

**SAFE TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES, TUES, 2/27/24**

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, 6:05 PM: Welcome by STAT Chairperson Pat Kramer.

Quorum of three met with: Chair Pat Kramer, Co-chair Jon von Gunten, and Leny Freeman. Also attending were: Cindy Cleghorn, STNC Board, Ross Herman, STNC Board, Justin Grams, Susan Denning, Lionel Mares, Rudy Melendez and David Milton, Candidate for DA.

2. APPROVAL OF THE STAT Meeting minutes, January 2024

(Von Gunten/Freeman) moved approval. The motion carried.

3. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Cindy Cleghorn asked who to contact about an open tree well by El Pollo Loco.

Susan Denning suggested a call to Street Services.

Lionel Mares stated that land development density is a concern and impacts traffic safety. He mentioned that LADOT will reopen Speed Hump Applications on March 21, 2024. Jon said he would help publicize this application process explaining that often the quota is filled very early the same day.

4. Updates : CD7, LAPD, LADOT:

Jon gave the most recent LAPD crime stats for S-T:

- Rape and Homicide: -100%
- Robbery -50%
- Total Violent crimes is down -33%
- Burglary from motor vehicles is down -72%
- Personal Theft down -54%
- Total Property Crimes down -43%
- The worst current issue is Grand Theft Auto, up +42%.

Pat shared traffic stats from LADOT:

- There were four fatal crashes on Sunland Blvd. from 2018 to 9/30/23.
- 13 fatal crashes also occurred on Foothill Blvd. in Sunland-Tujunga: 3 pedestrian, 10 vehicles, between Wentworth and Lowell.
- Since then, in Oct '23 there were two fatalities in Tujunga, both vehicles vs pedestrians.
- And on Feb. 25, 2024, there was another fatality in February: a 73-year-old man crossing Foothill, hit by a car.

Pat reported Officer Veneges's explanation that the motor vehicles that hit the pedestrians were not charged as pedestrians may not interfere with the flow of traffic.

Foothill Division now has the highest fatality rate in Los Angeles. S-T has highest in Foothill!

5. CHAIR REPORT: Updates from STNC board meeting.

Subsumed under other items.

6. Review of updated letter to Mayor Karen Bass and Interim Police Chief Choi re proposal

from Stakeholder Justin Grams: "As a stakeholder in Sunland-Tujunga, I would like our local neighborhood council or subcommittee to contact the mayor and the chief of police to request that additional police resources (both traffic and patrol vehicles) from CD1 and CD13 be reapportioned to our district."

Jon says that, regardless of politicians verbiage, input from LAPD officers says Division Captains will

be loath to give up officers as doing so will raise their crime stats, on which they are judged very strictly. Justin pointed out it's been five months since he first suggested this. Cindy suggested getting it out asap to Interim Police Chief Dominic Choi and Mayor Bass as LA is in the budget mode. It was agreed that updates are needed to the letter with all Council Districts being informed.

7. Discussion: Set date for Traffic Town Hall with Cheryl Schmidt, Public Safety Chair

We are to schedule a Traffic Town Hall, must be approved by Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council Board. Suggested dates are April 13 Noon OR Wed Ap 17th evening. Perhaps hold at Tujunga Methodist or Lady of Lourdes.

8. Committee Member Reports:

Ricardo Flores of CD7 offered to provide trees with water from NVCH. If not, Crescenta Valley Park recreation manager said they would be glad to help. Leny says he can donate water and others could too, as it's just a few dollars.

Tentative dates, Saturdays May 11th or 18th. 18th more probable. Pat will coordinate with Sierra Club.

9. Public Comment

Rudy Melendez candidate for CD2, gave his campaign statement: He supports the NC system, is anti-HLA, as another "road diet." Says instead we should get cyclists into local washes and off of streets. Says HLA requires when any repaving occurs, it must include a bike lane or public transportation. City lies to say its no cost. See *LAist* article.

Discussion should we publish a press release? Likely not, as too late.

We should all promote voting in this Primary Election.

David Milton, DA candidate against Gascón spoke. He is the only Republican, has been judge, prosecutor, drafted two death penalty bills. As prosecutor, got two death verdicts, tough on crime and fair-minded. Three of the candidates are plants, fallbacks if Gascón fails.

10. Set next date for STAT: March 26, 2024, 6:00 pm

11. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

-Minutes by Jon von Gunten -