

Van Nuys Neighborhood Council



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Derrick Spears
Cyle Zezotarski

Van Nuys Neighborhood Council General Board Meeting AGENDA

Wednesday,
January 8, 2025 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
P.O. Box 3118
Van Nuys, CA 91407-3118

Email: info@vnnc.org
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818-357-2446

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.

A reminder to those attending: during Public Comment, you may hear colorful language that some might find offensive. The Van Nuys Neighborhood Council has no ability to control or regulate the content of speech that is protected under the 1st Amendment.

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.).**

Stakeholders are asked to respect the timekeeper when you are alerted that your time has expired.

Van Nuys Neighborhood Council Boardmembers are reminded not to cut off, interrupt, or otherwise engage with Stakeholders during their allotted time for Public Comment.

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).

Stakeholders are welcome to offer comments -- both during General Public Comment and Public Comments on specific agenda items -- but the Van Nuys Neighborhood Council requests that Stakeholders do not disrupt the meeting for other Stakeholders in attendance. We ask that Stakeholders refrain from calling out or participating in behavior that would disrupt the Board Meeting of the Van Nuys Neighborhood Council. Stakeholders will be given an initial warning. There may be two additional warnings before the stakeholder is asked to leave the meeting due to disruptions of the meeting.

All public comments must be made into the microphone at the lectern to facilitate the capture of a clear recording of the meeting.

- 1. Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance**
- 2. Special Guest Councilmember Imelda Padilla CD 6** to make remarks and present certificates of recognition to current and former VNNC Boardmembers. (NOTE: After certificates are presented, there will be a brief Intermission to allow networking of current and former VNNC Boardmembers.)
- 3. Reports from Government officials:**
 - a. **Report from LAPD** Van Nuys Division - <https://vnnc.org/resource/>
 - b. **Report from LAFD**
 - c. **Reports from other Government officials (2 min each)**
 - Council District 2 – Dayana Ramos dayana.ramos@lacity.org
 - Council District 4 – Taleen Keuroghlian taleen.keuroghlian@lacity.org
 - Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) – Alfonso Manzo alfonso.manzo@lacity.org
 - Mayor’s office – Betsaira Aguilera betsaira.aguilera@lacity.org (213) 257-0224
 - LAUSD Board District 3
 - Los Angeles County 3rd District (Lindsay Horvath) – Karen Dominguez KDominguez@bos.lacounty.gov
 - Assembly District 46 (Jesse Gabriel) – Clarissa Gomez Clarissa.Gomez@asm.ca.gov
 - Senate District 20 (Caroline Menjivar) –Teodora Reyes Teodora.reyes@sen.ca.gov
 - California Congressional District 29

4. Metro staff reports regarding G Line Improvements and upcoming Utility Work on Van Nuys Blvd. (At the February Board meeting, there will be a presentation by Metro staff regarding assistance available to business owners along the route of the ESFV Light Rail Line on Van Nuys Blvd.)
5. Discussion and possible action to appoint Richard Haitz as a new Board member.
<https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/R-Haitz-Board-application-link.pdf>
6. **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.)
7. **Officer Reports**
 - a. President
 - Next meeting of the ESFV Light Rail Community Leadership Council will take place on January 29 at 6 p.m. at 14424 Sherman Way.
 - A printed copy of VNNC General Board Meeting agendas and linked files can be reviewed in a reference notebook that is located at the Van Nuys Branch Library.
 - For information on upcoming local events and services, look under the Events list on the right side of the homepage of the vnnc.org website and on the calendar.
 - Openings for a Homeless Liaison, 2 Budget Representatives, a Regional Grievance Panelist, and a representative to the NC Emergency Preparedness Alliance.
 - 2025 election for Neighborhood Councils will only be by mail-in ballot. More info to come. Candidate filing period begins Feb. 7. Election day is June 10.
 - b. Vice-President
 - c. Secretary – Vacant
 - d. Treasurer
 - e. Parliamentarian
8. **Consent Agenda**
 - a. Review/approve minutes from the October 9th Board meeting
https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/VNNC_10092024_GBM_Draft_Minutes_Final.pdf
 - b. Review/approve letter of support to Councilmember Imelda Padilla, Council District 6 advocating for the utilization of art fees paid by developers to acquire and install an original art work on the Van Nuys Civic Plaza in collaboration with the California Artist Coalition of Los Angeles by using the 1% art developer's fees from the Cultural Affairs Department. (See Draft letter of support on page 7.)

9. Budget and Finance action items requiring a roll call vote

- a. Discussion and possible action to approve the October MER.

https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/VNNC_MER_October2024.pdf

- b. Discussion and possible action to approve the November MER.

https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/VNNC_MER_November2024.pdf

- c. Discussion and possible action to reimburse PLUM Committee Chair, Quirino de la Cuesta for payment to Fed Ex for agenda printing costs totaling \$40.24.

8/1/24 72 pages \$17.35

8/1/24 30 pages \$ 7.23

10/17/24 65 pages \$15.66

<https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/fedex-receipts.pdf>

10. Discussion and possible action regarding letter to Metro, CD 6, and the Mayor

- a. Approve a letter (see page 8) to be sent to the Metro Project Team, Councilmember Padilla, and Mayor Bass to advocate for the planting of native trees along the route of the ESFV Light Rail line on Van Nuys Blvd from the G Line north to San Fernando Road. Metro staff reported that all of the sidewalks along 7 miles of Van Nuys Blvd. will need to be replaced and the street trees removed and replaced.

11. Discussion and possible action to approve VNNC participation in providing snacks for volunteers in the Van Nuys Homeless Count on January 21st and expenditure of up to \$100 in Outreach funds.

12. Discussion and possible action to approve CIS (Community Impact Statement) in opposition to CF 24-0867. See draft CIS on page 9.

<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=24-0867>

Key requests from this Council Motion are shown in the box below:

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, with assistance of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, the Youth Development Department and the City Clerk, be requested to provide recommendations on potential methods and options to amend the Neighborhood Council Bylaws (Bylaws) to ensure youth participation in Neighborhood Councils including the designation of a youth seat on each Neighborhood Council board to increase diversity and allow for leadership growth;

I FURTHER MOVE the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, with assistance of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment and the City Attorney, be requested to report to the Council on potential options to amend the Bylaws to include term limits for Neighborhood Council board members in order to facilitate greater member participation and leadership development.

- 13.** Discussion and possible action to recommend that the Board approve a Resolution and CIS to encourage continued funding and staffing of the CERT program in the LA Fire Department Budget. (See possible language and background on pages 10-12.)
- 14.** Reports from Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) Chair Quirino de la Cuesta:
 - a. Nomination list for historical landmark designation in the Van Nuys area.
 - b. Upcoming agenda at the next PLUM meeting in January.
 - c. Old Bargain Book Store.
- 15.** Update on status of virtual foster dog Trinity, currently at the East Valley Animal Shelter. (Virtual fostering means that the VNNC will share information about the animal's availability for adoption on its website, on social media, and in its monthly e-blast.)

Trinity A2158182 Trinity is a 5-year-old spayed female that weighs 51-lbs. Trinity is an energetic gal who enjoys playing with her canine friends in the yard, is very treat motivated, and loves to have her belly rubbed! Adopt or foster Trinity from our East Valley Center today! Here is the drive with Trinity's media: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1LYrgdnrAjP3aJiF2T2odOqAZJ2eBmbY7?usp=sharing>
- 16. Update on unresolved topic.**
 - a. Need to delay vote on SB 411 meeting option until can get 14 Board Members available to attend a meeting.
- 17. Announcements and identification of topics Board members would like to discuss at a future meeting.**
- 18. 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>

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 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 <https://ethics.lacity.gov/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.

Proposed Letter advocating for Use of Art Fees for a Public Art Project

Councilmember Imelda Padilla

Council District 6

14410 Sylvan Street, Ste. 215

Van Nuys, CA 91401

RE: Public Art Proposal for the Van Nuys Civic Center – “Wind Sculptural Installation”

Dear Councilmember Padilla,

The Van Nuys Neighborhood Council is excited to share our enthusiastic support for bringing public art to our community. Through our Planning and Land Use Committee (PLUM) meetings, we have engaged in meaningful discussions with Ms. Ayndrea Wilson of the California Artist Coalition of Los Angeles (CACLA) regarding a proposed public art project for the Van Nuys Civic Center.

On November 13, 2024, during our general board meeting, Ms. Wilson presented an inspiring proposal featuring the work of renowned visual artist Mr. Paul Chilkov. His envisioned “Wind Sculptural Installation” would be a transformative addition to the grounds of the Van Nuys Civic Center. The board and community members expressed strong enthusiasm and support for this project, recognizing its potential to celebrate creativity and foster pride in Van Nuys.

The Van Nuys Neighborhood Council firmly believes in the power of the creative arts as a catalyst for economic revitalization, community engagement, and cultural enrichment. Public art can reimagine and redefine our neighborhood, serving as a beacon of inspiration and drawing businesses and visitors to the area.

We also have full confidence in the expertise of CACLA, under the leadership of Ms. Wilson, to bring this vision to life. Ms. Wilson has demonstrated a deep understanding of managing public art initiatives and highlighted how the 1% Art Development Fee could be utilized effectively for this project. Her guidance ensures that Van Nuys will benefit from thoughtful and impactful public art installations.

We respectfully urge you and your office to support this initiative and work with CACLA to bring Mr. Chilkov’s “Wind Sculptural Installation” to the Van Nuys Civic Center. This project represents a unique opportunity to enhance our community’s vibrancy and cultural identity. Thank you for your leadership and for considering this vital proposal for the future of Van Nuys.

Sincerely,

Kathy Schreiner

President

Van Nuys Neighborhood Council

Proposed Letter Advocating for the Planting of Native Trees on Van Nuys Blvd.

To: Metro

Greg Gastelum
Senior Executive Officer/Project Manager, Program Management, Metro
Cc: Jesse Leon, Community Leadership Council Manager
Lisa Karwoski, Deputy Project Manager, Design

To: Council District 6

Councilmember Imelda Padilla
City Council District 6
Cc: Andres Sandoval, District Director, and Lamont Cobb, Director of Planning and Land Use

To: Mayor Karen Bass

Cc: Mayor Bass's East Valley Area Representative Betsaira Aguilera
betsaira.aguilera@lacity.org,

At the meeting of the Community Leadership Council for Metro's ESFV Light Rail Project on October 24th, Lisa Karwoski, Deputy Project Manager, Design, made a presentation on the plan for replacing all of the street trees along Van Nuys Blvd. from the G Line north to San Fernando Road when the Light Rail Line is constructed (due for completion in 2031). It was explained that Metro has determined that all of the sidewalks along the 7 miles of Phase I of the ESFV Light Rail Line will be replaced and that over 500 street trees that currently line Van Nuys Blvd. will need to be removed. Unless Metro can be persuaded to try to preserve some of the current mature shade trees, there will be over 1000 replacement trees planted – including some to be placed on cross streets and other streets close to Van Nuys Blvd.

The Van Nuys Neighborhood Council (VNNC) is in favor of having the new trees selected from diverse varieties of California native trees. There are many advantages to planting native trees that are adapted to the climate of the SFV, including the fact that such trees need minimal watering (once the new trees have been established) and minimal fertilizer because they evolved to be a good match with the local climate. In addition, native trees support local biodiversity and provide a home for native birds and insects (such as butterflies).

The VNNC understands that there is a need to advocate with City officials to expand the list of California native trees that are approved to be planted as street trees. We support the efforts of VNNC President Kathy Schreiner (who is also a member of the ESFV Light Rail Community Leadership Council) to coordinate with Council District 6, the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance, and the Community Forest Advisory Commission to advocate with the Mayor's Office and appropriate City staff (including the Urban Forestry Division and the Bureau of Street Services) to approve more species of native trees to be planted as street trees.

Sincerely,
Kathy Schreiner, President
Van Nuys Neighborhood Council



Van Nuys Neighborhood Council

COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT ON COUNCIL FILE 24-0867

On January 8, 2025, the Van Nuys Neighborhood Council voted __ yes, __ no, __ abstain to oppose the motion in Council File 24-0867 that proposes that the Council require each Neighborhood Council to have at least one youth member and to have term limits.

We believe that each Neighborhood Council should be able to determine the composition of Board seats to best represent the community. While the Van Nuys Neighborhood Council does include a Youth Representative in its bylaws, we acknowledge the difficulty of filling this seat because of the time commitment involved in serving on the Board and the many demands on the time of the high school age students who would qualify to fill the seat.

The City Charter gives Neighborhood Councils the responsibility for establishing through bylaws whether to have 2 or 4 year terms per seat and whether to establish term limits for Board positions. We do not believe that the City Council should be involved in mandates regarding the composition of individual Neighborhood Councils.

There is no evidence that long-term Board members are causing a problem for Neighborhood Councils. Most Neighborhood Councils, Van Nuys included, experience quite a bit of turnover of Board members – including members who do not even serve their initial 4-year term due to various life circumstances, such as change of job, health challenges, family obligations, etc. Having some stable and experienced Board members is useful for a Board and can help with meeting quorum.

Thank you,

Van Nuys Neighborhood Council

X _____

Kathy Schreiner

Board President

Van Nuys Neighborhood Council

Email: kathy.schreiner@vnnc.org | Website: www.vnnc.org

Date of Board Vote: __

Board Vote Count: Aye_____ Nay_____ Abstain_____ Recused_____



Van Nuys Neighborhood Council

Resolution

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program Support

January 8, 2025

To: Mayor Bass, LA Fire Chief Crowley, LA Board of Fire Commissioners, Councilmember Imelda Padilla, Councilmember Adrin Nazarian, Councilmember Nithya Raman, and City Council members on the Budget Committee

The Van Nuys Neighborhood Council strongly supports the successful LAFD Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program. The CERT program trains community volunteers in best practices and how to respond in the event of earthquakes and other disasters. CERT trained volunteers are prepared to help themselves, their neighbors and their communities when an emergency happens, thus allowing the LAFD to concentrate their efforts in highest-need areas. CERT volunteers also consistently support the LAFD's responses to their routine activities. This is especially critical during emergencies. Some CERT trained volunteers can and do continue their training in hopes of joining the ranks of the Call Out teams that are especially important during emergencies. In 2024, the CERT unit conducted the following trainings: 2,357 CERT students; 2,700 Hands-Only CPR students and 961 Fire Extinguisher students. A total of 940 hours of service has been performed by the CERT Call Out volunteers. Considering that we never know when a city-wide emergency might occur and considering that when it does the investment in the CERT program will contribute immeasurably to the resilience and recovery of the city, the Van Nuys Neighborhood Council urges the city leaders to continue funding and staffing the LAFD CERT program.

Thank you,

Van Nuys Neighborhood Council

X

Kathy Schreiner

Board President

Van Nuys Neighborhood Council

Email: kathy.schreiner@vnnc.org | Website: www.vnnc.org

CC: Board of Fire Commissioners LAFDFireCommission@lacity.org, LAFD Chief Kristin Crowley kristin.crowley@lacity.org, Mayor Bass's East Valley Area Representative Betsaira Aguilera betsaira.aguilera@lacity.org, CD 6 Councilmember Imelda Padilla, CD 2 Councilmember Adrin Nazarian, CD 4 Councilmember Nithya Raman, and LA City Councilmembers on the Budget Committee

Official Use Only

Date of Board Vote: __

Board Vote Count: Aye_____ Nay_____ Abstain_____ Recused_____

Motion Status: Passed_____ Failed_____ Other_____

Background:

At the VANC (Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils) December meeting, we learned from Cindy Adair, CERT instructor and member of the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council, that the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program is in danger of being ended (or at least paused). We learned that due to budget constraints, the LA Fire Chief is proposing that some or all of the current CERT instructors be transferred to other LAFD units and that others who have a work-related disability may be asked to retire. If that happens, there certainly will be an effect on CERT training classes after March or April of 2025. Additionally, it is not known what might happen to the Call Out teams if the CERT unit loses staff or is disbanded.

The proposed resolution is copied from a draft resolution from Leonard Schaeffer, Board of Neighborhood Council Commissioner, President of the Tarzana Neighborhood Council, and chair of the Neighborhood Council Emergency Preparedness Alliance (NCEPA). Vice President Jennifer Clark of the North Hollywood Northeast Neighborhood Council identified a Council File related to the Fire Department's Budget that provides context regarding budget constraints. See the following excerpt:

Council File: 24-1600 Los Angeles Fire Department / Service Impact on Operations

12-17-24 Board of Fire Commissioners' 22 page report, relative to operational challenges due to the elimination of critical civilian positions and a reduction in Overtime Variable Staffing Hours. https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2024/24-1600_rpt_bfc_12-17-24.pdf

"SUMMARY

The Los Angeles City Fire Department (LAFD) is facing unprecedented operational challenges due to the elimination of critical civilian positions and a \$7 million reduction in Overtime Variable Staffing Hours (V-Hours). These budgetary reductions have adversely affected the Department's ability to maintain core operations, such as technology and

communication infrastructure, payroll processing, training, fire prevention, and community education.

In addition to these impacts, the reduction in v-hours has severely limited the Department's capacity to prepare for, train for, and respond to large-scale emergencies, including wildfires, earthquakes, hazardous material incidents, and large public events. Specialized programs and resources, such as Air Operations, Tactical EMS Units, Disaster Response, and Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), which rely heavily on v-hours, are now at risk of reduced effectiveness."

Link to the full council file:

<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=24-1600>