

City of Los Angeles
Voices Neighborhood Council
Regular Board Meeting



Tuesday, January 12, 2021, 6:00 pm
VIA Telephone or Internet (Zoom)

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



Albert Farias, Chairperson

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

Regular Board Meeting Agenda - **MINUTES**

Tuesday, January 12, 2021

6:00 pm

Zoom Meeting Online or By Telephone

<https://zoom.us/j/96107326167>

Dial (669) 900-6833 or 877 853 5257 (Toll Free) to Join the Meeting

Then Enter This Webinar ID: 961 0732 6167

In conformity with the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 (March 17, 2020), and due to public health concerns and directives issued by the Mayor of Los Angeles and Los Angeles County Public Health Department regarding reducing the spread of COVID-19, meetings of the VoicesNC will be conducted entirely by video conference or telephonically. This will be effective starting May 1, 2020 and will continue during the period in which state or local public health officials have imposed or recommended social distancing measures.

PUBLIC INPUT AT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS

The public is requested dial *9, when prompted by the presiding officer, 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 Board.

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.

PUBLIC POSTING OF AGENDAS – Neighborhood Council agendas are posted for public review as follows:

- Vermont Square Library Front Door, 1201 W. 48th St.
- www.voicesnc.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>

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 Note: for TTY/TDD services, please refer to state provided services at <https://ddtp.cpuc.ca.gov/homepage.aspx>. Zoom meetings feature closed captioning functionality.

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

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 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. For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or ethics.commission@lacity.org.

AGENDA FOR 1/12/2021

Call to Order at 6:04 pm

Roll Call

M. Crawford, A. Farias, S. Embrey, E. Ebow, A. Patton, K. Guevara, O. Perez, J. Rabb, S. Zurita, P. Rand, S. Nieto, A. Gray, K. Benoit, I. Guevara in attendance. E. Garren excused absent

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.	0121-01	Special presentation by Raquel Beltran, General Manager, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment Plans for 2021 in summary: -Improve the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment relationships with NCs. -Improve relationships between NCs and city departments. Plans to make sure NCs are made to feel more welcome at City Hall.	20 min.

		<p>-Improve the way in which the city dept interacts with NCs. -Encourage expanding the process of NC feedback to city plans. -Redoing website and hope to have up and running by May 2021. -Wants to learn how to best support NCs in the ways that serve their communities. -Looking for data liaisons. -In February, the mayor will announce the city budget, which will likely see cuts to The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment and NCs. -Personel reorganization for NC Advocates. -New amendments to the Brown Act in regards to the use of digital media. -Streamlining the code of conduct. Last update was 2016. -City is updating workplace equity policy, which applies to NCs. Updates to come. -Updating funding and ethics training. -New implicit basis, diversity and inclusion training to come. -The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment has begun attending alliance meetings to better support NCs. -Hiring the Raven Group to assist The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment in reaching marginalized communities. NO ACTION TAKEN</p>	
2.	0121-02	<p>Meeting Minutes Review and discussion of minutes from the December Meeting on 12/8/20. Member/Committee: K. Benoit Proposed Action: Motion to APPROVE the minutes for the December 2020 General Board Meeting. Motion: K. Benoit, 2nd: J. Rabb. YES - 13, Motion carries.</p>	3 min.
3.	0121-03	<p>General Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items (limit 3 minutes per speaker) - NONE</p>	10 min.
4.	0121-04	<p>Treasurer's Report: Monthly Expenditure Report Presentation by S. Nieto, Treasurer Review and discussion of VoicesNC Budget and MERs for December 2020. Member/Committee: S. Nieto Proposed Action: Motion to APPROVE the December 2020 MERs. MERs to be submitted by January 31, 2021. Perform BAC. Motion: S. Nieto, 2nd: A. Gray. YES - 13. Motion carries.</p>	3 min.
5.	0121-05	<p>Community/Government Reports and Announcements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. LAPD Senior Lead Officers -Southwest and 77th St. Captain Neal: 3 shootings last month, no homicide last month. 51% increase in murders in 2019. 200 less robberies than 2019. aggravated assault up 400% from 2019. 270 shooting victims in 2020. DP focusing on gang crime. Encourages the public to provide tips to crime stoppers. Arrest made in murder from last summer. 653 guns seized last year. 77th St (provided by J. Rabb): GTA up in this area, DV is up, working with Brittney from CD9 on encampment cleanups. B. Council District 9 - Kendal Lake: lights and cameras have been approved, will have installation date next month. drafting proposal for cleanup from Grand to Flower. Housed 75 individuals. Taking nominations for awards for outstanding women. C. Mayor's Office - Edith Vega: partnering with CORE to provide free Covid testing. Covid vaccine has been approved and will be administered in phases. D. USC Civic Engagement- Steve Wesson: USC is taking California's Covid spike seriously and implementing measures to stop the spread. No students are living on campus. Mr. Wesson yields his time to colleague Christian Starks from CTSI @ USC. Running weekly 	35 min.

		<p>Covid workshops to the community that target the Black and Latino communities. Vaccine town hall for questions and concerns. CTSI wants to address vaccine hesitancy and find ways to improve. Contact: starksc@usc.edu</p> <p>E. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment- Karen Hernandez: working on NC elections, hosting candidate workshops. reminder that NCs have access to written and spoken translators. New digit transit shelters will allow NCs to use them for advertising. Data Liaisons needs to be appointed by NCs.</p>	
6.	0121-06	<p>Committee & Liaison Reports and Updates Council to report on committee and liaison activities and invite interested stakeholders to participate in scheduled meetings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach Committee (Jaime Rabb) • Planning & Land Use Committee (Parker Rand) • Arts, Parks & Recreation Committee (Sara Zurita) • Health and Safety Committee (Steven Nieto) • Budget & Finance Committee (Steven Nieto) • Ad hoc Sustainability Committee (Kaamil Benoit) • Ad hoc Business Committee (Ingrid Guevara) • LA LGBTQ+ Alliance of Neighborhood Councils Liaison (Sally Embrey/Kaamil Benoit) • CPAB (77th & Southwest) Liaison (Steven Nieto) • Homeless Liaison (Albert Farias) • SLAANC Liaison (Albert Farias) • Area Representatives (1, 2, 3, 4 and At-Large) <p>Proposed Action: No motions from updates. Committee and Liaison agenda motions will be listed individually for discussion and possible action.</p> <p>TABLED</p>	15 min.
7.	0121-07	<p>Slauson Connect Presentation by Sherilyn Correa, CD9 on overview of grant submission with Rec and Parks (Prop. 68 & Measure W). Member/Committee: A. Farias Proposed Action: VoicesNC Board to SUPPORT CD9's grant application with Rec and Parks for Prop 68 funding. Motion: J. Rabb, 2nd: S. Nieto. YES - 13, Motion carries.</p>	15 min.
8.	0121-08	<p>Voices Vacancies 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 December meeting. Member/Committee: A. Farias Presentation by: Anita Gray, Kelvin Guevara, Ingrid Guevara, Parker Rand, Abasi Patton (3 min each.) Proposed Action: 1) Council to vote to remove Anita Gray, Kelvin Guevara, Ingrid Guevara, Parker Rand, Abasi Patton who have exceeded the number of absences pursuant to Voices Neighborhood Council Bylaw Article V, Section 7 due to excessive absences. 2) Council to appoint vacant board seats. Motion to retain board members: P. Rand, 2nd: M. Crawford. YES - 13, Motion carries.</p>	20 min.
9.	0121-09	<p>General Board Announcements on Non-Agenda Items (Not for Discussion)</p>	3 min.

RALPH M. BROWN ACT

54954.2. (a) At least 72 hours before a regular meeting, the legislative body of the local agency, or its designee, shall post an agenda containing a brief general description of each item of business to be transacted or discussed at the 5 meeting, including items to be discussed in closed session. A brief general description of an item generally need not exceed 20 words. The agenda shall specify the time and location of the regular meeting and shall be posted in a location that is freely accessible to members of the public. If requested, the agenda shall be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12132), and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof. The agenda shall include information regarding how, to whom, and when a request for disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services may be made by a person with a disability who requires a modification or accommodation in order to participate in the public meeting.

REMOVAL WARNING

In the event that any meeting is willfully interrupted by a group or groups of persons so as to render the orderly conduct of such meeting unfeasible and order cannot be restored by the removal of individuals who are willfully interrupting the meeting, the members of the legislative body conducting the meeting may order the meeting room cleared and continue in session. Only matters appearing on the agenda may be considered in such a session. Representatives of the press or other news media, except those participating in the disturbance, shall be allowed to attend any session held pursuant to this section. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the legislative body from establishing a procedure for readmitting an individual or individuals not responsible for willfully disturbing the orderly conduct of the meeting.

Government code Section 54957.9

DISRUPTION OF MEETINGS

Any person who interferes with the conduct of a Neighborhood Council meeting by willfully interrupting and/or disrupting the meeting is subject to removal. A Peace Officer may be requested to assist with the removal by the Neighborhood Council.

Any person who resists removal by a Peace Officer is subject to arrest and prosecution.

Penal Code Section 403, Penal Code Section 602.1(b)

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

Voices NC Council Financial Responsibilities				
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Primary Signer	2nd Signer	Alternate Signer	1st Bankcard holder	2nd Bankcard holder
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S. Nieto (Treasurer)	A. Farias	J. Rabb	A. Farias	J. Rabb
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Voices NC Standing Committees

All meetings are open to the public and will be posted on 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.

Standing Committees	Assigned Council Member	Description
1. Arts, Parks, & Recreation	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.
2. Budget & Finance	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.
3. Outreach	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.
4. Planning & Land Use	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.

<p>5. Senior Services</p>	<p>Vacant</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>6. Youth & Education</p>	<p>A. Gray, K. Guevara</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>7. Health & Safety</p>	<p>S. Nieto</p>	<p>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.</p>