

City of Los Angeles  
Voices Neighborhood Council  
Regular Board Meeting



Tuesday, March 10, 2020, 6:00 pm  
1201 W. 48<sup>th</sup> Street, LA 90037  
Vermont Square Library, Community Room

Sally Embrey, Area 1  
Odalís Pérez, Area 2  
Abasi Patton, Area 3  
Edward Garren, Area 4  
Parker Rand, At-Large  
Vacant, Corresponding Secretary  
Jaime Rabb, Vice Chairperson



Kelvin Guevara, Education  
Anita Gray, Youth  
Vacant, Faith-Based  
Sara Zurita, Community-Based  
Ingrid Guevara, Parliamentarian  
Kaamil Benoit, Recording Secretary  
Steven Nieto, Treasurer

Albert Farias, Chairperson

**Call to Order at 6:04 PM**

**Adjourned at 8:00 PM**

**Roll Call: S. Embrey, O. Pérez, A. Patton, E. Garren, J. Rabb, K. Guevara, S. Zurita, I. Guevara, K. Benoit, S. Nieto, A. Farias**

### **AGENDA FOR 3/10/2020**

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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 3 minutes per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the Council, and given to the first 10 persons who submit Speakers Cards to the Recording Secretary.

#### **NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC**

The City of Los Angeles Code of Conduct will be enforced to ensure the Voices Neighborhood Council meetings are collaborative, supportive, and respectful of divergent opinions.

#### **QUORUM**

The Voices Neighborhood Council has 14 elected positions and one nominated position. The Voices Neighborhood Council must have eight members present for quorum to conduct official business.

#### **AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)**

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 emailing [VoicesNC90037@gmail.com](mailto:VoicesNC90037@gmail.com)

#### **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 at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please email [VoicesNC90037@gmail.com](mailto:VoicesNC90037@gmail.com)

#### **CONSIDERATION AND GRIEVANCE PROCESS**

For information on the Voices NC's process for board action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy, or any other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the Voices NC Bylaws. The Bylaws are available at our Board meetings and at <https://VoicesNC.org>.

#### **SERVICIOS DE TRADUCCION**

Si requiere servicios de traducción, favor de avisar al Concejo Vecinal 3 días de trabajo (72 horas) antes del evento. Por favor contacte a Jaime Rabb, Vice Chair, por correo electrónico a [Vicechair@voicesnc.org](mailto:Vicechair@voicesnc.org) para avisar al Concejo Vecinal.

**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](http://ethics.lacity.org/lobbying). For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or [ethics.commission@lacity.org](mailto:ethics.commission@lacity.org).

**AGENDA FOR 3/10/2020**

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Senior Lead Officer Report
- Public Officials Report
- General Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

**Senior Lead Officer Report: 77TH DIVISION - VEHICLE RELATED CRIME (BREAK INS ND CAR THEFT). VIOLENT CRIME IS DOWN (7 HOMICIDES YTD IN THIS AREA) VICTIM SERVICES REP LEAVES INFORMATION PAMPHLET.**  
**Public Officials Report: 1. ROBERT JACKSON, SENIOR FIELD REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE OFFICE OF SENATOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL 2. IRMA GALICIA FIELD REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE OFFICE OF ASSEMBLYMEMBER REGINALD BRYON JONES-SAWYER, SR 3. JAMES WESTBROOKS FROM THE OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER CURREN PRICE. General Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items: 1. PARENTS OF CHILDREN ATTENDING EXPOSITION PARK NEED FREE PARKING 2. STAKEHOLDER RODRIGO VOICES CONCERNS ABOUT VOTING ACCESSIBILITY AT 2020 PRIMARY ELECTION AND UPCOMING 2020 GENERAL ELECTION.**

**Action Items**

All items listed are designated for discussion and possible action by the Voices Neighborhood Council. Council items identified as presentation may be proposed for action by the Council and will be reflected as such in the meeting minutes.

Item	Reference Number	Matter	Time Allotted
1.	0320-01	<b>Presentation by Susan Stouffer, Sola Community Peace Center</b> , Request for \$5,000 NPG Proposed Action: Board to motion on \$5,000 NPG for 10 kids from 90037 to attend day Peace Camp. Perform BAC. <b>MOTION: K. BENOIT, 2ND: S. NIETO. CARRIES.</b>	15 mins
2.	0320-02	<b>Meeting Minutes</b> Review and discussion of minutes from the February Meeting on February 11, 2020. Member/Committee: K. Benoit Proposed Action: Motion to APPROVE the minutes for the February Minutes. <b>MOTION: S. NIETO, 2ND: S. EMBREY. CARRIES.</b>	3 mins
3.	0320-03	<b>Monthly Expenditure Report</b> Review and discussion of MERs for February 2020 Member/Committee: S. Nieto Proposed Action: Motion to APPROVE the February 2020 MERs. MERs to be submitted by March 31, 2020. Perform BAC. <b>MOTION: J. RABB, 2ND: O. PEREZ. CARRIES.</b>	3 mins
4.	0320-04	<b>NANDC Seniorfest</b> Member/Committee: J. Rabb / Outreach Discuss partnership and event details	5 mins

		Proposed Action: Motion to APPROVE partnership/promote/table at NANDC's Seniorfest event on Saturday, April 18 at Ahmanson Senior Center at Expo Park. <b>TABLED.</b>	
5.	0320-05	<b>Census Event Update</b> Member/Committee: A. Farias and S. Zurita Proposed Action: Motion to APPROVE table at the Vermont Square Library Spring Event on April 1st. <b>TABLED.</b>	5 mins
6.	0320-06	<b>Bylaw amendments</b> Member/Committee: S. Embry Review and discuss proposed changes to the bylaws Proposed Action: Motion to APPROVE bylaw amendments <b>MOTION: E. GARREN , 2ND: J. RABB. CARRIES. 1 ABSTAIN.</b>	25 min
7.	0320-07	<b>Proposal by 711 for 24 hour store with beer and wine sales</b> Member/Committee: A. Farias and P. Rand Discuss proposal for 24-hour operation including beer & wine at 7Eleven at 6224 S. Figueroa St. Proposed Action: Motion to APPROVE a letter supporting the proposal <b>MOTION TO EXTEND DISCUSSION 3 MINS: S. EMBREY, 2ND: J. RABB.</b> <b>MOTION TO EXTEND DISCUSSION 2 MINS: J. RABB, 2ND: S. EMBREY.</b> <b>MOTION: J. RABB, 2ND: A. PATTON. CARRIES. 2 NAYS/1 ABSTAIN.</b>	15 min
8.	0320-08	<b>Council File 11-1705, Citywide Sign (Billboard) Ordinance</b> Member/Committee: P. Rand and A. Farias Citywide sign regulations including opt-in provision, alternative approaches to off-site signs, defining billboard blight, equity for small businesses and mural signs and related matters. Proposed Action: Motion that Voices NC OPPOSE LA City Council File 11-1705 because of the following reasons: no stipulation on saturation of digital billboards; oppose traffic hazzard and revenue generated from these aren't invested in our communities. with amendments limit saturation of digital billboards, limit flashing/cycle changes, invest a percentage of revenue back into the community. <b>TABLED.</b>	5 min.
9.	0320-09	<b>School Safety- Speed Humps</b> Member/Committee: P. Rand and A. Farias Discuss structural solutions to how speed humps are allocated to the schools and parks in our neighborhoods. Proposed Action: Motion to approve a resolution that allows schools to submit a streamlined application to the bureau of street services for speed humps. <b>TABLED.</b>	5 min
10.	0220-10	<b>Vermont Square and Julian Dixon Park Plans</b> Discuss recreational and safety priorities for Vermont Square Park Member/Committee: A. Farias Proposed Action: Motion that the Voices NC <u>APPROVE</u> a letter outlining priority areas for each park <b>TABLED.</b>	20 mins
11.	0220-11	<b>Office &amp; Committee Meeting Space</b> Discuss the potential for the four established VoicesNC committees to host meetings in alternative locations (e.g. Expo Park Rec Center, St. Johns Wellness Center, Honda Downtown LA Conference Center) Member/Committee: J. Rabb / P. Rand / S. Zurita / S. Nieto Proposed Action: Motion that committees report back to the Board by the April 2020 meeting with the status of selecting an alternative location <b>TABLED.</b>	10 mins

12.	0220-12S	<p><b>Institute a Monthly Newsletter that may include list of upcoming meetings/events, highlight board actions from previous month, community spotlight (business, person, place)</b>                  Proposed Action: Appoint a monthly board member to develop a newsletter to be distributed via the email-list serve. Submit final newsletter to Jaime Rabb for approval and dissemination.  <b>TABLED.</b></p>	10 mins
13.	0320-13	<p><b>Committee &amp; Liaison Reports</b>                  Council to report on committee and liaison activities and invite interested stakeholders to participate in scheduled meetings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Outreach Committee</b></li> <li>• Planning &amp; Land Use Committee</li> <li>• <b>Arts, Parks &amp; Recreation Committee</b></li> <li>• Health and Safety Committee</li> <li>• Budget &amp; Finance Committee</li> <li>• <b>Ad hoc Sustainability Committee</b></li> <li>• Ad hoc Be Neighborly committee</li> <li>• Ad hoc Business Committee</li> <li>• Ad hoc Bylaws Committee</li> <li>• CPAB (77th &amp; Southwest) Liaison</li> <li>• Homeless Liaison</li> <li>• SLAANC Liaison</li> <li>• <b>Area Representatives (1, 2, 3, 4 and At-Large)</b></li> </ul> <p>Proposed Action: No motions from updates. Committee and Liaison agenda motions will be listed individually for discussion and possible action.  <b>TABLED.</b></p>	15 mins
14.	0220-14S	<p><b>Committee Status and Structure</b>                  As per the general board meeting held on July 9, 2019, we are reconsidering the formation and board member make up for the VoicesNC committees.                  Member/Committee: A. Farias                  Proposed Action: Motion that Voices NC <u>APPROVE</u> combining the Arts Parks and Recreation with the Outreach Committee to formalize Community Engagement Committee with Jaime Rabb and Sara Zurita as co-chairs, Anita Gray, Steven Nieto, Erica Helphand (Stakeholder) as members until the end of the fiscal year.                  Proposed Action: Motion that Voices NC <u>APPROVE</u> combining the Planning and Land Use, with Health and Safety Committee with Steven Nieto and Parker as co-chairs and Albert Farias, Ed Garren and Sawnia House (Stakeholder) as members until the end of the fiscal year.  <b>TABLED.</b></p>	5 mins
15.	0320-15	<p><b>Voices Vacancies</b>                  Review and discussion of vacant council seat, unassigned committees, liaisons, liaison alternates, and recruitment of community stakeholders for committee assignment. Discuss council member absences. Invite all committee members to be sworn in during the February meeting.                  Member/Committee: A. Farias                  Proposed Action: 1) Council to motion on approving letter/email to be sent immediately to members who have exceeded the number of absences to inform seat is at risk of vacancy. 2) Council to appoint vacant board seats.  <b>TABLED.</b></p>	5 mins

<b><u>Voices NC Council Vacancy</u></b>	
Interested stakeholders can email a Letter of Intent to <a href="mailto:VoicesNC90037@gmail.com">VoicesNC90037@gmail.com</a> . Additional information about Voices NC is available at <a href="https://VoicesNC.org">https://VoicesNC.org</a>	
<b>Council Vacancy</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>1. Corresponding Secretary</b>	At the direction of the Chair, prepare and release formal board approved correspondence; routinely inform the public of the Council’s activities and inform the Board of City meetings and activities; receives and shares outreach notices and stakeholder information between committees; oversee the maintenance and updating of the website and other social media platforms; create and post all agenda notices in accordance with the Brown Act for all Board meetings; maintain and update the stakeholder database
<b>2. Faith Based Representative</b>	Represents the interests of faith-based organizations in our community and who is designated representative of a faith-based organization located within the boundaries of the VNC area.

<b><u>Voices NC Council Liaisons</u></b>			
<b>Council Liaison</b>	<b>Meeting Time</b>	<b>Assigned Member</b>	<b>Alternate Member</b>
<b>1. SLAANC</b>	Third Thursday of the month (6:30pm)	A. Farias	J. Rabb
<b>2. LAPD 77<sup>th</sup> C-PAB</b>	Second Thursday of the month (6:00pm)	S. Nieto	J. Rabb
<b>3. LAPD Southwest C-PAB</b>	First Monday of the month (6:30pm)	S. Embrey	A. Patton
<b>4. Homelessness</b>	Every Other Month (TBD) (6:30pm)	A. Farias	K. Benoit, A. Gray, P. Rand
<b>5. Resilience/Disaster Preparedness</b>	TBD	S. Zurita	S. Embrey
<b>6. Budget Advocate</b>	First Monday of the month (7:00pm)	S. Nieto	E. Garren
<b>7. Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance</b>	TBD	K. Benoit	A. Patton

<b><u>Voices NC Council Financial Responsibilities</u></b>				
<b>Primary Signer</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Signer</b>	<b>Alternate Signer</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Bankcard holder</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Bankcard holder</b>
S. Nieto (Treasurer)	A. Farias	J. Rabb	A. Farias	J. Rabb

**Voices NC Standing Committees**

*All meetings are open to the public and will be posted on [www.empowerla.org](http://www.empowerla.org). All meetings will be held at Vermont Square Library unless otherwise posted. For more about Voices NC Standing Committees refer to Bylaws, Article VI, and Section 1.*

<b>Standing Committees</b>	<b>Assigned Council Member</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>1. Arts, Parks, &amp; Recreation</b>	S. Zurita	The Arts, Parks and Recreation Committee will have the responsibility to discuss issues, promote partnerships on projects and brainstorm ideas to encourage greater community involvement and support. The Arts, parks and Recreation Committee will explore issues and ideas in order to define community identity and values by giving voice to its citizens and providing a form for group action and expression. The committee submits reports of meetings in written form and makes recommendations to the Board for action. The Chair selects meeting site, date and time and meets as directed in these Bylaws.
<b>2. Budget &amp; Finance</b>	S. Nieto	The Budget and Finance Committee Investigate and pursue sources of income and funding. Make an initial review of project proposals and provide a report to the VNC board with recommendations. Generate a budget for each fiscal year, showing planned income and expenditures. And, maintain the Council budget current and report any issues to the Board.
<b>3. Outreach</b>	J. Rabb	The Outreach Committee shall be charged with continuing to outreach to the VNC stakeholders by utilizing any acceptable and Board approved forms of media (e.g. flyers, newsletters, print, television/electronic media, signs, banners, website, etc.) to inform stakeholders regarding projects and events. The content and method of distribution must be pre-approved by the Board.
<b>4. Planning &amp; Land Use</b>	P. Rand	The Planning & Land Use Committee shall review, take public input, report on and make recommendations of actions to the Board on any land use, beautification, and planning issues affecting the community in order to improve the health and quality of life of its citizens. The committee also reviews and recommends action regarding building development projects requiring land use permits within the VNC boundaries; advocates positions on land use and building design for the betterment of the community; and considers and provides recommendations to Council on other topics, such as rezoning, applications, development permits, and any subdivision that require council approval.
<b>5. Senior Services</b>	Vacant	The Senior Services Committee addresses the needs of senior citizens in the community and provides an environment where seniors can discuss current issues, share ideas and voice their concerns. The committee will be supportive of programs and services that provide seniors with maximum vitality and independence. It will identify, monitor and address issues that have impact upon seniors' quality of life. The committee will promote "Healthy Aging" by creating an environment where individual differences and needs are recognized; by promoting multicultural awareness, understanding and interaction; and by serving as a bridge to access government information and resources.
<b>6. Youth &amp; Education</b>	A. Gray, K. Guevara	The Youth & Education Committee addresses the issues, concerns, programs and services related to the education of children, youth and

		adults and developing specific strategies and policies for influencing and achieving constructive outcomes within schools, classrooms, and other education/learning centers that serve the Voices community. Additionally, this committee has the general responsibility to discuss issues, foster collaboration on projects, and brainstorm ideas to encourage greater community involvement/support and participation.
<b>7. Health &amp; Safety</b>	S. Nieto	The Health & Safety Committee seeks opportunities to organize and forums to mobilize the community in seeking safety practices. This includes partnering with Neighborhood Watch, Volunteer Safety Task Force (to enhance the Services provided by the School Crossing Guards), School Crossing Guards, Los Angeles Police Department Senior Lead Officers and Traffic Division and the Los Angeles Fire Department. Representatives of VNC will work to formalize a relationship with these City agencies and other entities responsible for “safety issues” in our community.