



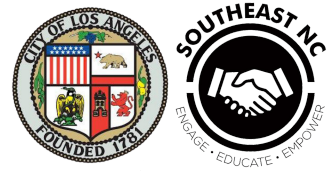
MARCH 2024

Southeast Newsletter #4

ISSUE 04

Letter From The Editor

***Please note that the views and opinions expressed in the Letter from the Editor are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Southeast Neighborhood Council. The editor's letter is written from a personal perspective and is intended to offer an individual viewpoint on community matters.**

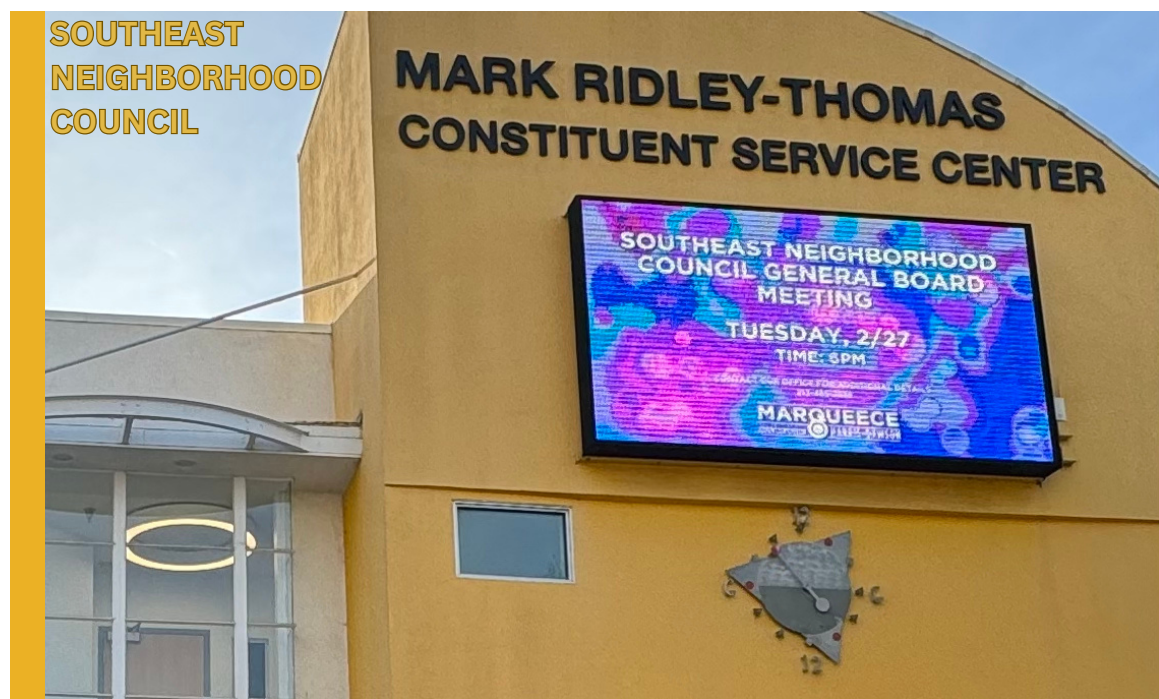


Jesse Munoz

And in the same vein, if I take care of my own community, my community will be in order. I know, the task seems daunting: to take a sense of ownership in the streets around you that are already on life support. It seems easy to pick up and run. But herein lies the challenges —be selfish! Advocate for yourself. You know that if you don't download the 311 app and fill out the report for the bulky items on the side of the road, nobody else will. You know if you don't call your councilor's office with the location of the dim streetlight, you will not be able to see at night. I urge you again to look out for yourself. Is it fair? Does it seem right? Here's the truth: it doesn't matter. It only matters that you are here, you are now, and YOU are the answer. We all know these streets were just as clean as ones northwest of here. We all know that homes in the area were great places to start and raise families. We all know the history; we just forgot it. And as often happens when you forget your history, you end up forgetting who you are. I'm here to tell you, Southeast LA, it starts with me; it starts with you; it starts with each and every one of us. I see it every day, when community members come to a community meeting and ask "What can I do?" or when some motivated stakeholder says "How can my non-profit fill the need in this area?" or when some Mexican kid who grew up in LA his whole life looks at the state of his neighborhood streets around him and says, "I think I can affect change by joining my Neighborhood Council and writing a newsletter." It doesn't matter that all you do is pick up the trash on your block or that you only report dim street lamps on the 311 app. What matters is that you take action. We all know that complaining about the problems we see everyday (and there are many to complain about) is easy. But the same way all of the surrounding maladies often feel draining and defeating, complaining is just as cancerous to the soul. Healing starts with action, it takes effect with consistency and it is solidified through selfishness. If you don't know where to start, it's okay. Look to our board for guidance, go to your city councilor's office for information, smile at your neighbor when you leave for work in the morning. Just like Dorothy reminded us in Oz: everything you'll ever need is in your backyard.

Jesse Munoz
Editor, Southeast Neighborhood Council Newsletter

Being selfish is the most selfless thing you can do. Let me say that again—in another way—for the people in the back: taking care of yourself is often times the best way to help those around you. I know, it sounds crazy, like the kind of thing that when said out loud, gets you the side-eye. But I learned long ago that what other people think of me is none of my business. However, how other people treat me is every bit of my business. And that often starts with the way you treat yourself. Take our community as an example: we take a look outside of our windows, take a walk down the block and we might encounter broken sidewalks, dim streetlights, illegal dumping and other ailments of the neighborhood. Most of the time, our first thought is to blame others; the city for not picking up the garbage, the fast cars whose reckless driving cracked the curb, etc. When in reality, and more importantly, the choices that we make every day, have a much more profound effect on these issues. The idea seems simple, right? If I take care of my own house, then my affairs will be in order.



Meeting Recaps

Regular Board Meeting - 02.27.2024
For our Feb 2024 meeting, the board received a grim report from LAPD Southeast about crime reports that had occurred within the last month, including the shooting of 3 juveniles at a street takeover, an uptick in theft against street food vendors, a shooting at our local Superior Grocers and an increase in gang graffiti. We received a report from CD8 field deputy, Laura Garcia about upcoming events and a 311 campaign to report 311 related activities all month long. We also received a report from DONE. The board was very excited to receive a report from the new Algin Sutton park director, Miguel Zuniga, about the new PAB he is creating and overseeing for the park. The board was also glad to receive a report from the mayor's Crisis Response Team (CRT), which is recruiting from now to May 23rd, for volunteers to respond to emergency calls in the community.

The board heard various presentations, which included:
 Ross Young of Adobe Communities about a development that is going up on Central avenue.
 Paulina Velasco from METRO about the addition of the Vermont Transit Corridor.
 Lindey Kelley of Little Green Acres Community Garden, following community complaints about the garden.
 Shyann Myricks of the Girl Scouts about a potential Partnership with the Southeast Area Neighborhood Council.
 Allison Arnold of the LA Sanitation Project about the safe and clean water program.
 And from Chevron Mackenzie of the Ultimate Restoration Unlimited Organization about their operations.

For full meeting votes and minutes, visit www.southeastnc.com



Newsletter Content

Meeting Recaps:
February 2024

The Helpful Homegirls

Neighbor submission:
What is the neighborhood council?

A Letter from the Editor

Scan the QR code or email our board secretary at: jesse.munoz@southeastnc.org



Meeting Time & Location

8475 S Vermont Ave
Los Angeles Ca 90044

Every 4th Tuesday
of the month



to be featured in our newsletter, send your information to info@southeastnc.org

Neighbor Question: What is a neighborhood council?

A neighborhood council is LA's closest form of government to the people. It was a change to the city charter in 1999 that the city implemented to give power to the people they represented. With elections conducted by the city clerk's office, a neighborhood council member becomes a LA city official. A neighborhood council is a unique opportunity to affect change. There is no other system in the country like it.



The Helpful Homegirls

Our very own neighborhood of Southeast Los Angeles has seen the rise of "The Helpful Homegirls," an organization founded by Jazmin Anderson, Area Representative 1b for the Southeast Area Neighborhood Council, since 2018. This initiative began as an effort to combat homelessness, initially focusing on the youth through "sock and snack drives" at local public schools. What might seem simple—providing socks—addressed an immediate need, underscoring the organization's ethos of meeting community needs with practical solutions.

As "The Helpful Homegirls" expanded its scope, they began to host monthly events distributing food and clothing, which quickly became a staple. Eventually, the organization began fulfilling unique requests from community members, such as purchasing a birthday cake for a child's celebration. These efforts showcased the organization's dedication to personalized community support.

With Jazmin Anderson at the helm, especially after the departure of a key founding member in 2020, the organization has continued to flourish. It now operates with a core team of board members and a broader network of volunteers, gathering for monthly workshops to foster team spirit and prepare for their events. Their base at the department of public health on 118th and Wilmington has become a hub for these gatherings, supported by the organization's outreach on platforms like Instagram.

Jazmin's aspiration for "The Helpful Homegirls" to evolve into a 24-hour community center underscores a visionary approach to community service, aiming to offer a wide range of services such as public showers, beds, and a computer lab to ensure constant access to essential resources.

Their transformation into a 501c3 nonprofit has been a pivotal development, enabling "The Helpful Homegirls" to access donations and grants, broadening their impact.

The community's positive reception is evident in their active participation in events and collaborations, such as Jazmin's role in providing free street corn as "The Corn Lady LA" during local gatherings. Jazmin's business venture, "Corn Lady LA," complements her nonprofit work, bringing a unique food experience to parties and events while reinforcing her community ties. Her personal motivation stems from a keen awareness of her community's needs, viewing every interaction as an opportunity to learn and grow together.

"The Helpful Homegirls" is more than an organization; it's a dynamic force for community empowerment in Southeast Los Angeles, embodying the principle that every act of service, no matter how small, contributes to a larger impact. When we look back at the history of our slice of LA during these tumultuous times, "The Helpful Homegirls," will live on in it as part of the fabric of the solution.

Links to helpful resources:

LA Housing Department
Apply for emergency relief, pay rent, file complaints or find general information about housing in Los Angeles, including Southeast LA.
visit their website at www.housing.lacity.org

The Helpful Homegirls
The Helpful Homegirls is an organization dedicated to serving minority and homeless communities, specifically in south LA.
visit their website www.helpfulhomegirls.org

United We Stand
United We Stand is a beautification organization, cleaning the streets of southeast LA, one block at a time.
visit their instagram: [@unitedwestand_cd9](https://www.instagram.com/unitedwestand_cd9)

Dorothy Mae Clinic
Dorothy Mae Clinic prides itself on their personal approach to medical care. They have been serving the South LA community since 1998. Visit their website or call them at 323-750-1196