



FRIENDS OF SUNSET PARK

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

JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Layout by Bill Josephs

New City Manager and Departure of City Department Heads

City Manager Oliver Chi joined the city of Santa Monica in July, after serving as city manager for the city of Irvine since 2021. He had worked previously in Huntington Beach, Monrovia, Rosemead, and Barstow. Since Chi took office, the following department heads have resigned: City Attorney Doug Sloan, Director of Housing and Human Services Heather Averick, Police Chief Ramon Batista, Community Development Director Arminé Chaparyan, and City Clerk Nikima Newsome.

City Manager Appoints New Planning Director and New Police Chief

In September, Oliver Chi appointed Jing Yeo as the new director of the Community Development Department, with a salary of \$264,912. Yeo has worked in the department since 2006, and had been planning manager since 2016. She holds a master's degree in planning and urban design from the University of Toronto.

In December, the City Manager appointed Darrick Jacob as Chief of Police. Jacob has served with the SMPD since 2004 and has been acting chief since August 2025. Beginning in 2020, he had served as Deputy Chief. His experience spans patrol operations, investigations, organizational management, and citywide public safety coordination. Prior to joining the SMPD, Jacob served with the L.A. County Sheriff's Department. He holds a master's degree in public administration from CSUN.

Fairview Library Reopening Celebration!

On January 20 from 12 to 2 PM, celebrate the reopening of Fairview Branch Library for full service three days per week. No RSVP is needed and all ages are welcome. The library is located at 2101 Ocean Park Blvd.

Zwick Can't Vote on Housing Development Issues

According to the Santa Monica Lookout, "California's top political watchdog has concluded that City Councilmember Jesse Zwick is disqualified from participating in 'housing production decisions' made by the Council... The formal advice issued by the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) on December 8 determined that Zwick's employer, the state-wide Housing Action Coalition (HAC), could benefit from the Council's action...."

Santa Monica Airport (SMO)

On December 2, Jet Suite X (JSX) entered into a 3-year lease agreement to operate at Santa Monica Airport (SMO) through November 30, 2028, one month before City officials can close the airport under a 2017 Federal Consent Decree with the FAA. The City's actions effectively begin shifting SMO from a General Aviation airport toward

scheduled commercial passenger service. Per FAA regulations, commercial airports like LAX handle scheduled airline flights, while General Aviation airports like SMO are not designed or approved for scheduled commercial service.

On December 19, JSX began daily scheduled commercial service from SMO to and from Las Vegas. They are using a turboprop aircraft, the ATR 42-600, which is designed to carry 50 passengers, but limiting each flight to 30 passengers plus crew, due to the short SMO runway.

Frequency Beginning January 22, flights to and from Scottsdale will be added. Beginning February 5, there will be three flights daily to and from Las Vegas. There seem to be no enforceable limits preventing future increases in flight frequency tied to major regional events, such as the 2026 World Cup, the 2027 Super Bowl, and the 2028 Olympics.

Air pollution Turbojets use Jet A fuel, which emits black carbon (soot) in addition to ultrafine particles, which pose significant health risks because they penetrate deep into lungs and enter the bloodstream, causing systemic inflammation, oxidative stress, and cellular damage, linked to respiratory issues, cardiovascular problems, neurological effects, and even diabetes, cancer, and developmental problems like low birth weight. Their tiny size allows them to bypass natural defenses, affecting nearly every organ, including the brain via olfactory nerves.

Safety Planes arriving and departing from SMO fly over residential areas of West Los Angeles and Santa Monica. A list of aviation accidents/incidents connected with SMO between 1982 and 2011 alone is posted at <https://friendsofsunsetpark.org/airport/safety-concerns/>

CEQA Before approving the JSX lease, Santa Monica filed a Notice of Exemption from CEQA environmental reviews. In response, Measure LC Defense formed in order to challenge the exemption and file a California Environmental Quality Act Case in Superior Court. The plaintiffs are NoJets founder Alan Levenson and longtime FOSP Board member Zina Josephs. This city approval without CEQA review sets a precedent, i.e., the same approach could later be applied to additional air carriers or air taxis. Additional information about the lawsuit is posted at LCdefense.org

Locals Night at the Santa Monica Pier

Every THIRD THURSDAY of the month from September to May, gather friends and family and head down to the Pier for amazing entertainment by locals for locals. January 15: Drive-In Movie Night: SantaMonicaPier.org/localsnight

Fire Department Update

The new Advanced Provider Unit (APU) pairs a nurse practitioner with a firefighter-paramedic to deliver advanced medical assessment, treatment, and follow-up care directly in the field. This allows patients with non-life-threatening conditions to receive comprehensive evaluation and treatment on scene, often avoiding an Emergency Room visit, while ensuring continuity of care.

Holiday tree collection until January 31

Remove stands and decorations, and place the tree next to your recycling container. Recycling events (free paper shred, etc.) from 9 AM to 2 PM at the City Yards, 2500 Michigan Avenue, on February 7, May 16, August 8, and November 7.

Resource Recovery and Recycling

Beginning February 1, the following 311 requests will require an account number: services level changes; start or stop service; additional pickups; rent-a-bin; and container requests. You can find your account number on the top left-hand corner of your bill or by contacting the Utility Billing division at billing.collections@santamonica.gov

Hazardous View Obstructions

A hazardous view obstruction (HVO) is a wall, fence, or landscaping that blocks the view of a motorist. The city requires a 5' · 5' HVO triangle where a driveway, garage, parking space, or loading zone intersects with the public right-of-way at the alley or sidewalk. Triangles are also required where an alley intersects a sidewalk, street, or another alley. Additional information is posted at <https://tinyurl.com/yc9t9eom>

STOP COUNCIL OVERREACH

SAVE OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

The City Council is going FAR BEYOND State Law

PICO NEIGHBORHOOD, SUNSET PARK, NORTH EAST, NORTH OF MONTANA

**These Neighborhoods Are All At Risk Of Irreversible Change
UNLESS WE ACT NOW**



**EMAIL,
ATTEND,
SHARE.**

Our City Council Is Pushing For And Voting On:

Allowing 3 STORIES

50% more floor area than is currently allowed in these neighborhoods

NONE OF THIS IS REQUIRED BY THE STATE *

No protections against developing side-by-side lots = MULTI-LOT 3-STORY COMPLEXES ARE POSSIBLE

THERE IS NO EVIDENCE ANY OF THIS IS NECESSARY

**STATE LAW ALREADY ENABLES STREAMLINED SUBDIVISION AND DENSITY
THIS GOES FAR BEYOND - AND MAY BE IRREVERSIBLE****

ATTEND THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING, TUES, JAN 13, 5:30 PM, CITY HALL

EMAIL the City Council NOW (LATEST by Jan 13 at noon) to comment

*SB 1123 requires cities to approve certain small housing subdivisions through a streamlined, ministerial process when objective criteria are met. It does not require cities to increase building height, floor area, setbacks, or neighborhood development standards.

**Commented by SM Planning Commissioners in public hearing 11/19/25. Commissioners also begged residents to comment on this ordinance.

**TELL THE CITY COUNCIL:
STOP EXCEEDING THE STATE LAWS**

NO to 3 Stories

NO to 50% Increase in Floor Area

NO to Irresponsible Densification Without Public Safety and Evacuation Planning

Flyer brought to you by Friends of Sunset Park



**Scan the QR for
Council Email
addresses and
help with
comments**

How to Email City Council

Councilmtgitems@santamonica.gov
dan.hall@santamonica.gov
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Include "Agenda item number 11-C" in the subject line of your email.