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# Beverly Hills Weekly

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Issue 878 • July 28, 2016 - August 3, 2016



## History in the Making

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Chair Rebecca Pynoos on the value  
of historic preservation

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## WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

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## SNAPSHOT



### POLITICAL PALS PHILADELPHIA

Los Angeles City Councilmember David Ryu (left) and West Hollywood Mayor Lindsey Horvath (right) attended this week's Democratic National Convention as delegates. For more DNC coverage, see Ben Allen's report on pg.5.



BEVERLY HILLS TELEVISION

### BHTV City Council and Commission Schedule – Channel 10

- Planning Commission: July 28 at 1:30 p.m., July 29 at 8:00 p.m., August 1 at 5:00 p.m.
- Health & Safety Commission: July 29 at 3:00 p.m.

### BEVERLY HILLS VIEW

#### Beverly Hills View - Channel 10

- State Senator Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica), who represents Beverly Hills, discusses ongoing legislation in Sacramento and the pros and cons of being an elected official: August 1 at 4:30 p.m., August 2 at 7:00 p.m., August 3 at 3:30 p.m., August 4 at 6:30 p.m. and August 5 at 10:30 p.m. Available online at: [www.vimeo.com/173822672](http://www.vimeo.com/173822672)



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# briefs

## Hilton files two lawsuits against city, alleges violation of First Amendment rights

The Beverly Hills Garden & Open Space Initiative filed a lawsuit Monday against the City of Beverly Hills alleging that an “unconstitutional” city ordinance violates its First Amendment rights and would “severely burden its efforts to communicate with voters.”

“We believe the city’s disclaimer ordinance violates our First Amendment right to free speech,” said spokesperson for



Douglas Mirell

that this ordinance is unconstitutional.”

the Beverly Hills Garden & Open Space Initiative Marie Garvey in an emailed statement. “We are asking the federal court to confirm

## A Proposition 65 Public Notice

The California Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act requires California businesses to advise employees and neighbors of any potential exposure to chemicals considered by the state to cause cancer, birth defects, or other reproductive harm.

Veolia Energy Los Angeles, Inc. wants you to know that detectable amounts of some of these substances may be found in and around its facility located at 2052 Century Park East, Los Angeles, CA. Potential sources of these substances can include common products such as gasoline, oil, natural gas, paint.

The municipal ordinance in question requires that all advertisements for the initiative include the following 55-word title prepared by City Attorney Larry Wiener in March: “An initiative measure to amend the Beverly Hilton Specific

*briefs cont. on page 3*

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OUR DATA SPEAKS VOLUMES



Plan to combine the 8-story condominium building resulting in one 26-story building with additional height and to replace the Wilshire building with 1.7 acres of garden open space that is generally open to the public subject to reasonable restrictions determined by the property owner.”

According to Wiener, the disclosure obligation was adopted in 2010 to ensure that any advertiser include an impartial statement of the initiative’s title.

“In this case, the title identifies that the developer will be able to build a 29-story building and 1.7-acre park which will be open to the public subject to the property owner’s reasonable restrictions,” Wiener said. “We believe that there is a compelling governmental interest in requiring this disclosure so that voters are informed about what they are voting upon.”

But Douglas Mirell, a Beverly Hills First Amendment attorney not affiliated with either case, thinks the city faces an uphill battle.

“I think it’s a plausible claim that [the Hilton has] made,” Mirell said. “It seems to me that the city is going to have a fair degree of difficulty countering the portion of the ordinance which requires that this rather lengthy title appear as part of any advertisement.”

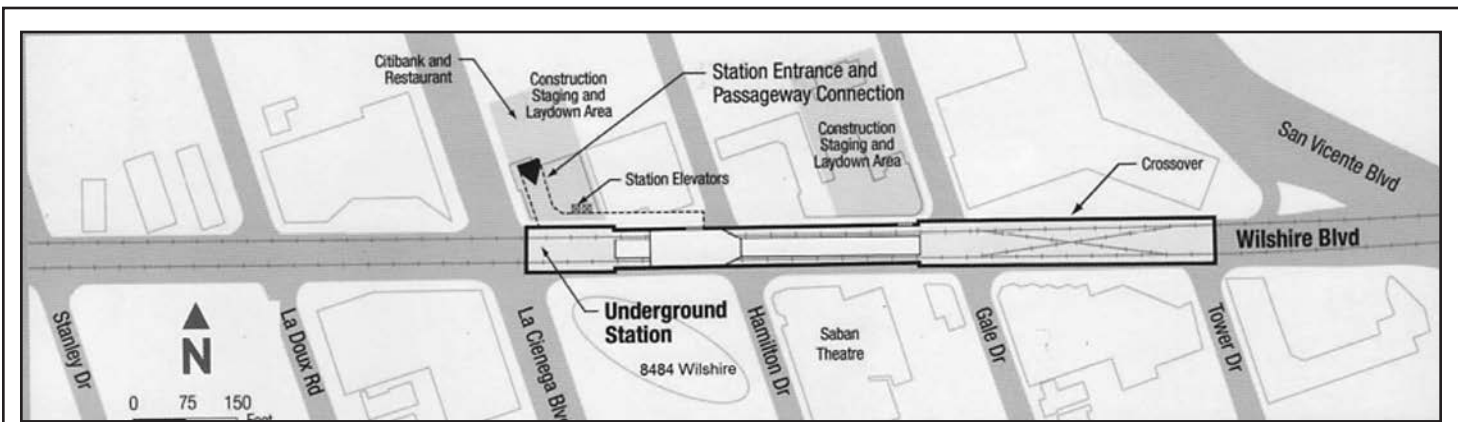
Totaling 120 words, the disclaimer is required to appear in 14-point font in print, video or email advertisements and must be read aloud in radio or telephonic ads.

“I think it’s fair to characterize this as a form of coerced speech, which the courts do not typically take kindly to, particularly in this context, after the Supreme Court’s decision in *Citizens United* [v. Federal Election Commission],” Mirell said. “The best argument that I think [the city] can probably make—though I don’t think it’s ultimately one that’s going to prove successful—is an argument that this isn’t a content-based restriction, but rather a time, place and manner restriction.”

Initiative proponents Linda Briskman and Bruce Corwin filed a second lawsuit Wednesday morning on behalf of the Hilton alleging the ballot question for the initiative, adopted by the City Council July 19, is “objectively false, materially misleading and uses politically-loaded language.”

On November 8, Beverly Hills voters are expected to vote on the Hilton Condominium Tower Initiative. The second suit alleges the introductory title statement is “biased” and “wholly one-sided.” In the petition, attorney Sean Welch says the term “tower” is “loaded” and “pejorative.”

“By approving a ballot question that is false, misleading, biased and in violation of California Election Codes, the City Council majority has left us no choice but to file this petition,” Garvey said in an emailed statement. “There are legal protections for cases where government officials try to take sides in elections and negatively influence voters. We are ask-



Rendering of the Wilshire/La Cienega station

## Metro updates community on Wilshire/La Cienega station

Metro held a meeting at the Petersen Automotive Museum last Thursday to inform the community about the development of the Purple Line Extension Project, which includes the subway station proposed for the northeast corner of Wilshire and La Cienega Boulevards, formerly the site of a Citibank branch location.

“We are almost ready to wrap up the AUR [Advanced Utility Relocation] work at La Cienega—we’re just left with some telecommunication work and water work,” said Construction Relations Officer Mindy Lake.

The demolition of five buildings will commence September 1 in order to clear room for a staging yard. Due to birds nesting in the trees near the buildings, the

demolition date was pushed back from June to September.

“It’s nesting season,” Lake said. “It was an environmental issue because there are birds nesting in the trees around those buildings—we are not allowed to destroy their ability to nest.”

The Wilshire/La Cienega station box will be located under Wilshire Boulevard, stretching from Tower Drive west to La Cienega. The station entrance, a property that will also be used for construction staging, is planned for the northeast corner of Wilshire and La Cienega. Another construction staging location is planned for the northwest corner of Wilshire Boulevard and Gale Drive.

Section One of the Purple Line Extension Project, which spans 3.92 miles

## Section One Forecasted Schedule

<b>Length</b>	3.92 miles
<b>New Stations</b>	Wilshire/La Brea Wilshire/La Brea Wilshire/Fairfax Wilshire/La Cienega
<b>Pre-Construction Activities</b>	Current – 2016
<b>Construction</b>	Current – 2023
<b>Operations</b>	2023

Source: Metro; metro.net

and includes the Wilshire/La Cienega station, is slated for completion by 2023.

Metro is pursuing alternate funding scenarios that would accelerate subway construction.

ing the court to revise the ballot question to be fair and impartial and comply with state law.”

## Fine Art Commission talks next steps for Friedman, Kusama

The Tom Friedman sculpture *Takeaway*, an upcoming addition to the city’s public art collection, is getting closer to finding a new home. On June 28, the Recreation & Parks Commission sided with the Fine Art Commission in its support of the corner of Rodeo Drive and Santa Monica Boulevard.

The proposed spot will come before City Council liaisons Vice Mayor Nancy Krasne and councilmember Lili Bosse in August.

“I think [the location] adds to the aura of Rodeo Drive,” Commission Vice Chair Alan Kaye said in May.

The Commissions also considered the southeast corner of Canon Drive and

Santa Monica Boulevard and the north side of City Hall, along Santa Monica Boulevard.

Lengthy, intricate and often bemoaned by city commissioners, the process of fencing Yayoi Kusama’s *Hymn of Life: Tulips* sculpture at Beverly Gardens Park is finally coming to a close.

At the Fine Art Commission meeting last week, Recreation Services Manager Brad Meyerowitz announced that the fence is expected to be installed “any day now.”

The Commission accepted a bid from Master Ironworks for a \$40,000 stainless steel fence last December, more than a year into the discussion. An additional \$7,500 was tacked on for footings.

“We’ll hopefully have good news for you and you’ll see the finished product out there,” Meyerowitz said.

Installed in September 2007, Kusama’s trio of polka-dotted, fiberglass tulips began showing cracks and scratches several years ago.

The new enclosure, characterized by curved metal arms and stainless steel cabling, will replace the temporary construction fence that currently surrounds the sculpture.

## COC Chair Josh Friedman resigns

Citizens’ Oversight Committee Chair Josh Friedman stepped down from

the position in late May, prior to his



Josh Friedman

move to Calabasas this Friday. “With regards to the COC, both my parents and my wife [Erica] are very actively involved in the com-

munity, and it was a great experience to learn and be involved in the process as the BHUSD goes through this transformative time period, where they’re doing so much construction and planning for the next 100 years,” Friedman said.

Friedman told the *Weekly* in issue #814 that he learned of the COC opening through a Team Beverly Hills alumni e-newsletter.

“The Board [of Education] has taken a lot of large steps in the last year—with or without the COC, to be honest,” Friedman said. “They hired a full-time [Chief Facilities Officer] Eitan Aharoni, who I think has done a great job in the short time that he’s been there.”

Vice Chair Bradley Gibbons succeeded Friedman as chair of the committee. Gibbons’ mother-in-law Virginia Maas served on the Board of Education from



Yayoi Kusama’s *Hymn of Life: Tulips* sculpture at Beverly Gardens Park



### Classics in the Courtyard returns to Greystone August 14

Theatre 40 and the City of Beverly Hills will present a reading of Christopher Fry's romantic comedy *A Phoenix Too Frequent* on August 14 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Greystone Mansion. Set in ancient Rome, a widow plans to starve herself to join her husband in death until a soldier guarding the husband's tomb charms her back into living.

Prior to the production, the first floor of the mansion will be open from 5:00 to 5:45 p.m. for self-guided tours, followed by the performance in the inner courtyard of Greystone Mansion at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for general admission and \$12 for seniors and students. Advanced registration is recommended. Purchase tickets online at [www.beverlyhills.org/BHRegOnline](http://www.beverlyhills.org/BHRegOnline). For information, call 310-285-6830.



Ted and Betty Liu

### Lieu speaks at DNC

Congressman Ted Lieu (D-Torrance), who represents Beverly Hills, joined other members of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) on stage at the Democratic National Convention Wednesday. Lieu gave brief remarks on Asian American voter engagement.

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1995 to 2003. He did not return calls from the *Weekly* in time for the deadline.

### Architectural Commission approves landscaping, lighting elements for Waldorf Astoria

Architect Steve Upchurch went before the Architectural Commission July 20 requesting landscaping and exterior lighting for the rooftop and third-floor terrace of the Waldorf Astoria, the 170-room hotel slated to open at 9850 Wilshire Boulevard next year.

"We've done exactly everything that you asked us to do, and we wanted to make sure that we were being consistent with the direction that was received," Upchurch said.

Unlike the Waldorf Astoria, the Hilton Condominium Tower Initiative, another project fronted by developer Beny

Alagem, has circumvented the city's planning process, which includes review and approval by the Council and commissions.

"The way you delivered the landscape design as an experience to drive through was lovely," said Commissioner Andrea Gardner Apatow, a licensed landscape architect.

The proposed landscape plan consists of a Mediterranean plant palette, and the lightning plan consists of various up lights, illuminated bollards, downlights and upper-level pathway and step lighting within the hardscape areas.



Michelle Kaye

"It does look a little sparse—because you do have a few trees popping up here and there," Commission Vice Chair Michelle Kaye said of the rooftop landscape plan.

In 2014, the Commission reviewed and approved the final landscape and lighting plan for the ground floor areas. The City Council approved the Waldorf Astoria as part of the 2008 Beverly Hilton Specific Plan.

### Leslie Paula and the Latin Soul Band to play Concerts on Canon next week

A three-octave plus vocalist, Leslie Paula and her group the Latin Soul Band will thrill audiences during two Concerts on Canon performances August 4.

Paula has performed for several Oscar, Emmy and Super Bowl celebrations, as well as many large-scale jazz festivals, including the Playboy Jazz Festival. Her



music ranges from conga-line salsa to "Themes from My Heart" Spanish ballads that lift pop, R&B and jazz to a higher level.

Concerts on Canon is a popular, free outdoor entertainment series that takes place every Thursday. It kicked off June 2 and will go through September 1. Four-piece band Lucky Cricket will perform tonight.

All concerts take places at Beverly Canon Gardens, which is located on Canon Drive between the Montage Hotel and Bouchon Restaurant. Parking is available adjacent to Beverly Canon Gardens.

For more information, visit [www.beverlyhills.org/exploring/eventsandactivities](http://www.beverlyhills.org/exploring/eventsandactivities).

### Lux Bus launches Beverly Hills to Las Vegas service

Lux Bus offers a luxury bus service that departs at 7 a.m. from the Beverly Hills

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(Left to right): Master Gardener Instructor Johanna Arias, Chef Ernie Miller, Benjamin Amron, Emma Schmidt, Zachary Grundfest, Leo Wu, Representatives from Senator Ben Allen's Office Megan Crawford and Angela Shaw, Myla Wu, Violet Dolby-Frist, Sarah Schmidt, Aara Motakef, Charlene Golbahary.

## Farm to Table and Kitchen Class gives kids a taste of state politics

On Sunday, children enrolled in the Beverly Hills Farm to Table and Kitchen Camp learned how to become part of a movement to make orange marmalade the official California State Preserve. Chef Ernie Miller, a proponent of the Slow Food movement, showed the students how to make preserves from fresh fruit, and then asked them to consider supporting a petition to our state assembly, giving the youngsters a taste of state politics.

The Beverly Hills Farm to Table and Kitchen Camp was held at Greystone Mansion from July 18 to July 22.

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Marriot, located at 1150 S Beverly Drive at Whitworth Drive, to the Las Vegas strip.

For more information call 877-610-7870 or visit [www.gotobus.com](http://www.gotobus.com). Reservations are required.

## Free performance of Shakespeare's *Cymbeline* to take place at Roxbury Park next month

The Beverly Hills Community Services Department invites the public to a free performance of Shakespeare's *Cymbeline* at Roxbury Park on August 11 at 7 p.m.

*Shakespeare by the Sea's* talented cast and directors will present a professionally crafted production of the Shakespearean

fairytale where Princess Imogen's fidelity is put to the royal test when her disappearing father banishes her soul mate. The romantic tale is filled with magical potions, dastardly villains, ghosts, gods and lost princes.

Arrive early and enjoy a picnic with family and friends. Dress weather-appropriate and bring your blankets and low-slung chairs. Light snacks will be provided free.

While the event is free of charge, *Shakespeare by the Sea* accepts donations.

## Wallis 2016-17 season tickets now on sale

The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts announced today that single tickets are now on sale for all performances in the 2016/17 season. The



The Zukerman Trio's Angela Cheng, Pinchas Zukerman and Amanda Forsyth

# Q & A

## Ben Allen - at Democratic National Convention

Senator Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica) spoke to the Weekly from the floor of the Democratic National Convention

### You're in Philadelphia for the 2016 Democratic National Convention.

#### What's it been like so far?

I went to the 2004 convention, but this is my first time as a delegate. I only just got here [Monday night]. The energy is incredible: lots of excitement, lots of things happening, people are very passionate and engaged and it's been a lot of fun. It's been great getting to talk to people from all over the country and it's been very interesting so far.

#### Michelle Obama spoke Monday night. Tell us about that.

She was very powerful, she was pitch perfect. She actually choked up when talking about the fact that now her daughters and people from her daughters' generation take for granted that a woman could become president of the United States because of Hilary Clinton, and that was, I think, an emotional moment. Her whole speech alluded to the amazing changes that have happened in [this] country: the first African American first family, her daughters playing outside on the White House lawn—a house that was built by slaves. She also made the point that when Hilary lost the nomination in 2008, she didn't get bitter, she didn't get upset, she kind of double downed and stayed engaged and obviously ended up becoming Secretary of State and took on a

leadership role, and now here we are on the verge of nominating her to be the first female nominee of a major party in American history. I think there's hope that the party will follow her example and that folks will come together from all sides.

#### What are you most looking forward to?

I'm really looking forward to hearing the speeches—there [are] a lot of great speakers lined up: President [Barack] Obama, President [Bill] Clinton, Tim Kaine, obviously, and Hilary herself. It's a really good lineup of strong speak-



*“The energy is incredible: lots of excitement, lots of things happening, people are very passionate and engaged and it's been a lot of fun”*

ers the next couple of days, and I'm looking forward to interacting with friends and contacts from all over the country and having more discussions with my fellow California delegates. We're also going to be going through all

the changes that have been made to the party platform.

#### Will you make time to explore Philly as a tourist?

I'm basically staying a couple extra days after the convention, so I'll get a chance to see Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell. I haven't been to Philadelphia in almost 20 years, so it's good for me to catch up on my independence history, and I'm reading the [Alexander] Hamilton biography. There's so much to see here—so much history—it's really pretty extraordinary. And I had my first [Philly] cheesesteak in a long time [Monday] night, and it was great.

upcoming season kicks off with the triumphant return of Los Angeles-based company For The Record's Scorsese: American Crime Requiem on September 21, and includes over 300 performances of more than 50 different programs of theater, dance and music featuring both local and world-renowned talent.

Several concerts are almost sold out and special seating is still reserved for new subscribers. Top selling events include Complicite/Simon McBurney's The Encounter, which comes to the Wallis on April 6, 2017, following a limited Broadway engagement; choreographer/director Matthew Bourne's

Early Adventures on May 18, 2017; the Zukerman Trio led by violinist Pinchas Zukerman on October 30, 2016; jazz group the Brubeck Brothers Quartet on January 20, 2017; Leif Ove Andsnes and Marc-André Hamelin's two-piano concert on April 26, 2017; and leading contemporary jazz vocalist Diane Schuur on April 28, 2017.

Launching December 3, the Sorting Room will transform the Lovelace Studio into an intimate, custom-built club that delivers cabaret, comedy, contemporary music and more, and connects upcom-

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# detention&arrestsummary

*Beverly Hills Weekly received the information that appears below from the Beverly Hills Police Department. This information is released each week to the public. We assume no responsibility for errors or omissions in the Detention and Arrest Summary.*

PARRA, JASON HENRY, 35, of Monterey Park arrested on 7/18/2016 for driving while license suspended.

SINSUN, FRANK ANTHONY, 34, of Baldwin Park arrested on 7/18/2016 for outside misdemeanor warrant.

BAKER, KEENAN LEON, 53, of Los Angeles arrested on 7/18/2016 for commercial burglary.

MARQUEZ, MIGUEL ORENO, 51, of Stevenson Ranch arrested on 7/19/2016 for outside misdemeanor warrant and possession of drug paraphernalia.

RICHARDSON, JOHNNY, 28, of Hollywood arrested on 7/22/2016 for outside misdemeanor warrant.

SANCHEZPOLANCO, CARLOS, 32, of Los Angeles arrested on 7/22/2016 for battery with serious injury inflicted on anyone and robbery.

MEJIA, FRANCISCO, 18, of Los Angeles arrested on 7/22/2016 for shoplifting – burglary.

RING, LAURENCE, 75, of Plymouth arrested on 7/22/2016 for hit-and-run misdemeanor and driving under the influence of alcohol.

KARNEY, MARK HOWARD, 60, of Los Angeles arrested on 7/23/2016 for driving under the influence of blood alcohol over .08 and driving under the influence of alcohol.

VARGAS, ANTHONY JULIO, 23, of Los Angeles arrested on 7/23/2016 for driving while license suspended.

JARZABEK, NICHOLAS JOHN, 28, of Sand Point arrested on 7/22/2016 for driving while license suspended.

CAMERON, MICHAEL SPENCER, 26, of Los Angeles arrested on 7/22/2016 for driving under the influence of blood alcohol over .08 and driving under the influence of alcohol.

VAUGHNHARTMAN, DONNA SUE, 52, of Fullerton arrested on 7/22/2016 for driving while license suspended.

AVETISYAN, SERGEY, 34, of Glendale arrested on 7/23/2016 for receiving stolen property.

VAHANYAN, KAREN A, 30, of Glendale

arrested on 7/23/2016 for receiving stolen property.

MILLER, JULIE ANNE, 51, of California City arrested on 7/23/2016 for appropriating lost property for own use without making efforts to, forgery of state, corporate or official seal, giving false ID to police officer and outside felony warrant.

CITIZEN, ROOSEVELT J, 23, of Compton arrested on 7/23/2016 for driving while license suspended.

JARQUIN, MARIO E, 45, of Sylmar arrested on 7/23/2016 for appropriating lost property for own use without making efforts.

ABRAHAM, JOHN MICHAEL, 58, of Thousand Oaks arrested on 7/23/2016 for shoplift – burglary.

BOS, TAYLOR SHEPHERD, 33, of Venice arrested on 7/18/2016 for theft or driving of vehicle.

SZEIMBERG, ILAI, 51, of Los Angeles arrested on 7/22/2016 for assault – domestic violence/inflicting corporal injury.

SCOTT, AJANI HELENA, 30, of North Hollywood arrested on 7/24/2016 for driving under the influence of alcohol.

LUCCHETTI, RENATTO HUMBERTO, 43, of Los Angeles arrested on 7/24/2016 for driving while license suspended, driving under the influence of blood alcohol over .08 and driving under the influence of alcohol.

AVALOS, LUIS, 29, of Los Angeles arrested on 7/24/2016 for forgery of state, corporate or official seal and driving unlicensed upon highway.

VALENZUELA, SANTIAGO JAVIER, 30, of Norwalk arrested on 7/24/2016 for driving under the influence of drugs.

BAKER, MICHAEL EDWARD, 59, of Los Angeles arrested on 7/24/2016 for commercial burglary and using access card obtained without consent of cardholder.

HO-HUYNH, SALLY, 38, of Los Angeles arrested on 7/08/2016 for commercial burglary.

ETHEART, JIMMY M, 41, of Beverly Hills arrested on 7/10/2016 for trespassing/occupying property without consent.

MARTINEZ, DANIEL, 28, of Los Angeles arrested on 7/10/2016 for possession of meth/etc., and possession of drug paraphernalia.

MORENO-CAMPOS, ADRIANA C, 29, of Los Angeles arrested on 7/10/2016 for improper/no display of license plates and

briefs cont. from page 5

ing artists and veteran entertainers with our audiences. The full schedule will be announced in early September.

To purchase single tickets, visit TheWallis.org, call 310.746.4000 or stop

by in person at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts Ticket Services, located at 9390 North Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills, CA 90210. Ticket prices subject to change.

--Briefs compiled by Mina Riazi

driving while license suspended for reckless driving.

AYALA-PEREZ, LILIANA, 30, of Los Angeles arrested on 7/10/2016 for resisting or obstructing public officer, battery against peace officer, emergency tech, etc., driving under the influence of alcohol.

MOVSISYAN, HAMLET RUBENOVICH, 23, of Glendale arrested on 7/10/2016 for petty theft.

VALENCIA-FLORES, JOSE GUADALUPE, 42, of Culver City arrest-

ed on 7/06/2016 for outside misdemeanor warrant.

PAK, YONG CHA, 64, of Los Angeles arrested on 7/03/2016 for grand theft.

CERON, JUAN CARLOS, 26, arrested on 7/03/2016 for other misdemeanor not listed charge – see narrative, outside misdemeanor warrant and possession of drug paraphernalia.

HALLIDAY, MATTHEW B, 37, of Los Angeles arrested on 7/03/2016 for public intoxication.

## crimeblotter

Source: BHPD  
Addresses indicated are block numbers

BURGLARY at 9700 Wilshire Blvd. on 7/08/2016; Loss: \$2,800

BURGLARY at 8800 Wilshire Blvd. on 7/18/2016

BURGLARY at 400 N Canon Drive on 7/19/2016; Loss: \$2,500

BURGLARY at 9300 Wilshire Blvd. on 7/19/2016; Loss: \$700

BURGLARLY at 200 S. Camden Drive on 7/20/2016

BURGLARY at 200 S Camden Drive on 7/20/2016; Loss: \$9,200

BURGLARY at 100 S. Robertson Blvd. on 7/20/2016; Loss: \$7,600

BURGLARY at 500 N. Robertson Blvd. on 7/21/2016; Loss: \$7,600

BURGLARY at 9000 Wilshire Blvd. on 7/22/2016

BURGLARY at 200 S. Stanley Drive on 7/22/2016; Loss: \$749

BURGLARY at 100 S. Palm Drive on 7/18/2016; Loss: \$2,000

BURGLARY at 100 North La Cienega Blvd. on 7/18/2016; Loss: \$3,050

BURGLARY at 9600 Wilshire Blvd. on 7/22/2016; Loss: \$673

BURGLARY at 700 N. Elm Drive on 7/22/2016; Loss: \$150

BURGLARY at 400 S. Rexford Drive on 7/22/2016; Loss: \$170

BURGLARY at 9600 Wilshire Blvd. on 7/23/2016; Loss: \$175

BURGLARY at 200 S. La Cienega Blvd. on 7/24/2016; Loss: \$800

BURGLARY at 100 N. Doheny Drive on 6/24/2016; Loss: \$2,700

IDENTITY THEFT at 9400 Wilshire Blvd. on 12/18/2015

IDENTITY THEFT at 400 N. Doheny Drive on 7/10/2016

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# coverstory

## HISTORY IN THE MAKING

### Cultural Heritage Commission Chair Rebecca Pynoos on the value of historic preservation

By Mina Riazi

#### How did you become interested in historic preservation?

I feel like I grew up visiting architectural sites. My dad [John Pynoos] does housing and urban development, specifically for older adults, and that's always been an interest and passion of his, and later became one of mine. I studied classical art and archeology as an undergrad [at Brandeis University]. One of the sites I focused on was Pompeii, and I had an incredible professor, Ann Olga Koloski-Ostrow, who had studied Pompeii since she was a teenager and devoted her career to studying and preserving ancient Pompeii. It was, for me, incredible to see a city and community frozen in time. I was able to go on a research trip with her during college and it was fascinating to be able to learn about the history, the community, the society, the art, the architecture, and I was interested in preservation and conservation.

While in grad school, I petitioned to take coursework in the School of Architecture at USC. I was pursuing a master's in planning and administration at the School of Social Work, and I was able to take classes in the School of Architecture. I studied under Ken Breisch, who was the director of the program at the time, and a woman named Trudi Sandmeier, who

was, at the time, the educational director of the Los Angeles Conservancy. They were incredibly influential in my further involvement in the preservation world of Los Angeles. I was fascinated by learning



*“We are so fortunate to share a community that has a rich tapestry of craftsmen, architects and a tapestry of people who have lived and visited the city, and to celebrate so much of what Los Angeles is about: an immigrant history that should be lauded, celebrated and acknowledged. [Beverly Hills] is essentially a small town in a big metropolis”*

about adaptive reuse projects for community purposes—sort of breathing new life into building and structure for new purpose. I'm also influenced by the work and involvement of my grandparents Morris and Rita Pynoos in L.A. architecture: my grandfather was a contractor, builder and civil engineer who worked with Frank Lloyd Wright, Paul Williams and A. Quincy Jones.

**Why do you think the Cultural Heritage and Recreation & Parks Commissions are so sharply divided on the issue of whether the Lawn Bowling Green qualifies for landmark designation?**

We have different duties and responsibilities, and some of these interests are overlapping, but I think it's a wonderful opportunity to work and engage in a collaborative, creative way. I think there are so many misconceptions about what we do and what it means to be landmarked, and I'm really happy

for the opportunity to educate and share in what we do. Beverly Hills is known as the “Garden City,” so some of those resources that we're both looking at overlap, but I think it's a great opportunity to work together. We were able to work together collaboratively with the Recreation & Parks Commission when we landmarked the Margaret Jane Anderson Fountain, which is in Will Rogers Park; we worked collaboratively on where the historic plaque will go, as well as the verbiage on it. The plaque that's there is, to me, the only public place that tells you something about the story of the city, which I think is part of our charge, to disseminate the story and legacy to our residents and to people visiting.

#### What's it like being one of the youngest city commissioners?

It's been a fascinating learning experience and, in many ways, one of the highlights of my life. I think I was appointed when I was 28, and it's been an incredible journey working with a really stellar [city] staff and my fellow commissioners. I think we all bring different perspectives and sets of eyes to what we're looking at. I love the involvement and being part of the process and it's something that I'm honored to be a part of.

#### Why did you vote against the revised Historic Preservation Ordinance last year?

I was distraught and dismayed at the proposed changes that I felt were somewhat proposed in a vacuum, without a greater understanding of the procedures and processes we go through, and without an understanding of the time and rigor it takes to study and research a property. I felt like a lot of the changes hurt rather than helped, and I felt like I, at many times, would be fed incorrect information to try and sway me towards supporting [the revised ordinance] by fellow commissioners and by other people that we were continually told that this was what the [City] Council wanted, and I really didn't think that was the case. My fellow commissioner Rich Waldow and I really put up an ardent fight to save the integrity of the ordinance that we operate under, and it was grueling. There were really unnecessary changes made that I think prohibited what we do and are not in the best interest of the city at large, the community and the residents. As far as I know, some of the changes that were added to our ordinance do not exist in any other city.

In the Weekly's cover story with former Commission Chair Lisa Greer in issue #828, she said, “People think that by saying we want to preserve something, it means that it cannot be updated. And that's just not true. You don't go to Washington D.C. and have doors falling off because no

*“I think there's so much opportunity for us to share with residents and property owners what we're about, what we do and what we don't do, and what it really means to landmark a property”*

one is allowed to update it—it just doesn't happen. You can make something look authentic without having it be broken.” Do you agree?

I'm in agreement with what she said. I think the really exciting thing is the use of our historic structures and breathing new life into them.

Whether it's a residence or a commercial structure or something is adaptively reused for a new purpose, I think that's one of the most exciting things—the opportunity to both celebrate a structure and breathe new life into it.

#### You're one of the strongest advocates for preservation on the Commission. Is it difficult agreeing on issues, and if so, how do you alleviate that?

One of the many reasons I love being part of [the Cultural Heritage Commission] is the opportunity for discussion and discourse. I see disagreement as a learning opportunity for all of us. For example, we recently landmarked the Gibraltar Square/Kate Mantilini property, and Kate Mantilini was done by a Pritzker-prize winning architect [Thom Mayne], and I did not necessarily see eye to eye with some of my fellow commissioners, but I think we're always—even if we disagree—there's respect for each other and our view points. We are so fortunate to share a community that has a rich tapestry of craftsmen, architects and a tapestry of people who have lived and visited the city, and to celebrate so much of what Los Angeles is about: an immigrant history that should be lauded, celebrated and acknowledged. [Beverly Hills] is essentially a small town in a big metropolis.

#### What is your top priority as Chair?

I would say, personally, one of my top priorities is education and outreach. I think there's so much opportunity for us to share with residents and property owners what we're about, what we do and what we don't do, and what it really means to landmark a property. I think there's so much misconception about what it means and I'm really excited for the opportunity to be able to explain that in a clear and concise manner.

















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# The Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce has endorsed One Beverly Hills



July 12, 2016

Honorable Mayor and City Council  
Beverly Hills City Hall  
455 N. Rexford Drive  
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Dear Honorable Mayor Mirisch and Members of the City Council:

The Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce writes to you to support the "One Beverly Hills Project" a real estate development located at 9900 Wilshire Boulevard. The Project is currently approved to construct two luxury condominium buildings, one 15 stories high and the other 13 stories. One Beverly Hills seeks to change the entitlement to permit 5 floors of the south condominium building to be converted to a 134 room hotel as well as to implement some other more modest changes to the property, such as the removal of previously planned retail space. One Beverly Hills is currently pursuing these changes through the City's planning process.

We are fully supportive both of the project as a whole as well as the requested adjustments to the original entitlement. One Beverly Hills has engaged in vigorous outreach to the community and has thoughtfully listened to the community's voice, including several presentations to the Chamber of Commerce. Among other benefits, the Project will result in millions of dollars of hotel tax revenue for the City and the Project will include a garden space open to the public. It will also include a hotel rooftop restaurant and bar that is open to the public and which will have sweeping and dramatic views out to the Pacific Ocean.

The Project will add another "feather" to the City's hat, reinforcing the City's image as the luxury capital of the world as well as a destination for world travelers and business men and women.

We have gotten to know the One Beverly Hills team well and are impressed by their commitment to the community and vision for the future. We strongly support the One Beverly Hills Project and encourage the Council to do the same.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Todd Johnson'.

Todd Johnson  
CEO

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