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Van Nuys Neighborhood Council



Van Nuys Neighborhood Council General Board Meeting Approved Minutes Wednesday, June 14, 2023



Van Nuys Neighborhood Council
P.O. Box 3118
Van Nuys, CA 91407-3118

Email: info@vnnc.org
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1. **Roll Call – Pledge of Allegiance** The meeting was called to order at 7:06PM by President Schreiner. The roll was called by John Hendry. The Pledge was led by John Camera. Brian Edelman gave instructions for public comment and how time keeping will take place.

VNNC ITEM 1. Roll Call	
Present –12	Absent-03
Schreiner, Vijayan, Hendry, Febre, Bolla, Azatyan, Browning, Camera, Edelman, Harari, Makiri, Nkuku	Rouillard, Thatch, Vaughan

2. **Reports from Government officials:**

- a. LAPD Van Nuys Division - <https://vnnc.org/resource/> Senior Lead Officer (SLO) Lara, LAPD reported that in the last four weeks there has been a decrease in violent crime of 10% and an increase of property crimes. Most of the property crime has been retail theft and property from motor vehicles. There will be a few events in the community: Pride Event on June 24th from 12:00PM and it will be a march and Block Party at the Courthouse courtyard. LAPD has been working with LASHA for the homeless and to remind residents to use 311 to report homelessness. Residents can also find information at the LA Hop website.
- b. LAFD Deputy Battalion Chief Mullin July 4th is fast approaching. Fireworks are illegal in the City of Los Angeles. Be careful. In the city there have been 22 drownings this year with 11 in the San Fernando Valley. Wear a life jacket. Learn CPR. Know the risks of natural waters, i.e., lakes and streams. Avoid alcohol, Use the buddy system. The winter has been a very wet season causing brush to grow. Perform brush clearance around your homes to protect them during brush fire season. Call 911 if you need assistance.
- c. Council District 2 –Cairo Rodríguez cairo.rodriguez@lacity.org 818-755-7676 reported that the Councilmember is very sad about the charges against Curren Price and will have the Council determine what will happen to the seat of CD9. The Councilmember will be hosting 10 free concerts and movies in the park. More information can be found on the website.
- d. Council District 4 – Ryan Ahari ryan.ahari@lacity.org 213-473-7004 written report was presented by Suju. On

May 26, Mayor Karen Bass signed the City's budget which was passed by City Council. Here are some of the highlights from the upcoming budget. HOMELESSNESS WINS: Historic budget for homelessness. The budget sets a historic mark by increasing commitments to nearly \$1.3 billion to end the homelessness crisis. The budget provides \$250 million to scale up Inside Safe to bring more people inside from encampments. The key areas of the budget for Inside Safe: \$110M allocated to temporary stays, \$62M allocated to homelessness support services such as case management, \$47M allocated to acquire motels and hotels to reduce future program costs. \$21M allocated to permanent housing and includes transition and set-up of permanent housing, as well as 12 months of rental assistance. The budget sets aside \$10M for staff, including directors and property managers as well as administrative funding for service providers. City-wide approach to homelessness \$3M to launch a city-wide RV program (based on our motion!) To provide services and assistance to people experiencing RV homelessness HOUSING WINS: \$72M for the acquisition and rehabilitation of affordable housing. \$25M for eviction defense programs to prevent illegal evictions. \$25M in support for rent-burdened at-risk seniors and people with disabilities. \$12M to enforce anti-tenant harassment policies to hold bad landlords accountable. \$20M for short-term emergency rental assistance, and \$6 million for tenant outreach and education to prevent families from falling into homelessness.

- e. Council District 6 – Jonah Glickman jonah.glickman@lacity.org No report.
- f. LA Metro – Ron Macias, report on the G Line (Orange) Improvements Project MaciasR@metro.net 213.792.6893 reported on the G line improvement project that will be going under construction in the community in the near future. The line is currently running as a bus line on a dedicated roadway. Metro will be improving service and safety of the line. There are four main components of the project. The first is 4-way, railroad style gates installed at intersections. The second is converting two at grade stations to make them above ground stations. The third is the bike path improvement. The fourth improvement is storm water control and utility improvements.
- g. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) - Lorenzo Briceno lorenzo.briceno@lacity.org (213) 978-1551 reviewed his monthly report:

CONFLICT OF INTEREST ANNOUNCEMENT

Any Board Member, committee member (including stakeholder committee members) who may have a conflict of interest and has not consulted with the Office of the City Attorney should move to have the matter tabled until the next meeting so that the Board Member has an opportunity to consult with the City Attorney's Office. If the Board declines to table the matter, the Board Member may want to consider recusal prior to the matter being discussed. If choosing to recuse, the Board Member should state for the record, all reasons for the recusal and that they will be leaving the meeting during the discussion and voting. Because recusal may not always be sufficient, tabling of the matter at issue is always preferred to allow time for the Board Member to consult with the City Attorney's Office.

Here are some highlights from the Department's [Monthly Update](#). Please be sure to review your Neighborhood Council's Update Report for additional and NC specific updates.

SB411

Update on SB411 and Information Session w/Senator Portantino

At the May 15th Senate Meeting - SB 411 was passed with amendments with a vote of 30 yeas, 5 nays, and 5 abstentions. it will now be referred to the Assembly. You can track SB 411 using this [link](#). On Wednesday, June 7th 5:30pm. The Department hosted an SB411 Information Session w/Senator Portantino. The Senator gave an update on SB411 and ways you can track the bill.

For those of you that want to provide feedback on the bill, please remember as stated in our April 12, 2023 [newsletter](#): While Neighborhood Councils are advisory on City of Los Angeles matters, Neighborhood Council members may share comments in writing or by phone on SB411 as individuals. They can preface their comments by stating that they are sharing their thoughts as individuals, and include their NC affiliation for identification purposes. If SB411 continues through the State legislative process, Neighborhood Councils may also take action as a board to send a letter to their City elected officials, explaining their perspective on this bill and asking their representatives for their support on this matter.

Congress of Neighborhoods

Planning for the 2023 Los Angeles Congress of Neighborhoods, the largest annual gathering of Neighborhood Councils, is ramping up! The Planning Committee invites you to get involved in this year's event, which will take place **in-person on Saturday, September 23 at City Hall and is free and open to the public:**

- [Click here](#) to take our pre-planning survey so we can put on an event that meets your needs as Neighborhood Council leaders.
- Consider having your Neighborhood Council be a sponsor for this year's event. [Click here](#) to learn more.
- Consider [joining the Planning Committee](#) or a Subcommittee to help plan this year's amazing event!

We look forward to seeing everyone in September and sharing further updates with our Neighborhood Councils as we approach the big day. For further information, visit neighborhoodcongress.la or email info@neighborhoodcongress.la

Community Impact Statement (CIS) Dashboard update

The Department is excited to share that we partnered with the Information Technology Agency to create a new Community Impact Statement (CIS) Portal. We had a feedback session to share the enhancements to the new Portal and review the new CIS Dashboard on March 23, 2023. The new CIS Dashboard will give individuals options to sort by NC, Council File, vote, year, and date. If you would like to see the presentation, you can review it [here](#).

There will be another feedback session this Thursday, April 27th at 6pm. You can register [here](#). The portal is ready to be launched in May but we will need your assistance. We need to first confirm who are the filer(s) for your Neighborhood Council. We also wanted to let you know that we have added the following Commissions to the CIS portal:

- Disabled Access Appeals Commission
- Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles
- Board of Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System
- Memorial Coliseum Commission
- Metropolitan Water District of Southern Californian
- Native American Indian Commission
- Climate Emergency Mobilization Commission

Tech Tips:

When an email is received regarding a voicemail attachment or a link to view a photo, please do not click on the link or the attachment. Guidance on how to handle these types of emails were provided to the

NEAs to share with their NC's so we can stay cyber safe. If you are ever in doubt regarding emails that look suspicious, please always either Report Phishing, Delete the Message or Report it Spam.

City Clerk Funding:

End-of-Fiscal Year Deadlines

As a reminder, we are now in the 4th and last quarter of the Fiscal Year. Please be aware of the following deadlines impacting use of your NC funds as we approach the end of the Fiscal Year:

- **May 20, 2023 - Final date to submit an Event Approval Request**
- **June 1, 2023 - Final date to submit a check payment request**
- **June 20, 2023 - Final date for bank card transactions**

Rollover of Funds

Please refer to Policy 1.1.3, Annual Budget Funds Rollover, in the Policies and Guidelines Handbook for more information on NC's ability to roll over funds at the end of the Fiscal Year. NCs are able to roll over up to \$10,000 from one Fiscal Year to the next, on a non-cumulative basis. Non-cumulative means no more than \$10,000 may be rolled over and added each year to the City's annual budget allocation for each NC.

An NC is INELIGIBLE to receive rollover funds if any of the following apply:

1. In Exhaustive E
2. efforts status as determined by DONE;
3. Funds are in "frozen" status, i.e., due to missing Monthly Expenditure Reports;
4. The current sitting Treasurer and Bank Cardholder are not in good standing per Program Policy

The Admin Packet

The Administrative Packet for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2023-2024 is now available. The Admin Packet allows your Board to plan and create its annual budget, assign its Financial Officers, and confirm any administrative/operational services, i.e., storage space, website support, for the upcoming Fiscal Year. Please visit our website ([click here](#)) to download the Packet. You'll find it in the Documents and Forms - Funding Request Documents section.

NC Funding Training

If your Neighborhood Council will appoint new financial officers for the next fiscal year, any interested board members are highly encouraged to complete the NC Financial Officer Training prior to seeking or being appointed. This will provide uninterrupted access to NC fiscal year funding.

April Training Dates:

1. NC Financial Officer Funding System Portal Training Tuesday, June 23, 2023, 6pm - 8pm
2. Fiscal Year Administrative Packet/Annual Budget Form Thursday, June 29, 2023, 6pm - 7:30pm

Please RSVP at our website [HERE](#)

The NC Funding Program training sessions are open to all Board members as well as stakeholders. These are the required training for board members serving as Financial Officers (Treasurer, 2nd Signer, Bank Cardholder, Alternate Signer). Other Board members may also complete the training online on Cornerstone. Feel free to reach out to me if you have trouble logging in Cornerstone.

ENS Subscribers

Here is a [spreadsheet](#) with the # of ENS subscribers for each neighborhood council Find guiding documents in the Empowering Tools and Tips section under the Workshops and Training page on our website: <https://empowerla.org/workshops-trainings/>

- h. Mayor's office – Michelle Vergara michelle.vergara@lacity.org (213) 400-9816 reported that the Mayor's Office has been working with LAPD and LAFD on the fireworks. There is a complaint system available to log complaints about fireworks, but it is only for Apple users. Councilmember Rodriguez will be sponsoring a fireworks buyback program on July 1st and will be the only buyback program in the San Fernando Valley. There will also be a drone show on July 2nd at Hansen Dam and is free to attend. The Mayor's Office is also sponsoring the Pride Event. More information at www.SFVPride.org.
- i. Los Angeles County 3rd District (Lindsay Horvath) – No report
- j. Assembly District 46 (Jesse Gabriel) – Alberto Vargas alberto.vargas@asm.ca.gov 818-346-4521 reported that he is the area representative. There are currently 18 bills working their way through the process with most now in the Senate and the Legislature is a month away from summer recess. There are three bills that the member is watching. Food safety, a firearm tax, and an extension of the Al Fresco bill.
- k. Senate District 20 (Caroline Menjivar) -- Brandon Gonzalez No report.
- l. California Congressional District 29 - Osvaldo Ramirez osvaldo.ramirez@mail.house.gov reported on the legislative bills that the Congressman is working on and the House is working on the budget. If you have an issue with any Federal agencies, contact the office.
- m. LA County Probation Department – Mel Bailey mel.bailey@probation.lacounty.gov No report.
- n. **Public comment: Mr. Hopp**

3. 7:30 pm. One-hour Conversation with CD 6 Candidates: Marissa Alcaez and Imelda Padilla

- a. Candidate Opening Remarks.
- b. Candidates will provide 2-minute responses to questions that have been submitted in writing – including questions from VNNC Boardmembers and questions from Stakeholders.
- c. Candidate Closing Remarks.
- d. Format of the Conversation

VNNC CD6 CANDIDATES FORUM - 6.14.23

FORMAT

- 2 mins intro from each candidate (Brian - pls keep time) - Alcaez then Padilla
- Board questions - 2 min answers max - alternate which candidate goes first
- Community questions - 2 min answers max - alternate which candidate goes first
- Final wrap up - 1 min/candidate - alternate which candidate goes first
- Public comment

BOARD QUESTIONS

- Van Nuys Blvd. was once a thriving shopping district and an attractive street. It has deteriorated greatly over the years. It is filled with closed up stores, cluttered with debris, and occupied by many homeless individuals. What are three concrete steps you would take to improve the quality of the Van Nuys Blvd. business district over the next 5 years in general but specifically in preparation for new transit lines and foot traffic?
- Blacks suffer the most hate crimes in Van Nuys, what will you do to change that?
- The NC budget is limited and we can't afford things like, for instance, a Spanish language translator, which is something we really should have. Do you think we should increase the NC budget? Regardless, in your view, what is the best way that Neighborhood Councils can spend their \$32,000 budget? What is the best way for the Van Nuys Neighborhood Council to spend this money?

- Sepulveda Pass Question (David): Regarding the proposed Sepulveda Pass Metro Rail project; only 2 of the 6 proposed routes include a 'beneath ground' option along Sepulveda Blvd. in the Valley. Last year this NC submitted a CIS endorsing only the below ground option due the potential impact of an above ground train structure to the neighborhood. How can you ensure Metro actually listens to the local NC's and considers not just the needs of wealthier neighborhoods on the other side of the Hill? Which proposed route do you prefer?
- Corruption continues to roil City Council - most recently with the charges against CM Curren Price. Everyone has talked endlessly about how to fix this - and you've both come out in favor of reform - but what can you promise us personally if you are elected to Council? How can we trust you to be different?

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

- From constituent Lionel Mares: If elected, how will you work with Neighborhood Councils in Council District 6? Will you be willing to meet with NC leaders either in person or virtually to discuss local district issues such as the lack of Bicycle infrastructure? Lack of Shade Trees? Lack of Stormwater Capture/Flood Control? Vision Zero/Traffic Calming? Pollution?
- From: The Daily Sundial (CSUN) - The unsheltered population is a serious problem that faces the community you wish to represent. Can you please explain your vision/plan to solve this issue?
- From: The Daily Sundial (CSUN) - Regarding Public Safety, how will you work with local leaders and law enforcement to make people feel safe in their neighborhoods?
- From: The Daily Sundial (CSUN) - How does your Latino background shape the way you connect with constituents in District 6?
- From the Africans in America Alliance: Would you describe your commitment and plans to wholeheartedly collaborate with the African American communities in the District, valuing their perspectives and ensuring they are equipped with the necessary information to enable effective governance. During your campaign, what proactive steps have you taken to engage with the African, Caribbean, and African American communities to understand their unique challenges, aspirations, and hopes for the District?
- From the Africans in America Alliance: How will you make genuine efforts to include individuals from African, Caribbean, and African American backgrounds at all levels, including field deputies, thereby ensuring that their voices are heard and respected? Furthermore, are you open to appointing highly qualified individuals from the African, Caribbean, and African American communities as one of the two distinct officials, solidifying your intentionality and commitment to a more representative and equitable governance structure?
- From Zoila Perez: I would like to find out what you think about Proposition 39 co-locating charter schools in public schools which does not benefit our children who attend public school. Far from it, it affects them because they have less space at school that belongs to them. NOTE: we understand that the City Council does not oversee LAUSD, but interested in your thoughts.

e. **Public comments Mr. Marez, Mr. Hopp, Lionel Mares, Brian Patton**

President Schreiner recessed the meeting at 8:42PM.

President Schreiner resumed the meeting at 8:54PM.

4. Executive Reports

a. President

- i. Status of SB 411 (Portantino) regarding allowing Neighborhood Councils to have a have choice to hold virtual meetings and link to recorded June 7th Zoom conversation with State Senator Portantino, sponsored by Empower LA: *From Thomas Soong of DONE: Here is last night's recording for the [SB411 Info Session w/Senator Portantino](#). This recording, the attached PowerPoint, and the "How a Bill Becomes a Law" document will be loaded on our [workshops pages](#) shortly.*
- ii. LANCC (Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition) is developing a proposed "Bill of Rights" for Neighborhood Councils and is seeking input. See Attachment A.
- iii. Virtual Budget Day on June 17th, sponsored by the Budget Advocates.
- iv. VNNC participation in Juneteenth event on Saturday, June 17th at Woodley Park.

- v. Sepulveda Basin Vision Plan Community Meeting on June 20th at 6 p.m. at the Mid- Valley YMCA.
- b. Vice President Vijayan no report
- c. Secretary Hendry no report
- d. Treasurer Febre thanked the Board as this was her last meeting. She asked someone to step up to be treasurer.
- e. Parliamentarian Bolla stated that the Board needs to be proactive on the By-laws and stated that she was resigning from the By-laws Committee.
- f. **Public comment: Mr. Marez, Goat Puppet, Mr. Hopp**

5. **Consent Agenda**

- a. Approval of April 12th General Board Meeting minutes https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/VNNC_GBM_Draft_Minutes_04122023_Rev.pdf
- b. Approval of May 10th General Board Meeting minutes https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/VNNC_GBM_Draft_Minutes_05102023_Rev.pdf

Public Comment: Mr. Marez, Goat Puppet

Motion: Passed

VNNC. Agenda Item 5. Approval of consent calendar. Moved: Febre Seconded: Edelman				
Yes –12	No-00	Abstain-00	Ineligible-00	Absent-03
Schreiner, Vijayan, Hendry, Febre, Bolla, Azatyan, Browning, Camera, Edelman, Harari, Makiri, Nkuku	None	None	None	Rouillard, Thatch, Vaughan

6. General Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items: **Mr. Marez, Goat Puppet, Mr. Hopp, Brian Patton, Lionel Mares**

- 7. Discussion and possible action to approve the April MER and the May MER. <https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/VNNC-MER-April-2023.pdf> <https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/VNNC-May-MER.pdf>

The May 2023 MER will be voted on at the July meeting.

Public Comment: Mr. Hopp

Motion: Passed

VNNC. Agenda Item 7. Approval of the VNNC April 2023 MER. Moved: Browning Seconded: Edelman				
Yes –12	No-00	Abstain-00	Ineligible-00	Absent-03
Schreiner, Vijayan, Hendry, Febre, Bolla, Azatyan, Browning, Camera, Edelman, Harari, Makiri, Nkuku	None	None	None	Rouillard, Thatch, Vaughan

- 8. Discussion about whether to hold committee meetings in locations other than the Braude Center, including identification of possible locations and requirements to reserve each location. **No action taken.**

Public comment: Mr. Hopp

- 9. Discussion of a process for transitioning the Board members who will complete their terms on June 30th and welcoming and seating the newly elected and renewing individuals who will join the Board once the election is certified. **No action taken.**

Public comment: Mr. Marez, Goat Puppet

10. VNNC Election Activities Michael Browning reviewed the election process.

a. **Critical Dates for VNNC Election Process**

- i. The VNNC **in-person voting** will take place on **Thursday, June 22, 2023** from 11:00AM to 5:00PM outdoors behind Van Nuys City Hall.
- ii. **VBM ballots will be mailed out** on May 18, 2023 and must be returned and postmarked by election day and received no later than July 2, 2023 in order to be counted

b. Welcome any candidates in attendance who are not currently serving on the Board to each provide a 2-minute self-introduction. David Kopelev, Brian Patton

Public comment: Goat Puppet, Mr. Hopp, Mr. Marez

11. Adjournment Moved: Browning Seconded: Edelman Meeting was adjourned at with no objection. 9:57PM.

Submitted by Terrence Gomes

ATTACHMENT A

From LANCC (Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition)

Declaration of Neighborhood Council Rights

Whereas, the people of the City of Los Angeles enacted, in the charter of 1999, a system of Neighborhood Councils, whose missions are “to promote more citizen participation in government and make government more responsive to local needs” and,

Whereas, in order to fulfill these missions, Neighborhood Councils must be empowered to operate as independently as possible of the City’s officials and agencies and not subject to undue influence or control by those officials and agencies,

Therefore, the Neighborhood Councils of the City of Los Angeles declare:

Neighborhood Councils’ Boardmembers are elected officials of the City of Los Angeles.

The method by which Boardmembers are chosen shall be determined solely by the Bylaws of each Neighborhood Council.

The sole authority to censure, suspend, remove, or otherwise discipline a Boardmember is vested in the Neighborhood Council of which that individual is a Boardmember.

Each Board shall determine the composition of its Bylaws and no other agency or commission of the City, with the exception of Board composition and boundaries of the Neighborhood Council, may alter or amend those Bylaws following initial Council certification and approval by the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners.

No official or agency of the City of Los Angeles may delay or otherwise impede the action of a Neighborhood Council to amend its Bylaws or rules.

Neighborhood Councils shall be meaningfully consulted prior to the appointment of individuals to the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners and the appointment of any individual as the general manager of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment.

May 28, 2023