



**NWNC – NPG Review of Northridge Beautification Foundation  
Documentation Sept., 2020**

Email to Mr. Melvin Canas:

**Rana A. Sharif, NWNC President**

Mon, Sep 14, 8:39 AM (7  
days ago)

to melvin.canas, kelly, Peter

Good Morning, Melvin,

Thank you for taking the time to provide us with some of the documentation your office received from Mr. Larson and the Northridge Beautification Foundation. We also appreciate the opportunity to provide a response based on the evidence you provided us with.

Unfortunately, after a close and thorough review of the information you provided us with and when cross-referenced with the information posted by NBF and Clean Streets, Clean Starts to their Facebook pages, we feel there are factual discrepancies that suggest the work delineated in the NPGs was, in fact, never completed in the Northridge West area.

Attached is a summary detailing our findings for your consideration. Before bringing this to the board, we would like to ensure that we have all the information and facts available that support your final decision. In the spirit of transparency and accountability, we hope you will take this information into consideration.

Again, thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,  
Rana

## The NPGs approved for NBF / Don Larson are:

- May, 2018 \$3k Clean Streets
- May, 2019 \$5k Clean Streets
- May, 2019 \$4k Tampa Topiary

The NPG / GBM motion language is included at the bottom of this document as reference.

## Observations / Questions:

- The letter Mr. Larson wrote to NWNC, dated 2-20-20, was never sent to the board or anyone on the board. As a result, this is the first time NWNC has seen any of the documentation. (Mr. Larson confirmed with Mr. Canas that he never sent the documentation to NWNC as well.)

### May, 2018 NPG for \$3k

1. The invoice provided is for 2018 expenses **only** which would apply to the \$3k NPG.
  - Total expenses on Expense Summary Spreadsheet reflect \$8k (NPG is for \$3k). *Note:* There are no receipts included to support the spreadsheet.
  - Work days are assumed for dates where there are food specific expenses (vs water, bus tokens, etc). Based on this assumption, there were 7 work days in 2018.
  - Gift Cards of 260 at \$25 each would indicate that there were 37 people working per work day (260 cards/ 7). That is well over the 6-10 people/day estimated.
2. There are inconsistencies in the dates and photos provided. As Mr. Larson mentioned, he blogs daily/weekly on his NBF Facebook page for the past few years. As a result, this is a good resource for all to reference activity. (He calls it out in his draft letter)
  - 7/12/18 - Expense for \$173.41 @ Emle's Restaurant. Photos from NBF Facebook page shows work being done in Canoga Park (not NWNC).\*
  - 7/18/18 - Expense for Chick-Fil-A + 2 McD (\$102.72). No photos or NWNC mention to support activity. There are 3 photos from 7/19 - can't tell where it is. (Maybe Reseda across from park)
  - 7/25/18 - Expense for Chick-Fil-A + McD (\$185.13). No photos or NWNC mention to support. There are photos from 7/23 and 7/28 (neither appear to be in NWNC)
  - 8/01/18 - Expense McD (\$24.05). No photos or NWNC mention to support.
  - 8/08/18 - Expense McD (\$68.11). No photos or NWNC mention to support. 8/12 = Devonshire Park
  - 8/18/18 - Expense Joyce's Cafe \$684. Photos and text refer to community event FEED THE STREETS in Van Nuys. No photos or NWNC mention to support.\*
  - 9/18/18 - Expense Emle's \$128.74. Photos show Reseda Neighborhood Council event as well as a Vision Meeting with Peter Lasky on 9/19/18. No photos or NWNC mention to support clean streets.
3. The time sheets that were viewed did not specify where work was done. (I do not have a copy of any – trying to recall what was on the actual form. I believe it was name and date only). *Need clarification as to whether the time sheets match the spreadsheet provided as well as the appropriate number of people/day.*

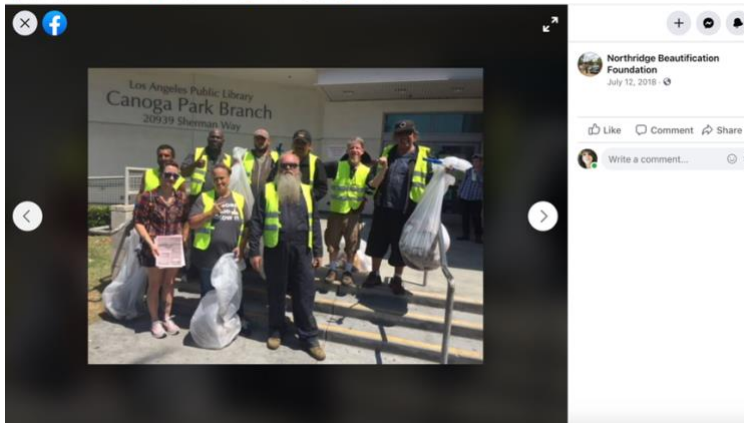
### May, 2019 NPG for \$5k Clean Streets

- No documentation provided to support this NPG. Photos / dates were cross checked for 2019 activity assuming the date on the invoice was incorrect (2018 vs 2019). No photo / blog support could be found on NBF Facebook or cleanstreetscleanstarts.org sites referencing these dates.

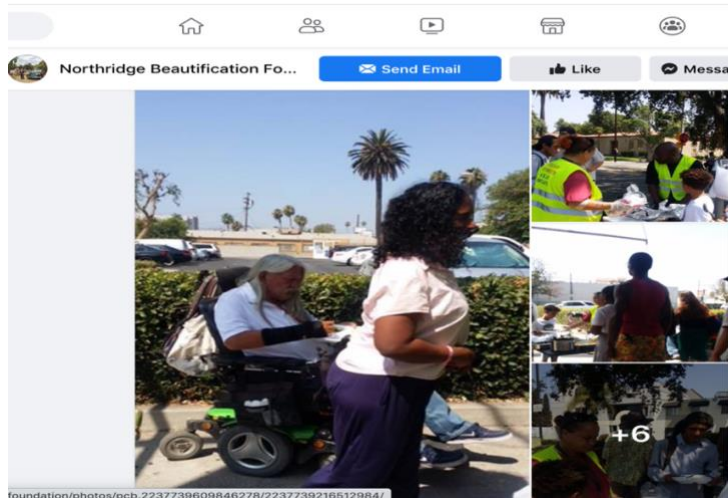
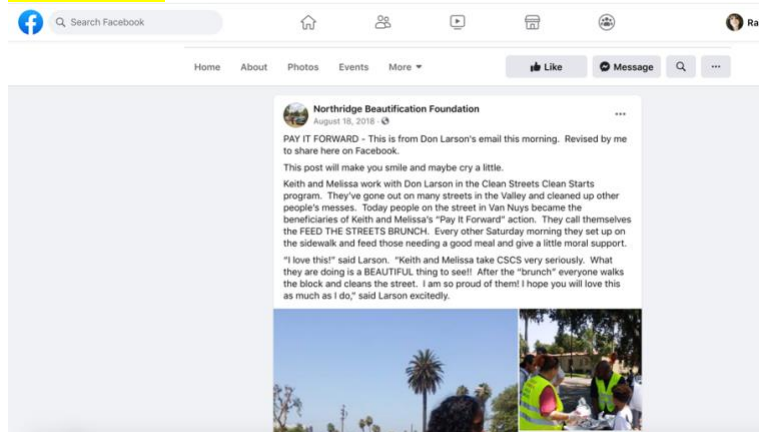
## May, 2019 NPG for \$4k Tampa Topiary

- Photo documentation for June 23<sup>rd</sup> and July 21<sup>st</sup> maintenance. Per the NPG, work was to continue through Dec, 31<sup>st</sup> 2019. No documentation supporting this effort continued beyond July was provided or could be found via NBF Facebook / cleanstreetscleanstarts.org.

## 2018 Photos. July 12, 2018



## Aug 18, 2018



NPG / Motion language:

### May, 2018 \$3k Clean Streets NPG

- **NPG reads:** “A grant in the amount of \$3k for building and landscape materials, for the purpose of cleaning and improving areas to be determined modeled after Northridge Great Street project.
- 6-week program; 10-15 people per week; includes food, water, tools, paint, etc
- Timing: June 2018 (start and completed)

### May, 2019 \$5k Clean Streets NPG

- **Motion reads** from May 14<sup>th</sup> GBM: “Discussion, presentation and motion to approve \$5k NPG for a 6-week program for cleaning and improving the area to be determined with funds going to NBF. SFV homeless folks receive gift cards for roughly three hours of work a week. The program runs three hours a week/twice a week for six people for a group of ten individuals. This is modified if there are fewer participants. All participants must sign in to ensure accountability and transparency. for building and landscape materials, for the purpose of cleaning and improving areas to be determined modeled after Northridge Great Street project.
- **The NPG read** “a grant in the amount of \$5k for building and landscape materials, for the purpose of cleaning and improving in areas to be determined modeled after Northridge Great Streets project. 6-week program; 10-15 people per week; includes food, water, tools, paint, etc
- Timing: June 2019 (start and completed)

### May, 2019 \$4k Tampa Topiary

- **Motion reads** from May 14<sup>th</sup> GBM: Discussion, presentation, and motion to approve \$4k NPG to be used to maintain the topiary installed in 2018 by trimming, weeding, and watering as necessary to fund Northridge Beautification Foundation.