

**APPROVED**  
**Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC)**  
**General Board Meeting (GBM)**  
**Tuesday, 8 December 2020**  
**Via Zoom**

1. Meeting Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call, and Determination of a Quorum
  - Vice President of Administration Abby Bailes called the meeting to order at 6.16PM, welcomed over twenty-four attendees, and all 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, Josue Toscano, and Glen Wilson
  - Two of the Park brothers 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
  - She works best via email; please reach out to reach her at 35947@lapd.online.com to add yourself to her email roster and/or establish a neighborhood watch meeting in your community.
  - She hosts a virtual basic car meeting once a month, with the next on Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup>.
  - This past month has seen sixteen part-one crimes in Los Angeles, including two robberies, three grand theft auto, two burglaries, and other thefts. Part-one offenses are a metric used to calculate the crime indexes and rates.
  - Everyone is reminded to please lock doors, secure garages, and do not leave gifts in plain view in your car. Also, watch out for porch pirates, who purposely follow UPS and Amazon drivers.
  - Please immediately call 911 if you see a crime in progress. 911 has a language bank; if you do not speak English, the operator can connect you with someone speaking another language.
  - With the city's major funding cutbacks, there will be many changes in 2021, including what the police will and will not deal with. The LAPD will no longer respond to homeless campsites. If you see such a campsite, please call 211 or reach out to Colin Crews at CD12 at 818-882-1212. Colin will reach out to the LA Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) and the Sanitation Department. Sidewalks require merely 32" of space. Trash must be determined as trash by the owner. We cannot pick up a broken chair, because that is someone else's property. After three days, unattended property may be removed.
  - The LAPD will also not respond to parking issues; this is the responsibility of the Department of Transportation. If someone is living in a vehicle, the rules are unenforceable. The city is powerless until they can offer a bed to everyone living on the street.
  - Please reach out to the city via 311 for graffiti, bulky item pick-up, etc.
  - The LAPD will not send merely one car when there are 100s of racers and spectators during a street racing incident, as this could compromise the officer's safety. Instead, they will try to send multiple patrol cars.
  - Kathleen wondered if we have sufficient mental health professionals. Sandra reported that the LAPD is disengaging what someone can do in the privacy of their own home. If someone is threatening suicide in their own home, the LAPD cannot do anything. However, if someone is threatening suicide by standing on a bridge or in the middle of the highway, then the LAPD will become involved.

- The LAPD is very busy. Previously, the LAPD was required to visit the shooting range every two weeks to retain their marksmanship skills. Sandra has not visited the range since February.
- Kathleen asked about how many cars patrol the Devonshire Division; there is always a minimum of six to nine cars.
- Currently, there are three officers on medical leave [awaiting surgery] and five officers considering a January retirement.
- If someone is concerned about the LAPD, please reach out. Hundreds may have a very positive opinion of the LAPD, yet merely one person will speak up.

### 3. Comments on Stakeholders on Non-Agenda items

- Glenn Bailey reported that the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils would meet Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6.30PM. Elections Administrator Michael Lektorich [from the city clerk's office] will give a presentation and answer questions regarding the upcoming neighborhood council elections.
- Candidate filings and stakeholder's requests for ballots for the northwest valley will begin Saturday, December 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 9AM to 11AM, there will be a Neighborhood Council Candidate Info Session for the upcoming elections; this will include:
  - Connecting with voters
  - Writing your personal statements
  - Advocating for issues that you are passionate about
  - Filling out your candidate application with the City Clerk
- Attendees are encouraged to RSVP so that they can be placed on the email list to receive important resources and a copy of the presentation.
- Glenn added that the Northridge Vision virtually meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month. These meetings have been restricted to two members per neighborhood council.
- Brian Reff thanked Gibson for altering the Zoom settings so attendees could see the agenda, as well as which board members are present.
- Taylor Lee is a 3<sup>rd</sup> year student at UCLA, and the university's representative for Hearts over Hands; this pairs university students with children from families adversely impacted by coronavirus. The college students meet weekly with the youngsters via virtual video sessions in order to break the sense of social isolation that children may be experiencing, provide homework help, tutoring, and general mentorship and guidance. For additional information, please visit their website at <http://www.heartsoverhands.org>.
- Gail Lapaz reported that she did not like what Payman said about the previous month's three resignations. Tara checked her notes and mentioned that Payman said something about resigning appearing irresponsible.

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

- Mikkie Loi reported that the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual LAPD Devonshire Police Activity League Supports (PALS) Holiday Toy Drive would accept new unwrapped toys, games, books, gift cards, and cash through Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. The annual toy giveaway will be Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9AM at the Grieg Smith LAPD Devonshire PALS Youth Center, 8721 Wilbur Avenue.

### 5. Update from Aliso Canyon Disaster Health Research Study

- Community Engagement Specialist, Christina Vega, from the LA County Department of Public Health (DPH) presented the following:

- On 23 October 2015, the largest gas blowout in the history of the United States began at the Southern California Gas Company’s Aliso Canyon gas storage facility. An estimated 109,000 metric tons of methane flowed uncontrollably from Aliso Canyon Well SS-25 until it was successfully sealed 111 days later on 11 February 2016.
- As a result of the blowout, people in neighboring communities experienced “rotten egg” odors, oily mists, and acute health symptoms, including eye, nose, and throat irritation, headaches, and respiratory symptoms. The DPH responded to thousands of health problems experienced by residents and directed relocation of over 8,000 households. Many residents reported ongoing health problems after returning home from relocation and expressed concerns about potential long-term health effects.
- From the beginning of the blowout, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) collected and analyzed air samples to monitor the levels of chemicals being released at the facility and reaching the community. In January 2016, the DPH reviewed air data on a daily basis and made recommendations to expand sampling to include more community air sampling locations, expand testing for additional chemicals, and increase sample collection times.
- The DPH issued a directive to the Southern California Gas Company to expedite efforts to stop the blowout and [in the interim] offer free, temporary relocation to affected residents. DPH also directed the Southern California Gas Company to work directly with the LAUSD to assist in relocating affected students to alternate locations outside of the impacted area.
- Following the sealing of the well, outdoor air monitoring was continued by the California Air Resources Board and the SCAQMD, with the DPH addressing community health concerns and consulting with local and state regulatory agencies. The DPH also continued to actively monitor and assess environmental and health issues related to the disaster by recording ongoing symptoms reported by residents. The DPH tested indoor air and dust in some area homes and [based on the results] directed Southern California Gas Company to pay for professional comprehensive cleaning of the homes of area residents. The DPH designed a cleaning protocol and secured a ruling from the Los Angeles Superior Court requiring the Southern California Gas Company to offer interior cleaning to residents.
- The County joined with local and state public agencies in the lawsuit against Southern California Gas Company, successfully advocating for the inclusion of a health study in the settlement.
- On August 8, 2018, California Attorney General Xavier Becerra, along with the California Air Resources Board, Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer, and the County of Los Angeles secured a \$119.5 million settlement with Southern California Gas Company over the Disaster, including for the following:
  - \$32.2m Health Programs
  - 25.0m Aliso Canyon Disaster Long Term Health Research Study
  - 10.1m Air Quality Programs
  - 7.1m Air Filtration in Schools
  - 3.0m Enhanced Air Monitoring
  - 2.0m New County Breath mobiles
- Stakeholder Helen Attai asked about the radius of the health study and when would it start. Christina replied that the Scientific Oversight Committee (SOC) would determine the radius, which may start in Spring 2021.
- Patty Glueck and Andrew Krowne from the Aliso Canyon Health Research Study Community Advisory Group (CAG) urged everyone to visit their website at <https://alisohealthstudycag.org>. They mentioned that they were given very transparent reports and were disappointed with the presented generalities. The SOC is being rushed without a chemical inventory. It appears that

the DPH is doing something over the upcoming holiday season, when most interested people would rather spend time with their families.

- Someone asked if the health study would be patient-centered, or via modeling; this will be a patient-centered study.

#### 6. Comments by Public Officials

- Matt Hernandez, Public Safety Field Deputy for CD12, reported the following:
  - Councilman Lee voted against a recent \$150m cut to the LAPD.
  - Councilman Lee co-signed a resolution for the city council to reach out to the county supervisors regarding restricted outdoor dining. Many restaurants made huge investments to serve people outdoors; yet there is insufficient evidence of people at outdoor dining establishments contacting COVID-19. He urged Kathryn Barger to fight for such small businesses.
  - Bill Fox added that a recent court case was lost due to insufficient data.
  - Small business relief loans and angel funds are still available via the CD12 website under "Covid-19 Resources". These forms take approximately five minutes to complete.
  - Stakeholder John Hales noticed that some construction workers are not wearing masks or social distancing and wondered who should be alerted. Matt recommended that they reach out to the DPH.
  - Andrew Krowne mentioned that the Aliso Canyon CAG met with Councilman Lee on Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. As a follow-up, Councilman Lee and his Senior Advisor Ron Rubine were supposed to meet with Supervisor Barger. Andrew awaits the results of that follow-up meeting.
- Tara Vahdani from Scott Schmerelson's office reported the following:
  - Schools will close Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup> for their winter break until Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup>. This is a result of positivity rates as follows:

October	4 to 5%
November	7 to 8%
December	Above 12%
  - The LAUSD provides free COVID-19 testing for their students, Monday through Friday, 7.15AM to 4.15PM, at the following six facilities:

Frost Middle School	Northridge Middle School
Holmes Middle School	Reseda High School
Lawrence Middle School	Woodland Hills Middle School
  - The LAUSD Grab-and-Go food centers continue Monday through Friday from 7AM to 10AM. The nearest is at the Chatsworth High School. In November, they started weekend meal packages, whereupon on Fridays, nine meal packages are distributed to get folks through Sunday.
  - There is now a virtual Zoom hangout for all 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> graders, twice a week, Tuesdays from 2.30PM to 3.30PM and Thursdays, 7.45AM to 8.45AM.
  - There is a similar program called Twinkle Time for kindergarteners through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade on Wednesdays from 12.30PM to 1PM. Kathleen asked if this Twinkle Time was available in multiple languages; currently, this is only in English, but Tara will suggest it.
  - December 7<sup>th</sup> through the 12<sup>th</sup> will be the Instructional Technology Initiative's Computer Science Education Week, with Professional Development and Showcases.
  - Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 11AM to 9PM, will be the Topeka Charter Elementary School's PTA fundraiser at The Stand, 19600 Plummer Street. Please mention "Topeka" when you check out your food order.

- Abby and Jennifer expressed concern regarding the balance between safety and education that must be met. Because of this uncertainty, the Bailes and the Krownes have withdrawn their kids from public school.
- Tara urged everyone to please spend the holidays with merely their immediate families. Her parents own a small business; if they had to close their business for a year, they may not be able to economically survive.
- If more than three people in a school test positive, that is considered an outbreak and the entire school must close. If one student in a group of fourteen students tests positive, that group must quarantine for fourteen days.
- Someone asked Tara about outbreaks in Northridge schools versus other areas of the city; Tara lacked that specific data.

7. Presidential Comments

- Abby wished everyone a Happy Hanukkah and Merry Christmas.

BREAK

8. Nomination and election for open NWNC Executive Committee positions, to be conducted by DONE

- Candidate filings and stakeholder voter registration for the northwest valley will begin Saturday, December 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 9AM to 11AM, there will be a Neighborhood Council Candidate Info Session for the upcoming elections; this will include:
  - Connecting with voters
  - Writing your personal statements
  - Advocating for issues that you are passionate about
  - Filling out your candidate application with the City Clerk
- Attendees are encouraged to RSVP so that they can be placed on the email list to receive important resources and a copy of the presentation.
- Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate Gibson Nyambura led the nominations, starting with President.
- Peter Lasky nominated Abby Bailes to serve as President; Abby was unanimously elected.
- Jennifer Krowne nominated Yi Ding to serve as Vice President, Outreach; Peter Lasky nominated Kathleen Edwards to serve as Vice President, Outreach.
- Andrew Krowne supported Ding, as he cannot support a board member who has had a behavioral issue.
- Former President Rana Sharif supported Ding as she has done amazing work in a very short time.
- Former Vice President of Outreach and Communications, Kelly Sooter supported Ding, as she jumped into the assignments with no knowledge and did an amazing job as secretary and education chair.
- Peter Lasky mentioned that the board could not go wrong with either choice. Kathleen has done a great job with public safety and is fearless with what she is willing to take on.
- Abby Bailes agreed with everyone's positive assessment of Ding. However, she will vote for Kathleen because she does not want to lose Ding as secretary.
- Kathleen Edwards wished that she could defend herself and have her side of the story heard. She wished to keep the NWNC non-political.
- Ding thanked everyone for their trust. As a trained educator, she is a very neutral person who is able to see all sides. This is key to this position. Another key duty is to engage all stakeholders. She also has the soft skills necessary for this task and looks forward to supporting the next

secretary, a position that she was immediately voted into the moment she was named to the NWNC.

- Andrew asked if Ding would resign as secretary; Ding answered that she would eventually step down.

Ding (6) Ding, Fox, Krowne, Lowell, Toscano, and Wilson  
Kathleen (4) Bahman, Bailes, Edwards, and Lasky

- Kathleen Edwards nominated Peter Lasky to serve as Vice President, Administration, who was honored to serve the board. Peter was unanimously elected.
- Peter Lasky nominated Kathleen Edwards to serve as secretary; she declined. The secretary position will remain vacant. However, Ding will continue to fill in as secretary for a few hours each month until a replacement is voted in.

9. Discussion and motion to approve Kathleen Edwards as second signer and Josh Toscano as NWNC alternate signers. “The Alternate Signer is responsible for the following: In the absence or unavailability of the Treasurer or 2<sup>nd</sup> Signer, the Alternate Signer can sign Board-approved funding documents to be submitted to the Neighborhood Council Funding Program.”

- Kathleen and Josue have taken the mandatory financial training.
- Abby Bailes made a motion to approve Kathleen Edwards as second signer and Josue Toscano as alternate signer; Bill Fox seconded this motion, and it passed.

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

10. Discussion of Outreach for the NWNC Board Member Election nominations in December 2020 and Voting in April 2021. Possible motion to approve funding of up to \$4,000 to create and mail a postcard to inform NWNC stakeholders about the nomination for new board members and the process to request a ballot to vote in the April 2021 NWNC Board Member Elections.

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  - Connecting with voters
  - Writing your personal statements
  - Advocating for issues that you are passionate about
  - Filling out your candidate application with the City Clerk
- Attendees are encouraged to RSVP so that they can be placed on the email list to receive important resources and a copy of the presentation.
- Webmaster Christine from the Mailroom already added the link to the candidate filing portal to the NWNC website.
- Jennifer mentioned that during the 2019 election, some people were turned away because they were unable to vote. Gibson mentioned that, per the NWNC by-laws, the voters should have documentation proving their eligibility by living within the community. A child’s report card does not meet this requirement. Glenn Bailey said that as long as someone gave an address within the community, they should have voted provisionally. As the 2021 election will be 100% vote by mail, voter registration will open sixty-days in advance, with ballots released 29-days before the election.
- Peter and Kelly reminded everyone that the last election had a very disappointing 35-voters.
- The Outreach budget is usually used for postcards to inform the community of this upcoming election.
- Treasurer Joel discussed the encumbered funds and the option to purchase 4¼x11” door hangers.

- Glenn Bailey added that the encumbered funds must be used by the end of the year. For 2021-22, neighborhood councils may not be able to roll over any funding to the next fiscal year.
- Jennifer felt that since the NWNC will have excessive of funds this fiscal year, it should be spent on such Outreach expenses. Payman agreed that the postcards might be the best bet.
- Ding recommends doing this exclusively on social media and save money on the mailings.
- Peter reminded everyone that we have previously done two or three mailers, but it is doubtful that we need that many. In addition, many of the older stakeholders do not use social media.
- It was agreed to table this agenda item.

11. Discussion and motion to approve Lucio Padilla as a candidate to fill the NWNC Board At Large #2 Seat (term through 2023). Per NWNC By Laws and Standing Rules, the open board seats may be filled by appointment by the [Interim] President with approval by the Board.

- Per the NWNC by-laws, the president can appoint a board member. Another candidate applied, yet that person did appear to have enough knowledge of the community; therefore, Abby chose not to pursue the other candidate’s nomination.
- Lucio is a CSUN alum who lives near Chatsworth Street; he is active in his church and the Knights of Columbus and has three adult kids. Career-wise, Lucia is a Broadcast/Electrical/RF/Telecommunications Engineer who currently works from home.
- Jennifer asked Lucio if he could exhibit a sense of bi-partisanship. Lucio replied that he is very neutral. He likes to keep as calm as possible and hear both sides prior to a vote. In addition, as an engineer, he is trained to solve problems.
- Ding asked about software tools, Lucio does Final Cut Pro, and several other programs.
- Abby Bailes made a motion for Lucio Padilla to join the NWNC board; Kathleen Edwards seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
- Later in the meeting, Lucio took the neighborhood council pledge by reading the statement aloud.

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

- Abby Bailes made a motion to approve the November minutes; Bill Fox seconded this motion, and it passed.  
     Aye (8)      Bahman, Bailes, Ding, Fox, Krowne, Lasky, Toscano, and Wilson  
     Abstain (2)   Edwards and Lowell

13. Discussion and motion to approve the November 2020 Monthly Expense Report.

Date	Vendor	Description	Amount
October 19	Kristina Smith/The Mailroom	Webmaster	\$250.00
November 2	Golden State Storage	Storage Facility	124.50
November 4	Apple One	Meeting Minutes Services	115.20
		Total	<u>\$489.70</u>

- Abby Bailes made a motion to approve the November Monthly Expense Report; Josue Toscano seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
- The Board Action Certifications have been pending a second signer; Joel will forward these to Kathleen for her signature.

14. Update on NWNC Committee Members; changes and pending motions will be presented at the January 2021 GBM

- Abby urged board members and stakeholders to please reach out to her if anyone is interested in committee membership.

#### 15. Reports by NWNC Committees

- The Education Committee will meet on Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 7.30PM.
- Ding reported that the Education Committee has worked with principals and parent representatives on Buddy Benches. They are moving forward with a pilot program at the Topeka Charter Elementary School. Their PTA is very interested in this seven-month project, which will not require much money.
- These Buddy Benches started in Germany in 2005, then transitioned to Florida. The Buddy Bench is a simple idea to eliminate loneliness and foster friendship on the playground. When one sits on the bench, it means that they seek companionship. Other children and staff will recognize this as a sign that some health, support, or comfort is needed and will converse with the child.
- Glen Wilson reported that the Elections Committee might meet on Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Peter Lasky reported that the Beautification Committee is awaiting a new chairperson.
- Gail Lapaz reported that the Homelessness Solutions Committee would meet on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 4PM.
- As Chair of the Planning, Land Use, and Zoning Committee, Payman asked about the post office mail box. Ding recently checked it, yet it had very few pieces of mail.

#### 16. Update on the NWNC Utility Art Boxes

- Kathleen reached out to 11:11 for the still photos of the artwork. The next project will be posting the photographs on social media.
- Joel added that he was very impressed with the utility boxes that he has seen.

#### 17. Update on the Tampa Topiary Project

- Peter thanked Abby for the opportunity to address some issues.
- The October 13<sup>th</sup> NWNC meeting minutes implied that Peter Lasky submitted stock photos (from the internet) to support the Tampa Topiary Project. This led to a great many inflammatory and misleading comments on Next Door.
- Randy replied that he was satisfied with Peter's response.
- Bill Fox wondered how Peter could reply to the accusations that he lied. There were various allegations from multiple sides. Randy made several claims, yet he did not provide sufficient facts. In addition, Randy was unable to attend multiple meetings whereupon these issues were discussed.
- Randy stood by his comments that there was a contradiction of claims. He attended multiple meetings in 2019 and 2020 with Peter, Kelly, Abby, and the Northridge Beautification Foundation. As he knows his truth and has clarified his mis-information, he looks forward to dropping this whole issue and moving forward.
- Peter added that Randy posted a comment on Next Door, after their July 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, stating that Peter had revealed that this topiary project could cost another \$10k. Prior to posting on Next Door, Randy forwarded his [soon to be posted] comments to Peter for review. Randy followed up with a few of Peter's suggested changes. However, Randy later admitted that he was mistaken about some of the facts discussed by Peter, Kelly, and Bill at the meeting (including anticipated costs).



- John Hale has known Don Larson for over ten years and has been affiliated with Northridge Vision 2025 for six years; he asked if this topiary was part of the Northridge Vision 2025. The response was negative.
- Payman asked about trimming the topiary so that it most closely resembled a horse.

18. Report by Budget Advocate

- Budget Advocate Glenn Bailey reported the following
  - Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, City Controller Ron Galperin participated in a very well received Town Hall to discuss Proposition HHH expenditures. This Town Hall is available for viewing on the West Valley Neighborhood Alliance on Homelessness website at <http://www.wvnah.org>.
  - Per the city’s financial report, the city may see a \$675m deficit during this fiscal year. Council file 20-0600-S84 reviews this financial status report, submitted to Mayor Garcetti (from the City’s Administrative Officer, Richard Llewellyn) on Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Llewellyn’s 144-page report is also available online at [https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2020/20-0600-S84\\_rpt\\_CAO\\_12-04-2020.pdf](https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2020/20-0600-S84_rpt_CAO_12-04-2020.pdf)
  - The city could see lay-offs exceeding 1,894, including the following:

Affiliated Department	Projected Lay-Offs
LAPD Civilians	728
LAPD Sworn Officers	951
City Attorney’s Office	143
Animal Services	45
Bureau of Engineering	27
	1,894

- The LAPD could see a 1,679-staff reduction, as evidenced by the first two numbers. Regretfully, as civilians are being laid off from the LAPD, it is falling upon uniformed officers [at a higher rate of pay] to perform the civilian’s administrative tasks.
- As a further reference point, the Advocates new website is <https://www.budgetadvocates.com>

19. Announcements by Board Members

- Kathleen had questions about Northridge Vision. Glenn Bailey replied that they meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month. However, their virtual meetings are restricted to two members from each area neighborhood council. Glenn added that he would forward the Zoom meeting link to Kathleen and Jennifer Krowne.
- Kathleen added that changes to the minutes should be discussed in an open forum during the meetings, rather than via private email conversation with the minute-taker.

20. Adjournment

- Bill Fox made a motion to adjourn at 9.35PM; Kathleen Edwards seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.