

**DRAFT**

**MINUTES OF THE BRENTWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**Zoom Session**

**Wednesday, June 9th, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Chair Michelle Bisnoff called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Council members present introduced themselves and their representative capacities:

**REPRESENTATIVES**

Abramson, Daniel  
Alkov, Georgia  
Binder, John  
Bisnoff, Michelle  
Blum, Len  
Brown, Pamela  
Goldstein, Doris  
Jordan, Carolyn  
Klein, Raymond  
Krell, Marylin  
Rosen, Jacqui  
Simmons, Sheila

Tenzer, Gary

**ALTERNATES**

Arbour, Elyse  
Blackman, Kate  
Flanagan, Kathleen  
Freedman, Nancy  
Hulett, Judie  
Jamal, Amber  
LoBuglio, Carolyn  
Rose, Herb

\*Note: Only those Representatives and Alternates who are present at the meeting will be listed; late arrivals are asked to announce themselves so the Board can recognize them and list them as present.

**Approval of Minutes**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the draft May 2021 Minutes –with changes noted that Crestwood Hills lost 10 houses not 3 houses in the Getty Fire.

**Motion to Cancel the BCC July Meeting** The Chair next moved and Member Rose seconded, that BCC will not meet during July 2021. The motion was adopted unanimously.

**Board Announcements**

- A challenger to Councilman Bonin is expected to announce her candidacy for the 11th Council District on July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- San Vicente will have road repairs between Wilshire and Brigham, restriping and likely removal of a merging lane on the east side.
- BCC will have an Electronic Device Donation and Recycling Day on Saturday, Aug 21<sup>st</sup> between 10AM and 2PM. Information on the set up will be distributed later sent, including a 50 lbs limit per family.
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**Brentwood Community of the Month - Upper Mandeville Canyon** - John Binder, president.

A set of beautiful photos is shown during presentation.

More than 300 homes compose the community of Upper Mandeville Canyon. The hills surrounding UMCA are covered with quite remarkable flora, hawks and ravens and many other animals roam the tranquility of those beautiful hills. The top of the San Vicente Peak is home to the former Nike Missile site. Decades ago, the City considered a project to create a tunnel linking Mandeville Canyon to the valley. Thankfully the project was abandoned. Upper Mandeville starts in the 2700 block of Mandeville Canyon Road, just south of the original Robert Taylor ranch, where he raised horses, which is now a mini horse rescue site. Across from the Taylor property, is the former 48 acres property of Dick Powell, Amber Hills, which includes an artificial lake. The ridges above UMCA are protected from development by the Mountain Recreations and Conservancy Authority through the determined efforts of residents. On each July 4, hundreds of cyclists converge upon Upper Mandeville Canyon to enjoy the thrill of a descent of 1,400 feet to the bottom of the canyon.

UMCA holds an annual Cinco de Mayo party with games for all ages as well as food, soft drinks, and margaritas. In addition to residents. The event is attended by public officials as guests, but not as speakers.

UMCA is a leader in fire safety : in 1978 a home was destroyed by a fire which then moved to Pacific Palisades and destroyed many more homes. During the heavy rainfalls of 1979-1980 there were several mudslides on the land that had burnt. Between 2004 and 2018, four fires took place which, fortunately, were rapidly contained. In 2014 UMCA, along with the two other associations, BHHA and MCA, in cooperation with the LAFD and LAPD, organized an evacuation drill, during which 900 vehicles were out in short order. The LAFD said we were the only canyon to have a participation of 75 %. Numbers, elsewhere, were about 25 to 30%. A second evacuation drill took place in 2018. The Getty fire started on the night of October 28, 2019, and the entire canyon was calmly evacuated within 40 minutes. There are now four safety cameras protecting Mandeville Canyon, which immediately alert the LAFD should a fire ignite. You can check these cameras at [alertwildfire.org](http://alertwildfire.org)  
UMCA is very grateful towards BCC for its consistent rapid answer to any request for help.

**LAPD Crime Update:** Matt Kirk LAPD Senior Lead Officer for Brentwood ([34713@lapd.online](mailto:34713@lapd.online)) and at 310 444 0744.

Robberies are down, but because of a single serious crime earlier in the year, the violent crime is up by 9.1% over 2020. Other crime categories are down: Burglaries down 9.7%, grand theft auto down 7.1 %. The theft from autos is up 20.4%, primarily from vehicles in multi-family garages. Common sense suggestions for reducing these types of theft have been given to building owners. Safely noting the license plates of their vehicles when suspicious people are observed knocking on a door and then transmitting the information to LAPD is very helpful. Officer Kirk again reminded people to not leave valuable items in an unlocked and to never leave cars in a vehicle,.

**West LAPD Narcotic Task Force** Officer David Murrow reported that on the west side methamphetamine is slowly on the rise. He explained that psychosis happens only when methamphetamine is mixed with other drugs. Fires don't typically occur when individuals take methamphetamine, but often occur when users are cooking the drug. There is no known meth lab on the Westside. Accordingly, Westside transient drug users normally take public transportation downtown to acquire their drugs. The WLA VA has established a needle exchange to reduce litter of needles on the streets. If needles are observed on the street, contact LAPD with specific information. LAPD Narcotics is no longer involved with the sidewalk encampment on San Vicente al media.

Regarding youth, cannabis use is on the rise, and so-called Skittles Parties, where teenagers ransack their parents' medicine cabinet, and bring pills which are then thrown together in a bowl and shred during the party.

**Special Guest Postal Inspector** - Tosha Dennis. [TMDennis@uspis.gov](mailto:TMDennis@uspis.gov) 626-405-1228

She works with the Station Brentwood Post Office Manager, Brandon Anderson and with inspector Noah Thompson, who investigates all crimes related to mail that occur in Brentwood. Mail related crimes can be reported to her by phone 877- 477-4273, will take all complaints, including identity theft, etc... or on the USPS website to file: USPS.com or by phone (800 877 8339). The Postal Inspector often partners with LAPD Officer Kirk, as well as the FBI. Once a case is posted online, it will be presented to US Attorney. In the valley recently, where 47 robberies took place, often at gunpoint, arrests have been made and cases are now in care of federal custody. Being the eyes and ears for your mail carrier is essential, if you see something, say something, cars' license numbers are huge help. Mailbox keys boxes in multi-families building are changed when robberies have taken place. Christian Pulido @ 323 586 1430, is responsible for re-keying mailboxes, once those have been invaded.

She urges the public to routinely review their individual credit report in case mail may have been stolen with your personal credit information. It is also safer to mail checks directly from the post office, and not from your mailbox.

**Transportation update.** Doris Goldstein

There is construction on the south side of Wilshire Blvd across the VA for the purple line. Metro has provided a new list with 2 Sepulveda Pass projects:

*-Sepulveda Transit Corridor* After scoping, environmental review and public comment for two alternative, Metro will identify the best of the two. Completion date was moved, for the Olympics, from 2033 to 2028, assuming funding to supplement Measure M.

The Rail system from the Airport remains on a 2057-2059-time frame.

*-Sepulveda Pass Express Lane* Metro is looking at transforming the HOV lane on the 405 to a Metro Express Lane. Tolls are being calculated. The lane could be used by solo drivers. Qualifying carpools could travel toll free. Completion date is 2026

Thirty-day free passes are available on the Big Blue Bus as a way to attract more users. Schedules are slowly getting back to normal. Check the Transit App for more information.

**Homeless Task Force Update.** Michelle Bisnoff

San Vicente Encampment: over 2000 units of housing are under development at the WLA VA, including units in buildings now undergoing renovations that are expected to open by the end of the year.

The sidewalk adjacent to the WLA VA along San Vicente Blvd. is LA County property. The County has no law against camping on the sidewalk. While the ADA prohibits blocking disabled access to the sidewalk, the County has suspended sidewalk clearing during the COVID pandemic. The LASD has indicated ADA enforcement will be resumed as part of any future encampment sanitation and services action.

Encampment residents are not allowed to place orange cones on the road and have been repeatedly warned by the LASD. The public may photograph any cones observed in the roadway and a copy to Lt. Nagelman at LASD : [denagelm@lasd.org](mailto:denagelm@lasd.org)

Encampment Statistics : 31 tents on San Vicente and 31 Veterans on San Vicente, 29 Veterans are Healthcare Eligible, 2 are not healthcare eligible due to discharge status, no non-Veterans are currently living on San Vicente, 15 Veterans are planning to move as a group into HUD VASH housing soon. One veteran has entered the VA 'DOM' rehab facility.

A Multi-Agency social services outreach takes place Tuesdays and Fridays and the VA outreach visits the encampment almost daily.

Outreach providers include many agencies such as Salvation Army Supportive Services for Veterans Families, American Veterans, LA County Department of Mental Health Veteran Peer Access Network, Volunteers of America Transitional Housing Services, New Directions Outreach, St Joseph 's Center Outreach Team, Step Up On Second, and Village for Vets.

It is unknown when the County will next conduct a clean-up, but Lt. Nagelman will inform the BCC in advance. Tents might be replaced by cabins on the WLA VA ,through the efforts of Congressman Lieu. If a homeless individual is observed on the other parts of San Vicente, inform the LA-HOP.ORG of the location and a description of the individual. A social service representative should then check on that individual within 72 hours.

Judicial Watch was invited to attend this meeting, but invitation was declined.

#### **Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC)**

The Chair next reviewed the following WRAC motions for consideration:

#1 : Requests the City of LA to collaborate with the County to fully utilize the Lanterman-Petrus-Short Act, including section 5150, to enable life-saving care. Additionally, asking the City to provide funds to the County for fully staffed psychiatric beds. Upon a motion duly made and seconded and following a discussion the motion was adopted with 5 abstentions and 11 yea votes.

#3 : Request the City to bring clarity to GHOST kitchens, based upon the number of kitchens, or other specific information. Upon a motion duly made and seconded and following a discussion the motion was adopted.

#4 : Requests the City for improved signage and enforcement on electric vehicle charging parking space to prevent use by non-charging vehicles. Upon a motion duly made and seconded and following a discussion the motion was adopted with an additional requirement for further discussion and clarification on signage.

Motions #2 and #5 are tabled for further clarification and discussion.

#### **City of LA**

Passed Council File 21-0350 (Bonin/Ridley-Thomas). BCC opposed it unless amended.

Overdue Council Report.

Upcoming vote on CF20-1328

21-0600-S99 Bonin motion for additional \$5M in homeless spending for Venice

#### **State of CA**

SB9. Is coming to the Assembly on June 21<sup>st</sup> @ 1:30 pm

SB10. Is going to the Assembly

SB44 (Allen) reduced CEQA requirements for No Emission Transportation Projects. ( Favors LAX rail project)

**Land Use Committee** Carolyn Jordan

2 applicants will attend to the next meeting on June 24<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30

**Public Comment** (limited to 1 minute per person)

SB9 and SB 10 may have less harmful consequences than is thought per example of Portland, OR, where 40 years ago similar changes took place.

The Chair next entertained a motion to adjourn and at about 9:15 a motion to adjourn was duly made, seconded and adopted.

Additional public comments or suggestions may be submitted to: [info@brentwoodcommunitycouncil.org](mailto:info@brentwoodcommunitycouncil.org)

**Next meeting :** August 11, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Watts

Secretary