



FRIENDS OF SUNSET PARK

A California nonprofit corporation of Sunset Park residents • Box 5823, Santa Monica, California 90409-5823 • (310) 358-7117 • FriendsofSP@yahoo.com

JUNE 2008 NEWSLETTER

Layout by Bill Josephs

FRIENDS OF SUNSET PARK ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, June 14, 2008

2:00–4:00 PM

Mt. Olive Church, 14th & Ocean Park Blvd.



Speakers:

City Manager, P. Lamont Ewell
Chief of Police, Timothy J. Jackman
Santa Monica College Trustee, David Finkel



Door Prices and Refreshments



Vote for FOSP 2008–09 Board of Directors

This is your chance to talk to the people in charge!



310-358-7117, FriendsofSP@yahoo.com, www.friendsofsunsetpark.org

In order to vote, you will need to become an FOSP member by June 4th, ten days before the election.

Current members can renew their memberships at the meeting.

Judge Blocks Santa Monica From Enforcing Jet Ban; Appeal Expected

BY BRIAN BLAND, FOSP BOARD MEMBER AND
FOSP AIRPORT COMMITTEE MEMBER

LOS ANGELES (FOSP) – A federal judge has issued a preliminary injunction against the City of Santa Monica, blocking it from enforcing its ban of C and D jets at Santa Monica Airport (SMO).

Judge George Wu, who earlier issued a temporary restraining order against the city, had been given written briefs by city representatives and a U.S. attorney representing the Federal Aviation Administration. On Friday, May 16, the day after a half-hour hearing on the matter, Wu issued the preliminary injunction. The city will continue to fight the FAA with one or more legal actions as early as this week, including a possible appeal to the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

The city attorney's office says Wu's action was no surprise, as it was based on procedural grounds and not on the merits of the case. Wu indicated he didn't think much of the merits either, but his questions suggested he hadn't read the city's written briefs.

Wu asked, for example, why the city wasn't targeting class A and B jets in its ban. Deputy City Attorney Lance Gams replied that the overrun danger from the biggest jets far outweighs that of the smaller planes because of the effect such a crash would have on the streets and homes just yards away from the ends of the runway. The distinction seemed lost on Wu. As

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Looming Water Shortage

BY PHIL BRIER, WATER PROGRAM SPECIALIST

Over the past two months we've had many rainstorms, and we're on track to exceed 2007's meager 3.5 inches of precipitation, the driest year on record in the LA Basin. This ample precipitation seems like great news for our local water supply, and it would be if Chevron (the company with record profits and smiling cartoon vehicles) had not leaked birth defect causing MTBE into Santa Monica's Charnock Sub-Basin aquifer in 1995-96, rendering that vast water supply totally unusable. Since this clumsy debacle, we've depended almost entirely on the Colorado River for our water.

The Colorado is over-tapped. She no longer reaches the Sea of Cortez, and Southern California's incessant urban expansion is consuming water at a rate faster than the winter Sierra Nevada snows can replenish. Also, drastic global climate changes are raising real doubts on the reliability of future snow pack levels. Currently, some of our water also comes from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, an area that now has federal water diversion limits due to the endangered delta smelt and other habitat concerns. The federal limits are expected to cause higher water prices, water supply cutbacks, and water shortages in our region as soon as this summer.

We must prepare for this summer's water shortages, and we should keep in mind that this problem will not disappear in September. Water shortages are not expected to go away and will likely become more frequent and severe. Every resident who cares about our fresh water supply should inspect their water consumption

habits at home and at work and see where they could conserve. It is also important to stay abreast of current water conservation ordinances and new water saving technologies and devices. And last, as always, if you must hose off any paved areas, be sure to direct the water onto a permeable absorbent surface area with rocks or landscaping. Whatever gets into the streets and storm drains gets to our beach.

Rebates on water efficient devices: www.mwdsaveabuck.com

Santa Monica's current water conservation ordinance: www.smgov.net/epd/residents/Water/waste_ordinance.htm

Twentieth and Pearl Turns Into Grand Central Station

BY LAURA THIXTON

The intersection of 20th and Pearl Streets has gone from having one historical Big Blue Bus line (the Crosstown Ride No. 11, which ran every 30 minutes) to having four bus routes—the Crosstown Ride (now running every 15 minutes), the Sunset Ride, the Line 6-SMC Commuter, and the Evening Bundy Campus Shuttle Service. These BBB routes are in addition to the privately run Santa Monica College shuttles (white Deer buses) and 20,000 daily car trips on these narrow, 2-lane, residential streets.

The BBB buses run from 7:00 AM to 10:10 PM Monday through Thursday, and from 7:00 AM to 6:30 PM on Friday. The privately run SMC Madison Intercampus Shuttles, which serve the Main Campus and the Madison Campus on Santa Monica Blvd. and 11th Street, run Monday through Friday from 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM.

Conservatively speaking, there are now 118 Big Blue Buses (plus 28 private Madison Shuttle buses) traveling through this narrow intersection daily. It is the opinion of the residents that this intersection is being unfairly singled out to carry the load of these bus routes solely because it is situated in close proximity to Santa Monica College.

Other than the Crosstown Ride, these bus routes primarily serve SMC. BBB staff members have stated otherwise, saying that all four routes are serving the community. However, the Sunset Ride, Line 6-SMC Commuter, and Bundy Campus Evening Shuttle routes are specifically designed around SMC's main and satellite campuses, and were designed in partnership with Marvin Martinez, former SMC Vice President of Planning and Development. In fact, on the college website, www.smc.edu, the Sunset Ride is variously described as the Sunset Ride, the Mini-Blue Sunset Shuttle, the Academy/Olympic Shuttle, the Airport Arts & Bundy Shuttle, and SMC Intercampus Transit. The Line 6-SMC Commuter serves only SMC students and staff living in Mar Vista, Palms, and Culver City, not the local community.

Residents have requested at various BBB community meetings that these college-serving bus lines (specifically the Sunset Ride and the Line 6-SMC Commuter) be re-routed onto arterials, such as Ocean Park Blvd. and Pico Blvd., and taken off 17th, 20th, and Pearl. They have argued that SMC students and staff already use the Line 7 bus on Pico Blvd. and the Line 8 bus on Ocean Park Blvd; therefore there is no reason why these new bus lines can't be re-routed on those same major boulevards rather than using 17th, 20th, and Pearl, narrow streets on which residents have been negatively impacted by noise and vibrations from frequently passing and idling buses. But so far, the answer from the Big Blue Bus Company has been, "No."

The Re-Striping of Ocean Park Boulevard

The Ocean Park Blvd. re-striping pilot project was implemented in December 2007 and is nearing the end of its 6-month trial. The Transportation Management Division is collecting feedback by email at Beth.Rolandson@smgov.net. They will also actively seek feedback from people after the project is complete.

The assessment/evaluation process will include analysis of some quantitative information—before and after travel times, speeds, accidents, volumes, feedback from other departments (Police Department, Fire Department, Big Blue Bus), number of street parking spaces/availability of

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SMC Considers a \$295 Million Bond Measure for the November Ballot

At its May 12th meeting, the Santa Monica College Board of Trustees discussed "College Facilities Master Plan Update and Means of Financing." The agenda included the following:

"This past month, two focus groups and a scientific public survey have been undertaken to determine public opinion on a potential Safety Modernization bond measure for placement on the November 2008 ballot....13 of the 15 focus groups members and 68% of the 500 respondents to the scientific public survey indicated they would likely vote 'yes' on a Santa Monica College bond measure in the amount of \$295 million to replace deteriorating buildings; upgrade fire safety; construct and equip math and science laboratories; improve student training in science, technology, media, communications, computers, and emerging high-tech fields; achieve energy savings; complete earthquake repairs; with citizens' oversight, annual performance and financial audits; and no funds for administrators."

To put this proposed ballot measure in perspective, keep in mind that the residents who pay for both SMMUSD and SMC facilities bonds live only in Santa Monica and Malibu.

Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District

(about 80% of students live in Santa Monica or Malibu)
1998 – Prop X: \$42M
2006 – Prop BB: \$268M
Total: \$310 million

Santa Monica Community College District

(about 20% of students live in Santa Monica or Malibu)
2002 – Measure U: \$160M
2004 – Measure S: \$135M
2008 – Measure ?: \$295M
Total: \$590 million

The Board of Trustees will decide at its July 7th meeting whether to place the \$295 million bond measure on the November ballot. The meeting is open to the public and will be held at 7 PM in the Business Building, Rm. 117. Contact information for the Board of Trustees is posted online at <http://www.smc.edu/apps/pub.asp?Q=543>

Ocean Park Blvd., from page 2

parking, and some qualitative information, such as: Do people feel safer? Do they feel like it is easier to drive, park, walk, or bike? Do they think there is more or less delay?

Lucy Dyke, Transportation Planning Manager, recently stated, "Regarding qualitative information, we have gotten many comments from people by email, phone and letter. We will also do some kind of mailer with questions for people who live near Ocean Park Boulevard. And, we will also have a neighborhood community meeting to go over what we have found prior to making a recommendation to Council.

Ms. Dyke continued, "I am convinced that programs to encourage parents to take their children to school by other means than car, and programs to address SMC student trips and cruising for parking could make a big difference in terms of traffic in your neighborhood."

Residential Security Suggestions

This information is provided by the Santa Monica Police Department for the safety of our community.

- Lock your doors and windows even when you will only be gone for a short period of time. Warm weather presents the temptation to leave doors or windows open. Don't give in to the temptation! Windows that are partially open should have a lock to prevent someone from fully opening the window and climbing in.
- Do not keep your cash and jewelry in predictable places (nightstands, drawers). A safe is a better alternative.
- Move valuables (laptops, purse) away from outside view (windows) so you don't risk tempting someone.
- Lock your garage at all times. It should be secured with a good hardened-steel hasp and padlock.
- Burglars are much less likely to consider a house they feel is occupied. Make your house look occupied when you are gone by using variable timers to turn your lights and radio/television on and off and setting your radio to a talk radio station.
- If you have an alarm system, be sure to use it.
- Be cognizant of suspicious activity. Trust your instincts. If someone seems suspicious in your neighborhood, do not hesitate to call the police.
- If you think you have been burglarized, and someone may still be in your home, do not investigate on your own. Go to a neighbor's home and call 9-1-1. Let a police officer ensure your safety.
- Start or join a Neighborhood Watch. Your neighbors are your best allies. They may be able to see a burglar before you ever know someone is attempting to enter your home. And as a neighbor, you should not try to confront the suspect. Call 9-1-1 and provide our Communications Center as much information as possible to help our officers locate the suspect.
- Call 9-1-1 if a crime is in progress. For non-emergencies, please call the Communications Center at (310) 458-8491.

Be sure to contact the Community Relations office if you wish to have a Crime Prevention Coordinator conduct a Security Survey of your home or business or assist you in starting a Neighborhood Watch in your area. To set up an appointment, call (310) 458-8474. For more information and additional safety tips, visit the Crime Prevention Safety Tips sections on our website at www.santamonicapd.org.

July 4th Parade on Main Street

BY TED WINTERER, OPA PRESIDENT

Calling all kids with bicycles, creative teams, neighbors, marching bands and civic-minded groups! Big or small, young or old, all are welcome to march in Santa Monica's second annual July 4th Parade on Main Street, presented by the Ocean Park Association (OPA) and various sponsors!

Decorate yourselves, build a float, dress up your bikes, wagons or go-carts, and celebrate Independence Day with a small town, community parade. Spectators welcome!

The parade begins at 9:30 AM on Friday, July 4th in front of the Civic Auditorium on Main St. just north of Pico Boulevard and then follows Main Street towards the southern city limits on Marine. This year our Grand Marshall, Chief of Police Tim Jackman, will lead the procession on horseback with the SMPD Mounted Reserves.

Application for those wishing to march in the parade will be available on the OPA website starting on May 20, 2008. Advance registration by June 20th is required for participation in the parade. The OPA Parade Committee will notify you of your check-in time after your application has been approved. See www.opa-sm.org for registration forms and parade guidelines. Volunteers are needed, so please sign up and join us in organizing this community event!

For general parade questions, contact parade@opa-sm.org. To



volunteer to help on the day of the parade, please send an email to parade_volunteers@opa-sm.org.

Last year's event was great fun and we expect the parade to be even better this year. Come out and join the fun!

Judge Blocks Jet Ban, from page 1

he did during the hearing on the temporary restraining order, he noted that no jet had overrun SMO's runway, but smaller planes had. That statement ignores the fact that the overruns he cited were contained within the airport property because the planes were smaller, while the outcome of a fast-jet overrun would be very different. His statement also ignores the documented overruns of such jets at airports similar to SMO.

Wu again seemed to indicate he had no appreciation of SMO's unique situation (no overrun areas and surrounded by homes) or why residents were concerned. At one point he asked rhetorically: "Don't planes fall out of the sky all the time?" Hardly a reason for comfort or for ignoring the danger from the C and D planes.

The city attorney's office indicated it may have to deal with Judge Wu yet again if he should be directed to hear the case based on its merits. His attitude at the two hearings so far shows the city would have the handicap of dealing with a judge who seems ready to use a one-size-fits-all approach rather than really consider what's at stake.

The hearing was covered by the Santa Monica Daily Press, the L.A. Times, the Associated Press and KFWB News 98. FOSP board members, who attended both hearings, will continue to stay in touch with the city attorney and the SMO staff to keep you posted. We hope to see you at our annual membership meeting on Saturday, June 14, at 1:30 PM at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Ocean Park and 14th.

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2008 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

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Today's date _____

I will help with:

- Airport Committee
- Annual Meeting
- Crime/Safety/Graffiti
- Emergency Preparedness
- Membership Committee
- Neighborhood Mailings
- Planning and Development
- Santa Monica College
- Traffic, Parking, Pedestrian Safety
- Website/Internet

Membership Dues:

- \$30 Regular Household Dues
- \$50 or \$100 for Sponsor
- \$10 Minimum Household Dues
- Additional Donation

(Please check):

- New Renewal

Please make check payable to "Friends of Sunset Park" and mail to P.O.Box 5823, Santa Monica, CA 90405

My greatest concerns are _____

*** If you received this newsletter in the mail, the mailing label will have the date when you last paid dues.**