

Candidate Statements – PPCC Elected Representatives Election 2020

Area Representatives

(see Area boundaries at <http://pacpalicc.org/index.php/area-maps/>)



JOANNA SPAK – Area One

jispak@yahoo.com

I have lived in Pacific Palisades for 59 years and at my Area 1 residence on Quadro Vecchio Drive for 50 years. While I am now retired, I was fortunate to have spent a 30+-year career at Disney in finance and operations, where I had a strong track record of success in planning, strategy and collaboration. For the past two years, I have represented Area 1 on the PPCC Board. During that time, I actively reached out to local HOAs and residents, both to keep them informed and to work with them on a variety of issues, including fire safety, road repair, and land use / development (e.g. the former JIB site, One Coast). This past year, I also served on the Board's Executive Committee and Land Use Committee, and, more recently, was appointed to the Community Plan Update Committee. As your Area 1 Representative, I will continue to provide active and inclusive representation on issues that are important to our neighborhoods, including fire safety, increased traffic and crime, and the continued revitalization of our community while preserving our small-town charm. I would be honored to have your support and your vote.



STEVE CRON – Area Two

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In the two years since I was elected the Area 2 representative, I have worked closely with the LAFD to make the Highlands less vulnerable to wildfires, starting with a well-attended community event at Calvary Church, and by meeting regularly with fire department chiefs.

I've met regularly with numerous members of our community, and have accumulated a large email list of Highlands residents so that I can better communicate with them and address their needs. I have organized biannual community trash collection days in the canyon which have been well-attended by Highlands residents. I also coordinated with Councilman Bonin's office to get larger unwanted items removed from the canyon, and worked hard to get the city to cut down and remove weeds and debris which were growing along Palisades Drive.

I have always opposed the eldercare project on Palisades Drive, and continue to help fight against this facility, which I believe is too large, and inappropriate for a high fire hazard area.

If re-elected, I will continue to advocate for the issues which I believe are important to all Highlands residents.

I have lived at my Highlands address since 2005, and in the Palisades since 1983.

Area Representatives cont'd.



HALDIS TOPPEL – Area Three

[*hrtoppel@aol.com*](mailto:hrtoppel@aol.com)

I have lived on Enchanted Way for 45-years and am a retired Information Systems Manager for the City of Los Angeles. I am the current President of MKPOA. I was President of PPWC for two years where I accomplished the major renovation of the Clubhouse and introduced the business model which made the Clubhouse financially self-sufficient. I am a past board member of PPCC and currently volunteer for Theatre Palisades. I have authored e-cam, the community service e-mail notices about fire, crime, lost dogs, and other noteworthy events.

Over the last decade I have used my administrative, communication, and organizational skills to improve and protect the quality of live for the residents of Pacific Palisades and those of Area 3 specifically, with care, thoughtfulness, and dedication, and am eager to continue to do so. Please support me as representative of your voice on the PPCC.



MICHAEL MINKY – Area Four

[*mikeminky@gmail.com*](mailto:mikeminky@gmail.com)

Born and raised in Hollywood, I have lived in Area 4 of Pacific Palisades for 20 years as a homeowner in both Tahitian Terrace and Palisades Bowl. My home for the last five years has been in the Pacific Palisades Bowl Mobile Home Park. I have also lived in the Edgewater Towers. As a self-employed CPA, now retired, my office was in the Village for many years. I am active in the California Coastal Trail Association (Coastwalk), a nonprofit advocating for coastal public access and the completion of the CCT from Oregon to Mexico. I hike all of our Santa Monica Mountain trails, beaches and roads.

I believe that it is important to have an Area Representative of the PPCC from the mobile home parks to provide a voice for the lower income community, and fight to maintain our open spaces.

Area Representatives cont'd.



KAREN RIDGLEY – Area Four

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I have lived on Northfield Street in the El Medio Bluffs community since 1976 and know this community and its issues well. I raised 3 sons in the Palisades, all of whom attended our local public schools. I support many community organizations like Palisades Beautiful, PPFTH and support preserving and enhancing our parks and common areas. Professionally, I was a French Teacher, Field Manager, Sales Executive and Sales Dir. for computer hardware maintenance companies.

I have attended PPCC Meetings over the years and made presentations in behalf of Area 4 residents on issues of local crime, curfew enforcement at Asilomar Cul de Sac, and preserving Temescal Canyon Parkway against the locating of trash dumpsters just below Pali High Charter School. I also opposed the DWP location of its Power Station on El Medio Ave.

I have coordinated Area 4's Neighborhood Crime Watch for 5 years and was responsible for leading the installation of Neighborhood Crime Watch Signs throughout most of Area 4. I know many residents and their local issues and have helped residents secure help from LAPD and City of LA services through my PPCC participation and neighborhood contacts.



SUE KOHL – Area Five

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I have been the Area 5 representative for the past several years. During that time, there have been so many changes in our neighborhood: new neighbors; new building restrictions and guidelines; new liquor licenses; new permit parking areas; a new Village center, to name a few. There have been challenges and controversies, but I believe we have come through all in a friendly, cooperative way. I have enjoyed getting to know so many neighbors, just through meeting as we take walks or meeting via email, especially when Alphabet Street issues arise. I like being involved and helping wherever and whenever possible. I have maintained an email distribution list of about 350 families in order to send out community updates, police reports, and meeting notices.

I have also thoroughly enjoyed being involved with other area reps and organization reps on the PPCC. It's fun to know what is going on both within our town limits and also on a broader, city level. I hope to continue on as Area 5 representative for the next 2-year term.

I have lived on Iliff Street (Area 5) for 26 years.

Area Representatives cont'd.



MATTHEW QUIAT – Area Six

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I have been fortunate to call the Pacific Palisades and our house on De Pauw Street home for 1-year. I grew up in a small town with similar values, which is what attracted my wife-to-be, a native Palisadian, and I back to the Palisades. My goal is to address the concerns and needs of Area 6 residents and all Palisadians as we look to the future. As a real estate developer with a Master's degree from NYU, and experience in land-use planning and project management, I will ensure the upcoming Pacific Palisades Community Plan update allows our neighborhood to grow in a thoughtful and productive way that enhances our shared quality of life. Along with guiding these zoning discussions, my focus will also be on improving public safety by guaranteeing our emergency responders have the training and equipment needed and preparing the Palisades for a post-COVID environment. I look forward to growing with this community, raising my family here for decades to come. When I am not running for office, you can find me at Café Vida or walking our corgi puppy around the Bluffs.

I am grateful for your vote and deeply appreciate your civic service in this process.



KARYN WEBER – Area Six

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My name is Karyn Weber and I have lived in the Huntington Palisades with my husband Rob and two children since 2001. In the past I have represented Area 6 as the alternate representative on the Pacific Palisades Community Council. In addition, I served as the secretary on the executive committee. I also was a member of the Pacific Palisades Residents Association and served on the PPRA as a alternate representative of that organization.

Rob and I both love living here in the Palisades and all that it has to offer. I strive to keep the small town feel of the neighborhood our children have grown up in while improving certain aspects of it including our lovely park and recreation center, our farmer's market and our infrastructure, such as the streets, development and parks and hiking trails.

I would be honored to represent Area 6 as a member of the PPCC.

Area Representatives cont'd.



JENNY LI – Area Seven

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I am a native Angeleno and have lived in Santa Monica Canyon for eight years with my husband and daughter. Before that, we lived in Pacific Palisades for fifteen years.

My qualifications are diverse: I have been a law firm partner and an executive in a large entertainment company. I have volunteered at local organizations, including the California Women's Law Center, Chrysalis, Upward Bound House and in school parent associations. This past year, I have served on the Board of the Santa Monica Canyon Civic Association.

I love this community and care about preserving the unique character of the canyon -- its history, its natural beauty, the stairs, tunnels and tree-lined streets that connect us to the beach, and to local canyon, Santa Monica, and Palisades businesses. As density increases, we must preserve pedestrian and bike safety, mitigate traffic, and protect our open spaces. But we also need to create the infrastructure necessary for the 21st century. And we all must end homelessness in our community and our city.

I am a good listener, an effective advocate and a hard worker. I pride myself on getting things done. I would be honored to serve as your Area 7 representative.



RICK MCGEAGH – Area Seven

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I have been blessed to live and raise my family in the Will Rogers Park area for over 22 years.

My involvement in the Pacific Palisades community includes: (1) serving on the PPCC as the Recreation Representative, alternating annually between the Primary and Alternate (12 years); (2) serving on the Pacific Palisades Baseball Association Board (15 years); and (3) serving on the Palisades Park Advisory Board (5 years).

My greatest concern for Area 7 is the threat of wild fires. After the Getty Fire, I campaigned to clear the overgrown brush along the north side of Sunset Boulevard between Will Rogers State Park Road and Evans Road. I engaged Councilman Bonin's Office who were instrumental in joining LAFD Brush Clearance and the park rangers to clear the brush. On a July PPCC Zoom, LAFD Chief Hogan included Area 7 on their brush clearance plan, calling it "Rick's Project." It was completed on August 1st and Area 7 is safer today. My "COVID Project" is clearing Will Rogers State Park Road of leaves by filling a green trash can each week, making Area 7 a safer place.

I respectfully ask for your support in electing me as the Area 7 representative.

NO CANDIDATE – Area Eight

At-large Representative



ALAN GOLDSMITH – At-large

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Experience: 3 years as Highlands Rep or Alt Rep. Current At-Large Rep.

Goals for Next term:

- Improve parks & urban forest
- Less pollution, overdevelopment.
- Homeless management
- Improve police and agency functions and response time for essential services.
- Promote citizen engagement with LAFD for fire prevention/emergency preparedness.
- Improve cellular service and electric power capacity.

Current Issues Positions:

- “Defund the police” Would harm already underserved Pac Pal. We must preserve and increase our police coverage.
- Jack ‘n the Box Apartments: Oppose this monstrosity with nonviable parking.
- Highlands Senior Residence. My position has changed from **For** to **Caution** based on: Many logistics and people problems that became evident in the Fall ’19 fires. And distortion of the Highland community’s character that will result from the facility’s large scale, operations, traffic, and parking.

Personal:

- Age: 77
- Residence: Palisades Highlands homeowner. Married to Daryl Barnett, retired 6th Grade teacher at Revere. Four grandchildren ages 4-10.
- Education:
Bev Hills High Schl; BA: Cal State; JD: Univ San Diego SOL
- 49yr biz career: Owner of Bikeecology and Supergo Bike Shops in CA & AZ.
- Activities/Interests: Cycling, int’l travel, politics, law, languages