

**Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC)
 General Public Board Meeting
 Tuesday, September 8, 2015 – 6.30PM
 Calahan Elementary School Auditorium
 18722 Knapp Street, Northridge 91324**

1. Call to Order

- President Tom Johnson called the meeting to order at 6.40PM.

2. Roll call

- President Tom called a roll call. Nine members of the board, along with over thirteen stakeholders were in attendance; a quorum was declared.

Here (9)	Tom Johnson, Steven Koch, Peter Lasky, John Mah, Debbie Penman, Colleen Pick, Freddie Rymond, David Uranga, and Glen Wilson
Absent (2)	Pamela Gentry and Alex Orozco

3. Flag Ceremony

- President Tom Johnson led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Reports/Presentations by Public Officials

- Senior Lead Officer (SLO) John Parker of the Devonshire Division mentioned that there have been a great many promotions and transitions of power within the LAPD these past eight months.
- Year to date, there has been an increase in property, as well as, violent crime. Violent crime [including assault, robbery, and rape] is up 31% in this area. Homeless people, as well as proposition 47 and Assembly Bill 109 may cause this. Property crime is up 17%.
- LAPD is partnering with churches, clergy, and homeless shelters to reduce crime.
- Friday, October 16, 5PM to 7:30PM, the Supporters of Law Enforcement in Devonshire (SOLID) will host their annual Pasta Dinner at St. Nicolas Church, at the corner of Plummer and Balboa Boulevards. SOLID funds things that the city does not pay for, including holsters for tasers.
- Debbie Penman expressed concern about people going through trash and recycle bins. She shreds paper to alleviate identity theft, but Officer Parker mentioned that there is little the LAPD can do, except request movement of recycling centers to other neighborhoods.
- Tom Johnson mentioned that NWNC has Neighborhood Watch signs. If anyone is interested, please reach out to Officer Parker or Tom Johnson.

- Jonathan Coto from Councilman Englander’s office congratulated the NWNC for making the local newsletter, Community Connection.
- Wednesday, August 26, the city council voted to give each neighborhood council (NC) an extra \$5k to supplement their operating budget.
- The city attorney’s office drafted legislation to restrict drones.
- Councilmen Englander and Bonin are working to enforce speed limits on the streets of Los Angeles.
- Wednesday, September 9, at 5PM, Councilman Englander will host a meeting at a local homeless shelter.
- A stakeholder asked about Verizon taking over landlines within Los Angeles; Jonathan was not familiar with this, and will discuss this with his co-workers at Councilman Englander’s office.

5. Special Guest Speaker Kevin James, President of the Board of the Department of Public Works (DPW)

- Mr. James was happy to see an increase in interest in the NCs, and thanked the NWNC for volunteering their time to this worthwhile effort. He also thanked the NWNC Operation Clean Sweep, which provides an extra big help to the DPW.
- There are six sections within the DPW:

Beautification	Engineering	Street Lighting
Contract administration	Sanitation	Street Services
- They meet three times a week, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays; the five commissioners each has their own section of the DPW. As there are fifteen members of the city council, and five commissioners, each commissioner directly interfaces with three council districts. Kevin's three districts are 3 (Bob Blumenfield), 12 (Mitch Englander), and 15 (Joe Buscaino).
- LA has the largest street network in the USA; as a result of an ADA lawsuit, Los Angeles now has \$1.4B to repair streets and sidewalks.
- As shown at their website, <http://bss.lacity.org>, every street receives an A-F letter grade for their priority ranking for repair. Some streets get fixed every six or seven years, while other streets can go 25+ years between repaving. The money to repair streets comes from the gasoline tax. Weight, water, and weather are the deciding factors that affect a street's life.
- The city's budget for the clean streets initiative recently went from \$5m to \$9m; this allows for additional street stripping.
- In mid-2017, the city may expand to additional trash pick-up, including servicing multi-family residences.
- Saturday, September 26 is the annual NC congress. At that time, DPW will roll out the "NC Recruitment Plan". DPW has already used council members to serve as the eyes and ears of the pothole repair team; this will expand this for council members being the eyes and ears of the road stripe team.
- Principal Michelle Wells asked if they are doing anything to upgrade the 311 response time; the bureau is aware of the lengthy call wait times, and is working to resolve this.
- A stakeholder asked if the slurry seal has a guarantee because it is not working very well. Steven Koch mentioned that Donna Street recently received a slurry treatment; however, while the slurry was still wet, a truck drove along and imprinted the truck's tire lines. Kevin mentioned a similar thing happened in Chinatown. Steven or one of his neighbors should submit photographs to the DPW.
- A stakeholder requested more street sweeping services; sometimes, the street is swept every six months. DPW is working on technology to track the street sweepers, and enable people to park their car after a street-sweeper has passed.
- Peter Lasky mentioned the NWNC's concern about the Tampa Boulevard medians.
- A stakeholder mentioned that the area near the intersection of Labrador and Lassen had not been paved in over twenty years. A neighbor felt that the LADWP delayed the street repair; however, Kevin mentioned that LADWP would not hold up street repair for twenty years.
- Steven also mentioned that overgrown trees block streetlights. Kevin mentioned that the city council funded tree-trimming activities; many of these trimming are used for emergencies, such as during the recent Special Olympics.

6. General Public Comments on Non-Agenda items.

- Max Reyes recently joined CSUN, having previously worked for Mayor Garcetti. The freshman class of CSUN performed a street clean up on Saturday, August 29. This will become an annual

event for CSUN's incoming freshmen.

- Glen Bailey, President of the Northridge East NC expressed his concern regarding Russian thistle weeds around the CSUN campus.
- A stakeholder who resides on a cul de sac near CSUN issued a concern regarding student parking. The nearby streets of Prairie and Dearborn have one-hour parking restrictions. However, the stakeholder's street does not have such a restriction.
- Mikkie Loi of the Southern California Preparedness Foundation reminds everyone that the 8th Annual Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair will be held Saturday, October 3, 10AM to 2PM at the LAFD Station #87, 10124 Balboa Boulevard. Online registration is now available at <http://www.valleydisasterfair.com/>
- This year's speakers include:
 - Recently retired renowned Caltech seismologist, Dr. Kate Hutton
 - LAFD Captain/Paramedic Stacy Gerlich, Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) Program Administrator/Manager, currently assigned to the Catastrophic Planning section of Homeland Security
 - Jill Barnes, LAUSD Office of Emergency Services, School Operations
 - Tim Kneeland, wilderness survival expert and trainer
- There is no charge for attendance, and a free earthquake preparedness kit will be distributed to each family.
- Advance online registration is not mandatory, but you will receive a welcome email, and it will facilitate check-in.
- Ann Porter, a member of the leadership team for the Los Angeles chapter of Move to Amend addressed the NWNC. Move to Amend is a national coalition that rejects the US Supreme Court's ruling of January 21, 2010 in the case of Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission that claimed that corporations are persons. Move to Amend advocates for a 28th amendment to establish that money is not speech, and that human beings, not corporations, are persons entitled to constitutional rights. She also distributed postcards advocating the viewing of their YouTube video "A Question of Personhood".
- Jessica Morales from Phoenix House introduced herself; their motto is "Rising Above Addition", and they have teamed with the following local businesses to prevent underage drinking:

7-11, 10325 Zelzah	Shai Cellars, 9527 Rhea
7-11, 18514 Plummer	Smart & Final, 18555 Devonshire
Beverages and More, 19524 Nordhoff	Super King Market, 19500 Plummer
CVS Pharmacy, 10181 Reseda	Tesoro, 10101 Balboa
Devonshire Car Care Center, 18501 Devonshire	Texaco, 10101 Balboa
Galleria Market, 10201 Reseda	Vons, 9119 Reseda
Northridge 76 Service Center, 19301 Nordhoff	Walgreen's 18515 Devonshire
Northridge Liquor, 9157 Reseda	Wine & Spirits of the World, 10318 Reseda
Rite Aid, 18444 Plummer	
- Roger Dolin and Maryley Carrillo Camacho from the Museum of the San Fernando Valley advocate a coating on murals to prevent graffiti from sticking and obliterating artwork. The October NWNC will include their presentation on artwork for Tampa medians. The Museum of

the San Fernando Valley is open Thursday, from 1PM to 6PM, and the last Saturday of each month (from 2PM to 6PM) will feature an artist's presentation, including the sale of the artist's work.

- Glen Bailey from the East Northridge NC reminds everyone that the annual NC Congress will be held on Saturday, September 26 (this will include forty workshops). In addition, this Thursday's meeting of the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC) will include a discussion of the 2016 election, which has been moved to April (rather than March).

7. Discussion and Motion to approve July and August 2015 NWNC Meeting Minutes

- Tom Johnson made a motion to accept the minutes of July; John Mah seconded this motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- Tom Johnson made a motion to accept the minutes of August; Steven Koch seconded this motion and the motion passed unanimously.

8. Discussion & Motion to approve Treasurers August 2015 Monthly Expense Report

- The following expenses were incurred in August 2015:

Date	Item	Category	Vendor	Amount
Aug 13	Postage for June MER Report	Operations	USPS	\$ 5.75
Aug 13	Chicken Nuggets	Outreach	Chick-Fil-A	110.09
Aug 14	Advertising	Outreach	Decision Publications	315.00
Aug 14	Office/Storage – August 2015	Operations	Decision Publications	150.00
Aug 17	Party Ice for Joint Clean-Up	Outreach	Vons	13.49
Aug 17	Coffee for Joint Clean-Up	Outreach	Starbucks	29.90
Aug 17	Water and Ice for Joint Clean-Up	Outreach	Smart & Final	40.90
Aug 17	Ice, Cream Cheese, and Pastries	Outreach	Vons	130.86
Aug 17	Gloves, Brooms, and Pipe	CIP	HD Supply – White Cap	294.61
Aug 19	Rent, March-June	Operations	LAUSD	393.48
Aug 20	Rent, July-October	Operations	LAUSD	393.48
Aug 21	Minute Taker for July	Operations	Apple One	63.53
Aug 23	1 Year of ICD Soft Ltd.	Outreach	2CO Ecommerce Paymts	72.00
Aug 24	Chips for Clean-Up	CIP	Smart & Final	12.69
Aug 24	Yard Butler Planter Tool	CIP	Amazon	22.33
Aug 25	July Maintenance on Reseda Blvd	CIP	American Heritage Ldscp	200.00
Aug 31	Pepperoni Pizza	Outreach	Little Caesars	5.45
Aug 31	Sending MER July Report	Operations	USPS	5.75
			TOTAL	<u>\$2,259.31</u>

- Glen Wilson made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Monthly Expense Report for August 2015; Peter Lasky seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

9. Discussion and Motion to approve the Tampa/Wilbur Maintenance Contract for American Heritage Landscape. This contract was approved last year but not acted upon by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE)

- Tom Johnson made a motion to approve the maintenance contract for American Heritage Landscape along Tampa, from Devonshire to Plummer Streets, as well as along the west side of Wilbur Avenue; Debbie Penman seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

10. Discussion and motion to approve Apple One Monthly expense of \$63.53
 - Tom Johnson made a motion to approve this expense; Steven Koch seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.
11. Discussion and Motion for approval of NWNC monthly office expense of \$150 and \$315 advertising per month for the next eleven (11) months.
 - Tom Johnson made a motion to approve these expenses; Peter Lasky seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.
12. Discussion and Motion to approve payment of \$3,779.84 to C&M Printing. Previously approved @June 2015 NWNC Board meeting
 - This previously approved expense will be for printing and mailing 7,000 to 10,000 flyers for the upcoming April 2016 election
 - Glen Wilson made a motion to approve this expense from the previous fiscal year; David Uranga seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.
13. Discussion and Motion to approve reimbursement of \$11.49 for purchase of six Tacos from Jack in the Box, served at Outreach and Beautification Committee meeting held in August 2015
 - Glen Wilson made a motion to approve this expense to reimburse him; Peter Lasky seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.
14. Discussion and Motion to approve a \$500 NPG to the Kiwanis Club of Northridge for the Proud to Be an American Flag project along Reseda Boulevard
 - Glen Bailey mentioned that the NCs supported these flags along Reseda since 1999. Due to the economic downturn of 2008-09, the damaged flags were not replaced as frequently due to lack of donations.
 - There was discussion whether to leave the flags up from Memorial Day through Independence Day, or take them down, and put them back up again. It was decided to leave them up in that time frame, thus including Flag Day (June 14).
 - The three NCs of Northridge (South, West, and East) agreed that they would donate \$500/each, along with a \$600 contribution from an anonymous benefactor. The Chamber of Commerce agreed to match the NCs \$1,500 by adding another \$1,500.
 - Tom Johnson made a motion to approve this expense; John Mah seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.
15. Discussion and Motion to approve the expenditure of \$72 for a new web hosting service with ICD Soft Ltd for one (1) year to allow Moore Business Results to update NWNC website
 - Steven Koch made a motion to approve this expense; Tom Johnson seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.
16. Discussion and Motion to approve \$250 for Educational Workshops on November 12, 2015 and \$250 for the March 2016 VANC 13th Annual Mixer to be held March 2016 at CBS Studios in North Hollywood.
 - Glen Wilson corrected the agenda to reflect that the mixer will be in Studio City, not North Hollywood.
 - Tom Johnson made a motion to approve the \$250 expense for the Educational Workshop of November 12; Debbie Penman seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

- Tom Johnson made a motion to approve the \$250 expense for the VANC 13th Annual Mixer of March 2016; John Mah seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

17. Discussion and Motion to approve of up to \$1,250 NPG for the North Valley YMCA Thanksgiving Food Drive

- Peter Lasky mentioned that this NPG will be for over 100 baskets, and the baskets will be distributed to the entire community, not just Porter Ranch.
- Tom Johnson made a motion to approve this expense; John Mah seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

18. General Public Comments

- There were no general public comments

19. Comments by Committee Chairs

- Elections: As mentioned earlier, the elections will be in April 2016, rather than March.
- Public Safety: Steven Koch chatted with Officer Parker regarding adequate responses when calling the non-emergency numbers. Tom Johnson mentioned that neighborhood policing works; he and his neighbors caught some weed smokers in a parked car. Without confronting them, Tom and his neighbors videotaped the smokers, and the smokers drove away.
- Cleanup: A stakeholder was concerned that the cleanup was rescheduled to accommodate DONE, yet DONE did not show-up for this event.
- Beautification: Peter Lasky mentioned that we have a difficult time keeping Tampa beautiful between Lassen and Plummer; rather than ugly and weeds; sometimes it is ugly and barren. Perhaps we could encourage the homeowners in the area to purchase gravel, and the NWNC clean-up committee could lay-down the gravel. Glen Wilson mentioned that sometimes decomposed granite (DG) is used instead of gravel. Steven Koch suggested that this could pose a danger to children walking along this sidewalk. Debbie Penman suggested that they not use anything that could be detrimental to cars if and when the material got into the street.
- Website: Steven Koch mentioned that new website will include "hot topics". This will give an area for the committees to broadcast their thoughts and concerns (such as Peter Lasky's "gravel on the sidewalk along Tampa" idea). If you have any "hot topics" for this area, please forward them to Steven.

20. Comments by Budget Advocates

- Glen Bailey mentioned that the Regional Budget Day for VANC will be Saturday, October 17, 9AM to noon in Beaudry Center, Van Nuys (?).

21. Comments by NWNC Board Members

- There were no comments by NWNC board members.

22. Adjournment

- Tom Johnson adjourned the meeting at 8:52PM.