

**Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council
General Meeting
on
Tuesday, September 8, 2009
6:30pm – 8:30pm**

**Villa Scalabrini Retirement Center
10631 Vinedale Street
Sun Valley, CA 91352**

| Board Member | Title | Status |
|----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Mike O’Gara | President | Absent |
| Mary Benson | 1st Vice President | Absent |
| Elidia Vasquez | 2nd Vice President | Present |
| Karina Garcia Valles | Secretary | Absent |
| Julie Monroy | Treasurer | Present |
| Susan A. Bartlett | Board Member | Present |
| Jon Eshbach | Board Member | Absent |
| Stephen Franklin | Board Member | Present |
| Jerry Piro | Board Member | Absent |
| Luis O. Medina | Board Member | Present |
| Manuel “Manny” de la Torre | Board Member | Present |
| Angel Silva | Board Member | Absent |
| Lee McTaggart | Board Member | Absent |
| Rafael Cárdenas | Board Member | Absent |
| Carmen Perez | Board Member | Absent |
| Dionisio Alcala, Jr. | Board Member | Absence excused |
| Arthur “Art” Sweet | Board Member | Absent |
| Nicholas Dalton Powell | Board Member | Present |
| Nick Perdaris | Board Member | Absent |
| Frank Felix | Board Member | Absent |
| Samuel Palomino | Board Member | Present |

1. **Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call, SVANC Pledge**
 - The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
 - Elidia took roll call
2. **Opening Remarks** – None
3. **Emergency Personnel from Fire and Police Departments** - Esther Vasquez, Senior Lead Officer, and Officer Michelle Rodriguez, Senior Lead Officer, LAPD’s Foothill Division.
 - Reported that crime statistics for the area last year had about 20-30 crimes a week, but now it’s about 14 crimes a week. Violent crime is very low, but property crime is up with 4 stolen cars and 5 cars broken into.
 - Property crime is the majority of the crime in the area because cars are left unlocked, windows left open resulting in stolen radios or cars. Most of the stolen cars found in the area are joy rides and a couple of cars stripped for parts.

- Joy-ride crimes are done by youth and gang members teaching each other how to steal a car. Anytime you see something that does not look right, like someone dropping off a car and walking away, if you are able to get a description of a person or anything that might help the police, please call the Officers with the information.
- A double homicide, family related matter, occurred in the area last week.

4. Presentation/Announcements from Elected Officials or their Representatives-

- Olga Ayala, Tony Cárdenas' Office, announced the Watershed and Elmer Street projects. CD6 is working with Sun Valley Beautiful to work on other infiltration trenches at the corner of Sheldon and Laurel Canyon.
- CD6 is also working on a new Solar system program and on a new Lighting project, which was paid for with a grant. However, community homeowners' support is needed to pay for the cost of its maintenance in the future. A meeting will be held on Thursday, September 10, at 6:00 pm in Sun Valley Middle School to answer any questions regarding the Lighting Project.
- CD6 is doing a Coastal clean-up day this year, but the actual physical event will take place in Balboa park, and the cleaning (including bulky item free pick-up) will take place in Sun Valley and North Hollywood, on September 14 – 18, 2009.

5. Comments from DONE Representative – Barry Stone

- None

6. 7-11 Presentation- Pedro Carrillo, Anibal Guerrero and Fernando Diaz: team hired by 7-11; and Martha Krueger from 7-11

- The 7-11 team has talked, listened and taken thorough notes on the community members' and stakeholders' concerns. Some of the primary issues of concern to the community is the sale of alcohol; the sale of alcohol to minors; and that hiring will not be done locally
- Mr. Carrillo stated that 7-11 has a new model which represents being a good neighbor, having fresh food, convenience for everyone, making it a neighborhood store, hiring locally, etc.
- Martha Krueger stated that 7-11 stores prides themselves in being a neighborhood store, hiring people from the community and giving back to schools, libraries, the police and fire departments.
- Mr. Carrillo pointed out that the store has a new look, including open space with grass, trees and a clean look overall
- Ms. Krueger added that part of being a good neighbor was making the store secure for all the employees and customers, with more lights inside and outside, design, an interactive security/monitoring system which the police can monitor inside the store 24/7. Also part of the commitment to the community includes the training principles. 7-11 has a responsible come-of-age program as a responsible retailer, which is not just about alcohol, but it's about any age-restricted products.
- Ms. Krueger stated that 7-11's cash registers are like the grocery store's which scan everything. For example age-restricted products that are scanned require inputting a valid driver's license or passport that runs through the system, and if the document is counterfeit it will void the sale.
- Ms. Krueger also said that 7-11 has 'mystery shoppers' as part of the corporate function and shop for customer service, for friendliness, for being a responsible retailer whether it's regarding age restrictions or just making sure that it's a safe

environment, that all the lights and the equipment are working properly and the monitors are working safely.

- 7-11 has implemented a fresh food program which includes sandwiches, salads, bread, milk, bakery products, etc., everything is delivered daily through consolidated deliveries. This means that the entire product is loaded on one truck in order to avoid multiple truck trips.
- Nick asked if the security system would be monitored by the police or by the security company? A: By the security company. The store is equipped with a red phone which if knocked off the wall it sets off the alarm, and the employees have a 'panic-button' in their pocket (it's like a small remote).
- 7-11 has offered the police dept a sub-station at the store.
- The store will be located at the corner of Saticoy and Vineland
- Will the store sell liquor? A: This is yet to be determined; 7-11 is still working with the Councilman on this issue. No hard liquor will be sold, but the decision to sell beer and wine has not been made yet.
- It was asked if this new security system will detour people from hanging outside the store? A: There is a high police presence and a sub-station, it will detour people from hanging out.
- Mr. Carrillo stated that the other store does not have the system that this 7-11 is committed to installing at the new store. The cost of the interactive system is approximately \$50,000. It guarantees better response time and it's connected directly to the police department.
- Why do some of your stores have these features and others don't, especially in our community? A: It is not based on crime stats and what the needs of the City are and what the City is recommending when we go for a CUP. The City usually comes to us and say this is one of the things that we want you to have for this particular store and when it's requested by the police department for safety, or the community-wanting-a-better-safer store and if demanded at this particular store than at the other stores nearby, then we will do it.
- It was discussed in length why 7-11 will not have a security guard along with the new security system because of response-time concerns. The 7-11 team responded that the issue of response time in having or not having enough police presence in the community, is not a 7-11 issue, but instead is an issue with the LAPD.

7. Public Comment – the following members of the public spoke regarding the 7-11 proposal:

- Vena Santizo, lives on Saticoy and Vineland has been a member of the community for over 30 years, is concerned about people loitering and crime, and is against the proposal.
- Robert Sanchez, lives on Benny Avenue, passed out pictures which show people sleeping on the street, it's full of graffiti and there is no police response. He was an innocent-bystander from a drive-by-shooting at Jerry's Liquor. He is against the proposal.
- David Welsh, lives on Saticoy St and has lived in the community for 30 years, is against the 7-11, against having liquor sold 24 hours, and said that there are four 7-11 stores in a four mile radius from this proposed location. It will definitely affect the crime rate.
- Lucy Carrillo, lives on Vineland Ave, stated that there was a drive-by shooting just around the corner from the proposed location, that too many drunks loiter and insult

customers; she is against the opening of this 7-11 because the community does not need another liquor store in the area.

- Juan Orozco, lives near Sun Valley Middle School, stated that keeping alcohol and the store open 24 hours is not a good idea and that it will invite more loitering of kids to be out late at night.
- A. Castrellon, lives on Vineland, stated that having a 24-hour store selling alcohol is not a good idea.
- Sam stated that this is the first time that a group this large has spoken out regarding a project. He added that a petition with 1,100 signatures against the project will be submitted for the file.

8. Board Member Comments and Committee Reports

- None

9. Committee Reports:

- President: None
- Treasurer: None
- Land Use: None
- Environmental Justice: None

NEW BUSINESS:

ITEM 9: Review, correct and approve minutes from our AUGUST 11, 2009 meeting.

(Karina Vallas)

- Minutes approved, Julie M. made motion and was seconded by Nicholas.

ITEM 10: Motion/Discussion/Vote To appoint an Outreach Committee Chairperson, to do outreach for SVANC. Prepare mailers and E-mails to advise Stakeholders of Community happenings. Computer skills a must. O'Gara will assist. Also need helpers.

- Item was postponed to October's meeting.

ITEM 11: Motion/Discussion /Vote We need a Chairperson for the Election Committee Election to keep SVANC in compliance with the rules and regulations of the City Clerk for the Neighborhood Council Elections in March 2010. This person will interface with the office of the City Clerk and the DONE and coordinate mailers and publicity for the elections. Time lines on mailers must be met (O'Gara has files of past history) .

- Item was postponed to October's meeting.

ITEM 12 Motion/Discussion /Vote to We need help on the Planning Committee. We need members who are interested in attending planning meetings with SVANC and also downtown. Must be able to attend training meetings. Mary Benson Chairperson to assist.

- Sam Khalaf volunteered for Planning Committee
- This item should be included in October's agenda

ITEM 13: Motion/Discussion /Vote Need a co-chairperson for our Community Affairs committee. Duties are to aid stakeholders solve problems. We have two issues at present.

- Item was postponed to October's meeting.

ITEM 14: Motion/Discussion /Vote to support Poly High School in their Christmas toy drive. Not to exceed \$500. (Community Affairs budget)

- Poly students spoke re: toy drive and goals. They will be attending SVANC's meetings and volunteering to assist in community events as needed. (Elidia will forward contact information of the volunteers to Mike)
- Stephen made the motion and Nicholas seconded, 1 opposed (Julie)
- Motion carried

ITEM 15: Discussion and Possible Motion/Vote To approve letters to the Planning Dept with Comments from the SVANC Planning Committee on proposed planning issues in Sun Valley (MARY BENSON)

- Item was postponed to October's meeting.

ITEM 16: Public Comment –

- Two candidates requested endorsement for their CD2 Candidacy from members of the Board in their capacity as voting citizens, but not as Board members:
 - Mary Benson, who has been with the SVANC for five years, asked for volunteers to join the Land Use Committee.
 - Pete Sanchez, 17-year resident of Valley Village and President of the Valley Village HOA was endorsed by the Daily News.

ITEM 17: ADJOURNMENT – Julie made the motion and Susan & Stephen seconded it.