

May 2025



# CARING FOR OUR NEIGHBORHOOD.



## Time To Stick A Fork In It?

Is it finally time to stick a fork in it?

Yet another lackluster Neighborhood Council election season. Especially for Silver Lake. 21 board seats were up for grabs, with only 28 folks running. 3 out of 8 regional races within the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council (SLNC) were uncontested.

To vote in an SLNC election, you must be one of the following: property owner, renter, business owner/employee, member of an organization, student, homeless person: all within Silver Lake boundaries. There are between 30,000-40,000 residents/stakeholders in Silver Lake - **but only 234 people voted this year!** Silver Lake's results are not an anomaly. Other NC election outcomes were worse.

There are 99 Neighborhood Councils in the City of Los Angeles, which receive a yearly budget from taxpayers. For fiscal year 2024-2025, the budget was \$31,168.00 per NC with a total allocation of over \$3M. Past budgets have been as high as \$45,000.00 per NC. Although there were slight improvements in the SLNC 2025 election cycle, as only 70 voted and only 24 candidates ran in 2023, the final results were embarrassing. See the review of the 2023 election here: [It's Time to Retire the Neighborhood Council System](#)

Based on the growing lack of public interest in the Neighborhood Council system, it's time to seriously consider suspending the entire program, and re-evaluate the size of the L.A. City Council. SLT believes L.A. communities may be better served by increasing the number of elected city council members, based not only the voting population of a particular district, but also on the specific needs of each district. Neighborhood Councils are purely advisory, with no governing power or autonomy outside of their bylaws. And not surprisingly, city officials and representatives, who are required to attend monthly NC meetings, rarely, if ever, attend in person. Most submit a letter or email report, denying attendees the opportunity to ask questions, receive answers or share comments directly, in real time.

The problems of our great city are only getting worse. We can no longer waste taxpayer dollars and human resources on yet another program that has either ceased to function or was never meant to function in the first place.



*A SLT teammate rigged their own street light repair due to City delays.*

## Dark Passages

This comes as no surprise to anyone.... but our streets in Silver Lake are incredibly dark. Hundreds of vandalized street lights have left our neighborhoods shrouded in darkness. Silver Lake, and neighboring Los Feliz, are two of the hardest hit neighborhoods by copper wire thieves. And no end is in sight (pardon the pun). According to our partner, LAPD

Senior Lead Officer Jose Ramirez, the City's Bureau of Street Services estimates that due to a tremendous backlog, it may take as long as 3 years to get the lights back on!

One of Silver Lake Together's teammates didn't want to wait for the City, and rigged their own street light. In fact, there are many residents who have been left to their own devices to try to make their streets safer during these theft-induced blackouts. SLT believes the city should offer financial assistance programs, similar to the DWP's drought landscaping assistance program, in order to financially assist those who have added additional outside lighting to their properties in place of non-functioning street lights.

In the meantime, if the thieves have hit your street, and you have motion detector/flood lights, or basic exterior lighting on your property, please make sure they are on from 8pm to 6am. If we can't rely on the city to help us, we can certainly work TOGETHER to help make our streets safer.

And please report your street light outage to [MyLA311](#).





*The original Glendale-Hyperion bridge after a 1927 flood. Courtesy L.A. Times.*

## Update on Glendale-Hyperion Bridge

The sorely needed Glendale Hyperion Bridge improvements are delayed again. Regina Mallare, Field Deputy for Councilmember Hugo Soto-Martinez, indicated that funding constraints within the Bureau of Engineering are the cause for delay of the \$80 million project. No firm timeline exists for the bridge replacement.

Officially known as the **Glendale Boulevard – Hyperion Avenue Viaduct Complex**, the bridge originally opened in 1929, and is a Historic Cultural Monument. When it is funded, the Bureau of Engineering will upgrade the structure to withstand an earthquake, restore the bridge’s historical appearance, and improve circulation and safety for people driving, biking, and walking.

More information can be found here: <https://engineering.lacity.gov/about-us/divisions/bridge-improvement/glendale-hyperion-bridge-improvement-project>.

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# Remembering Ruth Beaglehole

Ruth Beaglehole, an influential parent educator and founder of the Echo Park/Silver Lake People's Childcare Center ("Playgroup") passed away recently at the age of 81. Beaglehole, trained as a preschool teacher, taught generations of Angelenos to parent their children with empathy and kindness - rather than spanking, threats and manipulation. She is credited with a shift in how we thought about parenting.

The Silver Lake History Collective did a fascinating interview with Ruth in 2016, which can be found here: [SLHC Interview with Ruth Beaglehole and Stephanie Woods](#)

Link to an article on her life at LAist: [Ruth Beaglehole, early childhood pioneer in LAUSD, dies | LAist](#)

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## Silver Lake Crime Statistics

*Senior Lead Officer Jose Ramirez*

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Our monthly report from LAPD SLO Jose Ramirez:

**Silver Lake crime statistics for the period April 20, 2025 to May 17, 2025:**

Rape: 1

Robbery: 3

Aggravated Assaults: 2

Burglary: 13

Grand Theft Auto: 8

Burglary From Motor Vehicle: 24

Theft: 10

Grand Theft Person: 8

Vandalism: 20

Traffic Statistics cover Northeast Division April 13, 2025, to May 10, 2025:

Traffic Accidents: 4

DUI's: 4

Felony Hit & Runs: 8

Vehicle Vs Pedestrian: 1

Bicycle Involve: 2

**Year to Date in Silver Lake / Franklin Hills:**

Fatal: 1 (Allesandro & Berkley)

Severe: 1 (Rowena & Hyperion)

I would like to express some important fireworks safety tips to keep in mind:

- Follow local laws and regulations
- Use legal fireworks
- Designate a safe area
- Have Water Ready
- Adult Supervision
- Never Relight Duds
- Light one at a time
- Stand Clear
- Protect your eyes and hand
- Never hold lighted Fireworks
- Disposed properly
- Avoid Alcohol when dealing with fireworks

Please report all illegal fireworks to LA Safe, LAPDonline.org or they may email me so I can forward tips to our units for enforcement.

I would also like to remind the community that the Meadow is a free zone from Dogs and Park Rangers and LAPD will be doing enforcement this Summer inside the Meadow.

Respectfully,

SLO Ramirez

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## Order Your Free Sign!

Silver Lake Together has some remaining Protect the Wildlife, Slow Down, and Take Charge signs free for the taking!

Simply write [editor@silverlaketgether.com](mailto:editor@silverlaketgether.com)

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**Betsy Isroelit**  
1942-2024  
SLT Co-Founder and Editor

We miss you.



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## Let Us Know!

[www.silverlaketgether.com](http://www.silverlaketgether.com)

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](#)

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