



FRIENDS OF SUNSET PARK

A California nonprofit corporation of Sunset Park residents • Box 5823, Santa Monica, California 90409-5823 • FriendsofSP@yahoo.com

MAY 2014 NEWSLETTER

Layout by Bill Josephs

FRIENDS OF SUNSET PARK ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, May 17, 2014

1:30 to 3:30 PM

Mt. Olive Church, 14th & Ocean Park Blvd.



Speakers

David Goddard — Santa Monica Airport Commission

Dr. Nancy Greenstein — Santa Monica College Board of Trustees

Armen Melkonians — Founder of Residocracy.org



Refreshments, Music, and Door Prizes



Vote for the 2014–15 Board of Directors



FRIENDS of
Sunset Park

1) In order to vote, you will need to be an FOSP member by May 7th, ten days before the election.

A membership form is on the last page of the newsletter.

2) Current members can renew their memberships at the meeting.

3) If you received this newsletter by mail, the mailing label will have the date when you last paid dues.

Bogus Airport “Anti-Development” Petition: DO NOT SIGN!!

CATHY LARSON

FOSP AIRPORT COMMITTEE CHAIR

Two days after the City Council directed city staff on March 25th to return to them by the end of 2014 with options to reduce operations at the Santa Monica Airport, three Santa Monica residents filed a “Notice of Intent to Circulate a Petition” with the City Clerk in order to place an initiative on the November ballot. Of the three filers, it seems that Lauren McCollum is a real estate executive who formerly worked in the aerospace industry, Nikos Kokotakis is an actor, and Flora Yin is an attorney at a law firm that specializes in ballot measures.

Although the initiative’s supporters are selling it as an “anti-development” initiative, it really is an attempt, supported by the 400,000-member Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), to keep the “status quo” at Santa Monica Airport.

If the initiative supporters collect enough valid signatures (9,200) in a 180-day period, it will become a ballot measure. And, if the ballot measure is approved by voters in November 2014, it will amend the City Charter by requiring voter approval for potential changes at SMO including: expanding park space and playing fields; reducing the runway length to alleviate negative safety and environment impacts on the surrounding neighborhoods; or bringing current far-below-market-rate leases for city-owned

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Bogus Airport Petition , continued from page 1

airport properties up to economically sustainable levels. (The airport is not financially self-sustaining and has to be subsidized by the City's general fund.)

It seems that changes of any type at the airport would require a ballot measure and might also make the city subject to frivolous lawsuits.

The City Council voted unanimously on March 25 to direct staff to begin an Airport Concept Plan, specifying that any future uses must be low-key. Don't let scaremongers persuade you that the City Council wants to turn Santa Monica Airport into another Playa Vista.

Signature gathering has already begun door-to-door and at local grocery stores. **DO NOT BE FOOLED** by paid signature gatherers who may approach you. This initiative is **NOT A GRASSROOTS** anti-development movement similar to the recent Residocracy-sponsored petition.

Several Santa Monica resident organizations have already voted to oppose the initiative, including the boards of Friends of Sunset Park, Santa Monica Mid City Neighbors, and Santa Monicans for Renters Rights.

**SPREAD THE WORD:
TELL YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS NOT TO SIGN!!**

Residocracy Update

On April 18, 2014, the County Registrar sent the official Hines/Bergamot Referendum signature verification results to the Santa Monica City Clerk, and the City Clerk certified the Referendum as successful.

Here Are the Numbers

A total of 6,525 valid signatures were required in 30 days to stop the Hines/Bergamot project (with its 7,000 new daily car trips) that the City Council approved on February 11, 2014.

13,512 signatures were gathered by more than 350 Residocracy volunteers and other community groups and submitted to the City Clerk on March 11, 2014.

The County Registrar reviewed 8,434 of the 13,512 signatures and determined that 6,643 were valid, and therefore sufficient (more than the required 6,525 signatures) to certify the Referendum.

What Happens Next at City Council?

After accepting the certification at the City Council hearing on April 22, 2014, the City Council directed the City staff to place on a future City Council agenda (probably May 13) an item to either repeal the Hines/Bergamot Transit Village development agreement ordinance, set a special election for the Referendum, or place the Referendum on the Regular Municipal Election ballot on November 4, 2014. Mayor Pam O'Connor was quoted in the *Santa Monica Daily Press* saying, "It's wonderful that 10,000 people signed it...That means there are 45,000 registered voters in Santa Monica who have not weighed in on it. So, we will see where we go on this in the future."

Sign up at www.Residocracy.org to receive further updates.

Recycle Your Old Unusable Clothes Year-Round

The City of Santa Monica is hosting USAgain textile recycling bins in three locations for the recycling of old clothes, bedding, shoes, and other fabrics. (If the material is reusable, please consider donating it to a local charity first.)

The following locations have textile recycling bins accessible to residents year-round:

- Animal Shelter, 1640 9th Street
- City Hall, 1685 Main Street
- City Yards, 2500 Michigan Avenue

Although textile recycling hasn't received the same attention as glass, paper and plastic recycling, the fact is that it's equally necessary. This is a very important step toward developing a "zero waste" city.

If you would like a textile bin to be placed outside of your business or large apartment building, please contact the Resource Recovery and Recycling Division at 310-458-2223 or email Recycling@smgov.net for more information.

Making Santa Monica Safer, One Block at a Time

Neighborhood Watch is a partnership between the Police Department and residents. It provides you the opportunity to get to know your neighbors, and it allows officers to get to know you and your neighborhood.

SMPD Crime Prevention Coordinators will show you how to protect yourself, your neighbors, and your property from crime. Statistical data, along with criminals themselves, confirm that when neighbors organize, the opportunity for crime is drastically reduced.

The goals of the Neighborhood Watch Program are to:

- Prevent crime by improving security, increasing vigilance, and creating and maintaining a caring community in an effort to reduce the opportunities for crime.
- Assist the police in detecting crime by promoting effective two-way communication and prompt reporting of suspected criminal activity.
- Reduce undue fear of crime by providing accurate information about crime risks, and by promoting a sense of security and community spirit, particularly among more vulnerable members of the community.
- Enhance the police-community partnership by providing effective communications through the Neighborhood Watch Block Captains via email, fax, phone, or mail regarding local crime trends.

The Crime Prevention Coordinator newly assigned to the Sunset Park neighborhood is Lauralee Asch. You can contact her at lauralee.asch@smgov.net or at 310-458-8618.

Planning Update

Draft Zoning Ordinance

The Draft Zoning Ordinance has been released for review and comment. The document and all related materials are posted at <http://www.smgov.net/Departments/PCD/Zoning/Zoning-Update/> Hard copies are also available for review at City libraries, and by purchase at the Planning Counter in City Hall.

This will implement the city's Land Use and Circulation Element (LUCE), adopted in 2010. Planning Commissioners have been discussing the draft ordinance since December and will continue through May.

Planning Commission agendas are posted at <http://www.smgov.net/Departments/PCD/Boards-Commissions/Planning-Commission/>

Comments can be sent to denise.smith@smgov.net.

A community meeting will held in late spring or early summer, and the ordinance will be presented to City Council for review and discussion in late summer.

Draft Downtown Specific Plan

The Draft Downtown Specific Plan was published in February 2014 for public review and discussion. It includes urban form, circulation, open space, arts and culture, economic sustainability, housing, and historic preservation. The Plan is posted at <http://www.smgov.net/Departments/PCD/Plans/Downtown-Specific-Plan/> Hard copies are also available for review at City libraries and at City Hall. Comments can be sent to kyle.ferstead@smgov.net. Additional information is available at <http://www.smgov.net/departments/pcd/>

Reminders

Report sightings of coyotes and other invasive wildlife to the city's Animal Shelter at shelter@smgov.net or 310-458-8594.

Police

- Non-emergency dispatch – 310-458-8491
- Neighborhood Resource Officer Artis Williams – artis.williams@smgov.net
- Crime Prevention Officer Lauralee Asch – lauralee.aschsm@gov.net
- Graffiti Hotline – 310-458-2231
- Recycling Theft Hotline – 310-458-4932
- Crime mapping: <http://gismap.santa-monica.org/crimeviewcommunity/>

SM Airport

- Noise Hotline – 310-458-8692
- Email noise complaints to noise@smgov.net and include the date, time, your location, and complaint
- Additional info at <http://www.smgov.net/Departments/Airport/>

Identity Theft

SMPD NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCE OFFICER

ARTIS WILLIAMS

As we file our taxes at this time of year, we often throw away papers we no longer need. Please make sure you shred any files or papers that contain personal information about yourself or family members.

Anything that has names, date of birth, Social Security numbers (even partial numbers), tax ID numbers (both personal and business), account numbers, or any unique information that identifies you or family members, should be shredded before discarding in the trash.

Identity theft is at an all-time high, so buying a shredder (the confetti type is best) is a smart investment.

I recently received a call from a resident who told me he had seen individuals going through trash containers near his home and opening trash bags to remove papers.

Individuals have also removed entire trash bags from trash containers and left the area, presumably to sort through the contents later and look for personal information that could be used in identity theft.

Removing items (both trash and recyclables) from city-owned containers is illegal. To report such theft, call SMPD Dispatch at 310-458-8491.

If you have any questions, you can contact me via e-mail or telephone.

Artis Williams, Neighborhood Resource Officer, Beat 2

Santa Monica Police Department

310-458-2201 ext. 4137 (office)

424-200-0687 (cell)

artis.williams@smgov.net

Senior Exemption: Measure R

On February 5, 2008, the voters of Santa Monica and Malibu approved by 73% the Measure R parcel tax, which contains a CPI-U adjustment, and allows those senior citizens who qualify to be exempted from the tax if they:

- Are 65 years old by June 30, 2014,
- Own and occupy their property as their primary residence, and
- Annually apply for exemption.

How to Apply

- Seniors who applied for and received the exemption should have received their 2014-15 Renewal Form in the mail in April. It needs to be completed, signed, and returned by June 30, 2014.
- First-time applicants may call 310-450-8338, ext. 70263, to request an application, or print the Application for Exemption from the school district website at <http://www.smmusd.org/fiscal/pdf/MeasureRApplcation.pdf>

Completed and signed applications must be returned, along with required proofs of age and property ownership, to:

Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District

ATTN: Measure R Senior Exemption

1651 16th Street

Santa Monica, CA 90404-3891

Applications must be received and/or postmarked by June 30, 2014.

Santa Monica Festival Clover Park, June 14, 11 AM to 6 PM

2014 marks the 23rd annual Santa Monica Festival – a celebration of all that is unique in one of Southern California’s most innovative cities and favorite beachside destinations. Showcasing sustainable living and culture through an array of fun, family-friendly activities, and performances, this free festival provides an opportunity for residents and visitors to come together, and celebrate Santa Monica.

Co-presented by the City of Santa Monica’s Cultural Affairs Division and the Office of Sustainability and the Environment, the festival reflects the intersection of art and the environment.

Bike Valet – Bike to the Festival and use the free and safe Bike Valet located at 25th Street and Ocean Park Blvd.

Where to Park – Free parking will be available at 2701 Ocean Park Blvd., 2716 Ocean Park Blvd., and 2600 Ocean Park Blvd.

Accessibility – Clover Park and its bathrooms are wheelchair accessible. Much of the festival will be accessible from the sidewalk that winds through the park, but some booths and the stage will be located in grassy areas. Handicap parking is available in the flat lot at 2716 Ocean Park Blvd., and there’s a gate connecting that to the park. There will also be a drop-off/pick-up point at the entrance to the Clover Park parking lot on the south side of Ocean Park Blvd. between 25th and 28th Streets.

The festival will have music and dance performances, do-it-yourself art workshops, earth-friendly artistic vendors with goods from “around the block and around the planet,” local service offerings by the City, environmental and local non-profit organizations (including Friends of Sunset Park – stop by our booth!).

There will be food trucks and carts, as well as cooking demos from local chefs.

Additional information is available at

http://www.smgov.net/uploadedFiles/Portals/Culture/Events/Festival_Fact_Sheet.pdf

Upcoming City Meetings

May 7 – Rent Control seminar for tenants – 6:30 PM at the Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Learn the basics of the Rent Control Law, services of the Rent Control office, the total rent an owner may collect, the amenities included with your unit, eviction protections, remedies for excess rent, what to do about maintenance issues, and Q&A for general issues.

May 7, 14, and 21 – Planning Commission – Division III of the Zoning Ordinance Update (General Regulations, Community Benefits, and ‘A’ Off-Street Parking Overlay Lots) – 7 PM at City Hall, 1685 Main Street. Park in Civic Center Parking Structure. Agendas at <http://www.smgov.net/Departments/PCD/Boards-Commissions/Planning-Commission/>. The draft ordinance is available at www.smgov.net/Departments/PCD and at Fairview Library (hard copy).

May 13 and 27 – City Council – 6:30 PM at City Hall. Agenda at <http://www.smgov.net/departments/clerk/agendas.aspx>. Council Wrap Up at www.smgov.net/departments/wrapup.aspx

May 26 – Airport Commission – 7:30 PM at City Hall. Agenda at http://www.smgov.net/Departments/Airport/Airport_Commission/Airport_Commission.aspx

2014 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Today’s date _____

I will help with:

- Airport Committee
- Annual Meeting
- Crime/Safety/Graffiti
- Emergency Preparedness
- Membership Committee
- Neighborhood Mailings
- Planning and Development
- Santa Monica College
- Traffic, Parking, Pedestrian Safety
- Website/Internet

Membership Dues:

- \$30 Regular Household Dues
- \$50 or \$100 for Sponsor
- \$10 Minimum Household Dues
- Additional Donation

(Please check):

- New Renewal

*Please make check payable to
“Friends of Sunset Park,”
and mail to:*

FOSP, P.O. Box 5823, Santa Monica, CA 90409

What I like best about living in Sunset Park: _____

My greatest concerns are: _____

Membership dues and contributions to FOSP, a 501(c)(4) organization, are not tax deductible.