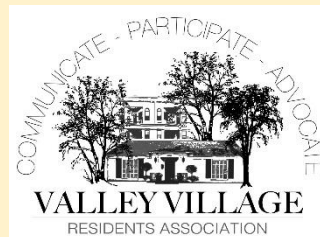


# THE VALLEY VILLAGER

VALLEY VILLAGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

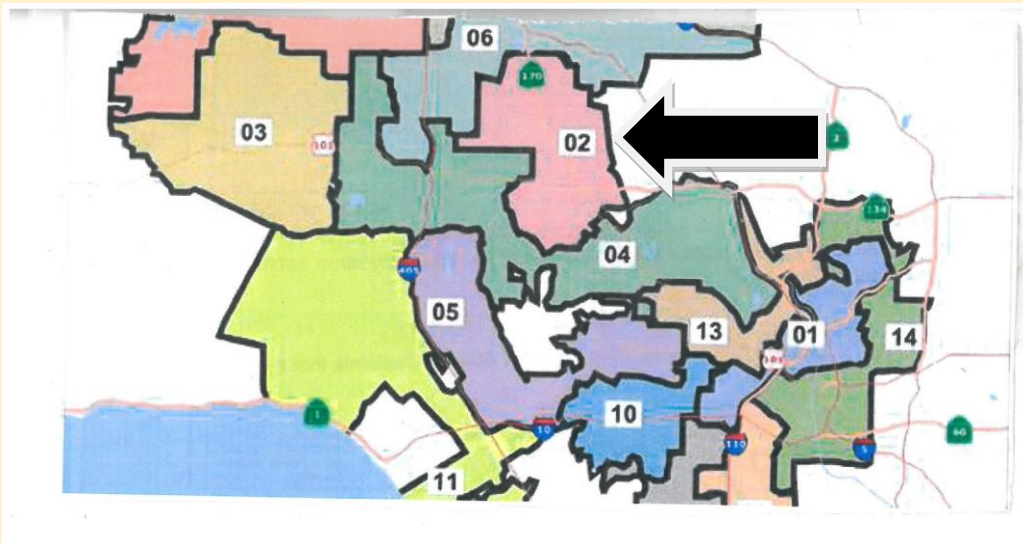


VOL. 32 NUMBER 1 January 2022 P.O. BOX 4916, VALLEY VILLAGE, CA 91617

## Redistricting & Valley Village

In early December the City Council approved a map with new boundaries for the City Council Districts in Los Angeles. Redistricting must be done every ten years in order to take into account shifts of and increases in population reported by the national census. The redrawn districts must have roughly equal population and take into account other factors, such as geographical boundaries and communities of interest. Because City Council and County Supervisor districts are not covered by Propositions 11 and 20, that which established an independent Statewide Redistricting Commission for State Assembly, State Senate and Congressional districts, local government boundaries will be determined the old way, by the City Council and the Board of Supervisors. The new district boundaries must be in place for the 2022 elections.

The map below shows the boundaries of the new Los Angeles City Council Districts. The 2<sup>nd</sup> District represented by Councilmember Paul Krekorian is shown as 02.



The approved map is the result of a special committee established by City Council President Nury Martinez. It is a substantial revision of the previous map (Version K2.5) recommended by the City's Citizen Redistricting Commission on September 30. The Commission's map would have resulted in Valley Village becoming part of a new south Valley district also including Sherman Oaks, Encino, Tarzana and Woodland Hills represented by Councilmember Bob Blumenfield. Councilmember Krekorian would likely have been assigned to a new district immediately to the north consisting of Canoga Park, Reseda and a western portion of Van Nuys. The map discards that approach and keeps Councilmember Krekorian's 2<sup>nd</sup> Council District in the same location in

(Continued on Page 5)

## Rob's Beat

Happy New Year, Valley Villagers!

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and that all your families stayed safe. I apologize for my unexpected extended absence. I did not anticipate being gone this long. Being that I have been away, I can't report on what's been happening in the streets, I can, however, speak to the reported crime in Valley Village and the rest of North Hollywood Division. I am sure it will come as no surprise that North Hollywood Division finished 2021 with an overall increase of 7% with increases of crime in every category with the exception of homicide. Violent crime was up 9% with a 19% increase in robbery and just over 6.5% in aggravated assaults. Property crime was up 6.5% with increases in grand theft auto, burglary from vehicle and personal theft.

In Valley Village specifically, violent crime was actually down 14% with aggravated assaults down 21% and robberies down 10%. Unfortunately, property crime in Valley Village was up in all categories for a total of 14.7%. The number of stolen vehicles was up 41% and burglary from vehicles up 9%, theft was up 10% and burglary was up 9%. I have spoken to many of you about the potential for crime to spike and these increases do not come as a surprise to me. Resources, policy changes, lack of prosecution and many other factors not controlled by our officers in the field are, in my opinion of 26 plus years in law enforcement, producing unwanted crime spikes in my beloved North Hollywood division home. I anticipate being back to work soon and I will be out in the field focusing on crime reduction strategies to the best of my ability. I miss you all. Once again, Happy New Year and I'll see you soon.

Rob Benavidez  
Senior Lead Officer, Valley Village

***The VVRA Board:***

- President: **Beth Fulton**
- Vice President: **Dorothy Apple**
- Secretary: **Ellen Wilhelm**
- Treasurer: **Jenna Schwartz**
- Boardmembers at Large:
  - Glenn Block**
  - Paul Hatfield**
  - Sandy Hubbard**
  - Pam Moeck**
  - Linda Simon**
  - Marc Woersching**

**Metro Ends  
Suspensions**

With vaccinations and boosters well underway and mask wearing required on all buses throughout the system, Metro is removing the two suspensions they put into place at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic. As of January 10, 2022, passengers may board the bus through the front door only and fares will again be collected.

Metro is also promoting its Low Income Fare is Easy (LIFE) program and is hosting a series of pop-up events to explain the program and have folks sign up if it appeals to them. More information may be obtained at: [communityrelations@metro.net](mailto:communityrelations@metro.net).

EDITORIAL STAFF	
Publisher:	Peter Sanchez
Editor:	Gil Shorr
Editor Emerita:	Breice Reiner
Contributors:	
Rob Benavidez	Glenn Block
Beth Fulton	Paul Hatfield
Sandy Hubbard	Pam Moeck
Ellen Wilhelm	Marc Woersching
Phone: 818-506-5158	

***\*Tell a Friend - Tell a Neighbor about VVRA\****

**A Letter from the President**

Happy New Year! May this year be the start of a new chapter in which we write our own story. May 2022 be the best year of our lives. May we find success, happiness and everything our hearts desire. Wishing you and your loved ones a very happy new year.

VVRA looks forward to continuing our work on important issues that help bring peace and prosperity to our neighborhood. We know there have been great challenges in the past few years – crime, homelessness, threatening housing bills. But I believe that 2022 will be our best year yet. Our collective voices have made strides on all of these issues – though it’s taken longer than we had hoped – we’ve had measurable success that couldn’t have been accomplished without **you** – without your commitment to send countless letters and make numerous phone calls on behalf of the issues that matter to our Village. Your continued membership and support encourages me and our volunteer boardmembers to continue working for the benefit of us all.

This gives me great hope for what is to come.

Warmly,  
*Beth Fulton, President*

**Board Notes**

At its meeting in October, the VVRA Board of Directors, it was ~Noted that the redistricting map K.2.5 would probably be approved, retaining Paul Krekorian as councilmember for District 2, but the Association will make a last-ditch request to the Redistricting Commission not to separate Valley Village from North Hollywood ~ VVRA was well represented at a meeting about redirecting flights out of Burbank Airport ~ Work is continuing on the Slow Streets survey; most residents responding favored speed bumps; \$300 was approved for continued outreach to thank participants and it was agreed that the Councilmember’s office will be notified of progress ~ Agreed to donate \$350 to the Burbank Boulevard Elementary School PTA and \$600 to Colfax Charter Elementary School ~ A new and improved Valley Village leaflet has been created to promote membership in the Association ~ There was discussion about passage of SB9 and SB10, resulting in a motion to support the Stop Sacramento organization ~ In response to a resident’s complaint, VVRA will adopt an active effort to eliminate illegal signage and alert the Councilmember’s office of the perceived blight.

At its meeting in December (November was dark), the many accomplishments of the Association in the past year were noted ~ On January 5, a member of the Board will be making a presentation about the NoHo Community Plan ~ The Association’s tree planting promotion is off to a slow start but still standing ~ VVRA is promoting the work of Our Neighborhood Voices (see article) ~ A task force will be formed to create a new mission statement for the Association based on its motto Communicate, Participate, Advocate ~ The website Valley Residents for Sane Skies (a forum representing residents in the issue of the Burbank Airport air traffic diversion issue and created recently by the Association) is up and running.

## Our Neighborhood Voices

On January 1, a series of recently passed State laws, including SB 9 and SB 10, went into effect, allowing developers to build multi-story/multi-unit buildings right next door to single-family homes without public notice or hearings, removing the right of cities to otherwise permit or deny the project if it meets the very nebulous state law requirements.

The outcome of these laws will be to turn local planning over to state bureaucrats (who may not have been elected by you nor do they have to live with the repercussions of unbridled construction) and developers, whose primary job is to make money (not to plan logical developments for growth).

While most of us have heard family members and others discussing the need for affordable housing in California, NONE of these state laws mentions the need for affordable housing requirements nor provide funding for affordable housing.

The very tangible result of these laws will be the removal of affordable home purchases and rental units from the market (leading to sprawl); loss of onsite parking; increased traffic gridlock; removal of mature trees; and higher taxes on all of us to pay for the increased demand on current city infrastructure. Additionally, there will be an increase in property values which will have a net result in increased property taxes.

### What can you do about it?

The group called "Our Neighborhood Voices" has filed an initiative to be placed on the 2022 ballot that would restore local planning decisions to local government entities, whom we all elect. The initiative needs to be signed by at least 1 million registered California voters by the end of April in order to get on the ballot. The initiative group also needs money to help fund the signature-gathering process.

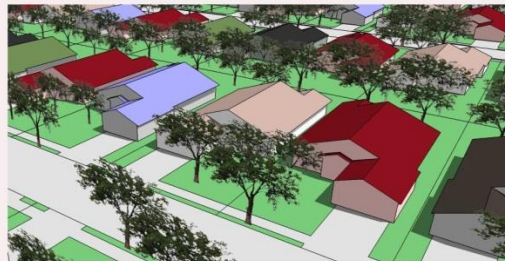
### What will this initiative do if it passes?

It will • Restore local zoning control to our City Council. • Allow the City Council to pass land-use ordinances that preempt state land-use laws • Restore single-family home zoning - SB 9 eliminates single-family home zoning statewide • Give every community the right to stop single-family lot splitting where 4 houses replace 1 house (if the City chooses) (SB 9) • Give every community the right to stop 10-unit multi-family housing developments (plus 4 ADUs) next to a single-family home (if the City chooses) (SB 10).

It will not have any effect on the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) or fair housing laws--only land-use laws.

We encourage you to visit [ourneighborhoodvoices.com](http://ourneighborhoodvoices.com) for more information. If you'd like to sign the petition, please contact Sandy Hubbard at [sandy\\_hubbard@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sandy_hubbard@sbcglobal.net) to make arrangements.

There are very few ways for the public to let their will be known outside of the ballot box. VVRA urges you to consider both signing the petition and making a donation for this worthwhile cause.



EXISTING NEIGHBORHOOD



NEIGHBORHOOD AFTER SB 9



## Burbank Airport Update: Sane Skies

A suit filed by City Attorney Mike Feuer against the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) was rejected by the Ninth Circuit Court.

This is good news for Valley Village residents and anyone living north of the 101 Freeway. We would have been subjected to more noise if the flight patterns had been shifted north of the 101, as Feuer and hillside residents in Studio City demanded in the lawsuit.

We have allies in Sherman Oaks neighborhoods north of the 101 who would also be adversely impacted if the changes in flight patterns out of Burbank Airport had been allowed to go ahead. An alliance has recently been formed with northern Sherman Oaks neighbors to push back against any further efforts to move the flight paths over Valley Village. The coalition is Valley Residents for Sane Skies and we encourage you to visit the website:

<https://valleyresidentsforsaneskies.com> to learn more about the group and subscribe to their efforts with outreach. Their email address is [saneskies@gmail.com](mailto:saneskies@gmail.com).

Similar issues with Van Nuys Airport will also be monitored. There the issue is further along and will require organized opposition fairly soon.

VVRA will continue to follow any new developments and forward our findings to the membership.

## How Can We Help?

Over the past few years, homelessness in and around Valley Village has reached crisis levels and has seemed to worsen with the pandemic. We're fortunate to have neighbors and community organizations working hard to make things better.

First, it's important to note the key role that *Officer Rob Benavidez* (Senior Lead Officer, LAPD) serves in Valley Village. Caring, honest, smart and realistic, Officer Benavidez uses all tools at his disposal to help those in need while keeping the neighborhood safe. From working creatively to help solve the issue of illegally parked RVs on Chandler Boulevard to marshalling together available City resources to clear encampments, and also responding daily to neighborhood concerns, Officer Rob is a huge asset to Valley Village. We are lucky to have such a devoted officer helping our neighborhood!

Along with Officer Rob, and the work of Councilmember Krekorian's office, there are a couple of local organizations that are not only important assets to our community but should also serve as inspiration for what each of us can contribute to the community. Both the **North Hollywood Interfaith Food Pantry** and **NoHo Home Alliance** were created from the simple idea of neighbors helping neighbors.

The **North Hollywood Interfaith Food Pantry** currently distributes about 400 bags of food two mornings a week, 52 weeks a year (up from about 260/week before the pandemic). All the food is donated, including through our neighborhood food drives occurring regularly, or purchased using funds donated to the organization. The collection, sorting, packing and distribution of food is done entirely by community volunteers, including many local students. The organization was formed in 1983, started from an idea by two old friends, *Marj Luke* and *Florence Adler*. They were joined by three other women each representing different neighborhood religious congregations – First Christian Church, Temple Beth Hillel, Adat Ari El, Faith Presbyterian Church and St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church. Together these five amazing women, with hard work and determination, established the Interfaith Food Pantry. Their legacy is an institution that continues to feed neighbors in need, supported entirely by neighbor volunteers and donors. Now, a total of 13 congregations work together to address food insecurity in our community. To learn more, volunteer and donate, please visit: [www.nhifp.org](http://www.nhifp.org).

Following NHIFP's legacy of grassroots community organizations in and around Valley Village, **NoHo Home Alliance** provides drop-in programs for people experiencing homelessness. Founded by Pastor *Stephanie Jaeger* (St. Matthews Lutheran Church) and *Leon Steynsburg*, NoHo Home Alliance leads our community to find collective solutions to social issues such as homelessness through advocacy and other programs. At Rev. Stephanie's church and at the UU Church of Studio City, the weekly drop-in programs provide homeless and low-income neighbors with meals, clothes, showers and work with partner organization to provide other services. Volunteers assist in the shower room, cook and serve home-made meals, and provide support and care to those needing help. Utilizing a Relational Homeless Outreach Model (RHOM), each participant has the opportunity to have 2 to 12 points of contact with staff and volunteers at each drop-in – helping homeless people build networks and trust. Partnering with an outreach team from LA Family Housing (another local organization), clients receive direct referrals for placement and other services they are more likely to accept through the RHOM. NoHo Home Alliance's Housing Advocacy Table educates and mobilizes the community to address the current shortage of affordable housing, bridge housing (such as the many Tiny Home campuses) and permanent supporting housing solutions in our community. To learn more, volunteer and donate, visit: [www.nohohome.org](http://www.nohohome.org) or email [info@nohohome.org](mailto:info@nohohome.org).

Through **North Hollywood Interfaith Food Pantry** and **NoHo Home Alliance** Valley Village neighbors can make a difference and help neighbors experiencing food insecurity and homelessness. These organizations also present great opportunities to learn more about these complex problems and advocate for affordable housing and other long-term solutions. Now is a great time to get involved!

## Planning Fees Updated

The City Council has voted to update the City Planning Department's application fees, effective December 27, 2021. This was prompted by the upgrading that residents are eager to see completed and the trends in the development of new construction. The City will continue to consider subsidizing those requests involving applications from family day care centers, farmers markets and other community-serving projects.

Applications will continue to be accepted using the department's drop-off system, thereby avoiding the need for a scheduled appointment and leading to a considerably shorter filing time. Applications and payments may also be made online at [planning.lacity.org](http://planning.lacity.org).

## Seeking Candidates to Serve on Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (HPOZ) Boards

Do you have a passion for historic preservation? Are you interested in helping to celebrate and maintain the architectural and cultural heritage of Los Angeles's historic districts? Please consider joining an Historic Preservation Overlay Zone Board.

The HPOZ Program aims to identify and protect the distinctive architectural and cultural resources of Los Angeles's historic neighborhoods. In HPOZs, all exterior work requires review for historic compatibility based on guidelines in the adopted Preservation Plan. Depending on the HPOZ, projects reviewed by the Board may range from smaller projects such as window rehabilitation work to larger projects such as additions and infill developments. HPOZ Boards also serve as informal sources of technical expertise and guidance. Board members often offer excellent advice on cost-effective ways to remodel properties that will maintain and enhance the building's historic character. Other Board duties include community education and outreach to promote the HPOZ Program.

Each HPOZ Board consists of five or seven members. The Mayor, the City Councilmember representing the area, the Cultural Heritage Commission, and the Board itself appoint the members, a majority of whom must live in the HPOZ. One member of the Board must have extensive real estate or construction experience, one must be a licensed architect, and all members should have knowledge of and interest in the culture, history, and architecture of the HPOZ area. Candidates who own or rent property in an HPOZ are preferred, but this is not a requirement.

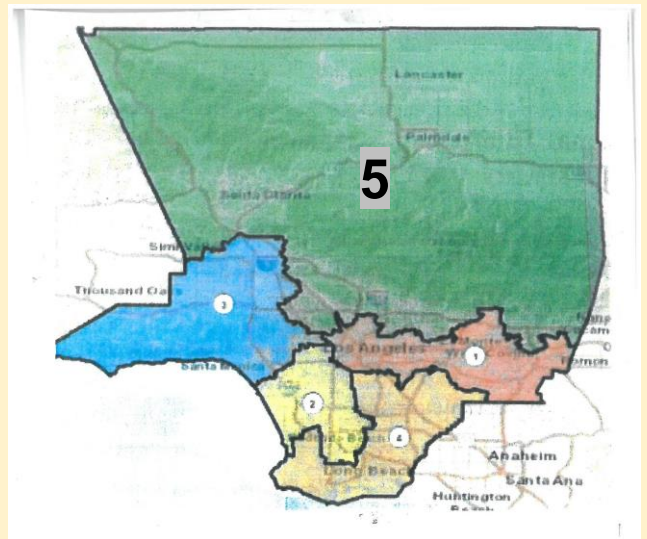
Board meetings occur twice monthly and are subject to cancellation if a quorum cannot be met or if no agenda items are pending. Board members are eligible to serve for up to two consecutive four-year terms. Currently, all meetings are held virtually via Zoom.

Interested candidates are invited to send a cover letter/summary of interest in serving, along with a resume or short bio, to [Planning.OHR@lacity.org](mailto:Planning.OHR@lacity.org). To see a full list of the City's 35 HPOZs and learn more about the program, please visit: [Planning.lacity.org/preservation-design/local-historic-districts](http://Planning.lacity.org/preservation-design/local-historic-districts).

### Redistricting (continued from Page 1)

the East Valley with only a few relatively small changes in its boundaries and with Valley Village staying in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District.

Another redistricting decision that affects Valley Village is the approval of new boundaries for the five County Supervisorial districts in mid-December by the L.A. County Citizens Redistricting Commission. On the new map Valley Village is removed from District 3 (where it has been for many years) and which is represented by Sheila Kuehl, and is shifted into District 5 in north Los Angeles County represented by Katherine Barger. The map to the right shows the boundaries of the new Los Angeles County Supervisorial districts with District 5 that now includes Valley Village.



As for the district boundaries for State Assembly and State Senate, there are significant changes. Valley Village is now located in State Senate District 27, which extends well to the west, into Thousand Oaks and Simi Valley and on into Ventura County. And Valley Village is now located in Assembly District 44, which extends to the east to include Burbank and to the north to include Sunland and Tujunga. In order to continue representing Valley Village, State Senator Bob Hertzberg and State Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian will have to run for re-election in the new districts 27 and 44, respectively.

Valley Village is also impacted by the boundary changes for Congressional districts. Under the previous Congressional district boundaries Valley Village east of Colfax Avenue was in the district of Congressman Tony Cardenas, and west of Colfax most of Valley Village was in Congressman Brad Sherman's district. Under the new boundaries, all of Valley Village is in Tony Cardenas' district.

# Residents Association Membership Meeting

IN LINE WITH THE RENEWED REQUIREMENTS OF THE PANDEMIC  
THE ASSOCIATION WILL HOLD THIS MEETING ON ZOOM AT

**7:00PM ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19**

**GUEST SPEAKERS:**

**KEVIN DUFNER, NEIGHBORHOOD PROSECUTOR**

Mr. Dufner graduated from Pepperdine Law School. After law school, he volunteered as a misdemeanor criminal case prosecutor. He was subsequently hired.

**ROB BENAVIDEZ, SENIOR LEAD OFFICER FOR VALLEY VILLAGE, LAPD**

This link to the program will be sent to you by email closer to the meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82412062687?pwd=MDF3SSsvLysySDVXVkt3UWFJV1JyZz09>

Meeting ID: 824 1206 2687 Password: 922520

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82412062687?pwd=MDF3SSsvLysySDVXVkt3UWFJV1JyZz09>

**Mark Your  
Calendar:**

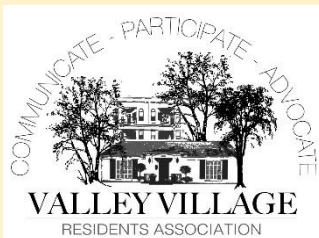
*Membership Meetings in 2022 will be on Wednesdays*

January 19 \* April 20 \* July 20 \* October 19

*Board of Directors Meetings in 2022 will be on Mondays*

February 7 \* April 11 \* June 13 \* September 19 \* November 7

## VALLEY VILLAGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



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