


__ I attend school, engage in voluntary service with a community and/or non- profit organization within the geographic area of the PRNC, or have substantial and ongoing interest in the PRNC neighborhood (list name and address of school, organization or other facts showing substantial and ongoing interest in the neighborhood):

Name & Address

Candidate Declaration

I declare under penalty of perjury that the above statements are true and

correct. Signature:  Date: December 21, 2023

Optional Statement of Interest

I am interested in the following issues, whether or not elected to the Governing Board (check all that apply):

- Budget and Finance
- Bylaws and Procedures
- Community Outreach and Projects
- Cultural Affairs
- Neighborhood Beautification
- Environmental sustainability
- Government Affairs
- Planning and Land Use
- Public Safety, Crime
- Emergency Preparedness
- Transportation and Public Works
- Schools and Education
- Health
- Other: Creating a rich cultural presence in PR while retaining its clean, peaceful, rural quality

Stephen A. Blake Candidate Statement Form

As a native Angelino and long-time resident of the San Fernando Valley, I love Porter Ranch. Our church is here, and our kids attend school here. Porter Ranch is peaceful, safe, and has a sublime rural feel that must be zealously preserved. At the same time, as both the population and commerce here unstoppably grow, I believe we must have a clear, forward-looking vision with respect to just *how* we want Porter Ranch to develop, and just what we want it to look and feel like in the years to come.

Of course, matters such as Planning and Land Use, Emergency Preparedness, Public Safety and Crime, Community Outreach, and Budget and Finance are absolutely essential, but I have a particularly strong passion for Culture. As of now, Porter Ranch is all but barren in this respect, with little to no art, theatre, music, or truly fine dining here. I believe we should work to “gently” blossom Porter Ranch into a rich cultural realm while carefully preserving its haven-like quality. Various towns along the Central Coast have successfully done this.

I also strongly believe we should enhance Porter Ranch’s “identity” in every possible respect, including renaming some of our streets to better reflect Porter Ranch’s incredibly rich scenic beauty. I respect that Rinaldi and Sesnon were important historical figures, but not only do their names have zero aesthetic value, nearly no one today even knows who these men were. Just as various communities that had been within Van Nuys (named after a 19th century businessman) wisely renamed themselves “Valley Glen”, “Balboa Lake” etc., I believe we should rename our major thoroughfares to reflect the picturesque qualities of Porter Ranch.

I myself am a filmmaker and father of three. My wife, Sonya Blake, is the President/CEO of The Valley Economic Alliance.