



“Unity in Our Community”
Joint Public Safety Committee
and Whole Board Meeting
Northridge West Neighborhood
Council



Saturday, October 19, 2019, 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Arts & Crafts Room, Northridge Park Rec. Center

18300 Lemarsh St, Northridge, CA 91325

Committee Chair: Kathleen Edwards

Committee Members: Josh Toscano, Abby Bailes

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Any and all items listed below on the agenda are subject to discussion and possible action.

Meetings may be recorded for minute accuracy.

Minutes:

1. Meeting Call to Order 3:05pm. Roll Call: Committee members present: Joshua Toscano, Abby Bailes, Kathleen Edwards. NWNC Board members present: Gail Lapaz. Glen Wilson arrived 3:12pm. Stakeholders present: Mikkie Loi, student Danicka Crehan, Tom Sheehan, Mrs. Sheehan.
2. Public Comments on non-agenda items within the jurisdiction of this Committee.
 - Mikkie Loi, a liaison with Neighborhood Watch, S.O.L.I.D., and our Senior Lead Officers from Devonshire Division addressed the topic of the Neighborhood Watch organization and that there would be no Basic Car meetings in the months of November and December, but that you may keep advised of any info through the Devonshire, LAPD app.
 - Mikkie also advised that the new date for the S.O.L.I.D., 24th Annual "All You Can Eat Pasta Dinner," LAPD, Devonshire Division fundraiser, that had been postponed due to the Saddleridge Fire, will be held on Friday, 11/1/2019, at the St. Nicolas Greek Church Grande Ballroom, 5:00pm-8:00pm. Open to the public. Tickets: [<https://www.soliddevonshire.org>]
 - Gail Lapaz, a liaison with the West Valley Neighborhood Alliance on Homelessness, addressed some of the stakeholder Public Safety concerns regarding the proposed Supportive Housing Apartments project on Topanga Canyon.
 1. Neighborhood Alliance on Homelessness is composed of interested Stakeholders, and individuals from Neighborhood Councils and Council Districts in the San Fernando Valley.
 2. The City assures stakeholders that the applicants for this housing will be highly scrutinized and vetted before being approved. It is predicted that those chosen to reside in the Topanga apartments are those who may have been priced out of their residences and were living in their cars. It is believed that the chosen applicants will be individuals who 1) have no criminal record, 2) have jobs and are at least partially self-sustainable.
 3. Kathleen questioned the plausibility of the proposed building not having parking spaces. Gail agreed that is an issue for the staff handling the "sustainability agents," working there to assist the tenants in attaining their job, housing, and health stability. Kathleen asked, if ideally applicants have jobs, how will they get to work if there is no parking for them? Gail responded that there is a bus system nearby.
 4. Gail explained that the West Valley They are holding a Jobs fair tentatively at the Freedom Church in Chatsworth on 1/18/2020, and various other events. [wvnah.org], and homeless will be contacted through flyers and direct contact with homeless.



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5. Kathleen stated that Stakeholders will have the opportunity to meet with the developers of the Topanga Supporting Homeless Housing on October 22, 7:00pm at St. John Eudes Church in Chatsworth.

3. Discussion: Sidewalk Vending - Current City “General Rules and Regulations.” Information, updates:
 1. Kathleen stated that the City is currently still working out an updated Rules and Regulations plan for Sidewalk Vendors (‘pop-up vendors’). Stakeholders have complained about the unlawful blocking of sidewalks (per ADA and City law), lack of licensing or permits, sanitation and food contamination, and locations.
 2. Kathleen reported that the City Council made sidewalk vending legal before fully implementing the rules and regulations by which sidewalk vendors could operate. Currently, street vendors are in operation in the absence of a vendor permitting process.
 3. In Council Files, Kathleen read that “of the numerous vendors operating in the City of Los Angeles, 16,000 of them are expected to obtain sidewalk and park vending permits once the program is executed. StreetsLA, Street Services proposes 2 enforcement investigation officers are to be assigned to each quadrant of the City, West Valley, East Valley, North Central, and Bay harbor. [CF 13-1493-S5]
 4. Stakeholder Tom Sheehan commented that the **lighting** on some sidewalk vendor locations are distracting to drivers, as well as some have **loud music**. Kathleen stated that she does not believe that issue is being addressed in the current Council Files.
 5. **It was suggested that the Committee recommend that the NWNC Board consider a CIS regarding Sidewalk Vending, primarily concerning Health safety, quality control, sidewalk clearance, sanitation, zoning, and enforcement.**
 6. It was suggested that the Board request **Speakers** from **LA Streets, Public Health Department**, to speak to these issues. A request to Rana will be make for these **speakers to be added to our Guest Speakers** on a future **Board Agenda**, (with possible Board CIS follow-up)

Chair made the decision to skip to Item 7 discussion. Much of item the item 7 topic was redundant due to a symposium conducted after this Agenda was published. However, regarding RYLAN, “Ready your LA Neighborhood.”

1. Committee discussed the benefit of RYLAN to the community in the event of a broad scale emergency. Neighbors could actually get to know some neighbors, and they would share addresses, phone numbers, number of family members, pets, additional needs with elderly, and info that would provide neighbors to help other neighbors in an emergency.



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2. Committee discussed the possibility of combining the efforts of Neighborhood Watch teams with the RYLAN program. Once established, these groups could network with each other creating a broader scope of emergency aid.
3. It was suggested that we request that **Rana or Kelly** try to **schedule a Watch Captain (or SLO), and a representative from RYLAN** to speak to our stakeholders, at the same meeting. **Mikkie** also suggested **Crisanta Gonzalez** from the **Valley Disaster Management Bureau Coordinator (LA County)** as a possible **speaker**. **We feel these speakers should be scheduled sooner than later**. Ideally, this might be a special meeting, and Abby suggested that the Board participate in distributing flyers to people in the neighborhood, asking them to attend this important Public Safety meeting, with the enticement of receiving a Neighborhood Watch window decal gift at their NWNC meeting attendance.
4. Discussion: Do stakeholders need and want Left-turn signals per Nobel Middle School request at Tampa south and Merridy; at Wilbur (N/S) and Rinaldi; Tampa (N/S) and Chatsworth St.?
 1. Stakeholders and Committee members agreed that the Meriidy and Tampa, North and Southbound, traffic corner needs a Traffic Turn light. It is a serious public safety issue as parents dropping of and picking up students from Nobel Middle School. This is a dangerous turn, without a signal, and a safety issue for both for students and Commuters. Currently, parents are illegally stopping traffic to drop off their Nobel students on Tampa, making it necessary for students to cross heavy traffic to get to school. It was agreed a turn signal at this corner should be a point of focus.
 2. **More research on how this can be done will be through the knowledge and recommendations of CD12, and the Department of Transportation.**
5. Discussion: Nobel Middle School Request for twelve (12) Portable Foldable A-Frame Double Sided Sidewalk Stands to direct parents on proper Drop-off and Pick-up locations for Student safety. Cost from Amazon, no printing: 12 @ \$45.00 ea = \$540.00 + cost of NWNC sticker branding.

Kathleen recounted a conversation in phone call from Jose Galdamez, (after the posting of this Agenda), who instructed her that 1) The purchase would have to be done through an NPG, and that Stickers are no longer permitted on Community Outreach products. She argued that that because there are no crossing guards at this school, that this is a major safety issue, both for students and commuters. She explained to Jose that parents are stopping commuter traffic, and dropping children off on the West side of Tampa, and the signs would be used to direct Parents not to do so, and the proper direction and routes for them to take, and protect commuters from unexpected stops. She questioned why this could not be an Outreach item, as it would benefit the entire community, and would be a positive contribution from NWNC. Jose said no, if it belongs to the school, it would have to be a NPG, and could not be an Outreach item. He said that she (Kathleen), could speak with the NC Funding Rep, Paola Posada, if she liked.

1. Abby said that the school had gotten permission from LAPD to post the signs on the sidewalks on Tampa, and that the school would be responsible for putting them out and picking them up. Gail mentioned that Topeka also could use these signs, for the same reasons.



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2. It was suggested that we try to approach this as a Community Outreach project, purchasing the traffic directing signs both for our event purposes, and loaning them to **all** of the elementary and middle public schools within the NWNC boundaries, as needed.
3. As originally the cost of printing on the signs had in previous discussions were assumed to be the responsibility of the Schools, and not included in the above estimate costs, Abby said she would check into the possible additional signage printing costs.
4. A suggestion for a motion was made by Abby, and Abby left the room before further discussion to avoid a possible conflict of interest, as she has a child attending Nobel. **A motion was made by Kathleen that states that, “We as members of NWNC Board and the Public Safety Committee recommend that the Community Outreach and NWNC Board consider a line budget of up to \$1500 reserved for the purchase of traffic direction signs to be used both for our events and for us to be able to loan them to elementary and middle schools within our NWNC boundaries as a sign of goodwill.” Gail Lapaz seconded the motion. Voting was Gail Lapaz, Glen Wilson, Josh Toscano and Kathleen Edwards. The yes vote was unanimous. Motion passed.**

6. Discussion: Coyote Warning Signs at entrances to Parks, Hiking and Equestrian Trails, and possibility of same signs posted along major thoroughfares in our Stakeholder areas north of Devonshire - Chatsworth Street (between Reseda and Tampa); on Wilbur, Reseda Blvd, Tampa, and Corbin, and on Rinaldi (between Reseda and Corbin, South side.) Likely collaboration with PRNC.

1. Kathleen is talking with Jason Hector about how to get this accomplished without NC monies, through Sharon Bronson, CD12, the Parks & Recs Department, with Porter Ranch Parks and Trails included in the effort. Jason also thinks rattlesnake warning signs should be included at the hiking trails. Kathleen will work Parks and Recs on the availability and appropriate locations for these signs. **Topic to be continued.**

7. (RYLAN was discussed earlier in the meeting)

Chair asked Abby, as Government Affairs Committee Chair, to tap on what a Council File (CF) was and how stakeholders and the NWNC might individually and collectively comment on current proposals that the LA City Council is considering.

1. Abby, explained what a Council File was that the City has currently provided a portal, [CF 13-1493-S8], whereby community and NC members may submit recommendations to the LA city Clerk’s office on posted council files being considered.
2. As an example, it was suggested that the current Sidewalk Vending issue, [CF 13-1493-S5, relating to CA State Bill, SB-946], might be an opportunity for the NWNC Board to submit a CIS or Public Comment on this topic, either as a comment on where the board stands and its recommendations on this issue, or to speak on behalf of our stakeholder’s concerns recommendations. The new Council Comment Portal form can be accessed through the LA City Clerk. [Council File Management System, CFMS; cityclerk.lacity.org/publiccomment]. **Abby said she could draft a**



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CIS recommendation to present to the Executive Committee to be considered by the General Board on the next agenda.

1. Comments by Committee Members on non-agenda items:
 1. Kathleen suggested that the new Airbnb and home sharing ordinances might be of interest to stakeholders as a topic of discussion, as the ordinances have changed.
2. Recommendations by Public Safety Committee members to be forwarded to the Executive Committee for consideration on the November 12, NWNC General Board Meeting Agenda:
 1. **It was suggested that the Committee recommend that the NWNC Board consider a CIS regarding Sidewalk Vending, primarily concerning Health safety, quality control, sidewalk clearance, sanitation, zoning, and enforcement.**
 2. **Motion: We as members of NWNC Board and the Public Safety Committee recommend that the Community Outreach and NWNC Board consider a budget line of up to \$1500 for the purchase of traffic direction signs to be used both for our events and for us to be able to loan them to elementary and middle schools within our NWNC boundaries as a sign of goodwill.**
3. Adjournment: 3:30pm