

PUBLIC SAFETY & HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE MINUTES (01/29/26 MEETING)

On January 29, 2026, the Public Safety and Homelessness Committee of the SCNC held a regular meeting.

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

1. Committee members who were present: *Jeff Hartwick (Chair & Corresponding Secretary)*, *Jill Anderson (Stakeholder)*, *Charlotte Larsen (Board Member)*, *Laurie Rittenberg (Board Member)*, *Pamela Raber (Stakeholder)*. Quorum established.
2. The chair delivered a brief opening statement.
3. Public comments were made. A stakeholder mentioned a fire was set on the Colfax bridge. Andrew Epstein announced an Encino Townhall on homelessness next Thursday. He also suggested that the SCNC have a townhall on fire safety in the future.
4. Scott Mandell brought up environmental problems created by homeless individuals. In particular, the area along the LA River between Tujunga and Colfax. There are plots of private property there that contain protected oaks that are being damaged by homeless who are trespassing. The committee discussed how to approach problem, from code enforcement to involving Todd Gilman of the CLC. Scott agreed to draft a letter outlining the problem.
5. The chair mentioned homeless living under bridge next to Thirsty Merchant and proposed a 41.18 designation to end the chronic problem.
6. The SLO was unable to attend.
7. Sheri Herman was unable to attend but the chair read her summary of crime in the area.
8. Pamela Raber talked about the continued homeless problems at Moorpark Park, including the "slingshot man." Fires and other problems continue.
9. Luis Oliart made his streets report. The area around Vineland was cleaned up. He was able to give the mayor's representative a tour of problem areas in CD4 that may be helpful to alleviating the situation. Did outreach to help get Vicky off the streets. Lots of tents cleared from South Weddington Park. Luis suggested the return of bicycle patrols to the area.
10. Jerry Lewis presented on Neighborhood Leadership Teams. Lots of progress has been made. Looking at linking neighborhoods, including Campbell Hall South, Beeman, and Studio Oaks. Discussion followed, including suggestion about neighborhood watch badges.
11. Discussion held about CERT training and a Pop-Up Drill for Studio City.

12. Discussion held about the CIS regarding arming park rangers due to violent individuals that they encounter on the job. This is the second motion on this topic during the past two years. It passed unanimously.

13. National Night Out was discussed briefly.

14. The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.