

July 9, 2020



# CARING FOR OUR NEIGHBORHOOD.



*Photos of the new Bridge Housing project on Riverside Drive show renderings of interior sleeping areas and buildings for case management services.*

## CD 4 and PATH Present Details on New Bridge Housing; Virtual Ribbon Cutting and Tour Scheduled for 11:30 a.m. on July 24

At an in-depth virtual meeting held on Tuesday, representatives from [Council District 4](#) and PATH ([People Assisting the Homeless](#)) offered information about the new Bridge Housing project, which will formally open at a virtual ribbon cutting on 11:30 a.m. on July 24. Over 100 people registered to attend the Zoom event, which was led by Catherine Landers, director of special projects, CD 4; Rachel Fox, CD 4 field deputy; Stephen Fiechter, CSW, senior director, Metro LA Programs; and Awade Khan-Variba, PATH project manager.

The new location will house 100 single individuals (2/3 men and 1/3 women) and provide a

range of comprehensive onsite services, such as case management and security, to help people transition to permanent housing. Fox clarified that the Bridge Housing is meant to serve people who are currently unhoused near the site, including Los Feliz, Silver Lake, and Atwater.

In addition to the housing for individuals, Landers answered questions about new family Bridge Housing planned for 3061 Riverside Drive and clarified details about the 40 RVs currently parked in parking lots near the Griffith Park Adult Community Center. Contrary to many rumors, each RV houses individuals who are at risk for COVID-19, such as senior citizens. As Khan-Variba noted, “Transitional housing is an interim program meant to help people achieve their goals and find permanent housing – whether those dreams are going back to school or seeing their children.”

[Listen to a recording of the Zoom meeting](#)

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## Board Rejects Motion to Address Racial Inequalities by Reallocating Green Space Funding to Park-poor Communities

At the July 1 SLNC board meeting, members of the local neighborhood council voted against a motion submitted by Nina Sorkin, resident and community equity activist, asking the SLNC to support redirecting funding for park space in Silver Lake to park-poor areas. According to a resident who attended the meeting, SLNC Co-chair Anthony Crump suggested that the board take more time to discuss the motion, but the vote proceeded, with 11 voting against Sorkin's motion, no one voting yes, and 7 board members who chose not to vote. Minutes and video of the meeting have not yet been posted.

[Read the motion submitted to the SLNC](#)

[Read the proposed letter on equity and equality in funding for green space](#)

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*Former councilmember Mitchell Englander is most recent person to be charged in land use corruption investigation. (Photo: Al Seib, Los Angeles Times)*

## Corruption House-cleaning at City Hall

On July 2, the *Los Angeles Times* published an editorial noting that, “In the wake of the (real estate development) corruption scandal, CD 4 Councilman David Ryu, who has been the most outspoken advocate for campaign finance and development reform, has proposed barring council members from overriding Planning Commission decisions. He also wants to create an inspector-general-like position to oversee land-use, development and construction decisions in the city.”

The recent corruption investigations originally focused on Los Angeles City Councilman Jose Huizar, who was arrested in June for allegedly heading a widespread pay-to-play scheme.

Then on Tuesday, July 7 – once again according to an article in the *LA Times* – former Los Angeles city councilmember Mitchell Englander pled guilty to a single felony charge, “...admitting he schemed to prevent federal investigators from learning about cash and other freebies he received from a Southern California businessman.” While Englander did not represent Silver Lake, these charges hit closer to home, as he got his start in the Englander family’s political consulting business, which has been involved in local projects over the years.

We applaud Councilmember Ryu’s efforts to end corruption in real estate and land use and encourage City Council to move quickly on his motions.

[Learn more about Councilmember Ryu’s motion to establish an inspector general for land use and development](#)

[Read the LA Times article on Englander's guilty plea](#)

[Read the LA Times editorial on city hall reform](#)

*The popular Silver Lake Library, located at 2411 Glendale Boulevard, is now open for pick-ups by appointment, Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.*



## Silver Lake Library Tapped for New 'Library to Go' Program

The [Silver Lake Library](#) has been selected as one of the northeast hubs in the city's new "Library To Go" pickup program. Library patrons who would like to reserve a book or other materials, are now able to place a hold at the library's online [catalog](#). Once they are notified that the books are available, they simply call to schedule a pickup appointment. The library staff will advise on what to expect when picking up materials. Face coverings are required.

Books that have been checked out can be returned at any book drop at [pickup locations](#), including Silver Lake. Returned materials will be isolated for three full days before being returned to shelves or reissued, as recommended by health and safety officials. All Los Angeles libraries are now fine-free and due dates on existing checkouts have been extended to September 30.

[Learn more about the new program](#)

## LAPD Releases Data on Crime in the Northeast Division, Including Silver Lake

LAPD Senior Lead Officer (SLO) Jesus Aispuro reports that in June, the Northeast Division, which includes Silver Lake, received a total of 4,603 radio calls. Year-to-date, as of July 4, 2020, there has been an 8.2% decrease in violent crime and a 9.5% decrease in property crime in Northeast Division. SLO Aispuro noted that crime in Silver Lake can vary. "The residential areas tend to have much less crime overall. High traffic areas such as Sunset Blvd and Alvarado St tend to have more crime." The Northeast Division

commanding officer is Captain-III Arturo Sandoval.

For more detailed information on specific crimes, SLO Aispuro recommended the following sites:

[Northeast Compstat Profile](#)

[Crimemapping](#)

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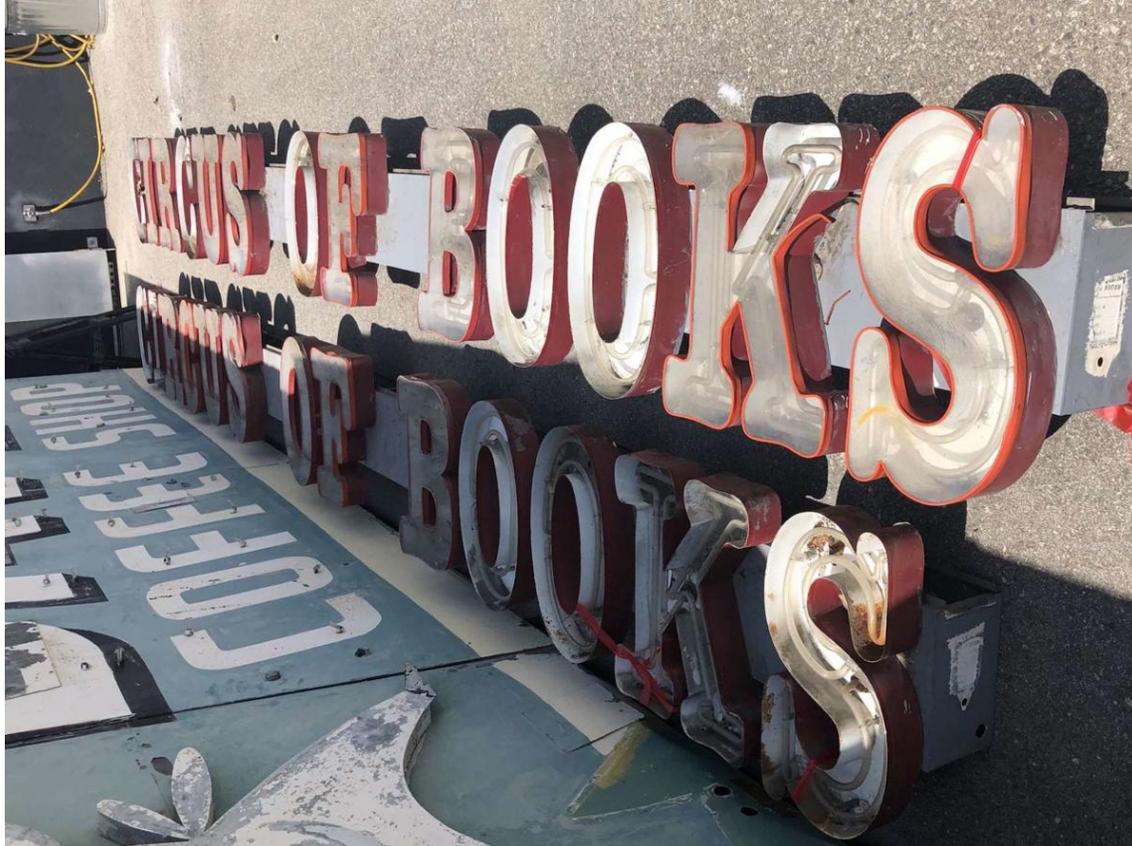
## Special Library Program: Drawdown: Is It Possible to Reverse Global Warming?



The book *Drawdown*, edited by Paul Hawken, presents various ways to end the vicious cycle of global warming. Via a special Zoom presentation, Cecilie Stuart and Andy Shrader will discuss these ideas along with the Los Angeles effort to reverse global warming. Stuart is an educator/creative activist with Manzanita School Drawdown Arts Program and Move the World Climate Action Performing and Advocacy Group. Shrader is the director of environmental affairs, water policy and sustainability for Los Angeles Councilmember Paul Koretz.

[Learn more about the presentation](#)

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*Photo by The Eastsider*

## Iconic Circus of Books Sign Finds New Home at the Museum of Neon Art

The historic Circus of Books sign from the former LGBTQ video and bookstore at Sunset Junction will be preserved at the Museum of Neon Art on Brand Boulevard Glendale. There are also plans to raise funds to repair the sign. According to an article in *The Eastsider*, The Circus of Books neon sign is the first piece in a growing collection of neon representing LGBTQ culture and history. For 31 years, the bookstore was a safe haven for generations of Silver Lake's LGBTQ community. Circus of Books closed in August 2016.

[Read The Eastsider article](#)

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## In Case You Missed It

KCRW [LA Freeways: The Infrastructure of Racism](#)

LA freeways were often routed through communities of color, separating Black and white neighborhoods and representing racist elements of regional planning.

Los Feliz Ledger COVID-19: [Daily Snapshot – July 8, 2020](#)

The *Ledger's* daily snapshot of COVID-19 cases and deaths, from global to local.

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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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