

**Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council**  
**General Board Meeting**  
**Meeting date: August 14, 2019, 6:45pm**  
**Meeting Location: Tujunga United Methodist Church,**  
**9901 Tujunga Canyon Blvd., Tujunga CA 91040**

**Called to Order:** 6:50 pm by Liliana Sanchez, President.

Board Member	Roll Call	Funding Voting Eligibility	Board Appointment
Liliana Sanchez	Present	Yes	President
Lydia Grant	Present	Yes	1st Vice President
Nina Royal	Present	Yes	2nd Vice President - Outreach
Sandy Capps	Present	Yes	Treasurer
Cindy Cleghorn	Present	Yes	Secretary
Lallah Rowe	Present	Yes	At-Large Group Representative
Vartan Keshish	Arrived 9:10pm	Yes	Region 1 Representative
Ana Orudyan	Absent	Yes	Region 1 Representative
Glen Belt	Present	Yes	Region 2 Representative
Arsen Karamians	Present	Yes	Region 2 Representative
Oscar Alvarez	Arrived 8:40pm	Yes	Region 3 Representative
Rafi Shaheenian	Present	Yes	Region 3 Representative
Carol Hutchinson	Present	Yes	Region 4 Representative
Pati Potter	Present	Yes	Region 4 Representative
Arnie Abramyan	Present	Yes	Stakeholder Group
Paul Armbruster	Absent		Stakeholder Group
John Clausen	Present	Yes	Stakeholder Group
Garbis Khanjian	Present	Yes	Stakeholder Group
Jora Mehrabi	Present	Yes	Stakeholder Group
Hovik Tadevosyan	Absent		Stakeholder Group
Jon von Gunten	Present	Yes	Stakeholder Group
Vacant Seat			Parliamentarian
Quorum: 11 Total: 16 Present at rollcall			

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**Items 1-3, Meeting** called to order, Pledge of Allegiance, meeting quorum met.

**Item 4: General Community Event Announcements:**

Dawn Jenkins, McGroarty Arts Center – the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Cook Out will be held at the McGroarty Arts Center on Saturday, August 24 from 6 pm to 10 pm; the event will be catered by Chef Jesse and the Culinary Arts Institute at Los Angeles Mission College. There will be a shuttle bus to take people up and down the hill from the parking area. The concert is free; proceeds from food sales go to support the McGroarty Arts Center.

Joe DeCenzo, Village Poets – There will be a Picnic in the Park event on the lawn of Little Landers Park on August 30<sup>th</sup> from 6 pm to 8 pm.

Sheri Smith, Little Landers Historical Society / Bolton Hall – A pine needle basketry workshop will be offered at Bolton Hall on Saturday August 17, 2019 from 9 am to 1 pm taught by Shelly Matousek, there are still two available seats. The Second Saturday event for September will be a presentation by Sara Delgadillo Cruz of the Latinos in Heritage Conservation organization, 1 pm Saturday September 14<sup>th</sup> at Bolton Hall

Mark Seigel, Sunland Tujunga Elks Club – The Elks are having a Purple Pig fund raiser at Caruso’s Restaurant tomorrow, August 15<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to closing. 10% of proceeds will go to children who need help with medical expenses or paying for glasses.

LAPD Senior Lead Officer, Gloria Caloca – the LAPD is having an Open House / Resource Fair at the Foothill Division headquarters on Saturday August 24, 5pm to 8pm

**Item 6, Discussion / Possible Action to approve July 10, 2019 Minutes**

<b>Motion: Review and approve July 10, 2019 Minutes</b>				
Motion: Pati Potter ; Second Sandy Capps Roll call vote / BAC signed				
Yes	No	Abstain/Recuse	Not Eligible	Absent
Sanchez, Grant, Royal, Capps, Cleghorn, Rowe, , Belt, Karamians, Shaheenian, Hutchinson, Potter, Abramyan, Clausen, Khanjian, Mehrabi, von Gunten	None			Orudyan, Keshish, Alvarez Armbruster, Tadevosyan,
16 yes 5 absent, motion passed				

**Item 7 PRESENTATIONS: Discussion / Q&A: Sunland-Tujunga Community: Businesses, Homelessness and Mental Illness Speakers: LAPD Officer Gregory Parker, L.A. County District Attorney’s Office Mental Health Division Gilbert Wright, L.A. City Attorney Foothill Division Neighborhood Prosecutor Mark Ross**

**L.A. County District Attorney’s Office Mental Health Division Gilbert Wright**—LA County established a new Mental Health Division in January 2019 as part of its Blueprint for Change in the way LA County addresses offenders with mental health problems. . After 30 years with the District Attorney’s Office, he is now a Head DA in charge of this new division. Of the 17,000 to 18,000 inmates in county jail approximately 1/3 have mental health issues. The State and the County would like to get these people out of jail and into some sort of mental health facility or community care. It is DA Wright’s task to divert as many people as he can while protecting public safety. When reviewing these cases public safety is still the number one consideration, especially in cases that involve severe physical injuries. There are now several ways that those accused of crimes who also suffer from mental illness are diverted into treatment programs and housing.

1) Office of Diversion and Re-entry (ODR) – in order to be in this program you have to plead no contest, be mentally ill, homeless and in custody. Taking into consideration prior convictions and the severity of the crime, those in this program can be placed in facilities or outpatient settings with job training. Mental health clinicians see them daily to make sure they take their medications. So far Head DA Wright is happy with this program but demand is outpacing infrastructure. The County is working with landlords to guarantee rent payment and help with eviction if tenants on this program misbehave. This program foresees lifetime care and housing.

2) AB 1810 Pretrial Mental Health Diversion – There is a new state law, AB 1810, that provides a defense attorney can move the court to have a defendant placed in a diversion program if they meet the following criteria: a) severe mental illness b) this illness contributed to the crime c) defendant is willing to cooperate with the program d) the defendant is not an unreasonable danger to the public. If the defendant is successful in this program for 2 years, the case goes away. Head DA Wright looks at every mental health diversion motion daily for prior convictions, history of treatment and psychiatric evaluation. Victims are contacted and their feelings considered, but they do not have veto power. If the offender continues to have contact with the victim, this indicates they need to be in a locked facility. The final decision on who qualifies for this program is up to the Judge.

3) Alternate sentencing courts – they require a plea. There are programs for veterans, for women’s re-entry and for those with drug abuse problems, the defendant is sent to a facility for treatment.

4) Psychiatric Competency Court – if a defendant is incompetent to stand trial they are sent to Patten State Hospital and given treatment. Since the passage of AB 1810, if they stay in treatment for over two years the case is dismissed. If during those 2 years they are found competent to stand trial then the legal process continues. These defendants are eligible for the ODR program to get treatment even if the charge expires after 2 years.

The county jail also has mental health facilities but community based care is best for most mentally ill people. The problem is lack of mental health facilities and housing. He believes the audience can help by urging state and city governments to dedicate more funding for locked facilities for serious offenders who should not be in community care. As of now Head DA Wright is the only representative assigned to this program, in the future there will probably be representatives for the Valley and South Bay while he will stay in Downtown LA.

After his presentation Head DA Wright adds that he believes that the adversarial position of district attorney vs. public defender needs to become more collaborative when dealing with mentally ill criminal defendants. He suggests a future joint presentation with someone from the district attorney's office, the public defender's office and the office of diversion and re-entry so the community can hear all views on the best way to handle mentally ill offenders.

**LAPD Officer Gregory Parker** – is a Senior Lead Officer for LAPD's System Wide Mental Assistance Response Team (SMART). This response team, in collaboration with the County Department of Mental Health (DMH), has developed techniques for police responding to calls involving people suffering a mental health crisis. The LAPD and DMH can share information that each agency has access to on a need to know basis to aid in responding to these calls. There are over 100 LAPD officers in this unit and 50 clinicians. This team has taken 20,000 more calls this year than last year. All officers are instructed to contact this unit when handling this type of call. There are 6 officers on the triage desk handling these calls. Officers are given a 40 hour course in mental health intervention training. If the crime in question is a misdemeanor, the suspect will be sent to a county hospital such as Olive View or Harbor UCLA or County USC. If the crime is a felony, the suspect will be sent to the twin towers for treatment in jail.

There are two types of mental health holds, a Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) 5150 hold is if a person is a danger to himself, to others or is gravely disabled. A WIC 5250 hold keeps the person in a facility for 20 days. The Case Assessment Management Program is an LAPD detective unit that makes sure there is a follow up plan for those subject to a 5150 hold before they are released. This unit responds to barricade suspects, threats or violence directed toward a school, or those seeking suicide by cop. The unit deals with people who have had frequent contact with the LAPD, LAFD or the DMH. This unit also goes to the homes of those released from a 5150 hold to make sure they do not have firearms. No one subject to a 5150 hold is allowed to own firearms.

In the near future the SMART is going to become an LAPD unit. 8 officer units are going to be assigned to the Valley. Several board and community members inquired what is the difference between mental illness and drug induced mental illness. SLO Wright notes that many troubled individuals are both but prefer to be identified as addicts because this infers they can be cured. SLO Parker brought a checklist from the National Alliance of Mental Health providers about how to get 911 to send the right person out for a mental health crisis incident and what will happen to this person after the call. This brochure will be posted on the STNC website. .

**L.A. City Attorney Foothill Division Neighborhood Prosecutor Mark Ross** – there is a Neighborhood Prosecutor assigned to each of the 21 LAPD stations. He has some of the tools of a City prosecutor but can offer additional solutions for problem locations such as homeless camps and drug houses. Prosecutor Ross has the ability to go on site and see if there is anything that can be done about problem areas. One of these tools is environmental changes; he has worked with the DWP to get more street lights in problem areas and advised apartment managers to cut hedges so drug dealers feel more in the open. His office deals with any kind of reoccurring problem.

Homelessness by itself is not a crime and tents can be put up from 6pm to 9am as long as they are not blocking the sidewalk. Drug sales and open use are still crimes; his office can seek a different disposition for these offenses like an agreement to stay away from a given area rather than the usual 60 to 90 day jail sentence. When you do witness an actual crime, please report it to the LAPD. If it is not an emergency call dial 877-ASK-LAPD. Prosecutor Ross needs a report from law enforcement before he can do anything. Every call is tracked by LAPD supervisors, even if there is not an immediate response. If the LAPD sees a problem area from these calls, they will send more patrols. You can also use LA-Hop.org to help with homeless who need outreach; all you need to do is give a location and a general description of the person. You can call MYLA311 to report homeless camps. This is a massive statewide problem. 80% to 90% of the calls he receives are regarding homeless problems. If the camper is forced to move enough, he or she may choose to move to a place with less resistance. Each council office keeps a list of where homeless camps are and chooses which ones are a priority to clean up. Prosecutor Ross confirms that it is illegal to shoot up drugs in front of minors, they can

be charged with possession of meth or heroin to get them into the system and into treatment. Anyone seeing this should call the 877-ASK-LAPD number.

**Item 5: General Public Comments on Non Agenda Items**

No public comments at tonight’s meeting

**Item 9 Representative Announcements and Reports**

Senior Lead Officer (SLO) Gloria Caloca, Tujunga – SLO Cesar Contreras, Sunland is on vacation so SLO Caloca is covering both areas. Crime is down 17% in Tujunga and 21% in Sunland over last year. There is a problem with vehicle theft in Tujunga, particularly pick- up trucks and early 1990’s vehicles. Advises residents to always lock vehicles and perhaps invest in a steering wheel club to prevent these thefts. It is getting harder to deal with illegally parked RV’s because it is hard to get tow truck appointments, is still working on this problem. Suggests that license plates be bolted, she did find a vehicle in Tujunga using stolen plates. President Sanchez inquired about the strip mall around the Baskin-Robbins in Sunland. Officer Caloca noted that officer presence does prevent problems, she has noticed this especially with the businesses around the Sunland Tujunga library.

Arturo Garcia-Mendoza -- Representative for California Assembly Woman Luz Rivas – The assemblywoman will have a booth at the LAPD Foothill Open House for the public to comment on pending state legislation. There are brochures on the back table regarding the State’s Freeway Service Patrol who can help stranded motorists on the freeways by providing help with car problems, including providing emergency gas. The real ID requirement will become effective in October 2020; the DMV requires original documents, gives examples of acceptable documents. If you have any issues with state agencies like DMV’s real id requirements, etc., feel free to contact Luiz Rivas’ office (818) 504-3911.

Madeline Hernandez –Administrator Los Angeles Mission College, Tujunga Campus. Summer and fall class schedules are available on the back table. The fall semester begins August 26<sup>th</sup>. There will be an improved beginning computer skills class with emphasis on Microsoft office, email and social media.

Vanessa Serrano, DONE Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate – she is filling in for our regular DONE representative, Gibson Nyambura. Eli Lipmen is the new President of BONC. There will be a series of town hall meetings for Neighborhood Councils on two new proposed policies regarding leadership training / conflict resolution for Board members and a proposed uniform policy regarding censure or removal of Board members.

**Item 8 Committee & Liaison Reports**

- a. **Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates** – Treasurer Sandy Capps notes the next meeting is on August 11<sup>th</sup>
- b. **Land Use Committee** – Pati Potter reports that there is a draft letter in the board packet regarding 6454 Foothill. The LUC recommends support of the design concept for the ARCO station to open there. The letter also includes that the neighbors have concerns about the traffic this gas station will generate and the 24 hour operation, and any hazards or annoyance it might present to the neighboring preschool. Even though this gas station has been closed for many years, the right for this type of use runs with the land so it can still be a gas station. Board Member Abramyan wonders why this letter can’t wait until the soil test. Board Member Potter responds that if the soil test is not satisfactory, City Planning will not approve the project. Board Member Abramyan thinks the letter should have stronger language opposing the variance for 24 hour operation and requesting the City apply its standing rule of 9am to 11pm operating hours. Board Member Abramyan has concerns that this 24 hour operation, located next door to his business, would attract homeless and crime. President Sanchez moves to postpone letter voting on this letter and to return it to the Land Use Committee.

**Motion: Send proposed letter regarding new ARCO station and convenience market at 6454 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga Back to Land Use Committee for Further Discussion**

Motion: Cindy Cleghorn ; Second Liliana Sanchez Roll call vote				
Yes	No	Abstain/Recuse	Not Eligible	Absent
Sanchez, Grant, Royal, Capps, Cleghorn, Rowe, Keshish, Belt, Karamians, Alvarez , Shaheenian, Hutchinson, Potter, Clausen, Khanjian, Mehrabi, von Gunten	None	Abramyan		Orudyan, Armbruster, Tadevosyan,
17 yes, 1 abstain, 3 absent, motion passed				

- c. **STAT Sunland Tujunga Traffic and Transportation Committee**-- Chairman Jon von Gunten is working on a third request to Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez regarding an additional traffic officer for our area. Andy Neiman, Commanding Officer of the Foothill Traffic Division, has informed him there are funds available for increased traffic enforcement in Council District 7.
- d. **STARC Sunland Tujunga Arts and Recreation & Culture Committee** – Committee Chairman Joe DeCenzo gave an update regarding the 300 foot mural project at Plainview Elementary School. This is a very large mural that will be sketched out by local artist and STARC committee member Gerardo Barrientos and his grandson. After the mural is sketched, the committee will seek out artistic volunteers to fill out the outlines colors as instructed.

**Item 9 Board Member Updates**

Boardmembers Cleghorn, Capps and Royal recused and stepped outside the auditorium for item 9.a.

- a. **President, Liliana Sanchez** – The board has received three applicants to be STNC Preparedness Officer Liaisons to the Emergency Management Department (EMD). Lydia Grant asks DONE advisor Vanessa Serrano if there can be more than one liaison. Vanessa advised that for now they should pick one, and then add more if allowed. DONE advisor Serrano advised that a hands raised vote was fine for this selection. Each candidate’s name was read and hands were raised. Sandy Capps was selected.

<b>Motion: Discussion/Possible Action to Appoint STNC Preparedness Officer Liaisons to the Emergency Management Department (EMD). Letters requesting to be appointed to this position received from: David DeMulle, Sandy Capps, Nina Royal. Position will involve getting trained by EMD so they can facilitate workshops and develop Ready Your LA Neighborhood (RYLAN) plans in Sunland-Tujunga; Urge the Neighborhood Council to organize and host a local block party to encourage families to participate in the RYLAN initiative; Equip L.A. households with the resources and knowledge needed to be prepared for future earthquakes, fires or floods.</b>					
Motion: Arnie Abramyan; Second Glen Belt hands raised vote / BAC signed					
David DeMulle	Sandy Capps	Nina Royal	Abstain	Recuse	Absent
Keshish	Rowe, Belt, Alvarez, Shaheenian, Hutchinson, Abramyan, Clausen, Khanjian	Sanchez, Karamians, von Gunten	Grant, Merhrabi, Potter,	Cleghorn, Capps, Royal	Orudyan, Armbruster, Tadevosyan,
DeMulle 1, Capps 8, Royal 3, Abstain 3, Recuse 3, Absent 3 --- Sandy Capps selected					

At this time Arnie Abramyan made a motion not on the STNC Board meeting agenda and Glen Belt seconded his non-agendized motion.

Boardmember Cleghorn, Capps and Royal returned to the meeting

- b. **Lydia Grant, VP Community Improvement** -- The Community Improvement Committee kick off meeting will be on Sept. 18 in the back room of Coco’s restaurant from 6:30 to 8:30. This new committee will include many community issues and projects including youth activities and education.
- c. **Nina Royal, VP Outreach** -- National Night Out was a great success. The STNC is going to have a booth at LAPD’s Open House event. She has three estimates for new STNC T-Shirts, new printed materials will be ready. The next meeting of the Outreach Committee will be on August 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- d. **Sandy Capps-- Treasurer**

Item i – STNC Rollover total \$9,427.23; STNC Portal balance: \$39,854.06 as of 8-1-19 EC Meeting – no Board discussion or vote regarding this item.

Item ii

<b>Motion: Approve July 2019 (MER) Monthly Expenditure Report</b>				
Motion: Cindy Cleghorn; Second Lydia Grant Roll call vote / BAC signed				
Yes	No	Abstain/Recuse	Not Eligible	Absent
Sanchez, Grant, Royal, Capps, Cleghorn, Rowe, Keshish, Belt, Karamians, Alvarez , Shaheenian, Hutchinson, Potter, Abramyan, Clausen, Khanjian, Mehrabi, von Gunten	None			Orudyan, Armbruster, Tadevosyan,
18 yes 3 absent, motion passed				

Boardmember Cleghorn recused and stepped outside the auditorium for items 9.d.iii. and iv.

Item iii

<b>Motion: Approve up to \$500 sponsorship for the McGroarty Art Center event on August 24, 2019</b>				
Motion: Sandy Capps ; Second Lilliana Sanchez Roll call vote / BAC signed				
Yes	No	Recuse	Not Eligible	Absent
Sanchez, Grant, Royal, Capps, Rowe, Keshish, Belt, Karamians, Alvarez , Shaheenian, Hutchinson, Potter, Abramyan, Clausen, Khanjian, Mehrabi, von Gunten	None	Cleghorn		Orudyan, Armbruster, Tadevosyan
18 yes 3 absent, motion passed				

STNC will get a sign on the golf cart shuttle and on McGroarty outreach materials. The golf cart will help anyone attending this free event.

Boardmember Royal recused and stepped outside the auditorium for item 9.d. iv.

Item iv .

<b>Motion: Request to approve up to \$100 per month through June 2020 for STNC Articles / Ads in The Foothills Paper</b>				
Motion: Glen Belt; Second Oscar Alvarez Roll call vote / BAC signed				
Yes	No	Recuse	Not Eligible	Absent
Keshish, Clausen	Sanchez, Grant, Capps, Rowe, Belt, Karamians, Alvarez , Shaheenian, Hutchinson, Potter, Abramyan, , Khanjian, Mehrabi, von Gunten	Royal, Cleghorn		Orudyan, Armbruster, Tadevosyan
2 yes, 14 no , 2 recuse, 3 absent, motion does not pass				

Motion to table this item to a future date made by Lydia Grant, seconded by Carol Hutchinson. Discussion opposing motion to table to allow time for City Attorney advice. Vote taken by raise of hands in favor = 5 and Opposed = 8; Abstentions: Recusals: 2.

Board Member Belt opposed because STNC funds can be spent more wisely. President Sanchez states it is a good idea to not provide STNC funding to either local paper. Potter opposed, added that both papers should write about the STNC because it is local news. Rowe stated other papers offer a community section for information for free. Alvarez wonders how this item got on the agenda. Treasurer Capps explains that if someone comes to the executive meeting and requests an item on the agenda we can't discriminate. Stakeholder stated Neighborhood Councils are the news and does not recommend hiring the news. Another stakeholder said that any newspaper hosts a monthly calendar for free.

Boardmembers Cleghorn and Royal returned to the meeting.

Item v

<b>Motion: Terminate copier lease and payoff amount up to \$1,011.60</b>				
Motion: Glen Belt; Second Lydia Roll call vote / BAC signed				
Yes	No	Abstain/Recuse	Not Eligible	Absent
Sanchez, Grant, Royal, Capps, Cleghorn, Rowe, Keshish, Belt, Karamians, Alvarez, Shaheenian, Hutchinson, Potter, Abramyan, Clausen, Khanjian, Mehrabi, von Gunten	None			Orudyan, Armbruster, Tadevosyan
18 yes 3 absent, motion passed				

Treasurer Capps noted that the City Attorney’s office helping her in negotiations to end this lease with the least expense possible. Several comments by the board asking if this is the best payoff amount. This is the most it will cost.

Item vi

<b>Motion: Pay \$18.06 business property tax bill for copier</b>				
Motion: Lydia Grant; Second Lallah Rowe Roll call vote / BAC signed				
Yes	No	Abstain/Recuse	Not Eligible	Absent
Sanchez, Grant, Royal, Capps, Cleghorn, Rowe, Keshish, Belt, Karamians, Alvarez, Shaheenian, Hutchinson, Potter, Abramyan, Clausen, Khanjian, Mehrabi, von Gunten	None			Orudyan, Armbruster, Tadevosyan
18 yes 3 absent, motion passed				

Treasurer Capps notes a new vote is needed because payment must be by check and not credit card.

Item vii

<b>Motion: Approve up to \$150 per meeting for General Board Meeting refreshments (\$50 increase)</b>				
Motion: Glen Belt; Second Lydia Grant Roll call vote / BAC signed				
Yes	No	Abstain/Recuse	Not Eligible	Absent
Sanchez, Grant, Royal, Capps, Cleghorn, Rowe, Keshish, Belt, Karamians, Alvarez, Shaheenian, Hutchinson, Potter, Abramyan, Clausen, Khanjian, Mehrabi, von Gunten	None			Orudyan, Armbruster, Tadevosyan
18 yes 3 absent, motion passed				

Treasurer Capps notes that usually refreshments run around \$80.00 a meeting. VP Royal noted that a larger budget will allow greater variety in what refreshments are offered. Board Member Belt added a larger budget could accommodate larger meetings when more stakeholders attend.

- e. **Cindy Cleghorn, Secretary** – Secretary Cleghorn reminds committee chairs to send her their meeting minutes so she can post them.

Vanessa Serrano reminded President Sanchez that Boardmember Abramyan had an announcement: Boardmember Abramyan did not make an announcement, rather he made a motion, not on this STNC Board meeting agenda, and Glen Belt seconded this non-agendized motion to remove President Sanchez for Brown Act and Code of Conduct violations. No details offered, no discussion or vote.

Adjourn at 9:42 pm

Minutes by Marjorie Maxon