

**APPROVED**  
**Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC)**  
**General Board Meeting (GBM)**  
**Tuesday, 13 October 2020**  
**Via Zoom**

- I. Meeting Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call, and Determination of a Quorum
- President Rana Sharif called the meeting to order at 6.18PM, welcomed over ten attendees, [eventually] all thirteen board members, and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.
  - A quorum was declared via the following roll call:  
Here (13) Payman Bahman, Abigail Bailes, Yi Ding, Kathleen Edwards, Bill Fox, Jennifer Krowne, Gail Lapaz, Peter Lasky, Joel Lowell, Rana Sharif, Kelly Sooter, Josue Toscano, and Glen Wilson
- II. Comment by Senior Lead Officers (SLO)
- LAPD SLO Sandra Zamora is the new SLO for car 81; she patrols the area bordered by the following:  
East of Canoga Avenue      South of Lassen Street  
West of Tampa Avenue      North of Roscoe Boulevard
  - She works best via email, as she is always checking it on her city-issued cellular. Please reach out to reach her at 35947@lapd.online.com or call her at 818-832-0773 to add yourself to her email roster or establish a neighborhood watch meeting in your community.
  - Northridge usually averages ten to twelve crimes a week; last week, we had nineteen crimes, including four aggravated assaults, four thefts, and four grand theft autos. Three of the stolen cars were from between Parthenia Street and Roscoe Boulevard. Electronics from automobiles are frequently targeted; please do not leave things in plain view in your car. Thankfully, there were no home burglaries.
  - A few people have complained about harassment from someone at the new shopping center at Lassen Street and Mason Avenue. The subject was eventually taken into custody for vandalism and harassment. The LAPD hopes to get him much needed help for his mental illness.
  - The LAPD is working on a few clean-up activities, especially around Petit Park where there are several homeless campsites. There is a concern about trash build-up near vehicles of unhoused individuals.
  - Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, Councilman Lee will host a Zoom meeting to discuss the Travelodge at 21603 Devonshire Street becoming a “Project Roomkey” facility.
  - Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, the virtual monthly Basic Car Meeting will meet via Zoom, along with the SLO from the Valley Traffic Division, who will discuss street racing.
  - Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, the LAPD will host a community engagement event near Wal-Mart in Porter Ranch.
  - SLO Zamora will probably attend the November NWNC meeting; however, she may be unavailable to attend the NWNC’s December meeting.
- III. Comments by Stakeholders on non-Agenda items
- Lloyd Dent mentioned that he does not know Payman Bahman, and expressed concern if there could be a potential conflict of interest as Payman is a realtor. This will be further discussed during agenda item 8.
  - Glenn Bailey reported the following:
    - Thanks to the 400 who attended the September 26<sup>th</sup> Congress of Neighborhood Councils. Many of the sessions were recorded and are available at <http://www.nccongressla.com>.

- There is a great deal of new information at the advocate's new website at <http://www.budgetadvocate.com>, including training opportunities, meeting schedules, etc.
  - The advocates will host a virtual Town Hall on Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6PM whereupon they will discuss equity in budgeting. Future Town Halls may be on a quarterly basis.
  - The city clerk's office has implemented 100% vote-by-mail for the 2021 neighborhood council elections. All election days will be held on Tuesdays.
  - The city clerk's office is currently updating the election handbook, including vote-by-mail processes, timelines, comprehensive dates, etc.
  - Worksheets are due back to the city clerk's office by Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. This document will mention the election chair, preferred location of the community's election-day drop-box, foreign language requests (besides Korean, English, and Spanish), etc.
  - The Northridge East Neighborhood Council's (NENC) drop-box will be at the Northridge Women's Club, 18401 Lassen Street. Perhaps this location could also be coordinated with the NWNC? However, any voter can drop their ballot off at any drop-box within the city.
  - The city clerk's office will host a candidate-filing portal. Applications can be submitted online or via paper.
  - Mail-in ballots will be mailed 29-days before the election.
  - The vote tally will be live-streamed, with a link on the city clerk's site for viewing. The city clerk will also employ an independent grievance panel for any election-day issues.
- Jason Hector reported the following:
    - He thoroughly enjoyed the NWNC-hosted LAUSD Town Hall.
    - He also really liked the cheat sheet for board members; the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) should review that document and share with the city's other neighborhood councils.
    - NWNC has some dead trees along Chatsworth Street; he urges people to report these to the city via the 311 app.
  - Stakeholder Brian hoped that there is discussion about the Reseda Boulevard medians when the NWNC talks about the Northridge Beautification Foundation (NBF) in Agenda item 17.
  - Lloyd Dent, Brian, and Jason all agreed that it is important for the stakeholders to be able to see who else is attending these virtual Zoom meetings.

#### IV. Update from the Devonshire Area Community-Police Advisory Board

- Mikkie Loi reported the following:
  - LAPD Operations Valley Bureau (OVV) held a virtual Town Hall on Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup>. The main portion of the meeting was their 8Can't Wait PowerPoint. 8CantWait is a movement taken from the Campaign Zero Police Use of Force and procedural injustice research campaign of 2016. It sets out eight procedural rules that, if adopted by a police department, will reduce police violence by 72%. The LAPD as an organization has established policies that pre-date those requested in the 8CantWait movement. OVV has used this to explain the changes LAPD has been making for several years.
  - Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 6.30PM, the LAPD's Valley Traffic Division will hold a Virtual Valley Traffic Safety Meeting.

V. Comments by Public Officials

- Matt Hernandez, Public Safety Field Deputy for CD12/Councilman John Lee, who advocates for the stakeholder’s behalf while interfacing with the Departments of Building, Safety, Transportation, as well as the LAFD and LAPD, spoke of the following:
  - As of Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, the city will start enforcing parking regulations.
  - Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6PM, Councilman Lee will discuss the Travelodge at 21603 Devonshire Street becoming a Project Roomkey facility. A representative of the city’s homeless resources will join him. Please RSVP and email questions in advanced to councilman.lee@lacity.org
  - CD12 reminds everyone to prepare for a disaster. The best way would be to have a “go bag” prepared for every member of your family in the event of a fire, earthquake, etc.
  - Peter mentioned that CD12 is the only council district with no plan for homeless in our area. All council-members have been busy with Judge Carter, who states that the city must do more to alleviate the homeless crisis in the next eighteen-months. Matt replied that Councilman Lee would further discuss this issue Wednesday PM while discussing Project Roomkey.
  - Jason mentioned that there are multiple meetings Wednesday PM, including Valley Traffic and the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council (PRNC). It was hoped that Councilman Lee’s meeting will appear on YouTube or saved somewhere.
  - Andrew Krowne mentioned that the Aliso Canyon Community Action Group (CAG) has reached out to Councilman Lee twice, as well as sent two letters regarding Aliso Canyon. Still, there has been no response. The CAG is not happy that a volunteer organization, whose goal is to look out for the health of the community, is ignored.
  
- Becca Brukman from Assemblyman Jesse Gabriel’s office reported the following:
  - Assemblyman Gabriel introduced four key bills this session in his main priority areas of concern:

Education	Homelessness Space
Gun Violence Prevention	Housing

Assembly Bill (AB) 2416	Requires colleges and universities in California with students experiencing homelessness to keep their financial aid.
AB2617	Ensures that California honors and enforces Gun Violence Restraining Orders issued in other states in an effort to counter federal inaction.
AB3308	Permits school districts in California to utilize low-income housing tax credits to construct affordable housing for teachers and school employees on district-owned land. These will not apply to LAUSD sites.
AB2746	This would have strengthened oversight over state-funded homelessness programs by creating a framework for data collection to better track and evaluate programs receiving state funding. Regretfully, this was vetoed. Assemblyman Gabriel will continue to fight for homelessness issues.

- Tara Vahdani from LAUSD Board Member Scott Schmerelson’s office reported the following:
  - Mr. Schmerelson will host several Town Halls for parents and students in the next few weeks to review
    - Transitioning between elementary, middle, and high schools,
    - Dual language programs,
    - Magnet schools, etc.
  - These Town Halls will be broken down by communities to meet their unique needs as follows:
 

Monroe	Tuesday	October 20	4PM
Canoga Park/Chatsworth	Tuesday	October 20	6PM
Taft	Wednesday	October 21	4PM
Reseda	Wednesday	October 21	6PM
Kennedy/NAHS/VAAS	Thursday	October 22	4PM
Cleveland	Thursday	October 22	6PM
  - The Calahan Community Charter School is now a school for advanced studies.
  - Thursday, October 14, Scott will host a cyberbullying workshop at 10AM in English and Spanish. This event will be recorded for those who are unable to attend.
  - Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 4PM, Scott will host a webinar on Tech Tips for Families in the pandemic and beyond. They will discuss:
 

Balancing screen time	Digital social responsibility
Internet/social media safety	Guiding your student’s digital footprint
  - Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, the Topeka Drive Elementary School will host tours.
  - Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, the Panera Bread at 19662 Nordhoff Street will host a fundraising event for the Beckford Avenue Elementary School.
  - Jason asked about COVID testing. Tara replied that principals and administrators who currently work onsite at the schools are frequently tested. When students return to regular in-person classes, they will be tested every two to three weeks.
  - As of Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, the LAUSD had conducted 44,495 tests, with 95 positive tests and 35-active positive cases of Coronavirus.
  - Tara added that the LAUSD’s grab-and-go food centers continue to provide millions of meals during the pandemic.

VI. Presidential Comments

- Rana discussed some of the following issues:
  - Happy Fall! It seems a bit surreal that we are already entering our second week of October, school-age children have been remote learning for nearly eight weeks, and the weather (at least for now) is cooling down. On behalf of the Board of NWNC, I hope our entire community is well and healthy.
  - It is undeniable that these are unprecedented times. In fact, I feel the term “unprecedented” has been *the* word of 2020. With all that is going on, I wanted to take a moment to focus on the really important work our Board has been involved in just in the last year.
    - We quickly responded to the COVID-19 pandemic to support our community including the making and distribution of nearly 500 masks, financial support for the shelter for the unhoused at the Northridge Recreation and Parks, the San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission Food Bank, the North Valley YMCA, and Hope of the Valley. This was all accomplished over a three-week time period.
    - Since last summer, we co-organized and co-sponsored three Town Halls, bringing together several CD12 neighborhood councils. Just over a week ago, we had the third of these Town Halls, with the LAUSD Board District 3 Candidate Town Hall, which was moderated by Spectrum News 1’s Tanya McRae. The Town Halls have been an important

collaborative and generative opportunity for NWNC to partner with adjacent neighborhood councils in service to our community. I invite you to watch our most recent Town Hall on our website.

- We are currently in the final stages of bringing art to our neighborhood through the Utility Box Art program in collaboration with 11:11, Department of Cultural Affairs, and the PRNC.
- As a way to welcome back students and their families during this difficult time of virtual learning, we distributed 1,200 hand sanitizers and NWNC postcards to our local schools.
- We have continued to participate in local outreach and community events including: the Oakridge Plaque unveiling, National Night Out, Salute to Family Recreation, Disaster Preparedness, and the Granada Hills Street Fair (you may find some pictures of these events on our website!).
- In an attempt to create a more inviting platform, we strategically relaunched our NWNC website and NWNC social media platforms to engage with stakeholders daily/weekly. Please be sure to connect with us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com>), Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com>), and Nextdoor (<https://nextdoor.com>).
- We completed a Webmaster review, bringing on The Mailroom to support our communication needs, outreach, and social media platforms.
- Since last year, we are proud to report that we have significantly increased Board involvement in Committee Meetings from four (2018-19) to 48 (2019-20) to fourteen (first four months into 2020-21)! Our committees are busy at work serving our community! I am grateful to them for their continued commitment to do so!
- As part of our commitment to serving as liaisons to the community, we have created opportunities for our stakeholders to discuss and learn about important community and city related issues including, the Metro Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project, sex education in schools, the Justice Fund, the West Valley Animal Shelter, and much more!
- Early into this current Executive Board's tenure, we developed a Board Member Reference Guide to support board members with best practices, resources, and tools to ensure we had the information necessary to effectively and efficiently serve our community. You may review the Board Member Reference Guide on our website.
- As part of our commitment to accountability and transparency, we also re-worked the NWNC Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) process to ensure proper vetting and support from grantees.
- Earlier this year, for the first time, we underwent a cumbersome process and developed Standing Rules to align with our Bylaws.
- Finally, we created NWNC premiums for our community events including, water bottles, pens, reusable bags, flashlights, hand sanitizer, and emergency sticks; all of which we cannot wait to distribute once it is safe for us to gather again.
- All of this to say, we are honored to be serving our community and thank you for allowing us to do so. We hope to continue to build on this and invite our community, neighbors, and stakeholders to become more involved.

#### VII. Community Counts: Volunteer Recognition

- Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, Joann's Fabrics and Crafts donated a great deal of fabric to volunteer seamstresses who were recruited by Gail Lapaz.
- Within three days, over 55-masks were sewn for distribution throughout the community.
- Matt Hernandez will coordinate presenting the volunteer seamstresses with CD12 Certificates of Appreciation.

- VIII. Discussion and motion to appoint Payman Bahman as Chair of the Public Land Use and Zoning (PLUZ) Committee
- Payman reviewed his credentials to serve on the PLUZ and mentioned that he looks forward to serving the community. His daughter goes to the Nobel Charter Middle School; next year, she may attend Granada Hills Charter High.
  - He has been a realtor since 2003, and has also processed loans, general contracting, etc.
  - In 2010, when his general contractor and realtor licenses lapsed, he changed his career by opening a shop in Panorama City.
  - Earlier this day, he did the online DONE-sponsored Planning 101 training; most of this was material that he already knew.
  - Lloyd Dent and Andrew Krowne wished Payman all the best, and look forward to him serving on the PLUZ.
  - Kathleen and Peter thanked Lloyd Dent for his support of the PLUZ, and hoped that he would continue to serve as a committee member.
  - Jason Hector, co-chair of the PRNC PLUZ, urged Payman to sign up for the electronic notifications from the city, and attend the monthly PlanCheck meetings, held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday. He also expressed an interest in joining the NWNC PLUZ.
  - Cheri Derohanian, former land use chair of the Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council (GHNNC) and the PRNC urged Payman's attendance at the PlanCheck meetings; it was like taking a college course, often with over 12-pages of notes.
  - Bill Fox made a motion to approve this agenda item; Kathleen Edwards seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
- IX. Discussion and motion to appoint Yi Ding to the George Floyd Ad Hoc Committee
- Ding is a librarian at CSUN who deals with information literacy, etc. In this new position, she looks forward to connecting with local schools.
  - Kelly Sooter made a motion to approve this agenda item; Joel Lowell seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
- X. Discussion and motion to approve an NPG for \$1,500 towards the North Valley YMCA's Thanksgiving Basket Program in support of providing food baskets to underserved families in the community. NWNC requests that the North Valley YMCA provide a project update and submit a Project Completion Form thirty days after the project's completion.
- Kelly reported that the NWNC has supported these food baskets for several years. Thanks to the NWNC's financial contribution, 109 baskets were distributed via community schools in 2019.
  - Executive Director Jane Stanton from the North Valley YMCA mentioned that this is the 14<sup>th</sup> year of this food basket distribution; this year, they hope to give away 3,600 baskets. Each will contain fresh produce, canned goods (peas, beans, cranberry relish, etc.), and a 15 lbs. turkey (or gift card). The baskets will be assembled during the weekend of November 14 to 15, and distributed on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. Area school principals provide the YMCA with the names of their neediest families.
  - Peter added that the neighborhood council contributions do not cover the cost of all of the basket's contents.
  - Jason mentioned that Porter Ranch is blessed to have such a community-focused facility as the YMCA; they have been very helpful in supporting clean-up activities in Limekiln Canyon. He suggested that perhaps masks could be added to the baskets.
  - Peter suggested including a letter to the recipients, informing them that the NWNC contributed to this food basket. Jane replied that a letter from the YMCA is included, listing the contributing neighborhood councils.



- Glenn Bailey replied that the NWNC could file a CIS that does not take a position, but rather adds additional comments.
- Abby felt that this motion is a moot point. She would like to table this, as the NWNC is not yet ready to move forward.
- Rana Sharif made a motion to table this agenda item and forward it onto the Government Affairs Committee to review the CIS and prepare for any additional NWNC action; Kathleen Edwards and Peter Lasky seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

XIV. Discussion and motion for reconsideration of the previously approved August GBM Minutes to accurately reflect a vote based on the actual minutes presented

- Bill Fox made a motion to approve these minutes; Kelly Sooter seconded this motion, and it passed.

Aye (12) Bailes, Ding, Edwards, Fox, Krowne, Lapaz, Lasky,  
Lowell, Sharif, Sooter, Toscano, and Wilson  
Ineligible (1) Bahman

XV. Discussion and motion to approve the September 8, 2020 GBM Minutes

- The September GBM minutes were corrected to reflect exercising caution when board members post something onto social media.
- Rana Sharif made a motion to approve these minutes; Abby Bailes seconded this motion, and it passed.

Aye (10) Bahman, Bailes, Ding, Fox, Krowne, Lapaz, Lowell, Sharif, Sooter, and Wilson  
Abstain (3) Edwards, Lasky, and Toscano

XVI. Discussion and motion to approve the September 2020 Monthly Expense Report (MER)

Date	Vendor	Budget Category	Amount
September 4	Amazon	General Operations Expenditure	\$32.83

- Kelly Sooter made a motion to approve this MER; Jennifer Krowne seconded this motion, and it passed.

Aye (12) Bahman, Bailes, Ding, Edwards, Fox, Krowne,  
Lapaz, Lasky, Lowell, Sharif, Sooter, and Wilson  
Abstain (1) Toscano

XVII. Discussion and update regarding City Clerk’s review of NBF NPGs

- Since May 2018, the NWNC has granted three NPGs totally \$12k to the NBF and Don Larson.
- NWNC has repeatedly requested pictures, dates, times, or other means that would allow the board to confidently confirm that the work was completed. NBF and Don Larson assured the NWNC that they had the information and would provide the necessary documentation. After repeated [verbal and written] requests beginning in June 2019, the NWNC requested an in-person meeting with NBF and Don Larson to resolve these issues. The meeting outcome resulted in NWNC providing NBF and Don Larson a detailed written list of work required to fulfill the NPG in November 2019. This was met with no response or follow up from NBF or Don Larson. On Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, NWNC President Peter Lasky made a final attempt to reach out to NBF and Don Larson for resolution.
- It has now become clear that the NWNC is at an impasse and requested assistance from the following to resolve this situation.

Raquel Beltran      DONE  
Melvin Canas      Office of the City Clerk  
Elyse Rudin      City Attorney

- 44-pages of documentation (including NPGs and minutes), a list of requested work, and email correspondence requesting proof of project completion was provided.
- If proof of performance could not be provided, the NWNC requested to the aforementioned that NPG funds be returned to the NWNC and DONE.
- The provided expense summary, which should support the three NPGs, showed merely the 2018 expenditures.
- Kelly determined that working days were shown via the days that meals and food-related gift cards were purchased. However, there were a few severe discrepancies which raised questions regarding accuracy:

Date	Meal Expense	Photograph Location
12 July 2018	\$173.41 meal at Emle's	Canoga Park Library
18 August 2018	\$684 from Joyce's Café	Feed the Streets, Van Nuys

- The city clerk's office and NBF claimed the work was "in and around Northridge".
- As an NPG is a grant, receipts and proof of purchase are not required.
- Everyone complimented Kelly on her exemplary accounting work.
- Kathleen was very impressed with Kelly's work, and felt sad that the city does not support her research and hard work.
- Glenn Bailey from the NENC thanked Kelly for all this forensic work. The NBF and Don Larson requested \$5k from the NENC for multiple teams, twice a week, to focus on Reseda Boulevard. Don replied that he did many of these tasks on his own. This was a major red flag to the NENC.
- Brian Allen from the GHNNC reported that he had also had issues with Don Larson. The presented evidence is appalling and improper. Brian was saddened that the city clerk's office has ignored this and he urged Kelly not to drop this issue.
- Jason concurred with Brian, and felt that the Tampa Avenue median looks terrible with too much trash.
- Randy Sanchez agreed that Kelly did a great job. These NPGs have been going on for a while. This issue appears to be more of a failure of the whole system, rather than merely Don Larson.
- Andrew Krowne agreed that Don Larson got a great deal of money from the city to do a lot of work. However, the neighborhood council board members cannot be babysitters.
- Peter Lasky praised Kelly's work, and wondered about the gift cards. There was no evidence that the gift cards went to certain individuals on specific dates. Peter also recommended that, in the future, the NPG submitter should provide a tax form, indicating how they spend their money.
- Bill Fox suggested that if the NWNC wants to put pressure on DONE and the city clerk's office, perhaps we should get the media involved by reporting this to the Daily News, LA Times, and television channels. Oftentimes, the city responds to such negative publicity.
- Rana reported that someone from the NBF recently reached out to the NWNC for money for the Reseda Boulevard Median. Rana urged them to complete an NPG application, but they never completed the form nor submitted it to the NWNC.
- Gail mentioned that Don Larson usually works with six or seven people; yet he buys enough gift cards for 37-people.
- Kelly mentioned that the first of these three NBF NPGs was before she served on the NWNC board. The other two NPGs were processed when Kelly was new to the NWNC board. At the time, she pushed back and requested additional documentation.
- Randy Sanchez used the analogy that when he hires a landscaper, he does not give them \$5k and then find out later what his yard looks like.

XVIII. Discussion and update regarding Aliso Canyon

- Andrew Krowne, NWNC liaison to the Aliso Canyon CAG reported that the Department of Public Health's (DPH) virtual Town Hall on Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup> was a failure. The meeting had

less than a hundred attendees. It is unknown if that was due to apathy or outreach. It appears that the CAG and the DPH are not on the same page.

- The CAG continues to await the chemical list and the status of the 150 large storage bins that continue to be held at Aliso Canyon.
- They also requested to meet with Supervisor Barger over twelve times, and have asked for her assistance in obtaining the chemical list.
- 31 storage bins from Aliso Canyon disappeared in 2016; it is unknown what became of them.
- Andrew did not want to alarm people, yet many not-yet-identified chemicals remain at Aliso Canyon.
- Kelly thought that the media should address this issue. The fact that they have not yet started a health study five years after the blow out is ridiculous. Perhaps Tanya McRae from Spectrum News could be of assistance? If anyone knows anyone else within the media, please reach out to them for involvement.
- Andrew may post something onto the NWNC website regarding this issue.

XIX. Discussion and update from the Beautification Committee's recommendation(s) regarding the Tampa Topiary project

- Kelly reported that in February 2018, the NWNC approved an NPG for \$4k for a topiary project along the Tampa Avenue median; the topiary was installed in February 2019.
- Kelly showed photos of horses, as presented within the NPG. These horses were actually stock photos from the internet, and do not match what is along Tampa Avenue. The 11' Tampa Avenue horses (significantly taller than any horse) look more like mules, with an inaccurate scale.
- The boxwood plants placed there have not yet grown [and may never grow] to fill the topiaries.
- It was determined that there were limited checks and balances when this NPG was approved in February 2018.
- It is key that experienced professionals, rather than amateurs, should work on such a project. Just as when the NWNC did the recent utility boxes project.
- Two years ago, this should have been handled as a Community Improvement Project [led by professionals] rather than as an NPG.
- Randy Sanchez regretted that stock photos [rather than actual sculptures] were submitted with the NPG. Peter Lasky admitted that he [not Don Larson] submitted the photos. Why did Peter submit designs on behalf a vendor?
- This issue will further be discussed at a future Beautification Committee meeting.

XX. Discussion and update regarding the LAUSD Board District 3 Candidate Town Hall

- Ding mentioned that 113 people attended the virtual Town Hall on Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, which was organized by eight area neighborhood councils.
- Rana recently met with city officials who were very happy and wished to implement this virtual Town Hall as a standard throughout the city.
- Someone expressed concern that this Town Hall was not widely publicized thirty-days in advance.
- Kathleen asked if the speakers were given the questions in advance; Ding replied no, they were only given the format. Kathleen mentioned that one of the speakers seemed to read a script, whereas the other was more "off the cuff".

XXI. Discussion and update regarding Ordinance 182778 distribution plan

- Gail mentioned that it is a homeowner's responsibility to keep their shrubs trimmed and not permit obstructions in the streets or sidewalks.
- Later this year, perhaps the NWNC could set aside funds to distribute this printed ordinance throughout the community?

## XXII. Report by Budget Advocate

- Budget Advocate Glenn Bailey reported that the advocates met with Mayor Garcetti on Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup> and mentioned the following:
  - The city is facing a fiscal crisis. This year, the city is facing a \$200m to \$400m shortfall because of the impact of COVID-19 on the city's seven economically sensitive taxes. Next year, the projected shortfall is \$228m according to the City Administrative Officer (CAO). This does not include the impact of COVID-19, which will increase the shortfall to an estimated \$400m.
  - The city's adopted budget for the fiscal year, beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>, was already stressed because of the impact of the budget-busting labor agreements with the police, firefighters, and civilian unions. It is now under additional pressure because the city has been unable to offset the elimination of \$150m of furloughs that were objected to by the unions representing the city's civilian employees. This includes the impact of the failed Separation Incentive Program and the diversion of \$40m from the LAPD budget.
  - To date, the city has not implemented any cost savings program.
  - On September 11<sup>th</sup>, the Mayor sent a memo to all city departments directing that they help the city achieve fiscal accountability by taking specific cost-cutting actions, including providing the CAO with proposals to reduce their current budget by 3%.
  - A week later, the Mayor issued his Budget Policy and Goals request for 2021-22, which included additional requests for fiscal belt-tightening.
  - Overall, the cuts requested by the mayor will not offset the declines in revenue. This may necessitate furloughs or layoffs since personnel costs (salaries, benefits, pension contributions) are the largest expenditure item.
  - The Budget Advocates will continue to call for more transparency and accountability. We need something more current than a hypothetical interim budget based on assumptions that are now seriously out of date.
  - The first Budget Advocate Training Module on the LA Budget and Department Structure is up on the website at <https://www.budgetadvocates.com/training-docs>. In addition to Budget Advocates and Budget Representatives, we encourage board members and stakeholders to check it out and learn more about how our city operates, how revenue is generated, and when to advocate during the budget process. More materials are in development.
  - The first of a series of Town Halls is scheduled for Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. It will address the challenges of allocating services and budget resources equitably across LA. More than calling out the problems, we want people across the city to focus on constructive recommendations and solutions.
  - The Congress of Neighborhoods was a virtual success. The informative morning Zoom assembly was followed by four networking sessions. Our session on "The Real City Budget" attracted almost fifty people, most of whom hung in for two hours between the ever-entertaining Ron Galperin and the shocking revelations about the city's own budget [failures]. You can watch the networking sessions at <https://www.nccongressla.com> and we will be posting the real city budget session on our new website.
  - The Budget Advocate's new website, <https://www.budgetadvocates.org> went live for Congress. We are still updating it, but right now it has information that will allow Neighborhood Councils to find and contact their advocates. The website will soon have a comprehensive calendar and more training materials.
  - Our committees are now on the website with links to the point person for each committee. We hope to start posting meetings and agendas shortly.

- Bill Fox asked what percentage of the city's budget is a shortfall due to CalPERS and other pension funds? Glenn and Brian did not know offhand, but estimated it to be possibly 20% of the overall budget.

#### XXIII. Reports by Committees

- **Public Safety**  
Kathleen reported that the Oakridge Estate Park has difficulty locking their gates at night. There is graffiti there, but it does not appear to be gang-related. There is also a fear of fire due to people sleeping in the park and lighting fires. The city's Department of Recreation and Parks needs to get involved to lock the gates at sundown and unlock the gates at dawn.
- **Government Affairs**  
Abby is planning a meeting on Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 8.30PM. They may discuss the upcoming election, including the ballot initiatives.
- **Elections**  
Glen Wilson said that the current election procedure is merely a two-page document. He hopes to have additional information chosen by the end of October, including drop box location and hours of opportunity. This information is due back to the city clerk's office by Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. The NWNC will meet again on Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, so we will discuss this at that time. For this election, stakeholders must request a ballot. The last NWNC election had merely 32-voters. The 2021 election for the northwest valley will be in April 2021, so we have plenty of times to get specific.
- **Executive**  
Rana will work with Randy Sanchez and the Beautification Committee regarding the NBF.
- **Homelessness**  
Gail reported that a group has broken away from the West Valley Neighborhood Alliance on Homelessness and formed the United Coalition Ending Homelessness. They will meet on Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 4PM. Their leader is Mike Benedetto of the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council.

#### XXIV. Announcements by Board Members

- Gail asked why the NWNC does not discuss the national election.
- Jennifer requested clarification of the Brown Act regarding emails. Regretfully, Gibson was off the call at that time.
- Kelly Sooter asked the Board to consider a review to censure board member Kathleen Edwards for continued and habitual behavior in violation of the NWNC Code of Conduct and Code of Civility. She provided examples of actions, including repeated efforts to mis-represent meeting minutes, portray information that is factually incorrect, and send aggressive and accusatory emails to board members. Kelly has no affiliation with any political party, including the West Valley People's Alliance, which she feels she is being wrongly associated with.

#### XXV. Adjournment

- Rana Sharif adjourned the meeting at 10.15PM.