume, Hutchinson, Moran, Freeman, McCoy, von Gunten, Calvo, Seigel, Schmidt ***11 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 1 ineligible, 5 absent, 17 total***			Cerpa		McEnany, Dorothy, Herman, Keshish, Royal

5. **Motion to Approve outstanding Minutes**. Motion made by Cindy and seconded by Leny; vote taken which passed.

Item 5 Motion to approve July meeting minutes **Motion: Cleghorn Second: Freeman**					
Yes	**No**	**Abstain**	**Ineligible**	**Recuse**	**Absent**
Grant, Cleghorn, Sagastume, Hutchinson, Moran, Freeman, McCoy, von Gunten, Calvo, Seigel, Schmidt ***10 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain, 1 ineligible, 5 absent, 17 total***		Seigel	Cerpa		McEnany, Dorothy, Herman, Keshish, Royal,

6. **DISCUSSION//Updates/Q&A:**

   A. LAPD, LAFD, Elected Officials/Representatives: Mayor, CD7, State Assembly, LAUSD, DONE, NC Budget Advocates, City Departments

   - **Ricardo Flores,** Senior Area Representative and Public Works Deputy for Los Angeles City Council District 7 (CD7). Ricardo commented that NNO and the meeting at the Sunland Senior Center were very successful with good feedback about the parks. Ricardo noted the new 311 heat-map capabilities for tracking issues such as illegal dumping, upcoming Halloween and tree-lighting activities, Movie Night at Verdugo Hills Swimming Pool and Councilwoman Rodriguez's committee assignments.

- **Anthony Espinoza**, Senior Legislative Deputy for Los Angeles City Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez (representing District 7, Northeast San Fernando Valley). Espinoza discussed organizational changes in the City. Comments and questions were made by Melissa, Lydia, Monique, and Jon. There was substantial discussion regarding Animal Services, including spay/neuter programs, shelter adoptions and potential adoption outreach, wildfire preparedness for animals, and concerns regarding coyotes in the community. Espinoza encouraged submitting Community Impact Statements regarding upcoming animal-related motions. A question came up about the apparent increase in sexual predators based on maps provided by the City; Anthony said that if there is anyone in particular that raises a concern, to work with Senior Lead Officer and also Ricardo. There is work being done to be able to provide jobs for youths working with schools. Economic Development is a big proponent of small businesses. Lydia noted that on a recent trip she saw areas in shopping malls dedicated to displaying cats and dogs for adoption, and a small coffee shop featured pictures of animals in shelters.
- **Gibson Nyambura**, Director of Policy, Government & Innovation for EmpowerLA**.** Gibson said that his services include all of the NCs in the Valley. Gibson acts as the primary liaison with Board members to meet mandatory training deadlines. Gibson provided updates regarding Planning 101/brown-bag educational sessions, future emergency-preparedness workshops, and technical issues affecting Community Impact Statement filers.

B. **LA CITY BUDGET ADVOCATES**: August 15 @ 1PM - Regions 1 & 2 Town Hall

7. PRESENTATION: Urban Strategy Group – Advanced Water Purification Facility Presentation update on the City of Los Angeles' new Advanced Water Purification Facility at the Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant. The presentation will cover construction progress, project details, and how the facility will provide a new local source of drinking water for up to 500,000 residents.

- Arturo Gonzalez, **Director of Community Affairs** for **Urban Strategy Group Inc.** (aka Urban Strategy Group), with Franco and Meraz. Representatives from Urban Strategy Group/Jacobs Engineering presented information on the Donald C. Tillman water purification/replenishment project. The project is intended to further purify recycled wastewater and recharge the San Fernando Valley groundwater basin. Comments and questions came from Karen, Lydia, Monique, Sherry and Jon. A video was given that described the project.
- The discussion included project costs and funding, water purification technology, the Hanson Dam spreading grounds/percolation process, potential ratepayer impacts, employment generated by the project, treatment-filter replacement, groundwater quality, and the difference between the current project and earlier "toilet-to-tap" proposals. Representatives stated that the expanded project is approximately a $1 billion project, has generated more than 1,000 jobs, and is expected to serve approximately 500,000 homes at full capacity. 3 states are planning this type of facility at this time – Texas, Colorado and California. Funding is coming from 4 sources, including the State, City and County. Source water include golf courses.

8. General Public Comment

- Monique Lukens, Member of the Community, voice concerns and suggestions, including a concern about voter fraud, not having a vegan restaurant option in the area, experiencing a dismissive attitude when she called the Fire Department to discuss potential precursors to fires she had observed. Monique also mentioned having vegan restaurants in the area/ Mark noted that one had been attempted in the past but had to close due to insufficient customers. Vegan food trucks might be an idea.
- Cindy thanked for CD7 help with successful NNO.
- Lionel Mares. Acting as a Member of the Community (i.e. not in any official capacity), Lionel discussed Charter Reform, advocating for people with disabilities, Homeless Committees, the Government's reform Task Force.

9. **Discussion/Action:** That STNC Board Elections in 2027 be conducted by the City Clerk instead of as a Selection. A discussion took place about the advantages of conducting future STNC elections as done this past year by Selection, vs. having the City take the lead. Cindy and Lydia offered opinions and information to support the two different approaches. Lydia felt that having Selections gave STNC more control (date, locale, counting votes, etc.) and didn't represent an increase in costs if done as the last time. A motion was made by Lydia and seconded by Melissa, a vote taken and Selections, as done the during the last voting period, was baselined for future voting.

10. **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM STNC COMMITTEES**:

A. Land Use - Discussion/Motion to approve Rachel Belofsky as a member of the Land Use Committee. Rachel discussed her long-term residency in the community and interest in local zoning and land-use matters. A motion was made by Cindy and seconded by Melissa, a vote taken which passed.

Item 10A Motion to approve appointing Rachel Belowski to the Land Use Committee **Motion: Cleghorn Second: Sagastume**					
Yes	**No**	**Abstain**	**Ineligible**	**Recuse**	**Absent**
Grant, Cleghorn, Sagastume, Hutchinson, Moran, McCoy, von Gunten, Calvo, Seigel, Schmidt ***10 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 1 ineligible, 6 absent, 17 total***			Cerpa		McEnany, Dorothy, Herman, Keshish, Freeman, Royal

B. Discussion / Motion: Submit updated letter to City Planning regarding 8100-8160 McGroarty Street - appeal hearing scheduled for Aug. 27 at City Planning Commission. Oppose the build. Rachel commented that this is a fire hazard, describing the housing planned. Karen said that more details were available in the stnc.org website in the LUC minutes from 8/10/26. A motion was made by Melissa and seconded by Lydia, a vote taken which passed.

Item 10B Motion to approve an updated letter supporting the appeal/opposing the proposed development. Motion: Sagastume Second: Grant					
Yes	**No**	**Abstain**	**Ineligible**	**Recuse**	**Absent**
Grant, Cleghorn, Sagastume, Hutchinson, Moran, McCoy, von Gunten, Calvo, Seigel, Schmidt ***10 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 1 ineligible, 6 absent, 17 total***			Cerpa		McEnany, Dorothy, Herman, Keshish, Royal, Freeman

C. Beautification - Community Cleanups. *There is an upcoming August 30 tree-watering/ community beautification activity.*

11. DISCUSSION/ACTION: **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Current fiscal year balance; remaining financial obligations; potential rollover considerations for next fiscal year.

A. Approve June 2026 Monthly Expenditure Report. A motion was made by Cindy and seconded by Melissa. A vote taken which passed.

Item 11A Motion to approve the June 2026 MER Motion: Sagastume Second: Grant					
Yes	**No**	**Abstain**	**Ineligible**	**Recuse**	**Absent**
Grant, Cleghorn, Sagastume, Hutchinson, Moran, McCoy, von Gunten, Calvo, Seigel, Schmidt ***10 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 1 ineligible, 6 absent, 17 total***			Cerpa		McEnany, Dorothy, Herman, Keshish, Freeman, Royal

B. Approve July 2026 Monthly Expenditure Report. This item postponed, not approved yet by City.

C. Motion to approve board member Dante Calvo reimbursement up to $500.00 *[previously approved for parade decorations]*

Item 11C Motion to approve reimbursement to Dante Calvo – up to $500 for parade decorations Motion: Sagastume Second: Grant					
Yes	**No**	**Abstain**	**Ineligible**	**Recuse**	**Absent**
Grant, Cleghorn, Sagastume, Hutchinson, Moran, McCoy, von Gunten, Calvo, Seigel, Schmidt ***10 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 1 ineligible, 6 absent, 17 total***			Cerpa		McEnany, Dorothy, Herman, Keshish, Freeman, Royal

D. Motion to Approve Revised Annual 2026-27 NC Funding Budget Package including rollover, cardholders, second signature commitments, recurring payments. *This item postponed.*

12. Adjourn. 8:49pm