

## **FELIPE FUENTES**

City of Los Angeles
Councilmember, Seventh District
200 N. Spring Street, Rm. 455, Los Angeles, CA 90012
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Committees: Energy & Environment Chair

Housing Vice-Chair

Personnel & Animal Welfare Member

Board of Referred Powers Member

October 15, 2015

President and Board Members Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council 7747 Foothill Boulevard Tujunga, CA 91042

Dear President and Board Members,

Connecting the City of Los Angeles with its residents is critical work. Thank you for being the link for our community. It is my hope you will include this communication in your discussion today so we may continue to work together to better our community and beloved City.

When it comes to issues facing our foothill communities, as well as the entire City of Los Angeles, the impact of homelessness is at the top. Recent studies, media attention and residential complaints have caused additional policy and budgetary attention by our County and City governments to this very important quality of life issue. New policy committees, budgetary commitments and partnerships with non-governmental service providers have been borne in the hopes of stemming and curing this unprecedented rise in homelessness.

The solutions to lasting stability for our homeless neighbors are complex. Additional permanent supportive housing is in short supply. Coordinated Entry Systems are at the earliest stages. Dedicated financial support and coordination by government - at all levels - are not swift relative to what we all experience on a daily basis in our commercial, residential and open space corridors. As a result, our community has demonstrated particularly high levels of engagement with this difficult issue. This neighborhood council's thoughtful debate on permanent supportive housing land use decisions and participation in the ad hoc *Homeless Working Group* are two examples of the generosity and focus you and your constituents demonstrate. Yet, we need to do more.

As you know, the City experienced budget deficits. Therefore, plans to utilize neighborhood city halls to deliver services to residents from the most requested City departments, were scratched, which left many buildings vacant. Most notably, two of these buildings serving Pacoima and Sunland/Tujunga were completely devoid of city personnel and service providers upon my election to the Los Angeles City Council. As such, I have sought partners who provide essential service delivery to our communities in order to leverage the public investment we made in these City facilities.

By the end of this year, the Sunland/Tujunga City facility will be fully utilized by providers who have extensive service histories and knowledge of the issues facing our communities. They are

Sylmar Office 14117 Hubbard Street, D1 Sylmar, CA 91342 (818) 756-8409 (818) 362-4857

Pacoima Office 13520 Van Nuys Blvd., Ste. 209 Pacoima, CA 91331 (818) 485-0600 (818) 896-9250 Tujunga Office 7747 Foothill Blvd. Tujunga, CA 91042 (818) 352-3287 (818) 352-8563





STNC President and Board Members October 5, 2015 Page 2

Los Angeles Family Housing, Los Angeles Homeless Service Authority, Valley Community Care Consortium, the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, Los Angeles City Council District Seven, and our food pantry.

As previously discussed, your general membership meetings will not be affected and may continue to be held in the city facility.

In addition to the meeting locations listed on the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council website, I am happy to work with you to identify a meeting space at Sunland Park or the City library. I am eager to assist in offsetting any costs borne by moving the space staffed by Ed Rock, costs to change marketing material or office rental for the remainder of this fiscal year. Additionally, I would suggest that the foothill office remain an official posting location, with the City, since there is no need to move your membership meetings or equipment.

Thank you, in advance, of the continued stewardship your elected body, volunteers and residents will demonstrate in helping make our community more resilient to the challenges we face.

In service,

**FELIPE FUENTES** 

Councilmember, 7th District

cc: Grayce Liu, General Manager, DONE

STNC Board Members:

Mr. Mark Siegel, President

Mr. Charlie A. Bradley, 1st Vice President

Ms. Brenda Fortune, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Ms. Nina Royal, Treasurer

Ms. Cindy Cleghorn, Secretary

Ms. Pat Kramer, Region 1 Representative

Mr. Jorge A. Martinez, Region 1 Representative

Ms. Gail Carlson, Region 2 Representative

Mr. Arsen Karamians, Region 2 Representative

Mr. Jim Moore, Region 3 Representative

Mr. David Barron, Region 3 Representative

Ms. Maureen O'Byrne, Region 4 Representative

Ms. Susan Mona, Region 4 Representative

Ms. Janet Paz, Youth Representative

Ms. Julie Cuddihy, Verdugo Hills High School Representative

Ms. Marlene Hitt, Little Landers Historical Society Representative

Mr. John Laue, Environmental Representative

Mr. Sergio Soto, Freemasons/Masonic Lodge Representative

Ms. Dana Stangel, Animal Issues Representative

Ms. Krystee Clark, Group Representative-Entertainment

Mr. Jon von Gunten, Neighborhood Watch Representative