

DRAFT
Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC)
General Board Meeting (GBM)
Tuesday, 12 January 2021
Via Zoom

1. Meeting Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call, and Determination of a Quorum
 - President Abby Bailes called the meeting to order at 6.18PM, welcomed over fourteen attendees, and ten board members.
 - A quorum was declared via the following roll call:
 - Here (10) Payman Bahman, Abigail Bailes, Yi Ding, Kathleen Edwards, Bill Fox, Jennifer Krowne, Peter Lasky, Joel Lowell, Lucio Padilla, and Glen Wilson
 - Absent (1) Josue Toscano
 - Hudson and Landon from the Beckford Avenue Elementary School led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. If anyone has kids who would like to lead us in future Pledges of Allegiance, please reach out to Abby.

2. Comment by Senior Lead Officer (SLO)
 - LAPD SLO Sandra Zamora patrols the area bordered by the following:
 - East of Canoga Avenue South of Lassen Street
 - West of Tampa Avenue North of Roscoe Boulevard
 - Please contact her directly at 35947@lapd.online.
 - Crime went up a little bit, with eighteen part-one crimes, including six thefts, five car burglaries, two home burglaries, and a grand theft auto; one of these burglaries shattered a very large picture window. Part-one offenses are a metric used to calculate the crime indexes and rates. These criminals had a great deal of nerve to commit some of these crimes. Carjackers have attempted to steal cars while the vehicle's owner is taking their meal break (as they have no where else to eat).
 - The LAPD is to be alerted if a crime is committed or recently happened. Please call 211 or 311 for homeless encampments, bulky item pick-ups, graffiti, or abandoned vehicles; the LAPD cannot respond to those minor infractions.
 - The LAPD realizes the park is a very popular site for the homeless; regretfully, the LAPD is powerless. Someone mentioned that they called for bulky item pick-up of a coach that was taken over by a homeless person.
 - The LAPD will have lay-offs in the next few months. This decision has been made and there is nothing that the citizenry can do to keep the police and their staff employed.
 - Jennifer Krowne recently witnessed someone excessively coughing all over the Panda Express; she felt really bad for the manager, but there was nothing that could be done. Wearing a mask is not a law, so the LAPD cannot arrest someone. However, the store has the right to not serve them.
 - There is frequent confusion regarding homeless and transients. Homeless are down on their luck because they lost their job and/or their home. Transients do not want to get off drugs or accept assistance for a mental health issue and lack any incentive to better themselves. Recently, two transients fought for a collection spot in front of the Costco at 8810 Tampa Avenue. These transients can make \$500/day, tax-free. If they are arrested, they always have cash. The city has multiple food distribution services, but it is rare for a homeless or transient person to appear. Payman and Sandra reported that nearly 50% of California's homeless are from somewhere else; California laws are more lenient than other states.

- Lucio reported that someone walked Tulsa Street at 1.30AM checking car doors. A few cars were unlocked and the thieves helped themselves to someone else's possessions. Sandra reminded everyone of the LAPD's mantra, "Lock it, Hide it, Keep It".

3. Comments by Stakeholders on Non-Agenda Items

- Patty Glueck from the Aliso Canyon Health Research Study Community Advisory Group reported that they are planning a town hall, possibly for Thursday, January 21st. They hope to have a dialogue with everyone about what is going on.
- Patty thanked Kelly Sooter for something that Kelly did for her.
- Glenn Bailey reported that the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils would meet Thursday, January 14th at 6.30PM. This month's guest speaker will be Adel H. Hagekhalil, Executive Director and General Manager of Streets LA (formerly known as Street Services) who will discuss how the budget cuts are affecting them.
- Glenn thanked the NWNC board members for participating in various meetings.
- Mikkie Loi mentioned that Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) coordinators are changing how they communicate with everyone. They are building an all-city contact list, rather than dividing it by regions. All CERT members should sign-up again at <http://www.ntp-la.com>. This will enable one contact list for the city, rather than multiple lists. Regretfully, the older lists cannot be imported into the new list.

4. Update from the Devonshire Area Community-Police Advisory Board

- Mikkie Loi reported that the Valley Traffic Division Task Force would meet at 6.30PM on Wednesday, January 13th. Thankfully, this task force has not been affected by citywide budget cuts. There will also be a new subcommittee dealing with speed racing.
- Kathleen Edwards asked how folks could register for these Valley Traffic Division meetings; searching social media or Googling "LA Valley Traffic Division" will bring up this information.

5. Comments by Public Officials

- Matt Hernandez, Public Safety Field Deputy for CD12, reported the following:
 - The city council resumed today with new motions and a few new board members.
 - There is a concern about budget cuts; this will be further discussed in March.
 - Dodger Stadium is transitioning from a COVID-19 testing site to a vaccine distribution site.
 - Abigail mentioned that the homeless encampments in certain business areas, especially near Desoto Avenue and Nordhoff Street, are getting worse. The trash is awful, dangerous, and appears to be chaos. Matt replied that there are many limits on enforcement, including what the city can and cannot do.
- Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate and Racial Equity Officer from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) Gibson Nyambura addressed the NWNC:
 - Tuesday, February 9th is the deadline to register to be a candidate for the Tuesday, April 27th NWNC election. The city recently granted DONE \$400k for various neighborhood council outreach programs; it is hoped that the NWNC is doing outreach for this election. The voter application portal will open on Friday, February 26th; this election [run by the city clerk's office] will be 100% vote by mail. Official results will be published on Wednesday, May 12th.

- As of Wednesday, January 6th, Facebook has prohibited all political advertising, including for the NWNC.
- DONE has a new portal whereupon you can type in any address and the relevant neighborhood council will appear.
- DONE’s new Data Liaison Program hopes to leverage data technologies with neighborhood councils, including surveys and strategic resources. Each council can appoint one to three data liaisons.
- A draft version of the proposed resolution by the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC) regarding a Digital Communications Policy for the neighborhood councils is currently under consideration. Additional information about a tentatively scheduled meeting for Tuesday, January 26th may appear in the monthly profile.
- The neighborhood council grievance process may be streamlined; this process will never target merely one board member.
- DONE will be closed two days a month, usually on a Friday, as part of the city’s budget cuts.
- Please reach out to Gibson at gibson.nyambura@lacity.org if you have any questions and/or concerns.

6. Presidential Comments – Happy New Year!

- Hoping all board members continue to respond to our stakeholders.

7. Discussion of Outreach for NWNC Board Member Elections. Candidate forum workshops on Saturdays, January 16th and 30th. Candidate filing open until Tuesday, February 9th. Voting open Friday, February 26th through Tuesday, April 20th. Motion to approve funding of up to \$4,000 to print and distribute a 6x9” postcard to up to 9,700 households in Northridge West, including the use of \$2,282.50 in encumbered funds for C&M Printing, as well as an additional \$1,694.72 to \$2,000 from the outreach budget.

- Ding came up with more updated information regarding the outreach expenditures and revised estimates from C&M Printing. One will be for \$2,282.50, and the other for \$1,697.16
- Glen Wilson has not yet had the opportunity to see how many people have registered as candidates. Glenn Bailey reported that the city clerk’s office does not alert board members who has registered for candidacy; it automatically shows up on the NWNC website.
- Ding showed samples of potential postcards.
- There is a mistake whereupon it states that the deadline for vote by mail is February 9th, that is the last date for candidate filing.
- Kathleen suggested highlighting NWNC and the website for sign-up with the tagline “you can learn more at ...”. Jennifer and Abigail briefly discussed color and placement of the DONE and NWNC logos.
- Joel requested that the motion of this agenda item be broken into two separate motions; one to allocate the \$2,282.50 of encumbered funds for the first 5,000 people, and then the additional amount for the others.
- Abby Bailes made a motion to allocate up to \$2,282.50 for postcards to approximately 5,000 stakeholders in Northridge West; Peter Lasky and Joel Lowell seconded this motion, and it passed.

Aye (9)	Bahman, Bailes, Ding, Edwards, Fox, Krowne, Lasky, Lowell, and Wilson
Ineligible (1)	Padilla
Absent (1)	Toscano

- Abby Bailes made a motion to allocate up to \$1,697.17 for postcards to approximately 3,700 stakeholders in Northridge West; Kathleen Edwards seconded this motion, and it passed.
Aye (9) Bahman, Bailes, Ding, Edwards, Fox, Krowne, Lasky, Lowell, and Wilson
Ineligible (1) Padilla
Absent (1) Toscano
 - Abby Bailes made a motion to approve the 6x9" postcard with the yellow background and two gentlemen running with a microphone (in lieu of a baton) between them; Bill Fox seconded this motion, and it passed.
Aye (9) Bahman, Bailes, Ding, Edwards, Fox, Krowne, Lasky, Lowell, and Wilson
Ineligible (1) Padilla
Absent (1) Toscano

- 8. Discussion and motion to approve Kelly Sooter and/or Gail Lapaz to the NWNC Education Committee, as recommended by the Education Committee.
 - The "and/or" was added to the agenda in case someone objected to one of the two ladies, rather than automatically both.
 - Gail withdrew her nomination; she will continue to work with the homeless. Gail served on the NWNC board for five years during which time she did not receive support from NWNC President Peter nor DONE. She recently resigned from the board because it was a very frustrating and hurtful experience working alongside Kathleen. Peter knew of Kathleen's actions, yet he did nothing.
 - As Kelly was not present, this agenda item was withdrawn pending a conversation with Kelly.

- 9. Motion to remove Yi Ding from the Government Affairs Committee
 - Abby Bailes made a motion to remove Yi Ding from the Government Affairs Committee; Bill Fox seconded this motion, and it passed.
Aye (9) Bahman, Bailes, Ding, Edwards, Fox, Krowne, Lasky, Lowell, and Wilson
Ineligible (1) Padilla
Absent (1) Toscano

- 10. Motion to remove Abby Bailes from the Education Committee.
 - Abby Bailes made a motion to remove herself from the Education Committee; Bill Fox seconded this motion, and it passed.
Aye (9) Bahman, Bailes, Ding, Edwards, Fox, Krowne, Lasky, Lowell, and Wilson
Ineligible (1) Padilla
Absent (1) Toscano

- 11. Discuss proposed NWNC Certificate of Recognition to honor local community members who have served and benefitted our neighborhood and neighbors – criteria and procedure. Newly elected Assemblywomen Suzette Martinez Valladarez's office has offered to provide certificates. Possible motion to fund purchase of certificates, up to \$250 for printing, holders and distribution costs.
 - Bill Fox has seen this before, but has never seen the assembly-member's office involved in this activity.
 - Peter suggesting having Yi Ding print these certificates instead of Assemblywoman Valladarez's office.
 - Peter Lasky made a motion to approve this agenda item, yet reduce the budgeted amount from \$250 (an estimate that was based on Ding's online search) to \$150; Abby Bailes seconded this motion, and it passed.

Aye (9) Bahman, Bailes, Ding, Edwards, Fox, Krowne, Lasky, Lowell, and Wilson
 Ineligible (1) Padilla
 Absent (1) Toscano

- Following the vote, Abby requested nominations for this award; she already received a few nominations from Kathleen.

12. Discussion and motion to approve the December 2020 GBM Minutes

- Minute-writer Frances Pollock requested the removal of a sentence under agenda item 17, Update on the Tampa Topiary Project.
- Following this correction, Abby Bailes made a motion to approve the revised December minutes; Bill Fox seconded this motion, and it passed.

Aye (9) Bahman, Bailes, Ding, Edwards, Fox, Krowne, Lasky, Lowell, and Wilson
 Ineligible (1) Padilla
 Absent (1) Toscano

13. Discussion and motion to approve the December 2020 Monthly Expense Report (MER)

Date	Vendor	Description	Amount
December 2	Golden State Storage	Storage Facility	\$124.50
December 8	Apple One	Meeting Minutes Services	332.80
December 9	Apple One	Meeting Minutes Services	268.80
December 18	Kristina Smith/The Mailroom	Webmaster	250.00
December 19	Kristina Smith/The Mailroom	Webmaster	250.00
		Total	<u>\$1,226.10</u>

- Joel Lowell made a motion to approve the December MER; Abby Bailes seconded this motion, and it passed.

Aye (9) Bahman, Bailes, Ding, Edwards, Fox, Krowne, Lasky, Lowell, and Wilson
 Ineligible (1) Padilla
 Absent (1) Toscano

14. Reports by NWNC Committees

- On behalf of the Education Committee, Ding reported that the previously discussed Buddy Benches would no longer be pursued; this project is too complicated.
- On behalf of the Outreach Committee, Ding reported that the utility art boxes were posted on the NWNC and 11:11 websites (with the exception of one box). In addition, more election information will be posted on the NWNC website. Kathleen reached out to help in any way, including posting onto Next Door.
- Payman reported that the next Public Land Use and Zoning Committee would meet the evening of Monday, February 1st to discuss the following:
 - The Northridge Dialysis Center at 9325 Reseda Boulevard wishes to modify their parking lot
 - The Starbucks at 10235 Reseda Boulevard wants to install a drive-through
- Abigail reported that she would host a Government Affairs Committee meeting very soon.

15. Update on the NWNC Utility Art Boxes and social media outreach

- The utility art boxes were posted online at the NWNC and 11:11 websites (with the exception of one box).

16. Update on Maintenance Flyer

- Peter reported that the NWNC recently paid [the previously approved] \$430 for 500 copies for distribution throughout Northridge West

17. Update on Don Larsen NPG with City

- Peter reported that he contacted the city clerk’s office on Wednesday, January 6th but he has not yet heard back from them. The city clerk’s office acknowledged receipt of correspondence, but there has not yet been any action.

18. Discussion on procedures for editing minutes, best practices from other neighborhood councils and DONE

- There are few options, including:
 - Discuss all corrections in an open forum at the meetings
 - Post the minutes on Google Docs for board member access and mark-up
 - Email corrections to the minute-taker
- Kathleen thought the changes should be discussed and corrections made in an open forum during the following meeting.
- Jennifer and Peter recommended that corrections be emailed to Frances; a few days prior to the follow-up meeting, Frances will distribute the corrected meetings reflecting cross-outs and a [potential] rainbow of colors (attributed to the board member who recommended those corrections).

19. Report by Budget Advocate

- Advocate Glenn Bailey reported that the advocates recently sent a three-page report to the neighborhood councils. This report can be found at this link: https://49dbb8a2-2fe5-4e5c-98cb-3c63bfe6b8e1.filesusr.com/ugd/496e77_e4e6c2fd51c841089d5b9458a327e132.pdf
- According to the City Administrative Officer’s (CAO) second Financial Status Report, the city is facing a budget challenge of \$675m. This does not include \$129m of overspending due to the failure to implement budgeted furloughs for civilian employees and COVID-19 related expenses. The CAO also indicated that “revenues tied to tourism, services, parking and retail are at risk of further decline.”
- Mayor Garcetti reduced an \$88.8m cut to the LAPD’s budget; this was to improve council districts 1, 6, 8, 9, and 15.
- Proposed layoffs were announced in December, including the following employment cuts to the LAPD:

	Originally Proposed	Revised
Uniformed Officers	951	355
Civilians	728	273
Total	<u>1,679</u>	<u>628</u>

- Mayor Garcetti will release the new budget for FY21-22 on Tuesday, April 20th; this may include a \$1b shortfall in addition to FY20-21’s \$675m shortfall.
- There have been a few budget advocate resignations (for various reasons) in the following regions:

Region 1	Northeast Valley	Region 9	South LA
Region 7	East LA	Region 12	Harbor

- The Advocates are working on some town hall forums but no dates have been established yet.
- Jennifer asked if the city was requesting money from the state or federal government. Glenn replied that the city did receive money from the trillion-dollar Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, but other details are unknown

- As a further reference point, the Advocates new website is <https://www.budgetadvocates.com>

20. Update on BONC Social Media Policy

- Wednesday, December 16th, BONC hosted an informal informational session to review their new ten-page social media policy, including a discussion of why they proposed each of these items. This two-hour meeting was recorded and available for viewing; please contact Ann-Marie Holman at ann-marie.holman@lacity.org at DONE for the link.
- Kathleen was unable to attend this meeting, but she knew there were a great many conflicts involving the Brown Act, etc.
- Glenn Bailey reported that this policy was not initiated by BONC, merely publicized by them. The commission opted for a 90-day review, which will end on Sunday, January 31st. There is still time to make comments.
- Kathleen clarified that the NWNC could have their own social media policy and add it to the by-laws. However, the by-laws can never contain anything that contradicts BONC's policy.

21. Announcements by Board Members

- Abigail may call a special meeting to discuss the Tampa Topiary.
- Glen Wilson did not know when he would call another Election Committee meeting to discuss the second postcard, but it is best to get the Board Action Certifications submitted as soon as possible. Joel mentioned that he would get that task completed in a day or two. Ding replied that she has already emailed the revised postcard to C&M.

22. Adjournment

- Abigail adjourned the meeting at 8.24PM.