



North of Montana Association

SPRING 2018 NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER

We are a non-profit all-volunteer group of residents working to protect and enhance the quality of life in the North of Montana area of Santa Monica.

1112 Montana Ave. #516, Santa Monica, CA 90403 // SMNOMA.org

Make Music Day Summer Solstice

When:
June 21, 2018 5:00 p.m. to Sunset

Where:
Palisades Park Ocean Ave
between San Vicente and Georgina

MONTHLY MEETINGS

When:
The first Thursday of each month (except July and January)
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Where:
Montana Branch Library
17th St. and Montana Ave.

NOMA IN 2018

In the early morning hours of their January 23rd meeting, the Santa Monica City Council voted to enact the Interim Zoning Ordinance (IZO) which calls for a reduction in the size of new construction throughout the R-1 residential districts of our city. This action was in response to concerns from residents who felt that much of the new construction was out of scale with existing homes, impacted neighboring homes negatively in terms of privacy, light and open space, and was not consistent with the character of the residential neighborhoods. The specific provisions of this ordinance are:

- Reduction of parcel coverage from 61% (35% coverage 1st floor, 26% second floor) to 50% total coverage (30% first floor, 20% second floor)
- Maximum height of new construction reduced from 32 feet in the North of Montana area to 28 feet, consistent with the rest of Santa Monica
- Single story homes less than 18 feet in height may occupy 50% of lot coverage
- Second-floor balconies, terraces or roof decks not to exceed 400 square feet in aggregate
- Second story setbacks were modified
- Lots of 6000 SF or smaller may only add a 650 SF ADU and those lots larger may add an ADU up to 800 SF as adopted by the City Council on 5/22/18 with a second reading 6/5/18
- Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) are to be excluded from calculating the total lot coverage

This new ordinance has the effect of reducing new construction by approximately 20% from what has recently been allowed.

Support for the IZO has been citywide in our R-1 residential neighborhoods. North of Montana is no longer the only area effected by overdevelopment. Other residential neighborhoods, specifically Sunset Park and northeast Santa Monica are equally impacted. As its name implies, the Zoning Ordinance is temporary in nature and will be in effect until a more comprehensive R-1 (single-unit residential district) can be crafted. The Planning Department will be holding workshops throughout the City later this year and it encourages the participation of its residents in helping to develop a permanent ordinance. This is a real opportunity for you to participate in the process of formulating a new comprehensive zoning ordinance that reflects the input and wishes of its citizens. We will keep you posted on the times and locations of the upcoming workshops once they become available from the city.



NOMA's 2017 Make Music Day: Come to the 2018 Event June 21st in Palisades Park (Ocean Ave. and Georgina). Image Photographed By: Evelyn Lauchenauer

HELP MAKE NOMA'S VOICE HEARD!

Make your voice heard. Join a committee, join the Board. City issues are often NOMA's issues, too, so join the discussions at our monthly membership or committee meetings and be informed and bring NOMA's voice to the mix of public comment before the City Council, our citizen commissions, and city departments. (Some of the city-wide issues front and center now, for example, are the Rec and Parks Master Plan, how the three remaining downtown major sites -- the city-owned land at 4th and Arizona, the Miramar Hotel re-do, and the 12-story Ocean Avenue Project -- are going to be developed, and modifications to R-1 via the IZO review.) So let's hear from you. Go to nomaboard@gmail.com to volunteer -- and help lift NOMA's voice.

WE'RE HERE FOR YOU

NOMA's monthly meetings seek to inform the residents about city-wide issues as well as what might be happening in the area. We value your input. Take time to connect with us!

- Visit us at smnoma.org
- Email us at nomaboard@gmail.com
- What are other issues for NOMA?
- What should be the top priority for our city?

COMPENSATION STUDY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

At its meeting on May 8, 2018 the Santa Monica City Council approved the recommendation of the city staff to proceed with the implementation of corrective action to the city's compensation program. In 2017 the city council established a Compensation Study Advisory Committee to review compensation of city employees and retained Moss Adams, LLP to prepare an analysis and report of the issues involved.

The final report of Moss Adams was presented to the Compensation Study Advisory Committee at its meeting on April 17, 2018. In that report was a series of thirteen observations and recommendations. Among those observations are the following:

- In relation to peer cities, Santa Monica exhibits the same distribution of personnel costs as peers cross wages, health benefits and retirement.
- Santa Monica's compensation for employees is comparable to the average of peer cities although the City's median senior leadership compensation is the highest among peers.
- Santa Monica has taken steps to reduce unfunded pension liability, although similar to peer cities the City's unfunded pension liability remains high.
- Employee medical insurance costs have risen steeply in recent years. The City's cash contribution to employee medical insurance is consistent with peers.
- Santa Monica has the highest number of employees among peers, with long employee tenure placing employees 77.3% of employees within 10% of the top salary step.
- Santa Monica employs more personnel than peers in part because it operates a variety of services and responds to the service needs of a large tourist population.

The entire report along with recommendations can be accessed at smgov.net/departments/clerk/agendas/May 8, 2018. The staff report with the Moss Adams report will be listed in the May 8 agenda.

At that same meeting of the committee the city staff presented an Implementation Plan to guide implementation of the recommendations in the Moss Adams report. Among the recommendations having a high priority are the following:

- Provide personnel costs for the public with explanations to increase awareness and understanding of those costs.
- Develop and implement a formal compensation philosophy. (No compensation policy exists currently.)
- Evolve a position level compensation market study methodology.
- Continue to take steps to reduce the financial threat of the growing pension liability.
- Stabilize employee health care costs.

The complete Implementation Plan can be read at the same site as listed above for the Moss Adams report.

AT THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL MEETING:



Photos by Evelyn Lauchenauer

Join NOMA in Palisades Park

Make Music Day is an international event celebrating the summer solstice and will be celebrated on June 21 worldwide. NOMA's site will be located on the grassy bluff overlooking the Pacific in Palisades Park on Ocean Avenue (between San Vicente and Georgina Street) in a magnificent spot overlooking the Pacific.

We will have music for all ages including children. The ABC's will provide a sing-a-long of Beatle's songs, the Wilde-Hartman's do Classic Rock and Beyond as well as other musicians.

Join us for the first summer sunset and enjoy an evening of music and beauty. Bring a picnic if desired and a blanket. Refreshments will be provided by local vendors.

CURRENT NOMA BOARD

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| • Nancy Coleman, <i>Chair</i> | • Phillis Dudick | • Evelyn Lauchenauer |
| • Danilo Bach, <i>Vice-Chair</i> | • Jeff Gordon | • Steven Lissik |
| • Victor Fresco, <i>Treasurer</i> | • Todd James | • Sonya Sultan |
| • Caryn Marshall, <i>Membership</i> | • Jane Koehler | • Jim Williams |
| • Jeff Brecht, <i>Minutes Secretary</i> | | |

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

E-mail _____

(NOMA does not share or sell email addresses)

ANNUAL DUES

NOMA is the City-recognized organization that represents the interest of our neighborhood. If you paid your dues in January 2018 you need not pay now.

\$30 Household

\$50 Business

___ Additional Donation

___ New ___ Renewal

Dues can be paid online:

<http://www.smnoma.org/join-noma.org/join-noma.html>

Please make check payable to "NOMA" and mail to:

NOMA
1112 Montana Ave., #516
Santa Monica, CA 90403

(NOMA is a 501(c) (4) organization; dues and contributions are not tax-deductible)