

Board Members

George Christopher Thomas
Council President & Hon. Mayor

Marlin Medrano
Vice President

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| Veronica Marin | Maria Skelton |
| Jeanette Hopp | Jaklen Keshishyan |
| Josef Lazarovitz | Steve Friedman |
| Vacant Seat #1 | Kathleen Padden |
| John Hendry | John Camera |
| Penny Meyer | Ashley Neyra |
| Michael Browning | Vacant Seat #2 |
| Jeffrey Lynn | Jerry Martin |
| Jason Ackerman | Kathy Schreiner |
| Glenn Epstein | |

Van Nuys Neighborhood Council



Executive Committee Meeting Agenda Wednesday, January 2nd, 2019 6:00pm – 7:30pm

Van Nuys Public Library
6250 Sylmar Ave.
Van Nuys, CA 91401

Van Nuys Neighborhood
Council

P.O. Box 3118
Van Nuys, CA 91404

Telephone: (818) 533-8662
Email: info@vnnc.org
www.vnnc.org

PUBLIC INPUT AT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS – The public is requested to fill out a “Speaker Card” to address the Board on any agenda item before the Board takes an action on an item. Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Board’s jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Board is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future Board meeting. Public comment is limited to 2 minute per speaker, per item, with a maximum total of 10 minutes per speaker, unless adjusted by the Council President and/or facilitator.

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America and Roll Call
2. Officer’s Reports & Other Reports
 - a. President’s Report – What does it mean to be #1 in Los Angeles, and how much work actually goes into making this happen. How to we improve on our status and empower the neighborhood councils in our area and in Los Angeles.
 - b. Vice President’s Report
 - c. Secretary’s Report (Motion to approve December Minutes)
 - i. Discussion and possible action to approve all pending other General Board Meeting Minutes.
 - d. Treasurer’s Report (Motion to approve December Monthly Expenditure Reports)
 - i. Discussion and possible action to approve the other MER’s for all pending months.
3. Discussion of current items for action at the January VNNC General Board Meeting.
 - a. The VNNC to support the following motion, “VNNC asks Corps of Engineers--with SENATOR HERTZBERG and COUNCILPERSON MARTINEZ to allow wildflower planting NOW on east side Sepulveda Dam--along I/405, San Diego Freeway. COST--\$500. LABOR--One VNNC member. APPROVAL REQUIRED? Cardenas,

Martinez, Hertzberg, Corps of Engineers. This to promote speedier "use of Sepulveda Dam rim" as part of "Los Angeles River project". Misplaced emphasis on the river flow and ponds means the Sepulveda Dam rim, which could be level wildflower and native plant trail gets ignored. One "Johnny Appleseed" (John Hendry) is all that's required to plant. Theodore Payne Wildflowers in La Tuna Canyon to provide seed. Chances are 1 in 2 we'd get adequate rain after January 1 for a bright, surprising display by March. And it would be "newspaper" or "tv" publicity per the 100,000 riders in the 405. SENATOR HERTZBERG ought offer support. Twice--at VNNC meetings--Hertzberg has reminisced about his childhood "riding horses" on the Sepulveda Dam rim--from the stables at Sepulveda--Hatteras (till 1975). This is easy, cheap attention for a public purpose. Sepulveda Dam needs the attention. Sepulveda Dam is a piece of LA River much ignored. The combination of the 1938 concrete dam works and the underused 1 mile dam rim (as a walkway) with its Valley wide views have been ignored. The attention the "poppy planting" might get for moving recreation projects (like fixing the walkway as a public trail) well exceeds \$300 in seeds--and a Saturday spent seeding." NTE \$500.

- b. The VNNC to host the City Funding Department for a two-hour training session. The VNNC to go over any and all paperwork, and the process of filing and maintaining all the required government paperwork to run the government. The VNNC to participate in an exchange of ideas with the City Funding Department to better foster a normal working relationship.
- c. The VNNC to host the Office of The City Clerk as part of our "Distinguished Speaker Series" and their election division for a full briefing on what is expected from the council. The VNNC to go over funding of the election, fundraising, and other issues that shall come up between now and election day. (Michael Lektorich -- City of Los Angeles -- Office of the City Clerk - Election Division -- Tel: 213.978.0444)
- d. The VNNC to vote on the 12 restaurants in Van Nuys to participate in the "Taste Of Van Nuys" and reaching out to local businesses. The VNNC to start the tradition of serving the food at 6:30pm so constituents and councilmembers alike can enjoy the food and drink before the start of the General Council Meeting.
- e. The VNNC to reach out to the Federal Government, the USPS, the Smithsonian Institute and the US Postal Museum to consider turning in the Old Post Office at 6200 Van Nuys Blvd a satellite museum for the Smithsonian. The VNNC to request the vacant postal office also become a lecture hall and a facility able to host traveling exhibits.
- f. The VNNC to consider any and all applications to fill the vacant seats of Stacey Rains & Richard Hopp. The VNNC to officially announce the seats are vacant, and shall solicit applications to fill the seats. For the next 60 days, the seats shall remain their original designation, then be changed to AT-LARGE until the next election on May 19th, 2018. <https://vnnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Neighborhood-Council-Candidate-Filing-Form-Van-Nuys-NC.pdf>

- g. The VNNC to official announce the vacant seat of Jaklen Keshishyan. The VNNC to officially announce the seat is vacant, and shall solicit applications to fill the seat. For the next 60 days, the seat shall remain their original designation, then be changed to AT-LARGE until the next election on May 19th, 2018.
- h. Discussion and possible action on the following motion from Councilman John Hendry. Behind NEW FIRE STATION (Oxnard/Vesper) is a former 1920's DWP bldg (now privately owned) with a paint peeling CITY SEAL. The old building's CITY SEAL is a 1920's handmade "squared seal" with different dimensions. The new FIRE STATION echoes the DWP bldg in its terra cotta cladding. Both buildings "say" CITY designed and built. BUT--There's no CITY SEAL on the new station's design. This "squared CITY SEAL" handmade 90 years ago needs protection and restoration. It's the only "squared CITY seal" I've ever seen, it is across Aetna from FIRE STATION. Yes--it's on privately owned bldg--but discussions need be taken to preserve. NTE \$500.
- i. The VNNC to vote on and support a Neighborhood Purposes Grant of \$2,500. The NPG to be used to support our local 501c3 non-profit to reinvest in the community of Van Nuys. The City Funding Department to go over and help the VNNC review and submit the NPG paperwork for Children of the Night. Children of the Night is a privately funded non-profit organization established in 1979 with the specific purpose to provide intervention in the lives of children who are sexually exploited and vulnerable to or involved in prostitution and pornography. Children of the Night is the **only place in America** where a child can call from a seedy motel or truck stop anywhere in the United States, reach a skilled case worker 24/7 who knows how to rescue and relocate a child or young person from a dangerous condition without being arrested by the police and held on **Witness Protection** in solitary confinement until he/she testifies against a pimp/trafficker. Our 24/7 nationwide toll-free case management services are comprehensive and able to help anyone trapped on the streets of our nation. To date, we have placed over 100 of our children and young people in college and 70% are leading successful adult lives. They are TSA workers, Teachers, Therapists, Bankers, Pharmacists and Social Workers. They have families and are members of the mainstream of society. Children of the Night maintains a caseload of over 2500 children and young people on our outpatient case management program. These children receive shelter referrals, medical services, mental health services, psychiatric evaluations, psychotropic medications, application for social security/disability, transportation to other services, placement in independent living programs, transitional housing, maternity homes or substance abuse programs. We advocate for them with their social workers, probation officers, the courts and we provide them with access to accomplished volunteer professionals including dentists, doctors, psychologists, educational advocates and lawyers. NTE \$2500.
- j. The VNNC to vote on and support a Neighborhood Purposes Grant of \$2,500. The NPG to be used to support our local 501c3 non-profit to reinvest in the community of Van Nuys. The City Funding Department to go over and help the VNNC review and submit the NPG paperwork for Valley CARES Family Justice

Center. NTE \$2500. The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) continues to be at the forefront of addressing domestic violence-related crimes. For over thirty years, the Office of the Mayor, the Office of the City Attorney and the LAPD have sought to provide safety and justice to victims of domestic violence and to hold the perpetrators accountable. In 2009, the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) awarded the LAPD a multi-year Law Enforcement Specialized Units Program (LESUP) Grant to develop and implement the Valley Crisis and Recovery Services (CARES) Family Justice Center (FJC) in Van Nuys. The Valley CARES FJC was implemented in 2010 and is the first of its kind in Los Angeles County and the first family justice center in the nation that is based at a private nonprofit hospital with its own specialized forensic domestic violence / sexual assault unit that was made possible by funding from Northridge Hospital Medical Center. The Valley CARES FJC is a unique collaboration and co-location of law enforcement, advocates, criminal and civil legal services, counselors and forensic nurse examiners dedicated to providing wrap around services to victims of domestic violence. For more information about the Valley CARES FJC or to obtain a brochure about the center please call 818-304-8900 or visit the Valley CARES FJC website at www.valleycaresfjc.com. NTE \$2,500.

- k. The VNNC to vote on and support a Neighborhood Purposes Grant of \$2,500. The NPG to be used to support our local 501c3 non-profit to reinvest in the community of Van Nuys. The City Funding Department to go over and help the VNNC review and submit the NPG paperwork for the Jeopardy Program. NTE \$2500. Jeopardy is a nonprofit gang prevention/intervention program that was created by the Los Angeles Police Department in 1991. Designed for boys and girls ages 8 through 17 and their parents, Jeopardy uses a positive approach designed to make lifelong changes in the attitudes of the children who are in "jeopardy" of being drawn into the gang lifestyle. The program assists teachers, parents and the general community in identifying "at-risk children." Police officers and community volunteers provide these children with education on the dangers of gang involvement and the lifelong consequences of their actions. They are also assisted through guidance and positive group activities to help them build their self-esteem and to provide them with the skills they need to become functioning adults in society and most importantly, their families. The Jeopardy program is run and financed entirely by donations, gifts and volunteer efforts. Without the help of local and corporate sponsorships, Jeopardy would not be a reality. Please get involved by donating your time, facilities, resources, or by making a financial contribution. You have the power to make a positive change in a child's life. NTE \$2,500.
- l. The VNNC to vote on and support a Neighborhood Purposes Grant of \$2,500. The NPG to be used to support our local 501c3 non-profit to reinvest in the community of Van Nuys. The City Funding Department to go over and help the VNNC review and submit the NPG paperwork for the Mid-Valley Community Police Council. NTE \$2500. The Mid Valley Community Police Council (MVPC) is a police support group comprised of local community leaders, organizations,

business and professionals that started in 1979. The council initially supported Van Nuys Area police officers and community by providing materials and equipment for Neighborhood Watch programs. It has since grown and today supports a wide range of programs such as Jeopardy ("at risk youths"), Cadet events, and Police Officer training, providing such things as sporting or station equipment (to improve operations). In 1994, the MVCPC chose the refurbishment of the Roll Call Room as its goal, as the room had not been improved since the Police Station had opened in 1964. The roll call room is used by an average of 300 officers daily for briefing prior to starting their patrol duties. The room is also used regularly for training, the Cadet, Neighborhood Watch, and other community meetings. In 1995, the council selected the officer's workout facility as it's major project. This room had not been improved since the station opened. This is an extremely important project because officers need to be in top condition to perform their dangerous job. This room is now considered to be a "state-of-the-art" workout facility. These projects were only possible due to the support of local businesses and area community members. The activities of the council culminate with the "Annual Citizen's Recognition Luncheon." This event is held to honor community members who have assisted the Police Department in apprehending criminals or who have committed a heroic deed. The luncheon not only honors these courageous individuals, but also emphasizes the Mid -Valley Community Police Council's motto that "Crime prevention is everyone's responsibility!" Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month. A presentation is given by a guest speaker on a topic of interest.

- m. The VNNC to vote on and support a Neighborhood Purposes Grant of \$2,500. The NPG to be used to support our local 501c3 non-profit to reinvest in the community of Van Nuys. The City Funding Department to go over and help the VNNC review and submit the NPG paperwork for Hope of The Valley. NTE \$2500. Our goal is to meet the needs of the "whole" person — spiritually, emotionally, and physically. The organization is governed by a skilled and experienced local board of directors comprised of men and women who have a tremendous passion to meet the needs of the hurting in the greater Los Angeles area. In 2009, after serving as Director of another Rescue Mission, Ken Craft started Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission. The initial emphasis of the new organization was to provide emergency services to those in need, especially the homeless in the San Fernando Valley. Hope's first facility was a church in Sun Valley that allowed the Mission to cook meals and serve those in need. NTE \$2,500.
- n. The VNNC to vote on and support a Neighborhood Purposes Grant of \$2,500. The NPG to be used to support our local 501c3 non-profit to reinvest in the community of Van Nuys. The City Funding Department to go over and help the VNNC review and submit the NPG paperwork for L.A.'s Best. NTE \$2500. The afterschool hours — when school's out and many parents are still working — are the time that children are most vulnerable to risky behaviors, crime and the dangers of the streets. These hours are also often a time when children in areas with the greatest needs and fewest resources fall further and further behind their more fortunate peers. It can be a time of missed chances to help students succeed

in school and get equipped with the intellectual and social skills they'll need in the future. But it doesn't have to be that way.

- o. The VNNC to vote on and support a Neighborhood Purposes Grant of \$2,500. The NPG to be used to support our local 501c3 non-profit to reinvest in the community of Van Nuys. The City Funding Department to go over and help the VNNC review and submit the NPG paperwork for Journey Out. NTE \$2500. Journey Out is a Los Angeles-based nonprofit leading the fight for the freedom and survival of all those whose lives have been destroyed by sex trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation. Our mission is to help victims of commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking leave a life of abuse and violence, overcome their fears, and empower them to reach their full potential and achieve their goals. Survival, Hope, Freedom. The three most basic and necessary steps. Survival is leaving the violence and abuse behind. Hope is believing there is better (safer, healthier) way to live. Freedom is knowing you are in control of your life and your future. We provide a multi-faceted support system for those who make the difficult journey out of an existence of abuse and violence. We provide the critical tools and support necessary for women to help them break free from commercial sexual exploitation and rebuild their lives. And, to ensure younger women and girls never enter the life, we provide diversion programs focused on knowledge and empowerment. Every person Journey Out has served is not only an individual success story, but also an illustration of the contribution we make to the fabric of our communities, and to the fast-growing movement to end sexual exploitation. NTE \$2500.
- p. The VNNC to vote on and support a Neighborhood Purposes Grant of \$2,500. The NPG to be used to support our local 501c3 non-profit to reinvest in the community of Van Nuys. The City Funding Department to go over and help the VNNC review and submit the NPG paperwork for the International Order For The Rainbow For Girls. NTE \$2500. We are an organization for girls ages 11-20 run BY girls and supervised by kind and youth-safety trained adults. Rainbow is where YOU can be YOU, where YOU pick the activities, YOU learn to plan them, and YOU gain skills for real life! The discovery of amazing new friends, while developing strong leadership skills, quality character and confidence, paired with the excitement of fun and volunteer events makes an impact that lasts a lifetime. Lots of awards and recognition, scholarships, travel opportunities and state-level leadership positions available! Girls ages 11-20 in the San Fernando Valley. Developing Leadership Skills Volunteering in the community Increasing confidence Providing a safe environment Encouraging quality character Teaching event planning Travel Teaching public speaking Teaching life skills Providing scholarships. NTE \$2500.

- q. The VNNC to vote on and support a Neighborhood Purposes Grant of \$2,500. The NPG to be used to support our local 501c3 non-profit to reinvest in the community of Van Nuys. The City Funding Department to go over and help the VNNC review and submit the NPG paperwork for the National Alliance For Mental Illness (NAMI). NTE \$2500. NAMI-SFV was established by a small group of dedicated volunteers in 1975 as the Central San Fernando Valley Alliance on Mental Illness (AMI), with the aim of helping families and individuals face the challenges of living with mental illness. In July of 2009 our members officially changed our name to NAMI San Fernando Valley and adopted newly revised articles of incorporation and bylaws in accordance with the Nation-wide organization NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness), NAMI California and Los Angeles –area affiliates. This change was envisioned to better align our affiliate with other like-minded organizations. By strengthening our visibility within the community, we are better able to effectively combat stigma and discrimination associated with mental illness. Now as your local NAMI affiliate, *we can connect you to more than 210,000 members in over 1,200 affiliate groups in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Mexico, Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and Guam.* We are proud of having helped countless families over the years and of having been honored and recognized throughout Los Angeles County. We have earned the respect of, and have been recommended by, the Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health and other treatment professionals. We have also received Los Angeles County Supervisor awards for advocacy. NAMI SFV is a California non-profit corporation designated a tax deductible (501-C-3) charitable organization by the Internal Revenue Service. We continue to honor the service and dedication of our founding members as we work to serve our community with vital programs and services, information and resources, hope and help. We also provide opportunities for families and individuals living with mental illness to advocate for change, and to enjoy social interaction and activities, like our annual NAMI WALK. We encourage you to read our Annual Report including our Treasurer’s Report for specifics of services provided to our community in the past year. We welcome you and invite you to become involved as a member, volunteer or donor. Contact us by leaving a voice mail message 818-994-6747 or by email. A volunteer will respond as soon as possible. NTE \$2500.
- r. The VNNC to vote on and support a Neighborhood Purposes Grant of \$2,500. The NPG to be used to support our local 501c3 non-profit to reinvest in the community of Van Nuys. The City Funding Department to go over and help the VNNC review and submit the NPG paperwork for BASTA. NTE \$2500. Founded in 2005, BASTA is now the largest, most comprehensive tenant rights organization in Southern California. We have more than 15 attorneys and 10 staff across four

full-service offices, serving virtually every need of the tenant community (legal or otherwise). BASTA pioneered the strategy of bringing all eviction defense cases to jury trial, which is a right under California's constitution. Rather than having cases decided by a single judge, cases are decided by members of the community — including many tenants. **The strategy works.** BASTA has won more jury trials in eviction cases than all of the other organizations in Southern California combined. At BASTA, we pride ourselves in treating every client's case with the same zealous advocacy that a "big" firm would provide to a paying corporate client. Our unique approach and our universal demand for jury trials has revolutionized the entire eviction legal process. Today, every nonprofit organization in California that represents tenants in eviction defense cases requests a jury trial. After a tumultuous period of generally negating jury trials and several BASTA appeals, trial courts handling eviction cases in Los Angeles County and beyond now recognize tenants' constitutional right to a jury trial — as well as the right of indigent clients to a waiver from depositing jury fees. NTE \$2500.

- s. Any additional items from the General Public or Van Nuys Councilmembers for the agenda. Please in the future submit via email to George.thomas@vnnc.org and have three sentences or around 21 words ready for the agenda.
 - t. The VNNC to support in coordination with Senator Bob Hertzberg & Assemblyman Adrin Nazarian the "Write Your Own Bill with the Van Nuys Council" Campaign. As was discussed at several past General Council Meetings, the Senator and the Assemblyman will support legislation coming from the Van Nuys Council so long as it is a good idea. This is the season for introducing bills, and the VNNC to solicit ideas from the community for legislation.
 - u. The VNNC to create a "Clean Up Committee" to start beautifying the community. The action committee to start at the government center, and expand in a block by block circular fashion to clean up Van Nuys.
 - v. Anything else that may come up or may have been missed by the Chair of the Executive Committee. Additionally, the VNNC to devote several minutes for the "Airing Of Grievances" and calling people out for doing or not doing certain things.
4. General Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items within the Board's Jurisdiction (up to two minutes per speaker)

5. Adjournment

****THE AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT** - As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices and other auxiliary aids and/or services, may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least 3 business days (72 hours) prior to the meeting you wish to attend by contacting VNNC by calling: (818) 533-8662 or via email at: info@vnnc.org

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***PUBLIC ACCESS OF RECORDS** – In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board in advance of a meeting may be viewed , 6262 Van Nuys Blvd, Van Nuys, CA 91401, at our website: <http://www.vnnc.org/> or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact via email: info@vnnc.org

****RECONSIDERATION AND GRIEVANCE PROCESS** - For information on the VNNC's process for board action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy, or any other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the VNNC Bylaws. The Bylaws are available at our Board meetings and our website <http://www.vnnc.org>

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