



**Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council**  
 8720 Sunland Blvd  
 Sun Valley CA 91353-0457  
 Telephone 818-767-8262

**Website:** [WWW.SVANC.COM](http://WWW.SVANC.COM)

**Regular Board Meeting MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, August 13, 2024**  
**6:00 pm – 7:50 pm**

**Meeting At**  
**Sun Valley Branch Library**  
 7935 Vineland Avenue  
 Sun Valley, CA 91352  
**Zoom Webinar ID #: 987 6658 0221**

\* No training sessions completed, not eligible to vote \*\*No funding training, not eligible to vote on fund matters

BOARD MEMBER		BOARD POSITION	PRESENT	ABSENT	NOT VOTING ELIGIBLE
Blandford, Ben	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President</b>	Residential Stakeholder Director	X		
Chávez, Norma O.	<b>President</b>	At-Large Stakeholder Director	X		
García, Rosalio		Residential Stakeholder Director	X		
Hill, Emilie A		Residential Stakeholder Director		X	
Sierra, Benjamin		Youth Representative	X		**
Sierra, Douglas		Business Stakeholder Director	X		
Tascian, Leticia		Senior Representative Director	X		
Thum, Wendy		Residential Stakeholder Director		X	
Vacas, Monica		Business Stakeholder Director	X		
Valle, Cindy I.	<b>Treasurer</b>	Business Stakeholder Director	X		
Venegas, Eddie	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President</b>	Business Property Director		X	
Virgen, Symbria	<b>Secretary</b>	Business Stakeholder Director	X		
<b>TOTAL: 12</b>	<b>Quorum: 7 (at least one officer)</b>	<b>9 Present, 3 Absent, 0 Ineligible</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>

**ITEM 1:** Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call, Code of Civility

Norma O. Chávez, president, called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. and began the meeting by leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken by secretary Symbria Virgen and quorum was established with 9 members present at the time of roll call.

**ITEM 2: Opening Remarks (President)**

Ms. Chávez thanked officers, Deputy Chief, and Sergeants for coming to National Night Out. She also thanked Daniel’s Tacos for staying to the end of the event.

**ITEM 3: EMERGENCY** Personnel from Fire and Police departments will always be allowed to address the Board when they are ready in order to facilitate their schedule.

**B.** Senior Lead Officer Eric Perez, [38338@lapd.online](mailto:38338@lapd.online), mobile (818) 634-0755

- There has been an increase in Grand Theft Autos (GTAs). People leave cars running. Officer Perez suggested people always take their keys with them and not leave keys in the vehicle.

- Attempted burglary at a Pharmacy in the community 8-12-24. The cage and alarm prevented the burglary, but Pharmacy was left with \$10,000 in damages due to the vandalism. Suspects were pursued South Bound on the 5 freeway. Police discontinued the pursuit.

**C. Senior Lead Officer Cesar Contreras, [36373@lapd.online](mailto:36373@lapd.online), mobile (818) 634-0854**

- Brush fires.
- Businesses having multiple break ins. Juice Bar had multiple break ins.
- Glen Crest Hills had so many burglaries that they now have a patrols.
- Start of school means more traffic problems. Take precaution. Patrols in the area for the first week of school.
- Cannabis businesses has a high concentration, take a picture and make reports to Cannabis Regulation if something does not seem right. During grand openings for Cannabis business, streets are closed and security not in compliance. Those businesses can be fined. If they have a provisional license it will make it difficult for them to get a permanent license if there are fines on their record.
- Chávez stated that Empower LA did not send about hearings and reviews. She asked the Cannabis Regulations Representative to come to November meeting. It is unclear how many have been approved. Wanted to know how much input we can give.
- Perez stated that a Boss permit was provided to the Cannabis business on De Garmo.
- Coffee with the Cops on Thursday at the Japanese Center. Presentations will discuss how to keep the community safe.

**ITEM 4: Presentation / Announcements from elected officials or their representatives**

Some of the elected officials' representatives were unable to share their updates because they were waiting online to join via zoom, but zoom continued to malfunction.

**A. Rebecca Gurrola (Councilwoman Imelda Padilla, [rebecca.gurrola@lacity.org](mailto:rebecca.gurrola@lacity.org) )**

- Updates on unhoused clean ups. Penrose/ 5 freeway visited encampments.
- August 24 will visit 5 encampment locations. Tuxford/Borden. Telfair/Tuxford. Haddon/Lankershim/Tuxford (CAO dwelling vehicle care +). Heins/ Web/ Strathern. San Fernando/ Vine.
- Randal/Glenoaks CAO dwelling vehicle, date to be determined.
- Letter sent to GM of LA Sanitation encampments reduced but the RV's come back.
- 8-15-24 Motion was made to prohibit RV's in residential, business, and commercial areas.
- Stronger lights from LA Sanitation
- SVANC was commended for the National Night Out and was presented with a certificate.
- Questions from the public- Woman asked if the process to relocated the unhoused is quick or long process? Rebecca explained that even when help is offered sometimes unhoused individuals decline the help. Care + helps provide permanent housing and get important documents like license and social security number. Allows for more accountability and independence.
- Questions from Zoom- Rudy Melendez: 170 freeway Roscoe Blvd on and off ramp need to be cleaned up. Jennifer: Cal Works and homeless assistance. Doesn't feel that there is enough outreach. Vacas: Asked what should be done when the unhoused do not want help?

**C. Betsaira Aguilera (L.A. Mayor Karen Bass, [betsaira.aguilera@lacity.org](mailto:betsaira.aguilera@lacity.org), (213) 257-0224)**

- Economics Development for small businesses at CSUN September 12 from 8am-12:30pm.
- Completion of School Slow Zones to make schools safer with hump. LAUSD took action to make streets safer at 180 intersections, at 40 schools. 500 crossing guards were hired.

E. Savannah Portillo Heap (Office of LA County Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath, 3rd District, [SPortillo@lacounty.bos.gov](mailto:SPortillo@lacounty.bos.gov) (213) 595-9198)

- Thanked SVANC for hosting Coffee with Horvath last month.
- Reform pack first change in a century. Chief executive office would be appointed. Expand from 5 to 9 supervisors. Passed and on ballot to be voted on.
- Rory Shaw project has interim improvements like native plants and tube fences based on community feedback.
- Latino Heritage September 15 Resource Fair Isana performance.
- LA Opera at El Cariso telecast Madame Butterfly and Isana to perform.
- Questions- Vacas: Asked if the mounds at Rory Shaw would be leveled. Savannah responded the mounds will be lowered so native plants can be planted. Rudy (Zoom): Asked what is to be done to provide support for the unhoused? Why hasn't there been more progress with Rory Shaw? Savannah suggested to call the office for more details regarding outreach support for unhoused. In regards to Rory Shaw it was never fully funded. Must borrow funds from state. \$4 million approved for steel fencing and native plants.

H. Diana Oganessian, Natalie Vartanian (Office of LA County Supervisor Kathryn Barger, 5th District, [doganessian@bos.lacounty.gov](mailto:doganessian@bos.lacounty.gov) , [navartanian@bos.lacounty.gov](mailto:navartanian@bos.lacounty.gov) )

- Approved a motions, Sheriff Juvenile records will be sealed.
- Motion for Hollywood Bowls \$1 tickets on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.
- Currently on summer recess.

J. Alina (Budget Advocate, )

- Two meetings postponed to start training for departments.

**ITEM 5:**Comments from the Empower LA Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate (NEA) Lorenzo Briceno ([lorenzo.briceno@lacity.org](mailto:lorenzo.briceno@lacity.org))

- Absent.

**ITEM 6:**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS which are within the Board's subject-matter jurisdiction (comments only, no discussion).

- Comment made on Randal clean up. Large public works building for special trash like oil, medical waste, etc. Open 9am-3pm. Considered an important location.
- Celeste Rodriguez congratulated SVANC on National Night Out. Rodriguez is the Mayor of San Fernando. Candidate for Assembly District 43.
- Lionel advocated for more shade for bus and train stops.

**ITEM 7:**Board Member Comment on matters within the Board's subject-matter jurisdiction that DO NOT appear on the agenda (comments only, no discussion). There was no board member commentary.

- Valle congratulated Eddie for the National Night Out.
- Vacas commented that SVANC brought in 30 booths. Eddie brought in support for the event. It was a group effort.
- Chávez expressed that the event went well but there are many regulations with communication which makes it hard to plan an event. Vacas's connections helped pay for many vendors. Hopes that city can change regulations to board can get together once an event is approved. Hopes there are more events that are rewarding.

**For ITEMS 8 through 9:** The applicant will make his/her candidate statement. A brief question and answer session will be held after which, a vote will be taken. If appointed, the applicant will be seated on the Board and will have full privileges including the ability to vote, except on funding matters. The new Board member will then read the SVANC Code of Civility which will serve as the Oath of Office.

**ITEM 8: Motion / Discussion / Vote** to approve the appointment of Yudicela Carrasco to a Residential Stakeholder open seat, term ends on 2027 (Chávez, Elections) 9 vote yes approved.

- Carrasco stated that she has been a resident of Sun Valley for 30 years. Wants to discover community more and get to know more people within the community. Self employed owns own business.
- Chávez asked Carrasco what committee she wants to be on? Carrasco responded she wants to discover which one.

<b>Yes-09</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> R. Garcia 2 <sup>nd</sup> Cindy I. Valle	<b>No - 00</b>	<b>Recused-00</b>	<b>Not Eligible - 00</b>	<b>Absent - 03</b>
Blandford,Chávez, R.Garcia,B. Sierra, D. Sierra, Tascian, Vacas, Valle, Virgen	NONE	NONE	NONE	Hill, Thum, Venegas

**ITEM 9: Motion / Discussion / Vote** to approve the appointment of Kelly Arreola to a Senior Representative Stakeholder open seat, term ends on June 30, 2025 (Chávez, Elections) Motion passes.

- Arreola originally from Texas. Is a type A personality. Interested in Beautification and logistics.
- D. Sierra asked what brings her to Sun Valley? Arreola said people in Sun Valley are nice, reminds her of living in El Paso.

<b>Yes-10</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> R. Garcia 2 <sup>nd</sup> Valle	<b>No - 00</b>	<b>Recused-00</b>	<b>Not Eligible - 00</b>	<b>Absent - 03</b>
Blandford, Carrasco,Chávez, R.Garcia,B. Sierra, D.Sierra, Tascian, Vacas, Valle, Virgen	NONE	NONE	NONE	Hill, Thum, Venegas

**ITEM 10: Discussion / Possible Action** to appoint the 2024-2025 committee chairs / committee members / representatives to city wide coalitions/alliances/meetings- One vote for all.

- A. Planning and Land Use Management – one member: Carrasco Self Nominated
- B. Homelessness – chair, two members: Chair Vacas self nominated, member Arreola nominated by Vacas, member Hill nominated by Vacas (Chávez commented that should wait for Hill to return to see if she will accept nomination)
- C. Homelessness liaison – one person from the homelessness committee
- D. Elections – two members: Vacas self nominated
- D. Elections – two members- Tascian and Carrasco
- E. Bylaws- Tascian nominated by Chávez
- F. Beautification- member confirmation: Arreola nominated by Valle. Valle stated that Hill has not confirmed acceptance of nomination. There are 2 cleanups scheduled and need an involved member. Motion Passes.

<b>Yes-11</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Cindy I. Valle 2 <sup>nd</sup> R. Garcia	<b>No - 00</b>	<b>Recused-00</b>	<b>Not Eligible - 00</b>	<b>Absent - 03</b>
Arreola, Blandford, Carrasco, Chávez, R.Garcia, B. Sierra, D.Sierra, Tascian, Vacas, Valle, Virgen	NONE	NONE	NONE	Hill, Thum, Venegas

**ITEM 11: Motion / Discussion / Vote** to approve providing Glenwood Elementary School with volunteer support for the renovation of their school garden area, Saturday date in August/September TBD. (Hill) Tabled

**ITEM 12: Motion / Discussion / Vote** to approve spending up to \$100 on water and snacks for volunteers at Glenwood Elementary School's garden renovation day, if the immediate preceding motion is passed. (Hill) Tabled

**ITEM 13: Motion / Discussion / Vote** to approve community cleanup Phase I along the San Fernando Rd. Bike Path from Branford St. to Sunland Blvd. on September 7, 2024 from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm in partnership with CD6, the Pacoima Neighborhood Council, and with local businesses to provide food and beverages for the volunteers (Valle, Beautification) Motion passes.

<b>Yes-11</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> <b>Vacas</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> <b>R. Garcia</b>	<b>No - 00</b>	<b>Recused-00</b>	<b>Not Eligible - 00</b>	<b>Absent - 03</b>
Arreola, Blandford, Carrasco, Chávez, R. Garcia, B. Sierra, D. Sierra, Tascian, Vacas, Valle, Virgen	NONE	NONE	NONE	Hill, Thum, Venegas

**ITEM 14: Motion / Discussion / Vote** to approve community cleanup Phase II along the San Fernando Rd. Bike Path from Sunland Blvd. to Arvilla St. on September 14, 2024 from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm in partnership with CD2 and with local businesses to provide food and beverages for the volunteers (Valle, Beautification) Motion passes.

<b>Yes-11</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> <b>R. Garcia</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> <b>Vacas</b>	<b>No - 00</b>	<b>Recused-00</b>	<b>Not Eligible - 00</b>	<b>Absent - 03</b>
Arreola, Blandford, Carrasco, Chávez, R. Garcia, B. Sierra, D. Sierra, Tascian, Vacas, Valle, Virgen	NONE	NONE	NONE	Hill, Thum, Venegas

Vacas Left after vote on Item 14 at 7:30pm.

**Item 15: Motion / Discussion / Vote** to approve payment to Insight Investments LLC for the lease of the copier for the months of July, August, September, October, November, December, January, February, March, and June from Fiscal Year 2023-2024 with funds from Fiscal Year 2024-2025 for a total of \$790.60. (Chávez, Valle, Finance) Motion passes.

- Chávez stated that LADWP was not providing the bill and therefore it cannot be paid for if there is no notification.

<b>Yes-6</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> <b>R. Garcia</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> <b>Valle</b>	<b>No - 01</b>	<b>Recused-00</b>	<b>Not Eligible - 03</b>	<b>Absent - 04</b>
Blandford, Chávez, R. Garcia, Tascian, Valle, Virgen	D. Sierra	NONE	Arreola, Carrasco, B. Sierra	Hill, Thum, Vacas, Venegas,

**Item 16: Motion / Discussion / Vote** to approve the amended 2024-2025 Admin Packet to include the rollover funds for \$135.62 from FY 2023-2024 (Valle, Finance) Motion Passes.

<b>Yes-7</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> <b>R. Garcia</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> <b>Valle</b>	<b>No - 00</b>	<b>Recused-00</b>	<b>Not Eligible - 03</b>	<b>Absent - 03</b>
Blandford, Chávez, R. Garcia, D. Sierra, Tascian, Valle, Virgen	NONE	NONE	Arreola, Carrasco, B. Sierra	Hill, Thum, Vacas, Venegas

**Item 17: Motion / Discussion / Vote** to approve a letter/resolution/CIS (community impact statement) to be submitted to the Department of Cannabis Regulation regarding the permanent cannabis retail license for Exhalence located at 10467 Roscoe Blvd., Sun Valley, CA 91352. Motion Passes.

- Chávez stated that the business has been a good neighbor.
- Lionel stated that the council should not approve because board members have expressed that they are against cannabis businesses.
- Chávez stated that it is not a new cannabis business.

<b>Yes-08</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> <b>R. Garcia</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> <b>Valle</b>	<b>No - 00</b>	<b>Abstain-02</b>	<b>Recused-00</b>	<b>Not Eligible - 00</b>	<b>Absent - 04</b>
Arreola, Blandford, Carrasco, Chávez, R. Garcia, Tascian, Valle, Virgen	NONE	B. Sierra, D. Sierra	NONE	NONE	Hill, Thum, Vacas, Venegas

**ITEM 18: Motion / Discussion / Vote** to approve a letter/resolution/CIS (community impact statement) to be submitted to Council File 24-0867 regarding the neighborhood council bylaws / youth participation / diversity increase / leadership growth. Motion Passes.

- Chávez stated that NC's should be able to change their bylaws. NC's are supposed to be independent. If there is a term limit, in SunValley it would be hard to get people to serve. The position may be left unfilled. If people are serving is because the community voted the person to fill that position.
- D. Sierra was neutral on the term limit. If we can't fill a spot and someone wants to serve, don't stop them. Agreed with the youth seat that it provides an opportunity to know what it's like to serve on a board. Some youth members have gone on to be accepted to Berkley.
- Blandford agreed with youth seat but questioned but what if the city council decides to dictate and takes power from NC's.

<b>Yes-09</b> <b>1st Valle 2nd Blandford</b>	<b>No - 00</b>	<b>Abstain-01</b>	<b>Recused-00</b>	<b>Not Eligible - 00</b>	<b>Absent - 04</b>
Arreola, Blandford, Carrasco, Chávez, R.Garcia, B. Sierra, Tascian, Valle, Virgen	NONE	D. Sierra	NONE	NONE	Hill, Thum, Vacas, Venegas

**Note:** Consent calendar items are considered to be non-controversial and will be treated as one agenda item. There will be no discussion on these items unless an item is removed from the consent calendar, in which case it will be considered as time allows on the regular agenda. Any member of the Board may request that an item be removed.

**ITEM 19:** Consent Calendar: one motion and one vote. All in Favor. Motion Passes.

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on April 9, 2024 (Venegas)
- B. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on May 14, 2024 (Chávez)
- C. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on June 11, 2024 (Chávez)
- D. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on July 9, 2024 (S. Virgen)
- E. Approval of the Monthly Expenditure Report for July 2024 (C. Valle)

- Items A and D were removed.

**ITEM 20:** Report by the 2024-2025 Committee Chairs and Community Liaisons:

A. Standing Committees

1. Outreach/Community Affairs – Douglas Sierra
2. Finance and Budget – Cindy I. Valle
3. Beautification – Cindy I. Valle
4. Planning and Land Use (PLUM) – Norma O. Chávez
5. Public Safety/Emergency Preparedness – Eddie Venegas

B. Ad Hoc Committees:

1. Environmental – Wendy Thum
2. Homelessness – Monica Vacas
3. Bylaws – Norma O. Chávez
4. Elections – Norma O. Chávez

C. City-wide community liaisons:

1. LANCC – Norma O. Chávez

2. VANC – Eddie Venegas, Ben Blandford (alternate)
3. NCEPA – Cindy I. Valle, Eddie Venegas
4. PLANCHECKNC – Norma O. Chávez, Ben Blandford
5. NCBA – Cindy I. Valle, Rosalío García
6. C-PAB – Norma O. Chávez, Rosalío García
7. Homelessness Liaison – vacant
8. NCSA – Cindy Valle
9. LADWP-NC MOU – Symbria Virgen

[https://ladwp-jtti.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2024/08/05161947/Stormwater-Capture-Parks-Project\\_2024.08.03.pdf](https://ladwp-jtti.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2024/08/05161947/Stormwater-Capture-Parks-Project_2024.08.03.pdf)

[https://ladwp-jtti.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2024/08/05161546/JFB-Modernization\\_2024.08.03.pdf](https://ladwp-jtti.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2024/08/05161546/JFB-Modernization_2024.08.03.pdf)

<https://ladwp-jtti.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2024/08/05163735/John-Ferraro-Building-Refurbishment-2026-Revised.pdf>

<https://ladwp-jtti.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2024/08/05164018/John-Ferraro-Building-Depopulation-Plan-April-9-2024.pdf>

**ITEM 21:** Public Comment on matters within the Executive Board’s subject-matter jurisdiction that DO NOT appear on the agenda (comments only, no discussion) No public commentary. None.

**ITEM 22:** Board Members Announcements on matters within the Executive Board’s subject-matter jurisdiction that DO NOT appear on the agenda (comments only, no discussion). None.

**ITEM 22: Adjournment @ 7:50 pm;** All in favor  
(Please see attachment for full meeting)

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/UGtWY5pwLHHBoNkd9IKnpi\\_ps-AMljUiojancYmpmX6DTbF1tBHvr8tRblc5bUhZ.gxQHKuL\\_8oNSkKbz](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/UGtWY5pwLHHBoNkd9IKnpi_ps-AMljUiojancYmpmX6DTbF1tBHvr8tRblc5bUhZ.gxQHKuL_8oNSkKbz)

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**PUBLIC ACCESS OF RECORDS –** 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 in the window of our OFFICE 8720 Sunland Blvd, Sun Valley, CA 91352 and on our website: [www.SVANC.com](http://www.SVANC.com) or at the scheduled meeting.

**Translation Services -** To ensure availability of Services or to request at least 3 business days prior to this council by contacting [secretary@SVANC.COM](mailto:secretary@SVANC.COM)

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