



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council
Town Hall Meeting Notes, Wednesday, April 15, 2020

An online Town Hall presented by Officers of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (“GWNC”) Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, April 15, 2020. President Caroline Moser started the meeting at 6:02 p. m.

Ms. Moser explained how Stakeholders can connect to and participate in this Town Hall. Mr. Kirkham further explained procedures and efforts to avoid Brown Act violations.

Erin Seinfeld (formerly Schneider), a Field Deputy for L.A. County District Three Supervisor Sheila Kuehl (310-231-1170; ESeinfeld@bos.LACounty.gov; <http://www.lacounty.gov/government/supervisors/sheila-kuehl>), explained COVID-19 Coronavirus protection measures. The stay-at-home order was extended to May 15, including business requirements for employees. “Physical distancing is slowing the rate of COVID-19” transmission. Currently, 10,496 people in L.A. County have been diagnosed with the virus; 2,704, or 26%, have been hospitalized. There have been 402 deaths, a mortality rate of 3.8%. There are 28 testing sites in the County, the closest being Cedars-Sinai Hospital; people must qualify to be tested. She described services for homeless people and legislation protecting retail employees. A small business assistance program is available. A temporary eviction moratorium is in force. County phone support has been expanded. She had sent a resources list to the GWNC. A free grocery delivery service for seniors is available. See COVID-19.LA County.gov for information “in multiple languages.”

Angie Aramayo, Central Area Representative for Mayor Eric Garcetti (213-978-3130; Angie.Aramayo@LACity.org; <http://LAMayor.org>), reported that there are now 30 testing locations. “Tenants have 12 months ... to pay back” rent not paid due to COVID-19. Certain businesses should not be open now; the police will enforce this and she encouraged reporting violators to the LAPD. Parking restrictions relaxations were extended to May 15th. See Corona.virus.LA for information.

Rob Fisher, Deputy for L.A. City District Four Councilman David Ryu (323-957-6415; Rob.Fisher@LACity.org; <http://CD4.LACity.org>), reported that they are doing “direct text outreach” to constituents. http://CD4.LACity.org/Covid_19 has information. He explained rent help available. Volunteer opportunities are available to help seniors and others. If you see apartment maintenance workers not wearing a mask, contact him. Emma Howard, Planning Deputy for Councilman Ryu (213-473-7004; Emma.Howard@LACity.org), encouraged writing to the Councilman about tenant-landlord concerns and to advise tenants of their legal rights. She described procedures regarding the sale and purchase of alcohol. Mr. Fisher continued that “today the City Attorney announced prosecutions of businesses that are violating” laws. If a tenant defers rent payment, he urged that they save the landlord’s deferral authorization letter.

Ms. Howard continued that CD4 published a list of open land use cases. A “Letter of Determination” indicates the appeal submission time period. She encouraged to “check that case every day.” Letters of Determination “will come out on a weekly basis.” CD4 will be “allowing you to sign up” for Determination notices. Project appeals “have moved to a fully digital format”; email her if you have a question.

Kevin Nahai, Field Deputy for L.A. City District Five Councilman Paul Koretz (323-866-1828; Kevin.Nahai@LACity.org; www.lacity.org/council/cd5), encouraged contacting him for help. The City Council will discuss short-term rentals around April 22nd. He urged renters to “please pay your rent” if you can, whether individual or business. “You have 12 months to repay the rent you have missed” but still owe the next rent payment. “If you can prove your [financial] hardship is COVID-related” you can defer some rent. The LADOT is establishing “safe pick up zones” to pick up food at restaurants. The “Safe Sidewalks” Environmental Impact Report comment deadline may be extended; he will confirm that.

LAPD Wilshire Division Captain Shannon Paulson [213-473-0476; 30253@lapd.online; www.LAPDWilshire.com], reported that there are enough staff; coverage is not compromised. They are communicating with hospitals regarding security. “They are having no issues” at this time; Cedars-Sinai reported a reduction in visits. She explained “non-compliance” enforcement; their emphasis is on “education” and “compliance ... they are then advised that this could result in a criminal filing”; this is being monitored. She cautioned about scams such as encouragement to share information regarding federal government stimulus checks; criminals are requesting personal information and/or “down payments”; “it is an absolute fraud.” COVID-19 “in home test kits ... [and] treatments” are not available for private purchase. She described Officer protection measures, including masks. Dispatchers are screening emergency calls to determine if anyone involved has COVID-19 or other illnesses.

Hebel Rodriguez, an LAPD Wilshire Division Senior Lead Officer (office 213-473-0476; mobile/text phone 213-793-0715; 35738@LAPD.LACity.org), reported on vehicle break-ins and theft. “Folks are leaving items inside their vehicles... laptops... purses [and] credit cards.” He encouraged encouraging neighbors to move things from their vehicle to “inside their house.”

Joseph Pelayo, an LAPD Olympic Division Senior Lead Officer [213-793-0709; 31762@LACity.org], reported an increase in burglary theft from motor vehicles. Harry Cho, an Olympic Division Senior Lead Officer (office 213-382-9102; mobile/text phone 213-793-0649; 33817@LAPD.LACity.org; http://www.LAPDonline.org/olympic_community_police_station), reported on an “increase in street robberies... Women were targeted... a little bit more... or [people] on their way to the bank... [and] unlit” homes.

Ned Racine, Metro Senior Construction Relations Officer (cell 213-479-7884, RacineN@metro.net; 24-hour information 213-922-6934; Bus Rapid Transit 24-hour hotline 213-922-2500+1; PurpleLineExt@metro.net; www.facebook.com/PurpleLineExt; www.Twitter.com/PurpleLineExt; www.metro.net/PurpleLineExt), reported on La Brea station progress. Ms. Moser will have Mr. Racine’s report posted on the GWNC website.

Mehrnoosh Zahiri, L.A. City Deputy Attorney, Neighborhood Prosecutor Program [213-978-2220; Nooshi.Zahiri@LACity.org; <http://atty.lacity.org/CRIMINAL/NeighborhoodProsecutorProgram/index.htm>], offered help.

Ms. Moser reported that the GWNC is working to establish regular online meetings and has \$5,000 in emergency funds available. It had been agreed to allocate \$500 to LA Parks, which operates the Pan Pacific Shelter, and \$500 to the YMCA; she described each place's homeless people's services.

Metro's Mr. Racine continued, reporting subway station completion percentages. "The north tunnel is completed between Western and Fairfax... We are not behind schedule." Workers are social distancing and have masks and face shields "as well as hardhats and vests."

Ms. Moser will have more information posted on GWNC social media and the website will also have a recording of this Town Hall meeting.

Ms. Moser ended the Town Hall Meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Levin, Minutes Writer

Edited by GWNC. The GWNC Minutes page is <http://greaterwilshire.org/board-agendas-minutes>.