

Board Members

George Christopher Thomas
Council President & Hon. Mayor

Marlin Medrano
Vice President

Veronica Marin	Maria Skelton
Jeanette Hopp	Vacant Seat #3
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



General Council Meeting Agenda Wednesday, February 13th, 2019 7:00pm – 10:00pm

Marvin Braude Constituent Service
Center – Council Chambers
6262 Van Nuys Blvd.
Van Nuys, CA 91401



Van Nuys Neighborhood
Council

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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, The Pledge of Allegiance, and Roll Call
2. Officer’s Reports, Committee Chair Reports, Elected Official’s Reports & Other Reports
 - a. President’s Report - The Council President will comment on the State of Van Nuys.
 - b. Discussion and possible action to fill the three vacant seats of former Boardmembers Stacey Rains, Richard Hopp and Jaklen Keshishyan. The three seats have been vacant for over sixty days and all three seats will be designated as At-Large Seats until the next General Board Election. <https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Neighborhood-Council-Candidate-Filing-Form-Van-Nuys-NC.pdf>
 - i. Discussion and possible action to appoint Brian Edelman to one of the three At-Large Representative Seats.
 - ii. If Mr. Edelman is appointed, he will take the Oath of Office, recite the Code of Conduct, and take his seat at the Board.

- c. Vice President's Report – The Vice President will update the council and community on the status of all committees and their responsibilities.
 - i. Discussion and possible action to appoint additional Councilmembers or stakeholders to the vacant positions of the VNNC standing committees.
 - ii. Discuss and possible action to appoint a Chair of the Government Affairs & By-Laws Committee.
- d. Secretary's Report
 - i. Discussion and possible action to approve the December 2018 and January 2019 VNNC General Board meeting minutes.
 - ii. Discussion and possible action to correct and resubmit the VNNC administrative packet.
- e. Treasurer's Report
 - i. Discussion and possible action to approve all outstanding MERs for 2018 and the January 2019 MERs.
 - ii. Discussion and possible action to approve the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 inventory.
 - iii. Discussion and possible action on approval and status of Boardmember reimbursements.

Ms. Skelton	Board Retreat Food	\$35.93
Ms. Hopp	GBMs Printing	\$179.86
Ms. Hopp	GBM Food	\$150.00
Mr. Thomas	Movies in the Park	\$93.12
Mr. Thomas	Clean-up Food	\$140.00
Mr. Thomas	GMB February	\$82.46
	Total	\$681.37

- f. Committee Chair Reports
- g. Election Committee Update and Report

3. Consent Calendar

- a. Discussion and possible action to support and have an outreach booth at the annual Arbor Day event being held in Van Nuys. This year, Arbor Day LA 2019 will be here in Van Nuys at the Van Nuys Recreation Center on Saturday, March 9, 2019. Arbor Day is a community resource fair and tree planting celebration where 160+ street trees will be planted by non-profit planting partners and volunteers the day of the event. Rachel O'Leary from City Plants will connect and

Speak with the VNNC. Additionally, the VNNC will propose to host an official tree planting ceremony and plant trees in and around the Government Center.

- b. Discussion and possible action to submit a Community Impact Statement on the following: ([Council File 17-1315](#)) Whereas, the Dwarf Planet known as Sedna is the second furthest known dwarf planet in the solar system and the second most red object in the Solar System after Mars. Whereas, the solar orbit of Sedna is calculated at around 11,400 years. With an aphelion [furthest point of its orbit] estimated at 937 AU [1AU = the distance between Earth and the Sun, 937 AU is roughly 31 times the distance of Neptune] and a perihelion [closest point in its orbit] at about 76 AU, which it will reach in the year 2070. Whereas, the last time Sedna was this close, humans had just domesticated their first fruit tree (the Fig Tree), this opportunity is not just a once in a life time event but a once in a geological epoch, which might very well be the only foreseeable window in the existence of our species where we have the resources and knowledge to reach this object for study. Whereas, reaching Sedna at its perihelion in the year 2070 would take the fastest current spacecraft an estimated 25 years and there are no known plans at NASA or any other private or public space agency to meet this deadline to do so; Whereas the Van Nuys Neighborhood Council has no doubt that given access to robust STEAM education and funding that our Children and their children will be fully capable of building and tracking a spacecraft that will reach Sedna by 2070. Therefore Be It So Resolved that the Van Nuys Neighborhood Council calls on the United States Congress to invest heavily in science technology engineering arts and Mathematics education that will prepare the current Generation of students in Van Nuys to become the next generation of celestial explorers who will design, build and maintain the spacecraft(s) and software that will allow us to reach Sedna. Be It Further Resolved, The Van Nuys Neighborhood Council implores the United States Congress to divert funds from non-scientific elements of the defense budget to resort NASA spending to no less than 1% of GDP by 2025.
- c. Discussion and possible action to support the efforts of the LAPD Van Nuys Division to create a mural on the front of the LAPD Station. The VNNC to reach out to the offices of David Ryu, Nury Martinez, and Paul Krekorian to assist in this endeavor. The VNNC to also include the leadership of the Mid Valley Community Police Council (MVCPC) and the Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB) to help fund this mural.
- d. Discussion and possible action to support the efforts of Valley College, California State university Northridge (CSUN) and Pierce College to establish the first "Teacher's Hospital" in the San Fernando Valley. This teaching hospital will educate the generations to come that choose the medical profession as their vocation.
- e. Discussion and possible action to support the government program known as ARM, the Asteroid Realignment Mission. Moreover, the VNNC to request additional funding from the Federal Government for this program, as well as STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education in all of our schools in Van Nuys. Additionally, the VNNC to host an interplanetary defense initiative town

hall with the Jet Propulsion Lab (JPL) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). The VNNC to also reach out to our local San Fernando Valley Congressman Brad Sherman for assistance, as Mr. Sherman is a senior ranking member of the Science Committee in the House of Representatives. The VNNC to also start participating in "Asteroid Day."

- f. Discussion and possible action to nominate Amsterdam in The Netherlands as our official "Sister City." The VNNC to highlight the history of Van Nuys by making In accordance with policy and procedure to work with City Hall staff to streamline the timeframe of action and expedite paperwork. The VNNC recognizes that Isaac Newton Van Nuys came from a little Dutch town called Nuis, and this was a northerly suburb of Amsterdam.
- g. Discussion and possible action for the VNNC to take the position that there shall be no blanket prohibition of road diets or road calming measures. The VNNC recognizes the beneficial effects of a road diet and road calming measures along certain corridors. Communities that will be impacted with a potential road diet, including Neighborhood Councils, shall be consulted extensively about Public Safety and other pertinent issues both before and after road diets or other road calming measures are implemented.

DEFINITIONS: A ROAD DIET is generally defined as removing vehicle lanes from a roadway and reallocating the extra space for other uses or travelling modes, such as parking, sidewalks, bicycle lanes, transit use, turn lanes, medians or pedestrian refuge islands.

ROAD (TRAFFIC) CALMING uses physical design and other measures to improve safety for motorists, pedestrians and cyclists. It aims to encourage safer, more responsible driving and potentially reduce traffic flow. Urban planners and traffic engineers have many strategies for traffic calming, including narrowed roads and speed humps. TRAFFIC CALMING refers to improving street features to reduce the negative effects of speeding and cut-through traffic while enhancing safety for pedestrians and bicyclists. These efforts are typically aimed at reducing vehicle speeds and/or the volume of non-local traffic in residential areas.

- h. Discussion and possible action for the VNNV to strongly oppose any action of the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC) to impinge upon the rights of Neighborhood Councilmembers to free association. On the BONC's February 5, 2019 agenda, item #12 Discussion and possible action to create the Ad Hoc Committee to establish a policy to define and create standardized guidelines and rules for Neighborhood Council Alliances. Alliances are not under the jurisdiction of BONC and are a way for Neighborhood Councilmembers, from different Councils, to freely associate, create, and discuss city-wide and regional issues facing their stakeholders.
- i. Discussion and possible action for the VNNC to strongly oppose the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC) to use Ad Hoc committees to discuss the business of Neighborhood Councils. The Neighborhood Council system is built on transparency and communication and BONC Ad Hoc committees do not have to

comply with the Ralph M. Brown Act and does not allow for the public or Neighborhood Councils to weigh in on the subject.

- j. Discussion and possible action for the VNNC to strongly SUPPORT and file a Community Impact Statement (CIS) on Council File [19-0046](#) (Developer Contribution Restrictions – Ryu, Krekorian, Koretz, Martinez, Bonin, and Buscaino) to reform the Los Angeles City campaign finance system in order to reduce the influence of developer interests at City Hall and urges the Los Angeles City Council to schedule this item and approve it as soon as possible. Reform is necessary as developers have a clear financial interest in influencing City Hall to generate land use decisions that will benefit their projects. In 2011, the City approved Measure H, which limited campaign donations from contractors doing business or bidding to do business with the City, due to the clear financial conflict of interest. A similar concern exists with real estate developments where discretionary action required by the City is part of the planning process and incentivizes developers to donate to political campaigns in the hope of partial treatment. Whether the influence gained is merely perceived or real, the citizens of Los Angeles, like with Measure H, have a clear “anticorruption and anticircumvention interest” in prohibiting this activity. This ordinance would restore trust in the city planning process and has been upheld for similar bans by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.
 - k. Discussion and possible action to support and participate in the 11th annual Senior Symposium & Job Fair on Saturday, May 18th, 2019 at ONEgeneration Senior Enrichment Center.
4. Discussion and possible action of current items at the February VNNC General Board Meeting.
- a. Discussion and possible action for the VNNC to begin reaching out to our community partners in Van Nuys and in doing so, the VNNC will create the new “Non-profit Organization of The Month” series. Each month, a new non-profit will be invited to come and introduce themselves before the council. This month’s non-profit will be Life Sail Inc. LSI is an all Year, After School & Community Sailing Program US-Sailing Reach / STEM oriented, Winter Boat Building & Leadership development program, Summer Sailing Camps, Weekend Adventure Camps, Dinghy & Keelboat sailing.
 - b. Discussion and possible action to approve a Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) for the San Fernando Valley Partnership (SFVP). The SFVP is requesting \$500.00 for the purchase of lunch for the 100+ individuals anticipated to be present at a job fair in the February co-sponsored by the Office of Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian.
 - c. Discussion and possible action to approve a Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) for the Valley Emergency Preparedness Expo for \$2500 in the San Fernando Valley.

d. Discussion and possible action to support the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils mixer on March 14th, 2019 at the CBS Studios in Studio City by contributing to the mixer for food. NTE \$250.00

5. General Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items within the Board's Jurisdiction (up to two minutes per speaker)

6. 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

****PUBLIC POSTING OF AGENDAS** – VNNC agendas are posted publicly near the front door to the conference room of the Marvin Braude Constituents Building, 6262 Van Nuys Blvd, Van Nuys, CA 91401 and also online at www.vnnc.org You can also receive our agendas via email by subscribing to L.A. City's Early Notification System at <https://www.lacity.org/subscriptions>

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****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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