

July 10, 2019



# CARING FOR OUR NEIGHBORHOOD.

*"If we make Angus one way, we are just pushing the chess pieces around, and not addressing the real issue."*

*Micheltorena Street resident  
David Warren*



## Residents Push Back on Proposed One Way Section on Upper Angus

Following a meeting held to discuss making a portion of Upper Angus one way to westbound vehicle traffic, residents of streets adjacent to Angus are voicing their concerns about plans to convert the street between Moreno Drive and Kenilworth Avenue. According to Angus Street homeowner Debbie Slater, who organized a petition drive and has distributed 400-plus flyers, residents are concerned that the one way requirement will push traffic onto other streets, including Moreno, Kenilworth, Micheltorena, West Silver Lake Drive and Lower Angus, creating new "cut-through" traffic issues. According to Slater, nearly 100 residents have signed online and paper petitions to date.

"We need to step back and ask 'what is the problem we're trying to solve?' It's obvious that it is traffic, and I believe there are ways to reduce traffic flow rather than pushing the problem to new streets," said Micheltorena resident David Warren. "I wish I had a magic bullet solution, but it's important to look at the consequences before we make changes."

The outreach initiative began after the SLNC Transportation and Safety Committee held the community meeting on June 13 to discuss traffic and safety issues on Angus Street, which many think result from the so-called Rowena Road Diet, WAZE-directed traffic and an increase in Uber and Lyft riders. The committee reported that of the 20 residents present at the time, 14 voted to actively support the change and an advisory motion passed to support the conversion.

Slater noted that the *Kimley-Horn Rowena Avenue, Waverly Drive, Angus Street Cut-Through Traffic Study* recommends additional outreach to the community before new changes are implemented.

The Change.org petition is located here

To express your opinion about one way traffic on Angus, email:  
Council District 4  
[David.Ryu@lacity.org](mailto:David.Ryu@lacity.org)  
[Rachel.Fox@lacity.org](mailto:Rachel.Fox@lacity.org)  
And [Transportation@SilverLakeNC.org](mailto:Transportation@SilverLakeNC.org)



*Photo: Los Feliz Ledger*

## **FACT CHECK: Proposed Multiunit Development Planned for Rowena**

Local newspapers recently reported on plans to build a six-story, 39-unit apartment

building, with reduced parking, where Shag and Silver Lake Optometry are currently located on Rowena Avenue. However, a fact check shows that plans for the development call for four stories and five stories at the rear, which is adjacent to the fire department building. The proposal also includes 42 parking spaces (one per unit, plus retail parking), first floor commercial space and five very low income apartments.\* The proposed project is being developed by Premium Triangle Group, led by George Kahwaji, son of Dr. Michel Kahwaji, who currently operates an optometry business at the location. The development group met several times with Silver Lake's Urban Design Committee and adjusted plans based on committee recommendations.

**HEARING DATE FOR PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT:**

**1:00 p.m., July 24, Los Angeles City Hall, 200 North Spring Street, Room 1020**

*\* In Los Angeles County, the very low-income category applies to those earning between \$33,950 (for an individual) and \$64,000 (for a family of eight).*

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**Coffee with a Cop:  
Meet New LAPD  
Senior Lead Officer  
Jesse Aispuro**



Nina Sorkin, Silver Lake's Liaison to the Los Angeles Department of Aging, reports that the public is invited to meet Silver Lake's new Senior Lead Officer (SLO) Jesse Aispuro at a free *Coffee with a Cop* event on July 18. SLO Aispuro, a former school teacher, has been serving as acting Senior Lead Officer for the community. According to the LAPD, SLOs are responsible for a specific area and address local issues to help keep residents safe and informed. Sorkin said, "There will be no agenda or speeches at the coffee, just a chance to ask questions, voice concerns and get to know the officers in your neighborhood." Dessert will also be served.

**Coffee with a Cop**

**12:30 to 1:30 p.m., Thursday, July 18**

**Griffith Park Adult Community Center, 3203 Riverside Drive**

[Learn more about the event](#)

[Sign up to receive LAPD e-policing updates](#)

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## Strong Turnout for First Reservoirs Community Workshop

An estimated 200-plus residents and stakeholders turned out for the initial master plan community workshop on June 27, held to discuss the future of Silver Lake's iconic reservoir complex. After introductory remarks by Hargreaves Associates and The Robert Group, firms selected by the Board of Engineering to develop the master plan, CD13 Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell and members of the Master Plan Working Group, attendees broke into small groups to discuss opportunities, problems and challenges for the reservoirs. Representatives of each group then presented their findings to attendees. According to several community members who attended the meeting, there was strong support for protecting and preserving the reservoirs and wildlife and minimizing litter, noise and traffic. The June 27 meeting was the first in six planned community gatherings; the entire master plan process is expected to take two years.

[Visit the Master Plan website](#)



## Local Activists Fight to Save Trees

Silver Lake resident Hugh Kenny, along with other area activists, are working to bring

attention to the ongoing removal of trees in local neighborhoods, with little or no notice. Kenny points out that while the Department of Urban Forestry maintains a calendar of trees slated for removal, most residents are not aware that a tree may be removed on their streets until they hear chains saws or see that it has “disappeared.” As an example, Kenny noted that recently 270 ficus and carob trees were scheduled for removal “at one blow.” The list has now increased to 520.

[Keep track of tree removal in Silver Lake and across L.A. here](#)

[Learn more about how trees combat global warming in this NY Times article](#)



## LADWP Stops Work Near Heron Nests

Thanks to wildlife protector Laurie Pepper, the Silver Lake Wildlife Sanctuary and all who support Silver Lake's blue herons, LADWP has agreed to stop work adjacent to the herons' nests on Tesla until mid-August when nesting season ends. As Cindy Castaneda, biologist at the Audubon Center at Debs Park noted, under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (1918), it is illegal to disturb nests, even through noise. We're sure when the blue herons fly home to their babies, they will be calling, "Thank you, Silver Lake and LADWP!" Silver Lake's famous blue herons disappeared from their nesting area within the reservoirs complex during a two-year period of construction. In 2018, they slowly returned, but relocated to a tree on private property on Tesla.

[Learn more about the migratory bird act here](#)

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## Earthquake Readiness Info, LADWP Outage Alerts

The recent earthquakes are a reminder to sign up for LADWP's new text and email alerts and stay informed about power outages in your neighborhood. It's also a good idea to make a list and be sure you are prepared for future earthquakes.

Earthquake preparedness information

Sign up for LADWP power outage alerts



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## Let Us Know!

Need help with an issue in Silver Lake? Do you have ideas that will help our neighborhood or want to share community news?

**Email Us**

[editor@SilverLakeTogether.com](mailto:editor@SilverLakeTogether.com)

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