

Pacific Palisades Community Council – Area & At-large Elections 2024



PPCC 2024 Area and At-large Elections CANDIDATES

AREA ONE:

JoAnna Rodriguez



Tramonto Drive

joannamrodriguez@gmail.com

My name is JoAnna Rodriguez and I would like to announce my candidacy for the position of Area 1 Representative. My family and I moved to 17496 Tramonto Drive in 2020 and were thrilled to discover all the Palisades has to offer. It has proven a community where we can truly settle down and I am deeply invested in the future of this tight-knit village.

Having two independent teenagers, I am fiercely concerned about the safety and well-being of both Castellammare and the area at large. As a former journalist and current Director of Parent and Community Relations at Paul Revere, I am always inquisitive and eager to address community issues, from homelessness and hillside construction to traffic congestion and the challenges of living in a VHFHSZ. Serving as the Corresponding Secretary for the PPCC in 2023-24 afforded me an up-close look at the council's direct impact. As the Area 1 Representative, I would relish the opportunity to advocate for the needs of my neighbors and collaborate with council members for the betterment of our community.

*Area Maps: <https://pacpalicc.org/index.php/area-maps/>

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AREA TWO:

Steve Cron



Palisades Drive

smcron@gmail.com

Four years ago, I was first elected as the Area 2 representative on the Pacific Palisades Community Council. Since then, I have worked with our Councilperson's office to address fire safety in the Highlands, as well as keeping Palisades Drive relatively free of trash and overgrown weeds. I was also instrumental in getting the California Coastal Commission to force the clean-up of the Highlands Trailhead bathrooms. I've been a sounding board for Highlands residents to express their grievances and concerns about our community, and have been able to get government entities to address specific issues of residents in the Highlands.

I welcome the opportunity to stay on the job and to continue to serve the Highlands community.

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AREA THREE:
(3 candidates)

Julia Nilsen



Via Anita

julialivewell@gmail.com

I've lived in Pacific Palisades for 21 years, the first 12 years in the Highlands and the past 9 years in Marquez Knolls, Area 3, which I would like to be considered for to represent at PPCC. I'm also a member of the Bel-Air Bay Club.

I'm an attorney by profession, certified divorce coach, business entrepreneur, founder of the Butterfly Foundation, and mom of 4 children, who all attended Pacific Palisades public schools and participated in activities at the Palisades Recreation Center.

Through the years, I've participated in PTA and have been active in fundraising for our local schools and summer camps. Prior to moving to Pacific Palisades, I was on a Beverly Hills homeowners association board and on the board for a non-profit, The Special Needs Resource Center.

I would be honored to serve the community my family has called home for over two decades.

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AREA THREE:

Linda Friar



Chalet Terrace

lindafriar@gmail.com

I am a 46 years resident at Chalet Terrace in Area 3.

I've lived in Area 3 for over 40 years, so I feel I know our neighborhood very well. My husband and I raised our two children here and feel very fortunate to live in the Palisades.

Originally from Chicago, I came to Los Angeles to earn a doctorate in psychology from UCLA. I retired this June and now have more time to contribute to our community and neighborhood, which has given so much to me and my family.

I personally am interested in enhancing opportunities in education, the arts and recreation. I'm also committed to preserving and enhancing our outstanding environment. I'd be happy to represent the interests of my neighbors in Area 3.

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AREA THREE:

Joe Layton



Akron Street

jflayton@gmail.com

My name is Joe Layton and I am running for the Area 3 seat for the Pacific Palisades Community Council. My email address is jflayton@gmail.com. I have been a resident of the Palisades (and Area 3) for almost 6 years, since December of 2018, when my family and I bought the house we currently live in (16516 Akron St). I first fell in love with the Palisades as a sophomore at Loyola when I came to visit classmates. I ran the 4th of July 5K many times throughout my high school and college years and really got a feel for the community. My wife, Cassie, and my dreams came true when we realized we were going to have the opportunity to raise our family in the Palisades.

As the parent of 2 boys (9 and 2), I am very invested in the present and future of our wonderful community. I have volunteered as a youth sports coach in the community and would cherish the opportunity to expand my involvement to representing Area 3 on the Pacific Palisades Community Council.

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AREA FOUR:

Karen Ridgley



Northfield Street

karenridgley4PPCC@gmail.com

I'm Karen Ridgley, the incumbent Area 4 Community Council Representative. I've lived at 16128 Northfield St. in El Medio Bluffs 40+ years and raised 3 sons in the Palisades, all of whom attended our local schools. Professionally, I was a Field Manager and Sales Director for Computer Systems Maintenance and Tech Services companies. Formerly, I was a French Teacher.

I've served four years as Area 4's Representative to PPCC and know our issues well. I am an effective advocate for my constituents. I'm responsive and informed and know how to secure the information and City/CD11 services needed to address individual and neighborhood problems. I'm the Bluff's Neighborhood Crime Watch Coordinator and a member of the WLAPD Community Advisory Board.

I'm committed to preserving and enhancing our parks and common areas and support Palisades Beautiful, Pride and PP Taskforce for the Homeless.

I see crime reduction, continued outreach to homeless, fire safety and prevention, enforcement of LA Municipal Codes, emergency preparedness and erosion of Asilomar View Park bluff as key Area 4 concerns.

I'm a caring, concerned and energetic community activist and would be honored to continue serving as your voice on the PPCC.

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AREA 5:

Kimberly Bloom



Fiske Street

kimberly90272@gmail.com

In the two years I've served as the Area 5 representative, I've learned that decisions made by our local leaders and government agencies greatly affect our everyday lives, for better, and sometimes for worse. It's my desire to help others understand these issues and be a voice for my beloved Alphabet Street residents. I enjoy working with the PPCC board and local officials to find the best solution(s) to the issues facing our community. Often that means fighting to "Keep the Palisades the Palisades", and that in my view, is a fight worth fighting.

I've lived on Fiske Street since 1993 and cherish the Alphabet Street neighborhood for its small town feeling and strong sense of community. I welcome any communication at any time and look forward to being of continued service.

We joined St. Matthew's church in 1994, where I mentored parish and non-parish teenagers as a Youth Group teacher for 4 years. I'm still an active, pledging member at St. Matthews. Other service includes fundraising for YMCA and starting a cancer support group to deal with illness from a faith perspective after having cancer twice myself.

I truly love the Palisades community. It'd be an honor to be your Area 5 representative.

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AREA 6:
(3 candidates)

David Schwarz



Frontera Drive

DSchwarz@sheppardmullin.com

I have resided in Area 6 since October 2021, when our family (my wife, Julie, and our two teenage children, Max and Simone) moved to the Palisades.

I have a longstanding interest in good government and civic participation: (a) two-term gubernatorial appointee to the Commission on California State Government Organization and Economy, a.k.a. the California “Little Hoover” Commission; (b) member, Beverly Hills Pension Reform Task Force; (c) presidential appointee to three U.S. Delegations to the UN Human Rights Commission; (d) member of various non-profit boards, including (most recently) appointed to the Board of Visitors of Duke University School of Law.

Professional experience: my litigation practice (I am a partner at Sheppard, Mullin) focuses on representing companies and non-profit entities in state and local regulatory enforcement proceedings.

Policy issues: (a) to address long-term needs of the Community, including how to assure infrastructure sufficiently robust and sustainable to address growing needs of residents; (b) public safety, including maintaining safe streets and addressing risks associated with homeless encampments; (c) protecting and preserving what makes Pacific Palisades special: its history, community “glue”, and the civic engagement by our residents.

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AREA 6:

Lorie Cudzil



Alma Real Drive

Leroth1997@aol.com

Number of Years as a Resident of Pacific Palisades - 12 years

Number of Years as a Resident in Area 6 and at current Principal Residence - 9 years

I would be honored if given the opportunity to serve my fellow community members as an Area 6 Representative. Since moving here from NY twelve years ago, I have come to love the Palisades and consider myself very fortunate to live in such a close-knit and family-focused community. It has been a special place to raise our three children who are currently 10, 16, and 18. Throughout my time here, I have been concerned about issues affecting our neighborhood including the construction of Potrero Canyon, the building of a bridge to the beach, and safety on our streets. I have attended several PPCC meetings over the years, both in person and online, to become more aware of specific issues and how they are impacting the Palisades. Recently, I have become excited about being more involved in the decision-making process for our unique community. If given the chance, I would work hard for our neighbors and bring any of their suggestions and concerns with respect to our community to the PPCC for discussion and input. I am ready to play an active role in our community and to make sure it stays a beautiful and safe place to live.

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AREA 6:

Barbara Schelbert



Mount Holyoke Avenue

Bschelbert2@yahoo.com

I would like to run for the open seat in District Area 6 of Pacific Palisades so that I can become an active member of the Pacific Palisades Community Council.

We, my husband and 2 children, moved to Pacific Palisades in 1997. I was very involved in my children's school and extra-curricular activities. (Sports, book fair, music programs).

In 1984 we bought our house on 412 Mount Holyoke Avenue. It was advertised as a house with an ocean view! However, we realized very quickly that there were plans to develop that property. We were not only concerned about losing our view, but even more so about the instability of the lot. In 1984 we formed a group with our neighbors Save Our Slopes SOS and so far, successfully prevented the development of 425 Mount Holyoke.

I am concerned about the overbuilding and development of unstable lots throughout the Palisades. I also was involved in the No Oil fight. I remain concerned about the water that keeps creeping up on Temescal Canyon for the last 40 years.

I am an activist who strongly believes in action!

Please consider me for the seat in District Area 6 of Pacific Palisades.

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AREA 7:

Sharon Kilbride



Entrada Drive

SHARON.KILBRIDE@YAHOO.COM

PAST PPTFH CO-PRESIDENT AND CURRENT LAPD LIAISON FOR PPTFH

Sharon Kilbride is a sixth-generation member of the Marquez family, which received a land grant of the area now covering Santa Monica Canyon and Pacific Palisades in 1839. She has resided in Santa Monica Canyon for 66 years and graduated from Palisades High School and Santa Monica College. Now retired, she had a 33-year career as a corporate auditor for Safeway Inc. She currently sits on the boards of SMCCA and BOCA neighborhood associations. She also serves as treasurer for the Santuario San Lorenzo garden in front of the historic Marquez family cemetery. Besides working to preserve the cemetery, she has developed an educational program that teaches local 4th graders about the history of the area. For her community service, Sharon was honored as Pacific Palisades Citizen of the Year in 2015.

I have admired the work of PPCC and feel that I can be an asset to this fine organization representing the Santa Monica Canyon a place that I have made my mission to protect.

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AREA 8:

Andrew Wolfberg



Allenford Avenue

andrew@catrusts.com

I grew up in PPCC Area 7 and attended Canyon School.

I have lived in Area 8 for almost 15 years with my wife at 1418 Allenford and my children have attended Canyon School. I previously served as Area 8 representative, Area 8 alternate, At-Large alternate and PPCC Vice-President.

I am an estate planning attorney, and my office is located in West Los Angeles.

I am interested in the effects that Paul Revere and other public schools have on their surrounding neighborhoods. I previously served on the Paul Revere Traffic Safety Committee. The Committee developed and expanded the parent-sponsored yellow bus program, added public bus services (Big Blue Bus and MTA), and supported LAUSD's bus program. I led the effort in my neighborhood to have speed humps installed on Allenford to address pedestrian safety for residents and students.

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AT-LARGE REPRESENTATIVE:

Chris Spitz



Friends Street

ppfriends3@hotmail.com

33-year resident of Via Bluffs/Friends. Retired business litigation attorney (UCLA undergrad; Loyola Law School New Orleans; major firm experience). Extensive volunteer service at Pali Elementary & Archer (daughter Hannah an artist). On PPCC board for 16 years. PPCC At-large Representative (2022-present). Past PPCC Chair (2014-16) and Secretary (2018-22). 2021 PPCC Citizen of the Year. Vice-Chair of the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (2020-present). Excellent working relationship with officials and Westside community leaders. Spare time: travel with husband Jeff, cooking (a mean gumbo!), reading, local restaurants, music and her Manx rescue kitty “Augie.”

Managed PPCC administration for many years and led or served on key committees, including Executive, Land Use (current LUC chair), Elections, Awards and Bylaws. Strong supporter of our police, firefighters, PPTFH and local businesses. Very familiar with all Palisades areas. Has long analyzed and brought before PPCC important issues affecting the Palisades such as land use & zoning regulations, development, density, signage, homelessness, wildfire safety, evacuations and police protection.

Wishes to continue serving the community as PPCC At-large Rep and to proactively address these important issues which repeatedly arise and remain concerns. Honored for your vote!