

Van Nuys Neighborhood Council



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John Camera
Josue Chavez
Quirino de la Cuesta
Brian Edelman
Ann Kalb
David Kopelev
Jarred Piña
Britt Vaughan
Cyle Zezotarski

Van Nuys Neighborhood Council General Board Meeting AGENDA

Wednesday, April 10, 2024
7:00PM

Conference room of the
Marvin Braude Constituents
Building, 6262 Van Nuys Blvd,
Van Nuys, CA 91401

(SE corner of Van Nuys Blvd. and
Sylvan St.)

Van Nuys
Neighborhood Council
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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 a maximum of 2 minutes per speaker per item with a maximum of 10 minutes total per meeting, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the Board. **Actual time for each comment will be recorded in 30 second increments (i.e., 30 sec., 1 min., 90 sec., 2 min.).**

Speakers shall limit their comments to matters relevant to the item on the agenda. The Chair may rule that the speaker is out of order if the comments are not germane to the item under consideration. Speakers shall direct their comments to the Board (not to an individual).

1. Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance

2. Reports from Government officials: (2 min each)

NOTE: Board questions and public comments will take place after all government official reports have been made.

- LAPD Van Nuys Division - <https://vnnc.org/resource/>
NOTE: SLOs are not available. David Kopelev will present their report.
- LAFD Station 39
- Council District 2 –Arus Grigoryan arus.grigoryan@lacity.org 818-210-1504 (cell)
- Council District 4 – Ryan Ahari ryan.ahari@lacity.org 213-473-7004
- Council District 6 – Brian Patton brian.patton@lacity.org Office: (818) 778-4999, Cell: (818) 270-1931
- Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) – Alfonso Manzo alfonso.manzo@lacity.org
- Mayor’s office – Betsaira Aguilera betsaira.aguilera@lacity.org (213) 257-0224
- Los Angeles County 3rd District (Lindsay Horvath) –
- Assembly District 46 (Jesse Gabriel) – Clarissa Gomez Clarissa.Gomez@asm.ca.gov
- Senate District 20 (Caroline Menjivar) – Jasmin Hernandez jasmin.hernandez@sen.ca.gov
- California Congressional District 29 – Laura Juarez laura.juarez@mail.house.gov

3. Information sharing by three Cannabis Retail Businesses that are receiving approval of a Business license by the City Department of Cannabis Regulation (DCR).

(NOTE: Comments only after all presentations have been made.)

- The Green Earth Farmacie, Inc., 7756 N. Burnet Ave., Van Nuys 91405
- Valley Herbal Center, Inc., 14542 W. Victory Blvd, Van Nuys, CA 91411
- 14901 Sherman Way LLC, 14903 W. Sherman Way Blvd., Van Nuys, CA 91405

NOTE: Information about the DCR Annual Licensing process can be found at:

<https://cannabis.lacity.gov/licensing/annual-licensing/annual-licensing#Complete>

For summary of process steps, see page 8 of agenda.

For links to DCR staff reports on these three businesses, see items 15, 16, and 17 on the 4/4/2024 agenda of the Cannabis Regulation Commission:

<https://cannabis.lacity.gov/sites/g/files/wph1726/files/2024-04/04.04.24%20Agenda.pdf>

4. Officer Reports

a. President

-- A printed copy of VNNC General Board Meeting agendas and linked files can be reviewed in a reference notebook that will be located at the Van Nuys Branch Library – recently updated with 2/28 and 4/10 Board agendas

-- For information on upcoming local events and services, look under the Events list on the right side of the homepage of the vnn.org website.

-- DONE recently notified all VNNC Board Members that **by June 3rd** they need to take the new Gender Expression and Gender Identity Training (1 hr.), plus read and acknowledge the new Code of Conduct document (5 min.). Training is available on Cornerstone.

-- Openings for a Homeless Liaison; a Budget Representative; and a Regional Grievance Panelist

-- Comments on City Clerk's draft handbook and timeline for 2025 NC Elections are due by May 5, 2024.

b. Vice-President

c. Secretary

d. Treasurer

e. Parliamentarian

5. General Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items – maximum of 2 min per stakeholder
(Note that topics discussed must be within the jurisdiction of the VNNC.)

6. Action item from the Outreach Committee requiring a roll call vote.

Discussion and possible action on a motion to give Wendy Moore (of Moore Business Results) an allowance to provide website administration services for an amount not to exceed \$600 per month.

(See page 9 of this agenda for a summary of invoices from Wendy Moore over the last 10 months. The total amount charged adds up to \$5,320.53 for an average of \$532 per month.)

7. Action items from the PLUM Committee requiring a roll call vote.

a. Discussion and possible action to approve that the VNNC send a letter of support to the Planning Department for:

Case No. ZA-2023-7569-CUB Agent: Hana Oh

7205 N. Van Nuys Blvd.

Applicant, Eunjoo Choi [Company: Y & J 7205, INC], is requesting a Conditional Use Permit to allow the sale and dispensing of beer and wine for on-site consumption in conjunction with an existing 1,573 sf restaurant operating from 10:00 am to 2:00 am daily. The restaurant is Otto Sushi.

Digital copies of project documents can be found at:

<https://planning.lacity.gov/pdiscaseinfo/search/encoded/MjcxNzEx0>

(In box on top right of screen, review approved documents related to past applications. Click on "Initial Submittal Documents" to find links to documents related to current application.)

- b. Discussion and possible action to approve that the VNNC write a letter of support to the Planning Department for:

Case No. ZA-2023-8380-CU

15350 W. Sherman Way (SW corner of Sepulveda and Sherman Way)

Agent: Jamie Poster, Craig Lawson & Co. LLC

The **Applicant, Azim Jamal [Company: Pacific Reach Properties Development Limited Partnership]** is requesting a Conditional Use Permit to support its plan to convert an existing underutilized 4-story commercial office building into a public storage facility. The outside of the building will stay the same – with the exception of creating commercial spaces on the first floor that will open onto Sherman Way and making the front area more pedestrian friendly. The entry to the public storage facility will be in the rear of the building.

Digital copies of project documents can be found at:

<https://planning.lacity.gov/pdiscaseinfo/caseid/MjcyNTUz0>

(In box on top right of screen, review approved documents related to past applications. Click on “Initial Submittal Documents” to find links to documents related to current application.)

- c. Discussion and possible action to approve that the VNNC write a letter of support* to the Planning Department for:

Case No. ZA-2017-3318-CUB-CUX-PA1

Agent: Alicia Mendoza, Avanty Services

7261 N. Van Nuys Blvd.

Applicant, Maria Albita Diaz [Company: Cali Viejo Restaurant] is requesting a Conditional Use Permit to continue to allow the sale and dispensing of beer and wine for on-site consumption in conjunction with an existing 3,057 sf restaurant with a total of 144 seats and a Conditional Use Permit to continue allowing Public Dancing in the 200 sf dance floor (along with Karaoke) in the existing restaurant. The applicant is also asking to extend hours of operation to 9:00 am to 2:00 am daily. (Current hours are 9:00 am to 12:00 am daily.)

The subject site has been operated as a restaurant for 27 years. The restaurant, Cali Viejo Restaurant, has 146 feet of street frontage on the west side of Van Nuys Blvd and 156 feet of frontage along the south side of Valerio Street. Properties on the south and north on the west side of Van Nuys Blvd. have commercial one- and two-story buildings. Property on the east side of Van Nuys Blvd. is zoned R3-1 and is developed with two-story apartments with 18 units, and further is a single-family neighborhood zoned R-1. There are 53 parking spaces available on-site.

The Findings document in the application includes this statement: “The applicant is fully aware of the potential negative effects associated with the service of alcohol and therefore will take necessary precautions in order to ensure that the neighboring residential developments are not negatively impacted.”

*The motion passed by the PLUM Committee recommends that the Board write a letter to the Planning Department that expresses the VNNC’s overall support for the applicant’s request,

while expressing a preference that hours only be extended to 2 a.m. on weekend evenings (in consideration of residential properties on Valerio both east and west of Van Nuys Blvd..

Digital copies of project documents can be found at:

<https://planning.lacity.gov/pdiscaseinfo/caseid/MjY4Mzkz0>

(In box on top right of screen, review approved documents related to past applications. Click on “Initial Submittal Documents” to find links to documents related to current application.)

- d. Discussion and possible action to approve that the VNNC write a letter of support to the Planning Department for:

Case No. ZA-2024-392-CUB

Agent: Alicia Mendoza, Avanty Services

14860 W. Vanowen (SE Corner of Vanowen and Kester)

Applicant: Maria Albita Diaz [Company: Mi Casita Salvadorean Restaurant] is requesting a Conditional Use Permit to continue to allow the sale and dispensing of beer and wine for on-site consumption in conjunction with an existing 3550 sf restaurant with a total of 92 seats and a Conditional Use Permit to continue allowing Public Dancing in the 200 sf dance floor (along with Karaoke) in the existing restaurant. The applicant is also asking to extend hours of operation to 9:00 am to 2:00 am daily. (Current hours are from 7:00 am to 10:00 pm Sunday through Thursday and from 9:00 am to 11:00 pm Friday and Saturday.)

Properties surrounding the business are commercial buildings and the State Dept. of Motor Vehicles is across Kester. There are 19 parking spaces available on-site

The Findings document in the application includes this statement: “The applicant is fully aware of the potential negative effects associated with the service of alcohol and therefore will take necessary precautions in order to ensure that the neighboring residential developments are not negatively impacted.”

Digital copies of project documents can be found at:

<https://planning.lacity.gov/pdiscaseinfo/caseid/MjczMDky0>

(In box on top right of screen, review approved documents related to past applications. Click on “Initial Submittal Documents” to find links to documents related to current application.)

8. Proposal by Richard Hopp that the VNNC modify its Bylaws to reduce the total number of seats.

Article XIII AMENDMENTS (from VNNC Bylaws)

These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board, and such vote may only be taken after proper public notification as described in the Bylaws. Any Bylaw changes recommended by the Board shall be posted and available for public review at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting. Any Board meeting where modification of the Bylaws is to be considered must be noticed to the public, in a manner consistent with the Brown Act and at least thirty (30) days prior to such meeting.

Thereafter, and within fourteen (14) days after a vote recommending adjustment or amendment to the Bylaws, a Bylaw Amendment Application shall be submitted to the Department. Amendments are not effective until approved by the Department.

Board Seats that are currently vacant:

- At-Large Industrial Business Owner or Employee Representative Seat 2 (2027)
- Non-Profit Community Organization or Service Club Representative Seat 2 (2027)
- Youth Representative (2025)
- School Representative (2027)
- At-Large Representative Seat 3 (2027)

9. Committee meetings to be held prior to the May 8th General Board Meeting

- a. Outreach
- b. PLUM
- c. Public Safety, Human Services, and Animal Welfare Committee.
- d. Budget and Finance
- e. Executive Committee

NOTE 1: Every member must serve on at least one committee.

NOTE 2: Any expenditures to be made by check must be proposed by a Committee and approved at the May 8th meeting OR a special Board meeting will need to be held so that check requests can be submitted to the City Clerk's office by June 1st. Expenses to be made by credit card must be made by June 20th.

10. Discussion and possible action to defer implementation of a Parks, Public Spaces, and Sustainability Committee and assign the following potential projects to another committee for research and recommendations.

- Research cost and feasibility of funding a more visible sign identifying the location of the Van Nuys Branch Library and its parking lot.
- Research cost and feasibility of installing a display box outside the Braude Center for the posting of agendas and other community information.

11. Updates on unresolved topics.

- a. Waiting for response from DONE and City Attorney regarding issue that led to the resignation of Studio City NC members.
- b. Need to delay vote on SB 411 meeting option until can get 14 Board Members available to attend a meeting,

12. Identification of topics Board members would like to discuss at a future meeting.

13. 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 72 hours prior to the meeting you wish to attend by contacting VNNC by via email at: info@vnnc.org

SERVICIOS DE TRADUCCION - Si requiere servicios de traducción, favor de avisar al Concejo Vecinal 72 horas antes del evento. Por favor contacte a info@vnnc.org por correo electrónico para avisar al Concejo Vecinal.

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://lacity.gov/government/subscribe-agendas>

.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 By-laws. The By-laws are available at our Board meetings and our website <http://www.vnnc.org>

Notice to Paid Representatives - If you are compensated to monitor, attend, or speak at this meeting, City law may require you to register as a lobbyist and report your activity. See Los Angeles Municipal Code §§ 48.01 et seq. More information is available at ethics.lacity.org/lobbying. For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or ethics.commission@lacity.org

Neighborhood Council Board Member Oath

I pledge to represent my neighborhood with dignity, integrity, and pride.
 I will encourage other points of view, even when they differ from my own.
 I will respect, value, and consider everyone's opinion.
 I will find the good in my neighborhood and praise it and promote it.
 To my neighbors, and to neighborhoods throughout the City of Los Angeles, I pledge to do this to the best of my ability.

Process to obtain Annual License for Cannabis Retail Storefront

- DCR (Department of Cannabis Regulation) notifies business when their application for a license is complete.
- Within 10 days of receiving this notice, the Applicant or a designated representative must contact the Neighborhood Council in which the proposed Business Premises is located and offer to appear before the Neighborhood Council to address questions about the application. Written evidence of the Applicant's offer to appear shall be provided to DCR, such as an email to the Neighborhood Council or a copy of the meeting minutes.

Next steps in the process

1. Within 45 days of this notice, DCR will schedule a community meeting. DCR will inform the Applicant when a date for the community meeting has been selected. Notice of the community meeting will be provided to the nearest Neighborhood Council, Business Improvement District, and Council Office. Notice of the community meeting will also be mailed to the owners and occupants of all property within 700 feet of the property line of the proposed Business Premises.
2. The community meeting will be held virtually. During the meeting, DCR will accept written and oral testimony regarding the application. The testimony will be summarized into a report for the Cannabis Regulation Commission.
3. Within 90 days of this notice, DCR will either deny the issuance of the Annual License with no hearing, or make a recommendation to the Commission to issue the Annual License. DCR may deny the issuance of an Annual License based on written findings for any of the reasons listed in LAMC Section 104.04.
4. If DCR recommends issuance of the Annual License, DCR will schedule the application to be heard by the Cannabis Regulation Commission. DCR will inform the Applicant when a date for the Commission meeting has been selected. Notice of a public hearing (i.e. the Commission meeting) will be provided to the nearest Neighborhood Council, Business Improvement District, and Council Office. Notice of the Commission meeting will also be mailed to the owners and occupants of all property within 700 feet of the property line of the proposed Business Premises.
5. The Commission will hold a public meeting to decide whether or not to issue the Annual License. During the Commission meeting, the Commission will hear public comment about the application and the Applicant or a designated representative may be provided time to speak about the application. The Commission may deny the issuance of an Annual License based on written findings for any of the reasons listed in LAMC Section 104.04. The Commission may impose conditions to address public safety concerns.
6. If the application is approved by the Commission, DCR will file the Notice of Exemption under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). There is a 35- day appeal period for CEQA determinations.
7. If there is no appeal, DCR will issue the Annual License. The licensee may then request an Operating Permit if all requirements are met.

For first round of applications, the Virtual Community Meeting was held on **March 14** from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. The Commission meeting to decide whether to issue the license was held on **April 4th**. The meeting was held in person, but virtual comments were allowed.

Summary of Wendy Moore invoices
covering services from June 2023
through March 2024

Invoice Date	Amount
7/1/2023	\$640.20
8/1/2023	\$641.52
9/1/2023	\$256.08
10/1/2023	\$419.76
11/1/2023	\$764.28
12/1/2023	\$555.64
1/1/2024	\$299.64
2/1/2024	\$626.95
3/1/2024	\$795.50
4/1/2024	\$320.96
TOTAL	\$5,320.53

Monthly average
\$532.05