



# FRIENDS OF SUNSET PARK

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

## JUNE 2017 NEWSLETTER

Layout by Bill Josephs

### FRIENDS OF SUNSET PARK ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, June 17, 2017  
1:30 to 3:30 PM  
Mt. Olive Church, 14<sup>th</sup> & Ocean Park Blvd.



*Keynote Speaker*

**Henry Servin**  
City Traffic Engineer



*Refreshments, Music, Exhibits, and Door Prizes  
Elect the 2017–2018 Board of Directors*



- 1) In order to vote, you will need to be an FOSEP member by June 7, 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.***

### **Photos from the 2016 Annual Meeting**



Annual Meeting refreshments



Rick Cole, Santa Monica City Manager



FOSEP Board members with  
Emmalie Award recipients

## Downtown Community Plan (DCP)

BY ZINA JOSEPHS

Is the proposed Downtown Community Plan “aggressively slow-growth” or “trying to get 10 lbs. of developers’ dreams...into a 5 oz. box”? The Planning Commission’s deliberations on the DCP are scheduled to conclude on May 31. The City Council will vote on the final plan, which is posted at [www.DowntownSMPlan.org](http://www.DowntownSMPlan.org), in July.

According to the proposed plan, three sites in downtown will be allowed to build to 130 feet (12 stories)—the Miramar Hotel expansion, a proposed hotel at Ocean Avenue and Santa Monica Blvd., and the proposed “Plaza at Santa Monica” on Arizona Avenue between 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Streets.

Projects near the Expo Line downtown will be allowed to build to 84 feet (seven or eight stories). Projects in the area between Ocean Avenue and Lincoln Blvd., and between Wilshire Blvd. and Colorado, will be able to build to 50 or 60 feet. The plan also reduces the number of required parking spaces for new downtown projects.

Santa Monica Forward, which opposed Measure LV, thinks the DCP sets too many restrictions for developers and is “aggressively slow-growth.” The group recommends (a) increasing the 84-foot height limit for housing projects on transit adjacent sites to 90 feet without requiring a Development Agreement, and (b) increasing heights in the “Neighborhood Village” zone (5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> Streets) from 60 feet to 84 feet without requiring a Development Agreement.

The Santa Monica Coalition for a Livable City contends that, “The DCP proposes fast-track approval, with limited community input, for most downtown development and three massive projects defined by luxury hotels, soar-

ing to 130 feet—two along Ocean Avenue and one redefining the center of downtown. The total new building would surpass 3 million sq. ft. in our small 6- by 8-block downtown. There would be too little true public open space. Increased traffic gridlock and congestion would follow.”

Santa Monica Architects for a Responsible Future wrote that the DCP “is trying to get 10 lbs. of developers’ dreams...into a 5 oz. box,” and that, “The recently proposed DCP is studying two scenarios for projected commercial growth in our downtown to 2030: Plan A at 4.73 million sq. ft., and Plan B at 3.22 million sq. ft. Ironically, as of August 2016, there were already 27 downtown projects totaling 2.7 million sq. ft. in the pipeline. At this rate, the City could surpass their projected figures in a few years.”

Some residents feel that 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> and Arizona (publicly owned land) should be 80% ground level open space, i.e., a real plaza, instead of 12 stories of hotel and office space that will create more commuters. And some suggest that any downtown project over 4 stories, as well as any project built on public land, should require a vote of the public. Send your comments to [Council@smgov.net](mailto:Council@smgov.net)

## New City Traffic Engineer at the Wheel

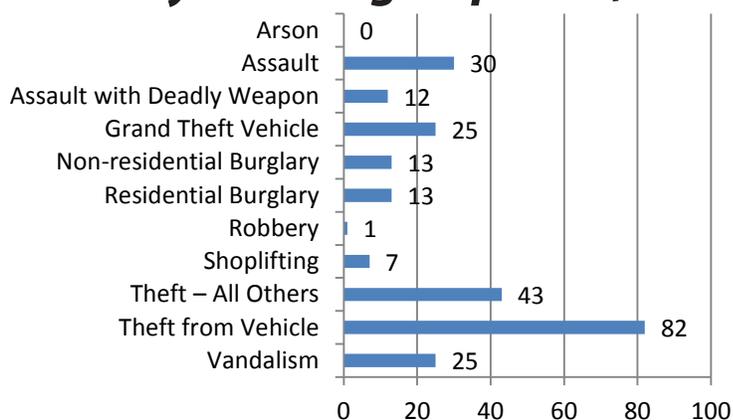
The City of Santa Monica selected Henry Servin as its new City Traffic Engineer in September 2016. He leads the Traffic Management Division of the Planning and Community Development Department (PCD).

From 1998 to 2012, Servin served as Senior Engineer for the City of San Jose, where he managed regional highway, public transit, and California High Speed Rail projects. He later worked as the City Transportation Engineer for the City of Gilroy. He is licensed as a Professional Traffic Engineer as well as a Professional Civil Engineer.

The Transportation Management Division is responsible for the safe and efficient movement of traffic in Santa Monica. This team oversees traffic management plans for city streets, circulation for special events, traffic signal operations and maintenance, and implementing tools to reduce traffic congestion. The division has an annual budget of \$2.1 million.

The City Council has allocated funding for a Sunset Park traffic study (the last one was done in 1993). The study will be comprehensive and traffic counts will be done in the fall, after local schools and SMC are back in session.

## Sunset Park Crime Mapping: January 1 through April 30, 2017



## FOSP Board of Directors

Zina Josephs, President  
 Elaine Blaugrund, Vice President  
 Charles R. Donaldson, Secretary  
 Vivien Flitton, Treasurer  
 Nikki Kolhoff, Land Use Committee Chair  
 Cathy Larson, Airport Committee Chair  
 Leigh Brumberg  
 Peter Donald  
 Ofer Grossman  
 Clare Thomas

## City Council Selects Design to Shorten SM Airport Runway

EXCERPTS FROM THE CITY'S 5/25/17 MEDIA ADVISORY

At the Santa Monica City Council meeting on May 24, the Council selected a design to shorten the runway at Santa Monica Airport (SMO) to 3,500 feet. This is in accordance with the provisions included in the January 28, 2017, Consent Decree, the settlement agreement reached between the City of Santa Monica and the FAA. The design eliminates approximately 750 feet from each end of the existing runway. This will allow for Runway Safety Areas on both ends of the runway, per FAA safety guidelines, in case of overruns, undershoots, or runway "excursions."

Council also directed staff to proceed with preparing detailed drawings and return with a guaranteed maximum price construction bid. The new runway will:

- Be shortened to 3,500 feet in length (currently 5,000 feet)

- Comply with FAA safety standards that the existing runway does not meet
- Reduce larger jet traffic by an estimated 44%
- Reduce larger jet noise and air pollution
- Be completed and operational by December 2017

In a separate action, the Council directed staff to return as soon as possible, with project options to remove the eliminated portions of the runway. Council would consider proposed project options at a later meeting, including any CEQA implications.

The 227-acre property currently occupied by the Santa Monica Airport has been under continuous City ownership since 1926, when the City purchase the property using park bond funds. Visit <http://www.smgov.net/departments/airport> for more information.

### Fourth of July Parade Volunteers Needed

This year will be the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Main Street 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade organized by the Ocean Park Association. The parade will begin at 9:30 AM on Main Street at Pico Blvd. and then head south to Marine Avenue.

The organizers are looking for sponsors, participants, and volunteers. Volunteers are needed to help with set-up starting at 7:30 AM. Other volunteers on bicycles will follow along the 1.3 mile parade route. Apply to volunteer at [www.SantaMonicaParade.com/](http://www.SantaMonicaParade.com/)

About 15,000 people lined Main Street for the 2016 parade, and about 1,500 Santa Monicans walk or ride in the parade every year.

### Measure R Senior Exemption

Senior citizens can be exempted from paying the Measure R parcel tax if they are 65 years old by June 30, 2017; own and occupy their property as their primary residence; and apply annually for the exemption.

Applicants may call (310) 450-8338 x70263 to request an application, or print the application from <http://www.smmusd.org/fiscal/pdf/MeasureRApplication.pdf>

Completed applications must be returned, along with required proofs of age and property ownership, by June 30, 2017, to the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District at:

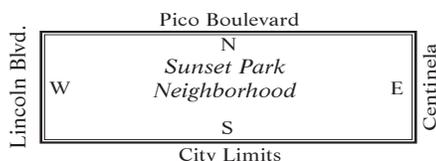
Measure R Senior Exemption  
SMMUSD  
1651 16th Street  
Santa Monica, CA 90404-3891

### IRS Telephone Scam

Individuals impersonating Internal Revenue Service (IRS) employees are making unsolicited threatening telephone calls to taxpayers. They use the threat of arrest to obtain money from victims by falsely representing that the victims owe back taxes or other fees. The perpetrators demand that the victims send them money via iTunes cards, other prepaid debit cards, money orders, or wire transfers from their banks. From 2013 to 2016, California residents lost more than \$10 million to these scam artists.

What to do if they call you? Hang up! Don't engage with them. If you think you might owe taxes, call the IRS at 800-829-1040 and IRS workers can help you with payment questions. If you don't owe taxes, or if you believe you have been a victim of the scam, fill out the "IRS Impersonation Scam" form at [www.tigta.gov](http://www.tigta.gov) or call 800-366-4484. You can also file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission at [www.FTC.gov](http://www.FTC.gov). Include "IRS Telephone Scam" in your comments.

The Sunset Park neighborhood is bounded by Lincoln Blvd. on the west, Pico Blvd. on the north, and the city limits on the east (Centinela) and south (Airport, Dewey, Ozone).



A list of all the City-recognized neighborhood organizations and a map of their boundaries are posted at [www.smgov.net/content.aspx?id=4241](http://www.smgov.net/content.aspx?id=4241)

# FRIENDS OF SUNSET PARK

## 2016 FOSP Annual Meeting



Ofer Grossman  
FOSP Board member



Nikki Kolhoff  
FOSP Board member



Cathy Larson  
FOSP Board member



Clare Thomas  
FOSP Board member



Erik Milosevich  
SMPD Neighborhood  
Resource Officer



Barbara Hodgkin, Jerry Wilson,  
Armen Melkonians, and Zina Josephs  
with the "Emmalie" trophy

# JOIN FRIENDS OF SUNSET PARK

## 2017 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.