

SCNC BOARD

Lisa Cahan Davis
 Jane Drucker
 Remy Kessler
 John Lawler
 Richard Niederberg
 Scott Ouellette
 Shoshana Raphael
 Lisa Sarkin
 Lana Shackelford
 Gail Steinberg
 Ron Taylor
 Rita C. Villa
 John T. Walker
 Denise Welvang



PRESIDENT
 John T. Walker

VICE PRESIDENT
 Lisa Sarkin

TREASURER
 Remy Kessler

SECRETARY
 Rita C. Villa

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
 Jane Drucker

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www.studiocitync.org

**2nd Amended BOARD
 MEETING
 APPROVED MINUTES
 Wednesday, January 16, 2013
 Light Buffet 6:30pm
 Meeting 7:00pm
 at
 CBS Studio Center, Building 8, MPR-3,
 4024 Radford, Studio City CA, 91604**

The public is requested to fill out a "Comment Card" to address the Board on any item of the agenda prior to the Board taking action on an item. Comments from the public on Agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the Agenda that is within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction will be heard during the Public Comment period. **Public comment is limited to two minutes per speaker, unless directed otherwise by the presiding officer of the Board.** The agenda is posted for public review at: Studio City Neighborhood Council website (www.studiocitync.org); as well as CBS Studio Center, Radford and Colfax gates; the Studio City Library, 12511 Moorpark St.; the Studio City Recreation Center, 12621 Rye Ave. and at Carpenter Community Charter School, 3909 Carpenter Avenue, Studio City, CA 91604. As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least three (3) business days (72 hours) prior to the meeting you wish to attend by contacting the Neighborhood Council Project Coordinator (213) 473-5391 or by e-mail to Thomas.Soong@lacity.org. In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the Board in advance of a meeting, may be viewed at our website by clicking on the following link: www.studiocitync.org or at the scheduled meeting.. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact office@studiocitync.org.

1. Call to Order & Roll Call. Lisa Cahan Davis - present, Jane Drucker - excused, Remy Kessler - present, John Lawler - present, Richard Niederberg - present, Scott Ouellette - present, Shoshana Raphael - present, Lisa Sarkin - present, Lana Shackelford - excused, Gail Steinberg - present, Ron Taylor - present, Rita Villa - present, John Walker - present, Denise Welvang - present. 12 voting members; 7 to pass a motion; 62 stakeholders present.
2. Approval of December 12, 2012 Board Minutes. **Approved** in the absence of objection.
3. Comments by the President. **John Walker** announced that the Mayor has appointed Grayce Liu as General Manager of DONE. **John Walker** apologized for sending out so many agendas. He stated that the property tax to pay for clean water issues was tabled and will be brought back in 60 days. 17 NC representatives objected. **John Walker** stated that Gail Steinberg sets up room for the board meetings and he thanked her for her service. He further stated that Richard Niederberg brings plates and utensils and he was thanked for doing that. **John Walker** recognized Pasha Vafae and reappointed him to the board as the youth member.
4. Public Comments on non-agenda items within the Board's jurisdiction. **Bill Hackett**, District Director for Assembly Member Nazarian introduced himself and stated that he brings greetings from the Assembly Member. Their office is in Van Nuys. The Assembly Member is on the Budget, Rules, Health and Education Committees. The number to reach them on is (818) 376-4246. He asked the stakeholders to feel free to contact him. Mr. **Saachuerner** stated that he gives his time to Ken Smith. **Ken Smith** stated that he has been fighting the battle to keep the 4535 Colfax alley barrier in place. The SCNC received a petition to keep barricade. The SCNC already passed a motion to support keeping the barricade in place. Residents of the community are unhappy and want the barricade which has been removed to be restored for safety and to prevent traffic accidents. The barricade prevents vandalizing and burglary and helps to keep the quality of life intact for an aging population in that area. He is distressed by the deterioration of the City. He stated that his request for help from the Councilman has gone unanswered. He wants to get

the barricade restored as soon as possible. Several (7) people stood to acknowledge their support of Ken Smith's statements. **Bobbie Bates** stated that he agrees with Ken Smith's comments. **Richard Adams** read a prepared statement. **Joann Deutch** introduced everyone to her new book. She has a postcard and books on the back table. She started the book on Studio City while she was on the Chamber. She stated that SCNC is recognized as one of the most effective and well run neighborhood councils. She thanked the board and the volunteers who serve on it. **Stephen Potts** stated that he has been a resident of Studio City for 2 1/2 years and that he lives on Sunswept Dr. There is new construction he has concern about due to the limited access in the area. He said that there are concerns by neighbors. He would like us to put this matter on a future agenda. No one was notified about the construction. There is no parking on the south side of the street but the construction vehicles are parking there. **J T Fox** stated that he is a business attorney and he lives on Sunshine Terrace for 7 years. Recently they can't even park on the street. The government agencies he has contacted say there is a moratorium on permit parking. He wants to know where to start to get help with this matter. **Brandon Pender** stated that the Mayors budget survey is coming on the 24th of January. He is a budget advocate of the committee on behalf of the SCNC with Scott Ouellette. There will be e-blasts on where to go to take the survey. Only 5,500 people took the survey last year and we need a better turnout. Survey gives everyone the opportunity to have input into the process. **Mike Feuer** stated that he had arranged for certificates of appreciation to be presented to the SCNC board members before he left office. As he is now running for another office, the certificates were presented to the board members by John Walker. He stated that he is running for city attorney and that you can contact him at (213) 453-3142. **Mike Feuer** mentioned that he created the 311 system. The purpose was to move non-emergency calls from the 911 system. He was a neighborhood prosecutor and he is very concerned about gun violence issues. He is very family focused.

5. Responses to comments from the Board. **Scott Ouellette** said he is aware of the problems on Sunswept and that the transportation committee has this item on their list of items they are continuing to address. He also stated that the Council office has been made aware of the issue as well. He further noted that the Transportation Committee and the SCNC board both supported the alley barricade staying in place. He stated that we need the help of the council office to get the barricade replaced. **Lisa Sarkin** asked that the individual that spoke on behalf of the Sunshine Terrace matter email Scott Ouellette.
6. Introduction and Seating of our Youth Board member **Pasha Vafae**. This agenda item was covered in the President's opening comments.
7. Special Presentation and Update from Council District 2 by **Geoffrey Yazzetta**. **Geoffrey Yazzetta** said there is a long list of traffic items that the Council office is addressing. With respect to the intersection of Radford and Ventura they are working on the timing of the lights. They are aware of the Sunshine Terrace issue. They are following the Maxwellton and Laurel Canyon crosswalk matter. The Bike lanes list is going to be distributed to the traffic committee. The DWP is putting in a trunk line on Coldwater south of Ventura. There will be a full closure of Coldwater during the day due to space constraints. The DWP will come to community meetings before March as outreach to the community. It will take about 30 days. **Lisa Sarkin** asked how students will get to the Harvard Westlake School. **Lisa Cahan Davis** asked for a formal notice of when the closure would take place.
8. Special Guest Speaker City Councilman **Paul Krekorian**. **Paul Krekorian** thanked the board for its service. He appreciates the work we do. He wished everyone happy new year. He stated that he was the last speaker of 2012 and now he is the first of 2013. The Coldwater Canyon trunk line project is to replace 100 year old infrastructure. It is important to do the work and there is no way to complete job without full closure of Coldwater Canyon. We are getting the most mitigations possible to reduce the amount of time of the closures. The DWP was asked to come to the SCNC. **John Walker** said they may be able to come in February. **Paul Krekorian** said that street repairs are on everyone's mind. A proposal for a bond was before the city council.

This impacts Studio City more as our streets are older. He explained the triage process the city goes through in deciding which streets to repair. If street is too far gone – failed – no work will be done on failed streets. That was the point of the bond measure. It would provide funds to repair the failed streets. The lifetime of the streets will be much more than 30 years. The way the bond motion came about was not a model of transparency. As the public hasn't been engaged in the process, there will now be outreach to the community and it will be vetted before it goes on any ballot. The City Council wants a City-wide consensus. Sidewalks and streets are the issues brought to the Council office most frequently. It will not be on the May ballot. **Paul Krekorian** stated that he chairs the Budget and Finance Committee. The next few months will be spent trying to deal with next year's projected budget deficit. There has been a small uptick in city revenues from hotel tax and other sources. 4 years ago a \$1.2 billion deficit was projected. Now it is projected at only \$200 million dollars. Balancing the budget is achievable but not easy. The City needs increased revenue, greater efficiencies or expense cuts. There will be difficult choices for the society. There is a ½ cent sales tax proposal on the March ballot. The City gets about a quart of a percent of the nine and a half cent tax presently in place. This will help to let the city restore some services. If it doesn't pass there will be more hard choices about what to cut. Pothole, street repair, bulk item pick up and other city services are slowing down quickly. His office has been funding various projects including having 1,000 trees trimmed, 20,000 potholes have been filled and many vacant lots have been cleaned up. Upcoming is the latest round of the student media festival. This is a festival for high school students. The awards will be handed out in No Ho on March 30th at the El Portal Theater. The Councilman recognized Mark Batterman for his dedication. The physical legacy of his work is evident in our parks throughout Studio City. He has helped to make Studio City the great place that it is to live. **Paul Krekorian** presented him a certificate of recognition on behalf of his office and the SCNC. Mark Batterman accepted the award and thanked the Councilman, the SCNC and the stakeholders. He stated that he had back surgery and he is now much better. He looks forward to getting back to work for Studio City. **A Question & Answer period followed.** – John Walker called on Marilyn White Sedel. She said she has lived in her home for 58 years and has seen the street repairs done by people who do not know how to fix streets properly. **Paul Krekorian** responded that the people in street services are very good but that outside contractors are not always as good. He said he agrees with Marilyn that streets should be repaired properly but that we do not have enough city employees doing this. Further he stated that if you defer maintenance the costs go up geometrically. **Richard Niederberg** said that the funds given to the Councilmen to spend in their districts were divided equally between districts but some older districts need more funds than newer districts. The bond measure was to be mapped out across the city as to the coding of the streets. We have a single transportation system and council district boundaries are artificial. The need is greater in Studio City than in Chatsworth. **A stakeholder** asked what it means to slurry a street. The Councilman explained what the slurry process is and how it extends the life of the street. **Lisa Sarkin** said we used to get the street status list but we don't get it anymore. **Mort Allen** said no one is addressing the problems that are causing the streets to fall apart. The increased number of trucks on the streets is causing the crumbling of the streets. The Councilman stated that the large trucks are prohibited on many streets. He said busses are a big problem on the boulevards. Wilshire Blvd. is an example of the problem busses cause on the roads. **Scott Ouellette** said he understands the challenges of balancing the budget. He said there is a web site that showed the streets to be fixed if the bond measure passes. **Paul Krekorian** said he would put the link to that website on his website. **Barry Weiss** said 50 percent of the residents in Studio City are renters. He also said that 14% of Studio City's

population is on fixed income. He asked the Councilman to explore other means to raise the funds. No matter what we do, we have to try to do something that is fair and to spread the burden. **Pasha Vafae** asked about the submission process for the film festival. **Paul Krekorian** said the deadline was next year. Look at the website www.LASMF.lacity. The website has the details of the festival. **Bill Smith** requested that the Councilman take a personal hand in getting the barricade restored. **The Councilman** said he is sorry that Bill Smith sensed

indifference by his staff. **Paul Krekorian** said **Geoffrey Yazzetta** serves Studio City very well and that he fights for our community tirelessly. **Paul Krekorian** said sometimes he and his team don't succeed but they are trying. He is going to continue to find outside of the box resolutions to the issues raised and to address the underlying problems. Conditions of the project that resulted in removal of the barricade in the alley included a requirement that the alley be opened. He can't redo a decision made 5 years ago. The current development is for an apt building rather than a condo complex and Bill Smith was told by the City the dangerous conditions do not exist any longer. **Paul Krekorian** said he and his staff will work on all options available and appropriate. **Lisa Cahan Davis** concurred that Geoffrey is an asset. She asked if they use permeable cement when repairing the roads. **Paul Krekorian** said he wrote legislation to mandate the use of permeable hardscape. He explained that the goal has been to get the water out of the valley and to the ocean as quickly as possible. This prevents the infiltration of water into the aquifer. We have 200 million acre feet of ground water that needs to be cleaned and used rather than have to import water. There are now permeable solutions. **Paul Krekorian** explained that type of surface can't be used for streets due to the droppings from cars preventing the permeability. It ruins it. **Lisa Sarkin** asked about building businesses. She noted that the cottage food industry bill will cause the generation of revenue and fees. She asked if we are trying to foster business rather than just tax people. An hoc committee - business tax force - was created today. That committee and Paul Krekorian will work on expanding the pie rather than just raise more taxes. It is hard to do business in Los Angeles, hard to get basic problems solved, hard to go through 12 desks to get permits. It is hard for the City of Los Angeles to be competitive. One of the steps he has taken is to use the City's purchasing power - 85 % used to be spent outside of LA. He is trying to change this. We must give local business a try. We have no structure for economic development here in LA. We must be proactive. We are struggling with how to pay for it but we must do this. **Another stakeholder** brought up permit parking on Blue Canyon Drive. He has 100% signatures from the residents on the street. **Paul Krekorian** stated that they are looking for a solution as there is a moratorium by the City on permit parking. Eureka off Brill into the hills is a major problem. **Paul Krekorian** responded this may be an enforcement matter. **Rita Villa** asked that digital language not be put in the sign ordinance pending before PLUM. **Paul Krekorian** said he agreed with that.

9. Presentation by Special Lead Officer **Mike Lewis**. **Officer Lewis** introduced himself and explained his role in the community. He gave an example of the input received from the community that he communicates to the other officers patrolling the community. There have been double the number of car burglaries this year as opposed to last year. He asked everyone to take their things out of the car. Another big thing is the homeless issue. New homeless faces in the area appearing almost weekly. They have a car dedicated to the transient issue. Hotels and motels on Ventura Blvd. are being watched heavily. He is in touch with more people now than ever. Crime in Studio City is at historical lows but we are the safest city of over 2 million people in the country. We just have more information and we are getting it quicker. Studio City is safe as to violent crime. Squatters are another problem. Foreclosures are a public record so squatters are moving in. **Officer Lewis** can sometimes get them out and put them in jail. South of Ventura at Eureka. **Officer Lewis** said he has DUI checkpoints on Ventura Blvd. Valets go the wrong way on the street. **One stakeholder** addressed the homeless. He gave out cards. **Lisa Cahan Davis** said she would post his information on the SCNC website. She also said that 311 closes at 4:30 PM. Where do we go to report things after 311 closes? **Officer Lewis** said to call the LAPD non-emergency number call 877-ask-lapd
10. Treasurer's report by **Remy Kessler**. **Remy Kessler** said that the budget is doing fine. He reviewed the bank statements and financial statements. **John Walker** read the motion.

Motion: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council has reviewed the January, 2013 financial statements and the December, 2012 bank statements and hereby accepts and approves them.

Motion accepted in the absence of objection.

11. Budget Committee Report by **Remy Kessler** for **Mark Batterman**. **Remy Kessler** explained the reason for motion A. **John Walker** read the motion.

Motion A: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council approves the reallocation within its general operating budget of \$5,000 from the category Neighborhood Improvement to the category Operational Expense.

Motion accepted in the absence of objection.

Remy Kessler explained motion B and explained we should continue to support this work. **John Walker** read the motion.

Motion B: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council approves a funding request of up to \$1,450 to the Village Gardeners of the Los Angeles River with the funds to be used for the continuing maintenance and improvement of the portion of the Los Angeles River Greenway within their area. Funding is conditioned on the SCNC receiving appropriate credit consistent with previous support.

Motion accepted in the absence of objection.

Motion to adjourn to Special Agenda by Lisa Sarkin; **Second:** by Scott Ouellette.

12. VANC Report by **Denise Welwang**. **Denise Welwang** said on January 10th VANC voted no on everything on their agenda. Measure A – no support as it is a regressive tax with no sunset clause and no discretion as to its use. They made a motion asking for delay on Measure A until there is meaningful outreach to all NC's. With respect to the storm water parcel tax - Prop O already covers that. So they voted no on that matter. Grayce Liu told VANC that the bylaws changes need to be in by June. Eric Garcetti was the speaker at the meeting. **John Walker** thanked Denise for participating and explained that Arlene Samek has stepped down because of health and he will send an email blast asking for another stakeholder to take Arlene's place.
13. Land Use Committee Report by **Lisa Sarkin**. **Lisa Sarkin** said that 72 stakeholders attended the LUC meeting. Toluca Baseball has decided not to go after the baseball diamond at Weddington Park. There will be three measures regarding medical marijuana on the May ballot. Focusing on revamping all recommendations to attach findings the way they want it to happen. The R lounge has changed its format. The Department of Building and Safety is looking into it at the request of the Land Use Committee. The restaurant at Bakman and Moorpark is not asking for anything that requires a change in the existing Conditional Use Permit and it will open in 6 months. **John Walker** read motion A.

Motion A: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council supports the King's Head Restaurant, 12969 Ventura Blvd. [DIR-2012-3001-SPP] with full compliance of the Ventura/Cahuenga Blvd. Corridor Specific Plan and all current violations of the LAMC including agreed upon King's Head "Recommendations for On-Sale Alcoholic Beverage License in Studio City."

Rita Villa moved that the motion be amended. **Lisa Sarkin** accepted the amended motion. **Vote** to amended motion: **Yes 12; No 0; Abstain 0. Motion Carried.**

Amended Motion A: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council supports the King's Head Restaurant, 12969 Ventura Blvd. [DIR-2012-3001-SPP] with full compliance of the Ventura/Cahuenga Blvd. Corridor Specific Plan and correction of all current violations of the LAMC including agreed upon King's Head "Recommendations for On-Sale Alcoholic Beverage License in Studio City."

Vote on amended motion: **Yes 12; No 0; Abstain 0. Motion Carried.**

Lisa Sarkin gave background on motion B. The owner will do the curbs and sidewalks. There will be a change of the use of the property from residential to commercial. **John Walker** read the motion.

Motion B: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council supports the change of use from residential use to commercial use at 11150 Ventura Blvd. [ENV-2012-3105-CE]. Lisa Cahan Davis said it is on Zillo as C2. Vote: Yes 12; No 0; Abstain 0. Motion Carried.

14. Transportation Committee Report by **Scott Ouellette**. **Scott Ouellette** reported that the committee has a gripe list. It is a list of items with significant community support and interest that need to be addressed. Those items are brought to the Board and he follows up with the council office on items on the list. He would like to add the item in the motion below to the list. He would like to work with the council office to get ATSAC on Laurel Canyon Blvd. **John Walker** said he has spoken to our councilman about this and ATSAC is there already. The five lights at Radford and Ventura are not in sync. There does not seem to be a way to sync the lights and keep them running properly on Ventura Blvd.

Ellen Byron said the Fryman and Lauren Canyon light doesn't work now because they put the slurry on the street and did not paint the line back on the street. This is very dangerous. She has contacted Scott Ouellette and Paul Krekorian's office and they have said this is a low priority. **Richard Niederberg** said there were 14 cars backed up there this morning and he was there so he knows. They have posted the signs for the ATSAC all the way from the other side of the hill. The flashing light out of Trader Joes parking lot is also a problem. **John Walker** read the motion.

Motion: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council requests further information on traffic light synchronization and utilizing ATSAC synchronization on traffic lights on Laurel Canyon Blvd. from Fryman Canyon to Riverside Drive and on Ventura Blvd. from Carpenter Avenue to Laurel Canyon.

Ron Taylor **moved** an amendment to the motion. Lisa Sarkin **seconded** the amendment. **Vote: Yes 12; No 0; Abstain 0. Motion to Amend Carried.**

Amended Motion:

The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council requests that the use of the ATSAC system be prioritized and that the ATSAC synchronization on traffic lights on Laurel Canyon Blvd. from Fryman Canyon to Riverside Drive and on Ventura Blvd. from Carpenter Avenue to Laurel Canyon be prioritized for the months of February to June 2013 to manage traffic increases during the DPW closure of Coldwater Canyon Avenue. Vote: Yes 12; No 0; Abstain 0. Motion Carried.

15. Cultural Affairs Committee Report by **Richard Niederberg**. **Richard Niederberg** gave background on the motion below. **John Walker** read the motion. The cost of the entire event is covered by others. We only need to cover the advertising cost.

Motion: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council approves the co-sponsorship of an event with the Studio City Library on April 20 or May 4, 2013, commemorating and celebrating the first day of filming at Mack Sennett Studios in Studio City on May 1, 1928.

Vote: Yes 12; No 0; Abstain 0. Motion Carried.

16. Government Affairs Committee Report by **Rita Villa**. **John Walker** read the motion. **Eric Shabsis** said he is here representing Summit Media. He explained the background of the reason for the lawsuit and the decisions which have taken place. Noted that there were recently two motions presented at City Council to grandfather the illegal billboards. He explained that Paul Krekorian agreed that no language on digitals should be added at PLUM. He asked the board to approve the motion. He urged the board members to individually call PLUM and council members. **Lisa Sarkin** said it should be a community impact statement. **Scott Ouellette** said he supports the motion and it is well written and consistent with that we have done in the past.

Motion: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council requests the City of Los Angeles to fully implement the appeals court ruling in the Summit Media LLC v. City of Los Angeles and to remove the 100 digital billboards as provided for therein. We further request that the City refrain from making any changes to the zoning laws relative to the digital billboards until any such proposed change has been subjected to an open and transparent outreach to the community and to the Neighborhood Councils in particular. We also request that the previously drafted sign ordinance being considered by the Planning and Land Use Management Committee and the City Council be considered as it is currently written and that no language be added to that ordinance which would retroactively legalize the digital billboards which were the subject of the appellate court decision or in any other way incorporate digital billboards into the ordinance. This should be submitted as a community impact statement.

Vote: Yes 12; No 0; Abstain 0. Motion Carried.

17. Outreach Committee Report by **Lisa Cahan Davis**. **Lisa Cahan Davis** reported that they have funding for adding 8 additional light poles with banners 2/28/13 to 2/28/14 for a total of 104. They have revamped the colors and wording slightly so the banners will have a greater visibility and response. Two members of the committee are choosing the final locations. They are paid for and planned. We have 193 opportunities for the banners under our permit. There will be an additional request for funds.

Saturday is the National Day of Service. Sunday there could be a coat drive for a local homeless shelter. It would be held at the farmers market. **John Walker** explained we can't take any action without a motion which was properly placed on the agenda. "Movies in the Park." We are exploring the viability of that with Universal and they are looking at the costs. This may take place in the summer. Lisa Cahan Davis needs to place the order for the badges. They are working on a twelve month calendar so the web site will be up to date. The goal of the committee is to have something going on each month.

18. Bylaws Committee Report by **Ron Taylor**. **No report.**

19. Comments from Board Members on subject matters within the Board's jurisdiction. **John Walker** got a call from the Mayor and it rolled into breakfast with Paul Krekorian which was very positive. He asked all board members to be sure to respond to the emails he sends. **Lisa Sarkin** asked everyone to check their emails every day. **Ron Taylor** said the things we heard tonight impact every street south of Ventura Blvd. Denise Welvang asked if we could stop hitting reply all to the emails. Boxer insurance and Carol Zide should be taken off our email list. **Lisa Cahan Davis** said on web site you to choose which committee you get email from. The list of committees is now on the front page. **Scott Ouellette** thought that the tone of the meeting was very positive. **John Walker** said that the county and metro are in control of the bridge at Lankershim. **Zev Yaroslavsky** said there is nothing we can do about the bridge. **Richard Niederberg** said that the reenactment with canyon at the Campo was nice on Sunday.

20. Adjournment. **Moved:** Ron Taylor, **Second:** Scott Ouellette, **Vote: Yes 12; No 0; Abstain 0. Motion Carried.**