

NORTHRIDGE WEST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

General Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 13th, 2026, 6:15 PM

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by NWNC President Janis Kraft at 6:18 P.M.
- a) **Board Roll Call:** Quorum achieved with full board – 12 board members.
Present: Joel Lowell, Janis Kraft, Alanna Flax-Clark, Kathleen Edwards, Kevin Herzberg, Nicolas Haddad, Diana Delgado, Jeff Diamond, Krystal Sims, Nathan Lichtman, Richard Young & Sam Dulys
- b) Pledge of Allegiance salute took place, virtually, with the flag in Janis' office.
- II. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT** – Glenn Bailey attended the VANC meeting in January. Although three speakers were scheduled, only one was present. The discussion revolved around Charter Reform which was passed at the LANCC meeting. There will be discussion about the proposed DWP power rate increase at the next meeting.
- III. **ANNOUNCEMENTS -**
- Kathleen Edwards announced that BONC Commissioner Joy Atkinson passed away, noting it is a great loss to the neighborhood council system and L.A., in general. Janis suggested we have a moment of silence at the end of the meeting.
 - Janis said that since there was to be a full agenda this evening, she would like board members to limit themselves to only one comment per agenda item.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF NWNC MONTHLY EXPENDITURE REPORT (MER) FOR DECEMBER 2025:** Treasurer Joel Lowell reviewed the expenses and payments for the month of December 2025 and said there is \$15,566 remaining in the budget. **(Kraft/Lowell) moved to approve the MER for December 2025. The motion passed unanimously 11-0-0.**
- Voting Yea (11):** Joel Lowell, Janis Kraft, Alanna Flax-Clark, Kathleen Edwards, Kevin Herzberg, Nicolas Haddad, Jeff Diamond, Krystal Sims, Nathan Lichtman, Richard Young & Sam Dulys.
Opposed: (0)
Abstaining: (0)
Ineligible: (1) Diana Delgado
- EmpowerLA NEA Vincent Autiero stated that Diana Delgado was not eligible to vote as she did not have proof of completing all of the four trainings.
 - Kathleen Edwards said she did not feel it was fair to Diana to exclude her from voting as she stated that she had completed the trainings and the system had failed to produce the certificate.
 - Vincent said he would access their system with Diana's permission to see if he could find proof of her completing the trainings.

APPROVAL OF NWNC GBM MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 2025, NOVEMBER 2025 & DECEMBER 2025.

(Kraft/Lowell) moved to change a reference of \$500 to 4,500 gift cards in the October 2025 board meeting minutes. The motion passed 10-0-1.

Voting Yea (10): Joel Lowell, Janis Kraft, Kathleen Edwards, Kevin Herzberg, Nicolas Haddad, Jeff Diamond, Krystal Sims, Nathan Lichtman, Richard Young & Sam Dulys.

Opposed: (0)

Abstaining: (1) Alanna Flax-Clark

Ineligible: (1) Diana Delgado

(Kraft/Dulys) moved to remove Greg's name on the November board meeting minutes' roster as he had previously departed the board. The motion passed unanimously: 11-0-0.

Voting Yea (11): Joel Lowell, Janis Kraft, Alanna Flax-Clark, Kathleen Edwards, Kevin Herzberg, Nicolas Haddad, Jeff Diamond, Krystal Sims, Nathan Lichtman, Richard Young & Sam Dulys.

Opposed: (0)

Abstaining: (0)

Ineligible: (1) Diana Delgado

(Kraft/Lowell) moved to approve the December 2025 board meeting minutes. The motion passed: 10-0-1.

Voting Yea (10): Joel Lowell, Janis Kraft, Kathleen Edwards, Kevin Herzberg, Nicolas Haddad, Jeff Diamond, Krystal Sims, Nathan Lichtman, Richard Young & Sam Dulys.

Opposed: (0)

Abstaining: (1) Alanna Flax-Clark

Ineligible: (1) Diana Delgado

- V. Presidential Comments** – Janis spoke about two upcoming trainings by EmpowerLA (DONE) in January. Also, on Wednesday, Jan. 14th at 2 pm there is a Northridge Vision meeting. Kathleen said it is a mid-day meeting. Janis said she would try to attend but everyone was welcome.

A. 1/29/2026 [Empower LA budget 101 meeting](#)

B. 1/31/2026 [Board Etiquette meeting](#)

- VI. Guest Speaker Matthew Mitnick, Government Affairs and Community Relations for LAHSA** gave a presentation on the 1/20/26 Volunteer Federal Homeless Count that will take place in Los Angeles. The count gives a snapshot, every year, of how homelessness is being addressed and dictates the funding that each community receives from the federal government. The strategy this year is to involve NC board members because they are more aware of the problems in their areas. There has been an increase in unsheltered individuals over the past two years. Matthew

explained that they track those who are unhoused, those in shelters and youth who are living on the streets. He attributed the increase to economic hardship, which accounts for 55% of those who are unhoused. But he pointed out that once people are living unhoused, there is also an increase in substance abuse and mental health issues. LAHSA tries to address these issues by connecting the homeless with supportive services through other providers. They want to send volunteers out in teams of two to count in two areas each. One drives and the other counts.

Board Questions/Comments:

- **Nathan Lichtman** asked how neighborhood council board members could take more of a leadership role in this endeavor?
- Matthew said he will train board members who want to be site coordinators on how to run the dashboard to assign a census track to volunteers.

- **Janis Kraft** asked how she could participate in counting the homeless.
- Matthew will send a registration link to her to distribute for the count. On the night of the count, Matthew will train everyone using a mobile app. He has a video on how to use the app and also how to do the count. The meeting location is at CD12's office.

- **Joel Lowell** asked how the multiplier works in estimating the #'s of homeless in each tent, car or mobile home.
- Matthew said they use different multipliers based on each demographic.

- **Sam Duly** said he would be interested in being a site coordinator. He remembered when LAHSA used to do the count on foot.
- Matthew said it's safer for volunteers to be in a car than on foot. LAHSA will provide flashlights and face masks for each volunteer.

- **Kathleen Edwards** asked how LAHSA determines their success rate for those in long-term shelters and what happens to those who leave after two years and don't have anywhere to go?
- Matthew said after the two-year subsidy is up for those in the shelters, if they have not identified an income source by the end of that program, they are counted as an "exit." Matthew said he would like to come back after the count and share info on their results.

- **Nathan** asked whether a few volunteers could be in the leadership role and whether they need to take a board action to have the whole NWNC involved.
- Matthew said he could give an official training to the board, or they could just show up early to get trained.
- Vincent suggested a board action. But Janis and Joel felt that it was unnecessary at this point as it was already discussed at the Executive Board meeting.

- **Nicolas Haddad** asked whether they needed more than one car for the teams.
- Matthew said they want two census tracks for each team of two.
- Five board members said they were interested in volunteering and Matthew pointed out that others may show up from the community, as well for the count.
- **Kathleen** asked what LAHSA's budget is and how their money is spent.
- Matthew said he would email the specifics to her, but offhand, just over \$800 MM is their overall budget from Federal HUD, plus they get monies from the State and City. They allocate \$2 – \$3 MM for the citywide count for the web developer and materials.
- **Glenn Bailey** noted that the counts generally are issued in May. He suggested Matthew share those results at the VANC meeting and Matthew agreed to do so.

VII. GOVERNMENT REPORTS

- a) **Public Safety LAPD Devonshire Division.** (non-emergency number 1 877-ASK LAPD) **LAPD Senior Lead Officer Sandra Zamora** reported:
- Burglaries increased in the Reseda corridor but overall they are down.
 - There has been an uptick in gang activity. There are several in the NWNC area that have been tagging along Reseda, Devonshire and Nordhoff. There are also some new gangs coming into the area from the south-end.
 - If you find any tagging on your property, report it to "311" and also file a police report. She said they can't provide more police presence if they don't have reports to back it up. Most reports can be done online. However, when there is a burglary, the officers need to investigate in person.
 - She will have a Basic Car meeting on Jan. 28th at 6 p.m. at United Methodist Church. The Devonshire SLOs will also have a meeting on Jan. 27th on Zoom. You can email her for the Zoom code.
 - There was a recent stabbing reported at Vons among two roommates. The suspect was taken into custody. She said 95% of suspects are being caught.
 - Also, someone with a machete barricaded himself inside a vehicle and was arrested.
 - Finally, there was a shooting on Roscoe in the 1700 block. LAPD used a drone to find the suspect who was hiding in the hallway of an apartment building. He was shot by a federal officer (ICE) and died.
 - There have been a lot of protests recently and this is requiring more police presence so there is a shortage of officers on the streets.
- b) **CD 12 City Council Representative: Myrka Martinez** and **Josh Yeager** were present. Josh spoke about funding for LAPD to hire more officers as a major discussion at City Council. LAPD is very short staffed. He spoke about the governor's approval of Zone Zero which requires all foliage within 5' of a residence to be cut down. This is the result of the two devastating

fires in So. CA. However, new information has been provided that substantiates the role that healthy vegetation plays as a fire break so a suggestion has been made to consider revising Zone Zero.

Board Comments:

- **Janis** thanked CD12 for their work with the cleanup on Plummer. She and Jeff Diamond spoke with the manager of Super King about collecting their shopping carts that are left on the street. She asked if a flyer could be produced to inform homeowners that they are responsible for trimming trees on their property that are in the public right of way.
- **Kathleen** suggested using a previous flyer that was created and changing some minor language on it. She said these flyers were used in the past to notify homeowners.
- **Josh** said they have investigators who can go out and contact the homeowners that have these issues if the NC board members can provide addresses.
- **Jeff** said there is a trifold that has been okayed and sent to Mr. King, the Public Works commissioner but he hasn't responded or given approved. He asked Josh to help with getting this expedited.

c) Other Government Departments/Agencies: None.

d) Department of Neighborhood Empowerment: Vincent Autiero gave a report:

- He spoke about the new West Valley Field Rep for the Mayor's office, David Nguyen. They are trying to coordinate a meeting with him.
- BONC will present on charter recommendations at their Jan 21st meeting. He will send an email to the board with the agenda.
- He spoke about a training on Budget Advocacy and asked board members to provide any additional subjects for which they want to receive training.
- He suggested NWNC organize a board retreat so newer board members can learn different practices.
- Changes to the bylaws must be made by April 1st. This requires approvals from the city.
- Glenn asked what time the Budget 101 starts. Vincent said it starts at 6 p.m.
- Janis asked if there is a timeframe for holding a retreat. Vincent suggested she provide some dates that work for the board and he can then arrange speakers or trainers.
- Kathleen asked if the trainers could slow down a bit as she finds it hard to take notes because they move through their materials so fast.
- Vincent said he would share this with their team and noted that the trainings are also recorded.

e) Budget Advocate, Glenn Bailey:

- Budget 101 takes place on Zoom on January 29th and it will give a high-level overview to board members and stakeholders on how the budget process for the City works.
- The budget advocates have met with most of the heads of the city departments.
- Budget Day will take place on June 27, 2026 in person at City Hall.

- Jeff asked whether different departments are over their budgets.
- Glenn said that after the budget is adopted in May for the city, adjustments are made every three months, as needed after they identify any variances and whether additional funds are needed. This is especially true with liability claims. Last year, the city only budgeted 1/3 of the amount that it cost to settle liability claims.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

a) **Josh Yeager from CD12 reviewed CF25-1136** after which, the board discussed the revised CIS that was prepared to bring back the Neighborhood Prosecutor Program which was in effect from 2002 to 2023. Several NCs have created council files to support this program including: Sun Valley, Westside, Sunland-Tujunga, Sherman Oaks, Canoga Park, Winnetka, and Northridge South. Josh said the neighborhood prosecutor program was started with 21 city prosecutors. The goal was to provide a proactive approach to solving problems around the city. But when the new city attorney was sworn in, she ended that program and moved the prosecutors back into court to fight litigation cases against the city. Without the former neighborhood prosecutor program, quality of life issues have gotten worse around the city, including: party houses, graffiti, illegal dumping and other issues. There is a motion pending in the Budget Committee but Budget Chair Katy Yaroslavsky has not moved on it for several months. Josh suggested sending the CIS, once it is approved, to her.

- Janis then read the CIS on behalf of NWNC.
- Kathleen made a revision to the letter suggesting Janis sign the letter, as opposed to the NWNC.
- Glenn pointed out that there is a limitation of characters allowed when posting CISes.
- Janis asked for volunteers to become CIS filers.
- Kathleen, Sam and Richard volunteered in addition to Janis as CIS filers.

(Kraft/Edwards) moved approval of the CIS (as stated below). The motion carried unanimously: 11-0-0-1

Voting Yea (11): Joel Lowell, Janis Kraft, Alanna Flax-Clark, Kathleen Edwards, Kevin Herzberg, Nicolas Haddad, Jeff Diamond, Krystal Sims, Nathan Lichtman, Richard Young & Sam Dulys.

Opposed: (0)

Abstaining: (0)

Ineligible: (1) Diana Delgado

January 13, 2026

RE: Council File 25-1136 - Neighborhood Prosecutor Program / Crime Prevention / Local Engagement / Reestablishing

POSITION: FOR

On January 13, 2026 at a Brown Act noticed public meeting held by the Northridge West Neighborhood

Council with 12 board members present, which exceeded quorum, there was a vote of 11 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions, 0 absences, and 1 ineligible to support the CF25-1136 resolution as put forth by Councilmember John Lee and Councilmember Imelda Padilla.

The Northridge West Neighborhood Council strongly supports reestablishing the Neighborhood Prosecutor Program.

The Neighborhood Prosecutor Program helps reduce quality-of-life crimes (such as graffiti, illegal dumping, party houses, sidewalk drug sales, abandoned houses, etc.) by assigning a Neighborhood Prosecutor from the City Attorney's Office, a local LAPD Senior Lead Officer (SLO), and a Community Leader with an understanding of the situation. The three leaders will work together to investigate, prosecute, and prevent the situation from escalating into a larger problem.

The Neighborhood Prosecutor Program was in existence from 2002 until 2023, when the City Attorney's Office closed the program. Lawyers were taken off community programs and put in courts to help out with the heavy prosecutorial work load. In its place is the current Community Law Corps (CLC), which has not been as effective due to its lack of a dedicated Prosecutorial Attorney working in conjunction with an SLO and Community Leader to handle local crimes.

The Northridge West Neighborhood Council urges the city council to vote YES on Council File 25-1136 to reestablish the Neighborhood Prosecutor Program.

Respectfully,

Janis Kraft
President, Northridge West Neighborhood Council

b) Mike Benedetto, Homelessness Committee Chair and Outreach Committee Co-chair from Granada Hills NC South to speak on the pending Homelessness Town Hall Meeting in March or April 2026. There is a motion to recommend joining the following NCs-Granada Hills South, Granada Hills North, Northridge East, and Porter Ranch in participating in the program development and conducting the session. Total estimated costs of \$1200 are anticipated and our NC will vote on up to a \$250 spend (depending on the number of NCs supporting the Town Hall) to participate.

Mike was not present at the meeting. Kathleen had concerns about who the speakers might be. Glenn talked about previous Town Hall speakers on this subject.

Janis stated that there would be another Town Hall meeting held by Granada Hills South on Tuesday, Jan. 27th at 7 pm at Fire Station 87 on Balboa Blvd. in the community room. They are asking each area NC to send two reps to provide input.

(Kraft/Edwards) moved to postpone any action on this item until the Feb. 10th NWNC board meeting. The motion carried: 10-1-0-1

Voting Yea (10): Joel Lowell, Janis Kraft, Alanna Flax-Clark, Kathleen Edwards, Kevin Herzberg, Nicolas Haddad, Jeff Diamond, Krystal Sims, Nathan Lichtman, Richard Young.

Opposed: (1) Sam Dulys

Abstaining: (0)

Ineligible: (1) Diana Delgado

c) Discussion and vote on NPG for up to \$700 for the Canoga Park Senior Citizen' Club for The Salute to Recreation Family Festival Senior Dance at The Northridge Recreation Center. This event will be held Friday, 5/15/26 from 5 pm to 9 pm and the theme will be a Tribute to the Beach Boys. Myrka Martinez, from Canoga Park Senior Citizens Club, said the increase in price was to cover the higher cost of food. Seniors who attend only have to make a "suggested donation" of \$2.00.

Kathleen recommended approving this funding request as the seniors have a great time at this event and show up in force.

Joel said there is \$5,800 remaining in the NPG budget

Sam asked if Outback has always been the caterer.

Myrka said they have been.

(Kraft/Edwards) moved that NWNC approve an NPG for up to \$700 for the Canoga Park Senior Citizen' Club for The Salute to Recreation Family Festival Senior Dance at The Northridge Recreation Center. The motion carried unanimously: **11-0-0-1**

Voting Yea (11): Joel Lowell, Janis Kraft, Alanna Flax-Clark, Kathleen Edwards, Kevin Herzberg, Nicolas Haddad, Jeff Diamond, Krystal Sims, Nathan Lichtman, Richard Young & Sam Dulys.

Opposed: (0)

Abstaining: (0)

Ineligible: (1) Diana Delgado

d) Discussion on volunteers for BONC, VANC & LANCC meetings.

Kathleen volunteered to represent NWNC at the VANC and LANCC meetings.

Sam volunteered to be her alternate.

(Kraft/Edwards) moved to appoint Kathleen Edwards as the primary rep for NWNC and Sam Duly as the alternate for the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Council and the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition. The motion carried unanimously: **11-0-0-1**

Voting Yea (11): Joel Lowell, Janis Kraft, Alanna Flax-Clark, Kathleen Edwards, Kevin Herzberg, Nicolas Haddad, Jeff Diamond, Krystal Sims, Nathan Lichtman, Richard Young & Sam Dulys.

Opposed: (0)

Abstaining: (0)

Ineligible: (1) Diana Delgado

e) Discussion and vote to possibly make some member changes to some of the Committees.) Public Safety Chair Kathleen Edwards said she was stepping down as the chairperson of this committee because she is unable to physically make some of the commitments. However, she will remain a member of the committee. Jeff Diamond stated that he would assume the position of chairperson of Public Safety going forward.

(Kraft/Lowell) moved to appoint Jeff Diamond chairperson of the NWNC Public Safety Committee with committee members: Kathleen Edwards, Alana Flax-Clark and Nicolas Haddad). The motion carried unanimously: **11-0-0-1.**

Voting Yea (11): Joel Lowell, Janis Kraft, Alanna Flax-Clark, Kathleen Edwards, Kevin Herzberg, Nicolas Haddad, Jeff Diamond, Krystal Sims, Nathan Lichtman, Richard Young & Sam Dulys.

Opposed: (0)

Abstaining: (0)

Ineligible: (1) Diana Delgado

f) PLU 101 for committee members – NEA Vincent Autiero said they have one course for committee members and stakeholders on Cornerstone.

IX. NWNC Committee Reports

a) Executive Committee (Janis Kraft) said there is an Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee and she asked Kathleen and Joel for their notes so a presentation can be made at the February board meeting.

b) Public Safety: No additional report.

c) Government Affairs (Richard Young) asked the board to bring any concerns to him pertaining to the city. He reported that So Ca Gas is closing their offices. Kathleen asked him to get more information about this as they service the NWNC area.

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

e) Elections (Janis Kraft) -No report.

f) Homelessness (Nathan Lichtman) held a meeting a few weeks ago with Nicolas who is on his committee.

g) Beautification (Sam Dulys) would like to hold a meeting this month to discuss a brush abatement project and topiary ideas. Kathleen asked him to investigate why vendors are topping off trees. Janis congratulated Jeff on his work with graffiti abatement.

h) Budget (Joel Lowell) – No report.

i) Outreach (Nathan Lichtman) – Janis asked him to hold a meeting in the next week with Richard & Alana. She also asked for board members to join her on Jan. 27th at the Granada Hills South Town Hall. Sam agreed to meet her.

j) Education (Krystal Sims) has sent out emails to all the principals. She will reach out next to PTAs and try to contact representatives and school officials to schedule meetings with them.

X. ADJOURNMENT: The board observed 10 seconds of silence to remember BONC Commissioner Joy Atkinson. The meeting was adjourned at 9:49 PM.

Minutes by Pat Kramer, AtWork