



#### SCNC BOARD

Jeffrey Carter  
Ben Di Benedetto  
Victor Helo  
Wayne Kartin  
Remy Kessler  
Ben Neumann  
Richard Niederberg  
Lisa Sarkin  
Lana Shackelford  
Gail Steinberg  
Ron Taylor  
Pasha Vafae  
Rita C. Villa  
John T. Walker  
Denise Welvang

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John T. Walker

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
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Rita C. Villa

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY**  
Lana Shackelford

4024 Radford Ave.  
Edit. Bldg. 2, Suite 6  
Studio City, CA 91604  
(818) 655-5400

# BOARD MEETING

## APPROVED MINUTES

### Wednesday, January 18, 2012

### Light Refreshments 6:30pm

### Meeting 7:00pm

at

### CBS Studio Center, Building 8, MPR-3, 4024 Radford, Studio City CA, 91604

[www.studiocitync.org](http://www.studiocitync.org)

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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:office@studiocitync.org).

1. Call to Order & Roll Call. Jeffrey Carter – present, Ben Di Benedetto – present; Pasha Vafae – present, Victor Helo – present, Wayne Kartin – excused, Remy Kessler - present, Ben Neumann – present, Richard Niederberg - present, Lisa Sarkin - present, Lana Shackelford – present, Gail Steinberg – late, Ron Taylor – present, Rita Villa –present, John Walker – present, Denise Welvang – present. 13 voting members; 7 to pass a motion; 69 stakeholders present.
2. Approval of November 16, 2011 Board Minutes. **Approved** in the absence of objection.
3. Comments by the President. **John Walker** said that he was appointed by the Mayor to be part of the committee to select the Rate Payer Advocate. They interviewed 58 candidates many were wonderful to choose from. Dr. Fred Pickle has a degree in economics and has engineering and water issue background. **John Walker** described the interview and selection process, including the development of a technical test. Everyone asked why he wanted the job. He was likeable. There will be an article in the LA Times tomorrow. He answered all questions well. He demonstrated knowledge of all of the components of the water rate starting from the base rate. He will have an outreach program. He will be housed at city hall but is an independent individual. **John Walker** also announced that the new Chair of Crime and Safety Committee will be Richard Adams which will reactivate that committee. Marilyn White Sedel is in rehab in Studio City now after a long illness. **John Walker** then acknowledged the City Attorney who said he was invited to be here. **Mr. Trutanich** explained that today they prevailed in a lawsuit brought against the City because a contractor who poured asphalt had hit a police officer and the officer was badly hurt. The officer sued city. The City Attorney's office appealed the decision that the contractor was a city employee. The jury was hung 6 to 6 but it will be retried. Many Medical marijuana dispensaries are to be evicted. **Mr. Trutanich** said he has a plan. It is unethical to allow the dispensaries to remain open. He explained that he wants collectives to operate under a "compassionate band" but in the interim he will begin to start to shut them down. The Federal

authorities won't allow them to continue to operate. **John Walker** also wished everyone a happy new year. He stated that he has met with all the mayoral candidates. On alternating months each of the candidates will come to speak to us at the SCNC board meetings. He attended the SCRA meeting a couple of weeks ago where individuals in the community were recognized. We are recognizing some of them tonight ourselves.

4. Public Comments on non-agenda items within the Board's jurisdiction.  
**Noel Weiss** wished everyone happy new year. He acknowledged the functionality of our board. He mentioned his concern about SB 1818 and stated that he wants to be sure concessions are really needed. The City Council has not been responsive and Ed Reyes is holding up the motion. He further stated that he has succeeded in court. He wants NC's to focus attention on SB 1818.  
**Todd and Gray Royal** came before the board. **Todd Royal** said it has been a pleasure and an honor to be a board member here. It has been one of the best experiences of his life. He enjoyed serving on the transportation committee, GAC and serving as VP. He also said that he was thankful for being allowed to serve with the Dymonds on the SCRA. **Beth Dymond** thanked the SCNC for the winter family festival donation. It was a huge success there was so much giving. There were three tables full of food that went to the community food-bank. There were many toys contributed and those were given to the police to distribute. She acknowledged those organizations that made contributions. She stated that the event next year it will be on December 9. **Alan Dymond** thanked John Walker for coming to the SRA meeting. He said there is concern about the Black Market Liquor Bar. He has concerns about the zoning administrators ruling and he will be doing an appeal. He would like our support. He is concerned about the conditions and said that the conditions should be reviewed. **Lisa Davis** said it is budget survey time and left flyers for the public. She read a statement about the process of the survey. She is the representative for the south valley area. There are 95 NC's that are all trying get the word out. Everyone's input is important. She can provide a paper version if you can't use the internet. The deadline is Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> and the tally will be completed by Feb 22. **Stephanie Gillette** introduced herself as the field representative of Mike Feuer. She said he is having an open house tomorrow night at the Sherman Oaks/ East Valley Adult Center collecting food and toiletries for charity. **Jeffrey Yazzetta** wished everyone happy new year. He reported that Councilman Paul Krekorian has allocated \$250,000 to restore services to areas in CD2 including tree trimming, trunk removal, and cleaning up the public way. He requested that we contact his office if we know of any such projects. He reported that on Ventura between Colfax and Tujunga they are replacing sewer lines. They are also working in hills south of Ventura. This will go on until the spring. The Coldwater trunk line will be completed by March of 2012. He also reported that the Councilman introduce a motion to prevent NC elections from being postponed to 2014. 2012 elections should be conducted by DONE at a lesser cost. **John Walker** presented an award from the City to Todd Royal and recognized him for the work he has done during this term. **Jeffrey Yazzetta** read the certificate from the Councilman. **Michael Klausman** and **Sandra Reed Furnell** were recognized for their generosity in allowing the SCNC and the community to meet on the CBS facility and stated that it is an honor for us to be here and it is a privilege for us to be able to recognize you both. **Jeffrey Yazzetta** read the certificate of honor from the councilman. Jeff read the certificate of honor from the Councilman enumerating the many ways Michael Klausman and CBS have been a caring neighbor. **John Walker** then introduced Councilman Eric Garcetti.
5. Responses to comments from the Board. **Lisa Sarkin** responded to Black Market Liquor appeal need and the SB1818 issue.
6. Update from Council District 2 by **Geoffrey Yazzetta** . Done during public comments see item 4 above.
7. Special Presentations to CBS – **Michael Klausman, Sandra Reed-Funnell and Todd Royal**. Done during public comments see item 4 above.

8. City Councilmember and Mayoral Candidate, **Eric Garcetti**. **Eric Garcetti** thanked John Walker for inviting him to be here and he thanked the community for coming out tonight. He said that Studio City has one of the finest NC's. We set the standard and he recognized Lisa Sarkin for always turning up in city hall on important issues. He said that he grew up in the valley until he was 17. He feels he has come home tonight and said that, at that age, he felt it was limitless what you could do. Los Angeles is seen by the eyes of the world as the most American of cities. Los Angeles is who we say we are in America. You can get started very quickly in Los Angeles. However, the city has lost some of its idealism. There is a sense of insecurity. Governor Brown came to City Hall to deliver his state of the state speech personally here in LA. He laid out several of the things that make this state so great. He said we need to dream big again. We need to say what we are for not just what we are against. **Eric Garcetti** said he now lives in Silver Lake but he has lived throughout the City. He wants to be sure that people in each area of the city feel connected. He said that in a survey people over 35 when they speak say "our government" but that people under 35 say "the government." They have a level of disconnect. He believes that he enjoys successes as a citizen but if there is a problem he is responsible for fixing it. Content is the critical thing in each community. He feels it is important to walk the neighborhoods and he has and does do that. The most important lesson in politics is to listen not to speak. In his district the challenge was to make it a more pedestrian district and to open up parks. There are now 38 parks up from 13. You need to give small town help in a big city. Judge how many jobs are created. He thinks NC's need to have real land use decision making power. He challenged those present to ask ourselves "What is our role?" each of us in the city. We can take a block and eliminate graffiti on it. Cyclovia something he would like to bring to the valley. We can bring hope to our communities one block at a time. The hope is in our hearts. He has done it in the heart of the city and wants to do it here now. **Judy Price** expressed concerns about the merger of various committees of the City Council and asked where the education and neighborhoods committee is now. She asked why this was done. **Eric Garcetti** said he did it to raise the NC committee up. He did that for other committees as well. He wants NC's to have more power. There has been no quorum at several meetings as Wesson and Reyes do not show up. **Eric Garcetti** said he is aware of the problem. **Alastair Shearman** introduced himself as a resident of Studio City. He asked Garcetti's opinion of Feuer's proposal to fast track measure R projects. **Eric Garcetti** said he wants to accelerate paving of the streets. He said it costs less, puts people to work and saves cars. High speed rail is not the answer but we need to see how to front load the work. Invest early to spur the economy. **Ben DiBenedetto** said we need to put rapid transit north-south through the Sepulveda pass but not by putting busses on the 405. **Eric Garcetti** said we must take rail through the mountain and down to UCLA. It costs more and we need to do these things right. Need rapid transit to the airport. We need electric busses. **Noel Weiss** asked "would you veto the give-away variances?" **Eric Garcetti** said he wants community plans to be updated every 10 years. We need predictability in zoning. The rules are the rules and should be enforced. Pico Union is very densely populated. He wants planning to be the way proactively. He does not want what they are against. He does not want zoning variances. He wants a predictable community plan. **Remy Kessler** asked what Eric Garcetti's position is about the development of the back lot of Universal, specifically the residential piece. He said the Cahuenga Pass can be the bottleneck for the region. It does not seem to be the right place for a large residential development. It would be tough. **Serry Reinew** said Garcetti supported Sanchez and wants to know his position on mayoral control of schools. **Eric Garcetti** said he would like to be a bridge and improve the schools. Teachers are not the enemy. He went to every school in his district to get an after school program at each school. He established joint use agreements with the schools to get facilities improved with such things as lights for the field. He said we need free wifi at the schools and radiating out about a block from the school. He believes that then kids will want to be there. We need to get small tech companies into incubators. We need kids to be educated in computer language. **Lisa Sarkin** asked what Eric would do about the Medical Marijuana dispensaries. **Eric Garcetti** said there is no enforcement mechanism. We must work with legitimate dispensaries to insure that enforcement can be done. Crime has increased around them. We need clarification of classification by the FDA. **Lisa Davis** asked

which if any departments would benefit by running by private public partnerships. He said yes. Convention Center, the Zoo and the 311 app are certain areas that could be benefitted. Sensors in parking meters to elevate parking problems. **Melanie** said we should split up the DWP and asked what the feasibility that is? **Eric Garcetti** said there would be many pension issues. We should have greater integration not less. Several people thanked him for his service and his ideas including extension of green line to airport. He also said our mayor supports charter schools. His position is that we need to shut down bad charter schools. He wants to see empowered teachers. Must keep balance between public and charter schools. **John Walker** thanked Eric Garcetti for being here. He asked if Eric Garcetti has a plan to balance the budget of LA and could he explain it. **Eric Garcetti** said 85% of the costs in LA's budget are from people. We need a strategic economic development plan. We need to get the economy going and balance the budget.

9. Treasurer's report by **Remy Kessler**. **Remy Kessler** gave an overview of the financial position of the SCNC.

**MOTION: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council has reviewed the (TBD) January 2012 financial statements and the December 2011 (TBD) bank statements and hereby accepts and approves them.**

**Lisa Sarkin** read the motion. **Second: Ben Neumann. Vote: Unanimous. Motion Carries**

10. Budget Committee Report by **Remy Kessler** for **Mark Batterman**. Included as part of the treasurer's report.
11. VANC Report by **Arlene Samek**. **Denise Welvang** reported. She said we need to put aside money for the elections and we should be preparing to train someone to do it. **John Walker** said Bong Won Kim told him every NC should be prepared to contribute about 6 to 9 thousand dollars towards the election costs.
12. Outreach Committee Report by **Lisa Cahan-Davis**. **Lisa Cahan-Davis** reported that the Luminaria was a success. She wants to know how to go about holding a mayoral debate in the upcoming year. We should help sponsor such a debate. The banners are to go up March 2<sup>nd</sup>. We funded 42 poles at various locations throughout Studio City. They have 93 pole locations for one year. **John Walker** read the motion.

**MOTION: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council approves funding up to \$4,800 for the production and installation of an additional 90 street banners (45 poles). A total of 186 street banners (93 poles) will be produced and installed within Studio City boundaries from March 2, 2012 through February 27, 2013. Moved: Lisa Cahan-Davis. Second: Lisa Sarkin. Ben DiBenedetto** said the BID would like to have a dialogue on the putting up of banners. **John Walker** said he had spoken to Lorena Parker about it. The purpose of this is outreach for the SCNC. This is not for advertising businesses or the BID. He further stated that we are encumbered by the purpose of what we are doing. **Lisa Sarkin** said we would have to change the banners. She suggested that we should talk to them for next year. **Remy Kessler** said the total amount of money constitutes over 70 % of a year's budget. He is concerned we were ripped off on the first set of banners. He thinks this could jeopardize other projects that may come our way if we spend this much. **Lana Shackelford** stated that she agrees with both Lisa and Remy. We have a great opportunity here but she would like to know why the numbers are so different. **Lisa Cahan-Davis** responded that 140 is the price break. **Ron Taylor** said that it is standard for the first run is more expensive than subsequent runs. **Lisa Sarkin** said we need to do outreach. **Ben Di Benedetto** said that he agrees with Remy. **Richard Niederberg** said are we just preaching to the choir? **Ben Neumann** said we have already spent a lot of money on the project. He thinks we already have saturation. **John Walker** said our council spends less than three of the four

others that he had breakfast with recently. **John Walker** read the motion. **Vote: 7 yes; 4 opposed; 1 abstain. Motion Carries.**

13. Transportation Committee Report by **Ben Di Benedetto**. No report. Adjourned to special meeting.
14. Government Affairs Committee Report by **Jeffery Carter** and **Rita Villa**. See discussion at special meeting
15. Land Use Committee Report by **Lisa Sarkin**. **Lisa Sarkin** gave a report on the medical marijuana dispensaries discussion from the LUC meeting. See minutes of LUC attached. She stated that her committee voted for people to have access to medical marijuana but that is not what we are getting. There are 11 on Ventura Blvd. in Studio City, which is too many. There will be an advisory committee to establish conditions for these dispensaries. Ten people signed up for the committee. **Lisa Sarkin** also reported on the redistricting maps. She said that Barry Johnson came up with 15 districts that are concise that presentation was given to the redistricting committee today and the committee members were receptive. She also reported that as to the name change of the metro station, the Chair of the Valley Commission of Transportation said they had voted against the name change. There was no quorum at this meeting and the vote was postponed. **John Walker** stated that he has had many meetings about the redistricting. He has been advised that Studio City has been to be concerned about Studio City and not address other areas of the city. **Richard Niederberg** would like to be sure we have no opposition from the surrounding districts. He does not find opposition from anyone other than Toluca Lake. **Lisa Sarkin** said that their maps will come out on January 24<sup>th</sup>. There will be a meeting at Walter Reed on February 9<sup>th</sup>. Come out and support the plan.
16. Cultural Affairs Committee Report by **Richard Niederberg**. **Richard Niederberg** reported that there were no motions from their meeting and December 2<sup>nd</sup> is the date for the Luminaria for next year. There will be better lighting for the entertainers. He also reported that we are trying to partner with the Campo for a film series. He said that the committee is looking for an event to host at the Village Garden Amphitheater in order to serve people at that end of our district.
17. ByLaws & Procedures Committee Report by **Ron Taylor**. **Ron Taylor** reported that his committee is trying to define the categories of renter and residential. The bylaws have not yet been approved. Denise Welvang said at VANC Gracie Lu said they bylaws are not done.
18. Comments from Board Members on subject matters within the Board's jurisdiction. **John Walker** said he is changing the board and Committees. He will be making appointments to the board before the next board meeting. **Remy Kessler** asked about the lights at Radford where Trader Joes is located. He is concerned. There have now been 7 accidents at that location. **Lisa Sarkin** said Woodbridge has been repaired. **Remy Kessler** said they paved the corner of Moorpark and Tujunga.
19. Adjournment. **Moved:** Remy Kessler; **Second:** Ben Neumann; **Vote:** Unanimous. **Motion Carries.**