

NORTHRIDGE WEST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
Regular General Board Meeting
& Holiday Mixer
Tuesday, December 9th @ 6:15pm
In-Person @ California Pizza Kitchen
Northridge Fashion Center
9301 Tampa Ave. Northridge, CA 91324

1. **CALL TO ORDER** at 7:27 pm by Janis Kraft, president of Northridge West Neighborhood Council. **Board Roll Call:** Richard Young, Sam Dulys, Joel Lowell, Kathleen Edwards, Janis Kraft, Nathan Lichtman, Krystal Sims, Jeff Diamond. **Quorum of 7 met with 8 board members. Absent:** Kevin Herzberg, Nicolas Haddad, Diana Delgado and Alanna Flax-Clark. Pledge of Allegiance & Welcoming comments made.

2. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

North Valley BONC commissioner Keren Waters spoke about the process of charter reform coming up. There will be a listening session coming up the last week of the year on this topic with NC members and the public allowed to share comments. They are looking at streamlining the grievance process and are making legal adjustments to the Code of Conduct policy. She talked about the importance of the code of conduct so that everyone feels welcome.

Budget Advocate Glenn Bailey talked about SB707 and how it was discussed at the L.A. Alliance of Neighborhood Councils and is expected to also be discussed at the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils. In other news, the NC Election Workgroup has had 3 meetings. They are working on revising the elections handbook and are proposing a hybrid formula for both in person and vote by mail. They are trying to get it finalized before the election cycle begins. CF26-0600 related to the funding of city departments, including the NC budget. The City Clerk funding program is revising its policies and procedures with a revised draft expected to come out next month.

Asaad Alnajjar of the Porter Ranch NC stated that he is running for Mayor of the City of L.A. and talked about his objectives.

3. **ANNOUNCEMENTS: Board Member Jeff Diamond** talked about the importance of using the MyLA311 app to report dumping, graffiti, and other things to the city. Janis announced the dates, as follows for the next meetings:

- a) January 6th, 2026 NWNC Executive Board Meeting on Zoom
- b) January 13th, 2026 NWNC General Board Meeting on Zoom

4. **APPROVAL OF NWNC MONTHLY GBM MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 2025 & NOVEMBER 2025. (Kraft/Lowell)** moved to table approval of the minutes for both meetings until the next board meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Voting Yea: (8) Richard Young, Sam Dulys, Joel Lowell, Kathleen Edwards, Janis Kraft, Nathan Lichtman, Krystal Sims, Jeff Diamond

Opposed: (0)

Abstaining: (0)

Absent: (4) Kevin Herzberg, Nicolas Haddad, Diana Delgado and Alanna Flax-Clark.

5. **APPROVAL OF NWNC MONTHLY EXPENDITURE REPORT (MER) FOR NOVEMBER 2025.** Treasurer Joel Lowell reported that in November (last month), \$2,900 was spent with \$2,500 allocated for the YMCA Turkey Giveaway by LAPD PALS. The rest was for office expenses. There is about \$17,000 left in the budget for the remainder of the fiscal year. **(Edwards/Lowell) moved approval of the NWNC MER for November 2025. The motion carried unanimously.**

Voting Yea: (8) Richard Young, Sam Dulys, Joel Lowell, Kathleen Edwards, Janis Kraft, Nathan Lichtman, Krystal Sims, Jeff Diamond

Opposed: (0)

Abstaining: (0)

Absent: (4) Kevin Herzberg, Nicolas Haddad, Diana Delgado and Alanna Flax-Clark.

6. **PRESIDENTIAL COMMENTS:** Janis reviewed the last six months since the election saying it has been a good year with great people joining on the board. The committees are all getting involved with the community. She's proud of the board members and looks forward to 2026, as she wishes everyone a happy, healthy holiday.

7. **GOVERNMENT REPORTS:**

a) **Public Safety LAPD Devonshire Community Relations Volunteer Mikkie Loi** cautioned everyone to be aware of your surroundings when shopping to make sure no one is following you. The Basic Car Map has been updated as of early December. There will be a Toy Giveaway on Dec. 13th at Devonshire House, 8721 Wilbur Ave., Northridge from 9 a.m. – noon. (non-emergency number 1 877-ASK LAPD).

b) **CD 12 City Council Member John Lee's Deputy District Director Myrkha Martinez** spoke about the Care Plus team that has been helping the homeless find resources and also responding to neighbors' complaints. She mentioned new Fire Chief Jaime Moore, who the CM supported. However, he did not vote for the Rent Stabilization Ordinance as he felt there could be long-term consequences for those who are renting by not inviting new development in the city. She mentioned recent sanitation composting workshops where they gave away rain barrels and soil moisture readers; they helped out with the YMCA/LAPD PALS Basket distributions for Thanksgiving; and last month, they did a Conversations with Council meeting. This week, Dec. 11, there will be a community breakfast at Rancho DeCordova from 8 a.m.- 11 a.m.

c) **Other Government Departments/Agencies** – None.

d) **Department of Neighborhood Empowerment – NEA Vincent Autiero** said they will be offering two courses for board members on chairing and running meetings and they are also working on creating a YouTube video. EmpowerLA held a Town Hall with the Budget Advocates recently on what they expect to do in the next calendar year. He said EmpowerLA has put together a proposed budget for the 2026/2027 fiscal year which includes funding to hire four more NEA reps (so that the ratio will be one for every eight meetings, instead of one for every eleven meetings), funding for NC's Zoom licenses, and funding for NC elections. Their budget ask is for \$4,150,855.

Also, they are clarifying Best Practices for the NC board members. For instance, if there's something a board member does not understand, he suggested they ask the chairperson to explain it instead of turning to another board member for their opinion. This way, they won't be influenced by other board members on how to vote.

BONC commissioner Keren Waters added that there will be a BONC Town HALL / Listening Session on Dec. 17, 2025, 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. on Charter Reform and then BONC will give a presentation on Jan 21, 2026 at Van Nuys City Hall.

e) **Budget Advocate, www.budgetadvocates.org: Glenn Bailey.** Nov. 21st was the deadline for city departments to submit their budgets to the Mayor's Office. While it seemed that the Mayor was receptive to restoring NC funding to \$50K, the budget ended up being cut in half. He said, in keeping with inflation, NCs should be receiving at least \$90K (or \$120K, according to one budget rep). He said the budget advocates will continue to try to get more funding for the NCs. It all starts with the City Council Finance Committee, which CM Blumenfield sits on. The budget advocates' process includes meeting with 40+ city departments each year and then they write up their White Paper of recommendations for the next fiscal year's budget and present it to the Mayor. The Budget 101 workshop will be held in late January 2026 and the next Budget Day will be held June 27th and it is open to the public.

Asaad responded to a question about where the Olympic games will be held saying that remodeling and upgrades will be done to get the convention center ready by May 2029. He anticipates that the current convention center building will house many of the games.

a. **NEW BUSINESS**

a) **Discussion and vote to approve NWNC letter supporting CF25-1136 which will bring back the Neighborhood Prosecutor Program with the goal of reducing quality of life crimes.** The motion was submitted by Councilmembers Imelda Padilla and John Lee. **(Kraft/Lowell) moved to table the motion until the next board meeting in January. The motion carried unanimously.**

Voting Yea: (8) Richard Young, Sam Dulys, Joel Lowell, Kathleen Edwards, Janis Kraft, Nathan Lichtman, Krystal Sims, Jeff Diamond

Opposed: (0)

Abstaining: (0)

Absent: (4) Kevin Herzberg, Nicolas Haddad, Diana Delgado and Alanna Flax-Clark.

b) **Discussion and possible motion on participating in an Alzheimer's Community Forum in conjunction with the LA Department of Aging, the Alzheimer's Assn. and possibly other San Fernando Valley NCs.** Janis stated that they are still in the discussion phase on this and hope to have more info in January 2026.

c) **Update on completion reports for 10/25 OneGeneration Senior Health Fair and 11/9 San Fernando Valley Museum Art Fair, Nov. 9th.** Nathan Lichtman said the completion reports were well-written and the events were well attended, especially the Sr. Health Fair, which was a great service to the community. Janis added that NWNC loves to participate at community events whenever they can lend support. This is a great opportunity to share who they are and what they do to get

more stakeholders involved.

d) **Update on SB707 regarding NC meetings.** Janis explained that NWNK was notified that they can continue holding virtual meetings until January 2030, as long as at least one meeting is held in person every year with a quorum of board members and that it is open to the public. Glenn said there will be some further modifications coming from the city attorney on this.

X. **NWNK COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) **Executive Committee:** Janis reiterated the dates for the January meetings of the executive board and the board meeting. She thanked CA Pizza Kitchen for being great to work with on this evening's holiday mixer.

b) **Public Safety:** Kathleen Edwards reminded everyone to be aware of "porch pirates" who are stealing people's packages right from their properties. If someone is expecting a gift and can't be home, she suggested asking a neighbor to pick it up and hold it for you. Earthquake Preparedness is another thing to think about. She said everyone should have a "go-bag" by their front door with extra clothing, flashlight, water, snacks, and other emergency supplies. She asked everyone to report to her any streetlights that are out, as well as potholes, graffiti, and items dumped so she can get it corrected right away. Hate crimes are increasing right now in CA. in every community. She thought it best to get to know one's neighbors and have a relationship with them. Report any hate crimes to her, as well.

c) **Government Affairs:** Richard Young said they held their first meeting in 4.5 years on Dec. 5th and voted on the scheduling of the meetings going forward. Meetings will be held on Zoom when they have a topic to discuss and it will be posted in advance on the NWNK website. They are currently working on the Neighborhood Prosecutor Program CIS. The program ended in 2023 and Council File 25-1136 proposes bringing it back. They will have a CIS ready to vote on for the Jan. 2026 meeting.

d) Planning and Land Use (Diana Delgado) – No report.

e) Elections: Janis Kraft said they are working on this.

f) Homelessness: Nathan Lichtman said there was no report.

g) Beautification: Sam Dulys said there was a great turnout for yesterday's meeting. They discussed improvements to the topiary on the median on Tampa, north of Chatsworth and below the 118. They also spoke about brush abatement on Tampa.

Peter Lasky noted that voluntary cleanups are a good way to do outreach and partner with other NCs and city agencies.

h) Budget: Joel Lowell said other than the MER, there was no further report.

i) Outreach: Nathan Lichtman talked about the completion reports for recent events and acknowledged the holiday mixer as a great event.

j) Education: Krystal Sims said they held a committee meeting in November and decided to do initiate outreach to schools in the district. This effort will start in January. The committee will meet quarterly with the next meeting in February. She hopes to have an action plan by then to set up meetings with school officials.

b. ADJOURNMENT at 8:53 pm. (Lowell/Kraft) moved to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.