



FRIENDS OF SUNSET PARK

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

JUNE 2020 NEWSLETTER

Layout by Bill Josephs

Boards and Commissions

All were initially suspended by the City Council due to budget concerns except for the five in the City Charter. On May 19, a supplemental order permitted the following to resume limited meetings:

Airport Commission, Architectural Review Board, Arts Commission, Building & Fire-Life Safety Commission, Landmarks Commission, Library Board, Personnel Board, Planning Commission, Recreation & Parks Commission.

The following remain **suspended**: Audit Subcommittee, Clean Beaches Citizens Oversight Committee, Commission for the Senior Community, Commission on the Status of Women, Disabilities Commission, Housing Commission, Social Services Commission, Task Force on the Environment, and Urban Forest Task Force.

Fairview Library

The Fairview branch is closed for the foreseeable future. The book drop in front of the library reopened on June 15, and patrons who had books due after the libraries closed in March will not be assessed fines. The Santa Monica Public Library staff, which has been reduced by 65 positions, hopes to begin curbside service at the Main Library in July.

Under a proposed plan, hours and locations will eventually be as follows:

Main Library Monday thru Thursday, Noon to 8 PM, and Saturday, 10 AM to 5 PM. First floor access only, with an emphasis on concierge delivery of materials, curbside service, and limited walk-in use of computers for Internet access.

Pico Branch Tuesday thru Thursday, Noon to 8 PM, and Saturday, 10 AM to 5 PM. Services will focus on Youth and Family Services and World Languages.

Montana Branch Monday and Wednesday, Noon to 8 PM. Services will focus on Workforce Development, Career Online High School, and Literacy.

FOSP Board of Directors

Zina Josephs, President

Clare Thomas, Vice President

Charles R. Donaldson, Secretary

Vivien Flitton, Treasurer

Nikki Kolhoff, Land Use Committee Chair

Cathy Larson, Airport Committee Chair

Peter Donald

Ofer Grossman

Alex Novakovich

City Council to Approve Budget June 23

The City Council will hold its next meeting by teleconference on Tuesday, June 23, at 5:30 PM. **Agenda:** <https://www.smgov.net/departments/clerk/agendas.aspx> The meeting can be viewed at:

- CityTV – Cable Channel 16
- Streaming at <https://www.smgov.net/content.aspx?id=4292>
- Live Stream (Chrome Browser Recommended): <https://tinyurl.com/yd5qjbvk>

May 26 The City Council discussed “Santa Monica: A Plan for the Future.” It included these budget reductions for the Sunset Park neighborhood:

- No more annual newsletter mailings for neighborhood organizations (FOSP)
- Fairview Library closed for the foreseeable future
- Airport Interim Space closed
- Airport Park soccer fields remain closed until funding available for repair
- Santa Monica Swim Center programs reduced/eliminated
- Lincoln Neighborhood Corridor Plan implementation – canceled
- Sunset Park Traffic Mitigation Plan – on hold
- Reduced response to Santa Monica Works requests from addressing all general maintenance requests to instead addressing only potential safety issues.

June 9: The Council discussed the proposed FY 2020–21 budget and biennial FY 2020–22 capital improvement program budget. The budget reflected the impacts of COVID-19 and included measures to close a projected \$224 million budget deficit by eliminating 304 positions and reducing capital spending. The FY 2020-21 Proposed Budget is \$614 million, a 24% decrease from FY 2019-20.

The City will continue to provide SMMUSD with revenue generated from the half cent transaction and use tax approved by Santa Monica voters as well as annual funding in return for use of SMMUSD facilities.

The budget included the following changes since May 26:

- The **Crossing Guard Program** will be partially restored through 6.5 full-time-equivalent as-needed crossing guard positions.
- The **Landmarks Commission** resumes meeting as-needed or every other month.
- The City and SMMUSD will work with the community to seek new solutions and models for the CREST Sports and Playground Access programs.

Council approved moving forward with a **ballot measure** for the November 2020 election that would authorize an increase in the transfer tax paid on real estate selling for over \$5 million by \$3 per \$1,000 of sales price. If approved by voters, the measure would generate approximately \$3 million annually.

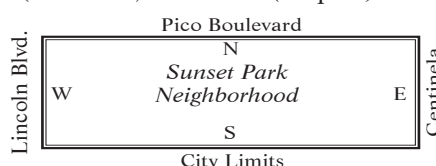
The City Council unanimously adopted the **Obama Pledge** to reform local police practices to limit use of force. Council voted unanimously to direct staff to explore implementation of the #8CantWait action items. City staff will work with community leaders to create a Black Agenda to address issues of systemic racism in Santa Monica. And, the Council unanimously voted to direct an independent investigation of the events on May 31st, including events leading up to that day and the days that followed.

Public Works

Street Sweeping Due to budget concerns, the street sweeping schedule has been reduced from weekly to monthly, during the first week of the month. Parking tickets based on street sweeping remain suspended until June 30.

Public Landscape Maintenance Division Phase I of the Memorial Park Master Plan has been placed on hold, therefore the plan to move the Public Landscape Maintenance Division to Santa Monica Airport property adjacent to homes and Clover Park is also on hold for the present.

The Sunset Park neighborhood is bounded by Lincoln Blvd. on the west, Pico Blvd. on the north, and the city limits on the east (Centinela) and south (Airport, Dewey, Ozone).



Coronavirus Update

As of June 15, there have been 336 Covid-19 cases in Santa Monica and 22 deaths. Free testing is available at Santa Monica Airport. Make your appointment at covid19.lacounty.gov

Information updated daily: <https://www.santamonica.gov/coronavirus>

Hotline: 310-458-8400, 8 AM to 8 PM

Email: info@SantaMonica.gov

Free COVID-19 testing: <https://covid19.lacounty.gov/testing/>

Donate to "We are Santa Monica" (Santa Monica COVID-19 Relief Fund): <https://www.calfund.org/wearesantamonica/>

Programs to Help You Save Money on Utilities and Food during COVID-19: <https://tinyurl.com/y7ngkahx>

Fireworks at SMC Cancelled

The annual holiday fireworks show "Celebrate America!" is canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic and county restrictions on large-scale, in-person events. The traditional 4th of July Parade on Main Street is also canceled.

Santa Monica Airport

Night Time Closures SMO will be closed to aircraft operations nightly from 9 PM to 7 AM on Sunday, June 21, through Friday, June 26, in order to complete its biennial runway maintenance project. The construction schedule is subject to change.

Airport Interim Space – This space is closed for the foreseeable future.

Pico Improvement Organization (PIO)

The City of Santa Monica has had 250+ businesses vandalized since May 31st. Pico Boulevard merchants impacted with broken glass and theft were AVO Café, Milo SRO Pizza, the Sherwin-Williams Paint Store, The Stables Gym/Physical Fitness Center, Pico Chevron & Extra Mile Store, Rite Aid, Sunset Plaza Liquor and Jr Market, and the 99 Cents Only Store.

Development Update

4th/5th & Arizona – For several years, the City of Santa Monica has been negotiating with a developer selected through a competitive process regarding a proposed 12-story hotel and office project on City-owned land on Arizona Avenue between Fourth and Fifth Streets in Santa Monica's Downtown. It's referred to as The Plaza at Santa Monica.

In February 2020, City Council directed staff to cease negotiations based on feedback from the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) about whether the Site needed to meet the requirements of California's recently expanded Surplus Land Act (AB 1486). This would involve providing notice to affordable housing developers and other agencies regarding the opportunity to submit proposals to develop the Site.

In March 2020, HCD concluded that the Site qualified for an exemption from the expanded Surplus Land Act because the City and developer had been engaged in exclusive negotiations.

On June 23, staff will seek Council direction on whether negotiations regarding the development of the Site should resume. The agenda and staff report are expected to be released on Friday, June 19, and will be posted at <https://www.smgov.net/departments/clerk/agendas.aspx>

Proposed state housing legislation that could affect Santa Monica includes AB 725, AB 1085, AB 1279 (Bloom), SB 995, SB 1120, and SB 1279. Visit <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/> for information on pending state legislation.

Parcel Tax–Senior Exemption for Homeowners

Information to apply for the Measure R Senior Exemption is at <https://www.smmusd.org/Page/3905>. The application form and supporting documentation must be completed, signed, and returned by **June 30, 2020**.

In 2008, voters in Santa Monica and Malibu approved the Measure R parcel tax, which allows senior citizens who meet the following criteria to be exempted from the tax: a) Senior property owner must be at least 65 years of age by June 30th for the year the exemption application is submitted, and b) Senior must own and be residing in their property as their primary residence.

How to Apply: Only use this application form for NEW applications. Parcels that received an exemption in 2019–2020 and continue to meet the eligibility criteria will be automatically exempted for 2020–2021.

If you wish to check your status, please email MeasureR@smmusd.org or call 310-450-8338 with your name and address or parcel number. Download the Senior Citizen Exemption Application form at <https://tinyurl.com/ycjqjw5c>

Community Policing

Santa Monica Police Department

www.SantaMonicaPD.org

Report An In-Progress, Life-Threatening Emergency: Dial 9-1-1

Request Non-Emergency Police Service: Dial 310-458-8491

SMPD Neighborhood Resource Officer

Edgar.Navarro@smgov.net

310-458-2201 ext 4137

Crime Prevention Coordinator

Halima.Barreto@smgov.net

310-458-8618

Visit us at FriendsOfSunsetPark.org

2020 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Email (s) _____

Today's date _____

I am interested in:

Crime/Safety/Graffiti

Controlling Development

Emergency Preparedness

Neighborhood Mailings

Protecting the Environment

Santa Monica Airport

Santa Monica College

Traffic, Parking, Pedestrian Safety

Membership Dues:

\$30 Regular Household Dues

\$50 or \$100 for Sponsor

\$10 Minimum Household Dues

\$50 Business

Additional Donation

Please make check payable to "Friends of Sunset Park," and mail to:

FOSP, P.O. Box 5823, Santa Monica, CA 90409

What I like best about living in Sunset Park: _____

My greatest concerns are: _____