



WHHO Newsletter

Nov. - Dec., 2021

Woodland Hills Homeowners Organization

P.O. Box 6368, Woodland Hills, CA 91365 |

www.whho.com

WHHO General Meeting

This Wednesday December 1,

7:30 PM:

**State Senator
Henry Stern**

**Webinar Virtual Meeting – Register to attend
by going to www.whho.com**

The WHHO has invited our State Senator Henry Stern to share his insights and observations about what has gone on in Sacramento this past year, and what's ahead as far as legislation that can and will impact you, your home and your neighborhood.

The WHHO's Webinar meeting begins at 7:30 P.M., and it is critical you register and attend

What's going on in Sacramento, and how is it going to impact you and your lifestyle?

Henry Stern, the State Senator who represents Woodland Hills as well as other portions of the West Valley, the Malibu area and eastern Ventura County, has agreed to be our guest speaker at this Wednesday evening's WHHO General Community Meeting at 7:30 PM. And there will be a lot of topics discussed that can, or most likely will, impact your community, your neighborhood, your home-- and quite possibly even your lifestyle.

We'll be asking Sen. Stern to offer a more detailed

We'll be asking Sen. Stern to offer you an "insider's analysis" of some of the most fractious pieces of legislation that have ever come out of the Senate and gotten signed into law by the Governor—SB 9 and SB-10.

There will also be discussions on what the Sacramento Legislature is doing to solve the ever-growing problems of mental health illness and the lack of major treatment facilities that were closed throughout the State during the Ronald Reagan Governorship.

Area fire prevention and protection will be another likely topic for discussion as will the shut-downs of power lines during windy periods, the State's failure to mandate Affordable housing in any of the housing and construction bills that they've passed, and Sacramento's failure to fully address the road speeding problems that their legislation has caused which has resulted in so many unrestrained drivers speeding through quiet neighborhoods and causing serious accidents.

"We're pleased that Senator Stern has agreed to join us on December 1st and share his comments," stated WHHO President John Walker. "There has been a lot going on and coming out of our State Legislature—some very good, some very bad—and because of time constraints and full schedules, we haven't had as much direct contact with our Sacramento representatives as we'd like. With Senator Stern agreeing to meet with us on Wednesday evening, we believe you'll be able to get the facts and insights from a legislator directly involved in a lot of issues impacting our homes and neighborhoods."

Walker added that members who virtually attend our WHHO meeting will be able to ask pertinent questions by using the Q&A feature of the webinar. “We will try to get as many questions from members answered as we can,” Walker said. “But, because we have been previously “Zoom-bombed: with crank comments and video feeds, we haven’t been able to open our virtual meetings to live callers. We know folks have a lot of questions, so you can either ask them during the discussion using the Q&A button, or you can email your questions to the WHHO website earlier in the day and I’ll try to be sure you get a response.”

The WHHO General Meeting Zoom Webinar will start on-line at 7:30 PM, and to gain access to Wednesday’s WHHO Webinar, simply go to the WHHO website (www.whho.com) and register there. Questions can be entered on the Q&A feature of Zoom and will be passed on to the guests.

This will be the final WHHO meeting for 2021. The next WHHO General Community webinar will be in January when Councilman Bob Blumenfield gives his “State of the Community” report.

LA City Redistricting process goes from “Oh No!!!!” to “Whew!!!” as the City Council finally brings sanity to re-drawing Council District lines.

You know the Frankenstein story—take a little from this body, add it to that body, then keep stealing more and more parts until you come up with—right, an ugly MONSTER!!! (Or in this case 15 ugly monsters)

That apparently was the approach that the supposedly non-political, independent City Redistricting Committee took as they bickered, grabbed, disassembled and then re-assembled the City’s 15 Council District borders as required every 10 years after the US Census reports on concentrations of

ethnic and financial residents, as well as ages, population shifts and other statistics.

After months of holding hearing that almost no one attended, gathering input from a bare minimum of residents throughout the City, and then turning the mish-mosh over to a hired organization to try and make a silk purse out of an entire sow, they created a proposed map of 15 new Council Districts that almost nobody liked or thought workable.

Then the politicians stepped in. First there were sitting Council Members who “sic’d” their appointees on the supposedly “Independent” Committee to grab huge chunks out of adjacent Council Districts. So, suddenly Encino and Valley Village got rustled into CD-3 which then had to give up all of Pierce College, the north half of Warner Center and chunks of surrounding neighborhoods. Throughout the City, dozens of other chunks of LA were stolen, traded back and then re-stolen.

It wasn’t until City Council President Nury Martinez appointed a special committee of sitting City Council members—including Bob Blumenfield-- to entirely re-draw the new District map, that sanity finally made an appearance at the table.

So what is the bottom line result of all the analysis, horse-trading, bickering and back-room dealing? Pretty much—nothing really changes. The 15 Council Districts pretty much look like they have looked for the past 10 years.

Council District-3 remains fairly intact. Pierce College and the surrounding neighborhoods remain in the CD-3. Warner Center remains in CD-3. The Council boundaries remain basically the same—except a portion of eastern Reseda has been moved to another Council District. So the new CD-3 will be made up of Woodland Hills, Canoga Park, Winnetka, Tarzana and the western part of Reseda.

Whew!!!!

LAUSD redistricting results: The proposal for our West Valley schools gets an “F”—with one finger raised.

While the LA City Council redistricting battle actually came to a happy ending for the CD-03 and the West Valley, the same couldn't be said for the “independent” committee assigned with figuring out the re-districting of the LA City School Districts.

While virtually every Neighborhood Council in the Valley—as well as the WHHO and a Chamber of Commerce—sent requests to the LAUSD Redistricting Committee asking that the group follow the suggested guidelines and refrain from splitting communities into two different School Board seats, their reasoned arguments fell on deaf ears.

The request that all Valley areas be gathered together in one, or possibly two districts instead of incorporating hunks of West Los Angeles and the Pacific Palisades into the same seat that governed portions of the West Valley, and a hunk of Hollywood being fused into the seat that governs the East Valley.

So, instead of having Mulholland Drive serve as the demarcation line between school districts, and having all Woodland Hills schools governed by the same LAUSD seat, our schools are now split between the Seat #3 and Seat #4 like they were previously. Except that Seat #4 has encroached much further north into the West Valley up through Canoga Park and Winnetka.

“We had asked the Redistricting Committee” to do what virtually everyone requested, and put Woodland Hills schools together all under the guidance of Seat #3,” noted WHHO Vice President Dennis DiBiase. “The Committee just wouldn't hear of it for some reason which they never shared.”

According to several members of WHHO's Education committee, LAUSD Board Member Scott

Schmerelson (Seat #3) was all in favor of making the West Valley whole. And so were many of the area's school officials.

“We've had Nick Melvoin of Area #4 talk to WHHO members, and I think it is a fair assessment that the Valley represents a very minor part of his concerns,” DiBiase continued. “The majority of the schools in his district are in the West LA and West Hollywood sections, and get the majority of his focus. Our West Valley schools are on the other side of the dividing line and suffer from that. Bringing them together into Seat #3 would have solved a lot of the major problems that are sure to rise starting in 2022 with the situation with the Oso St. and Collins St. properties, and the expanding growth in Warner Center.”

Because the LA City Council actually has the final say on the LAUSD Redistricting Map, a number of constituent groups including the WHHO and the Woodland Hills Neighborhood Council asked CD-3 Councilman Bob Blumenfield to make a motion to move any schools north of Mulholland Drive into Seat #3 of the LAUSD Board. He did, but failed to get even a “courtesy second” from any of the other City Council members.

Proposed WHHO Board Member Candidates and Officers for 2022 To be Voted on at Wednesday's Virtual Meeting.

WHHO members attending this Wednesday night's General Community meeting will be presented with the candidates for this year's upcoming Board, along with the WHHO recommendations for officers.

Members attending the virtual meeting on video will be asked to “raise their hands” using the hand-raise button on the Zoom panel.

The WHHO members who are on the slate for a Board seat are: John Walker, Dennis DiBiase, Marty

Lipkin, Nancy Porter, Silvia Murley, Ari Coine, Shelly Schwartz, Bobbie Wasserman, Aaron Williams, and Arman Hovanessian.

The candidates for WHHO Officers are: John Walker (President), Dennis DiBiase (Vice President); Marty Lipkin (Vice President); Nancy Porter (Secretary); Silvia Murley (Treasurer).

“Since no one has stepped down from the current WHHO Board, we felt that a continuation of the current Board make-up and officers seems the prudent thing to do since we have just gotten through one of the most disrupting times in the nation as well as in the City of LA”, stated John Walker. “We still have a number of important committees and oversight groups that need some volunteers and we are always looking for those individuals who have the time and energy to make Woodland Hills an even better place to live.”

Important Speakers are Slated for the First Few Months of 2022.

The WHHO has been busy setting up key speakers for the first few months of the coming new year in an effort to let Woodland Hills homeowners what they can expect from the City, State and other key players making decision that affect our homes, our neighborhoods and our lifestyles.

Starting off the new year will be Councilman Bob Blumenfield as our January guest. The Councilman will deliver his annual “State of the West Valley” report and delver into issues that have become key points of contention for businesses and residents.

Obviously, the homeless issues will be front and center, as well as the RV parking/encampment problems and the mental health issues. The CD-3 has been one of the City’s leaders in developing temporary and bridge housing for homeless individuals, but those projects have not eliminated the problems, and the “whack-a-mole” situations continue to exist.

There is also the growing problem of illegal drug use and sales infesting many of the homeless encampments, as well as the continuing problems of unsanitary waste being left on sidewalks and streets.

The RV encampments seem to shift from location to location as the LAPOD has been handcuffed from enforcement of City regulations by the Mayor and City Attorney, as well as by the City Council’s refusal to reinstate their allowed parking (8 PM to 6 AM) of RVS, busses and live-in vehicles on certain streets throughout the City.

Those are just some of the major issues we’re expecting the Councilman to address, along with the failure of the Warner Center 2035 Specific Plan to balance the needed commercial space with the already over-burgeoned residential spaces.

Again, be sure to reserve the evening of Wednesday, January 26 for a very informative and insightful discussion.

In February 2022, we have asked City Controller Ron Galperin to be our guest and discuss where the City is wasting or misusing our tax dollars. Mr. Galperin is a highly outspoken office holder and has locked horns with the Mayor, the City Council, and virtually every City Department head—including the Departments of Street Services and the Sanitation Department—over misuse of funds, waste and failure to complete necessary repairs to keep our City running. His insight and comments should be able to tell you who needs to be replaced in LA City government. Controller Ron Galperin is scheduled to address the WHHO membership on Wednesday, February 23 at 7:30 PM, so be sure to make it on your calendar

WHHO Officers & Directors for 2020:

President: John Walker - (818) 719-9181

Vice-President: Dennis DiBiase - (818) 346-9567

Vice-President: Marty Lipkin - (818) 999-4340

Treasurer: Silvia Anthony Murley - (818) 404-1945

Secretary: Nancy Porter - (818) 349-8869

Founder (In Memorium): Gordon Murley

Co-Founder (In Memorium): Herb Madsen

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