

City of Los Angeles  
Voices Neighborhood Council  
Regular Board Meeting



Tuesday, May 11, 2021, 6:00 pm  
VIA Telephone or Internet (Zoom)

Sally Embrey, Area 1  
Odalis Perez, 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 **MINUTES**

Tuesday, May 11, 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](http://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](mailto: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](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 5/11/2021**

*Call to Order at 6:05 pm*

*Roll Call PRESENT: A. FARIAS, J. RABB, K. BENOIT, S. NIETO, M. CRAWFORD, P. RAND, S. EMBREY. TARDY: A. GRAY, A. PATTON*

**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.	0521-02	<b>General Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items</b> <i>(limit 3 minutes per speaker)</i> <i>Martha from Vermont Square Library: library may re-open in a few weeks. No news on whether or not meetings will be held there. Hydee Feldstein: she is running for City Attorney and wants to explain the position and introduce herself, hydeeforcityattorney.com. Heather Michaels: to ask for this NC support for the Congress of Neighborhood Councils. Richelle Callies: wants board to</i>	10 min.

		<i>post job opening flyers. Ignite: wants board to be mindful of cannabis business equity in this area and work with EQUA to ensure funds for cannabis are funneled into this area and can provide CIS. Caller would like to request that meetings in the future be hybrid (in person and virtual) and commend the community on the improvements to the park</i>	
2.	0521-02	<p><b>Community/Government Reports and Announcements</b></p> <p>A. LAPD Senior Lead Officers -Southwest and 77th St. Officer Canizalez: 1 shooting last month at 57th and Budlong, young lady shot in thigh. GTA up 9% from 2020, robberies and assaults are down from last year. quality of life issues, addressing homeless encampments with CD9. Wes says that helicopters giving instructions to the public can not be heard on the ground.</p> <p>B. Office of Supervisor Mitchell's office - Alfonso Ruiz-Delgado: <b>not present</b></p> <p>C. Council District 9 - James Westbrooks: budget committee making recommendations on city budget, comes to full council on May 20th. New bridge housing opening in the area for homeless individuals and veterans. 100,000 Covid-19 vaccines administered in CD9, opening at 9am and 9pm to accommodate more people. Lights and camera construction at Vermont Square Park started.</p> <p>D. Mayor's Office - Edith Vega: <b>not present.</b></p> <p>E. USC Civic Engagement- Steve Wesson: USC wants to help small businesses by promoting them, email him at <a href="mailto:swesson@usc.edu">swesson@usc.edu</a>. Graduation begins next Friday, will be held at the Coliseum, don't exit 110 and Exposition if possible due to traffic. Vaccination center at USC doing well.</p> <p>F. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment- Karen Hernandez: <b>not present.</b></p>	30 min.
3.	0521-03	<p><b>UPDATE: Reimaging LAPD Funds in South LA</b> Presentation: Representative from Councilmember Curren Price Proposed Action: Motion to AMEND Voices NC recommendations on CD9's allocated funding. <b>NO ACTION TAKEN</b></p>	15 min.
4.	0521-04	<p><b>King Solomon Village (KSG) Housing Concept at 1300 W. Slauson Ave, LA 90044</b> Presentation by Jacquelyn Dupont-Walker, Ward Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) Proposed Action: Motion to SUPPORT the King Solomon Village Housing Concept. <b>MOTION: J. RABB, 2ND M. CRAWFORD, 8 YES, MOTION CARRIES.</b></p>	20 min.
5.	0521-05	<p><b>LADOT's proposed pedestrian refuge island request at Vermont &amp; 52nd St.</b> Board Member: Christopher Rider, LADOT Proposed Action: Motion to SUPPORT the installation of a pedestrian refuge island at Vermont Ave and 52nd St. <b>MOTION: M. CRAWFORD, 2ND: K. BENOIT, 8 YES, MOTION CARRIES.</b></p>	10 min.
6.	0521-06	<p><b>2021 Voices Neighborhood Council Board Seating Policy</b> Discussant: Karen Hernandez Proposed Action: Motion to APPROVE the 2021 board seating <b>MOTION: K. BENOIT, 2ND: M. CRAWFORD, 8 YES, MOTION CARRIES</b></p>	10 min.
7.	0521-07	<p><b>Meeting Minutes</b> Review and discussion of minutes from the April Meeting on 4/13/21. Member/Committee: K. Benoit Proposed Action: Motion to APPROVE the minutes for the April 2021 General Board Meeting. <b>MOTION: J. RABB, 2ND: K. BENOIT, 8 YES, MOTION CARRIES.</b></p>	3 min.
8.	0521-08	<p><b>Treasurer's Report: Monthly Expenditure Report</b> Presentation by S. Nieto, Treasurer Review and discussion of VoicesNC Budget and MERs for April 2021. Member/Committee: S. Nieto</p>	10 min.

		Proposed Action: Motion to APPROVE the April 2021 MERs. MERs to be submitted by May 31, 2021. Perform BAC. <b>MOTION: S. NIETO, 2ND: J. RABB, 8 YES, MOTION CARRIES</b> Proposed Action: Motion to APPROVE an amended FY 20-21 budget. Perform BAC <b>MOTION: S. NIETO, 2ND: A. GRAY, 8 YES, MOTION CARRIES</b>	
9.	0521-09	<b>Community Refrigerator</b> Member/Committee: M. Crawford Proposed Action: Motion to APPROVE not to exceed \$2000 for the construction and maintenance of the community refrigerator program to CommunityBuild for pandemic related expenses. <b>MOTION: K. BENOIT, 2ND: J. RABB, 8 YES, MOTION CARRIES.</b>	10 min.
10.	0521-10	<b>Committee &amp; Liaison Reports and Updates</b> Council to report on committee and liaison activities and invite interested stakeholders to participate in scheduled meetings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outreach Committee (Jaime Rabb)</li> <li>• Planning &amp; Land Use Committee (Parker Rand)</li> <li>• Arts, Parks &amp; Recreation Committee (Sara Zurita)</li> <li>• Health and Safety Committee (Steven Nieto)</li> <li>• Budget &amp; Finance Committee (Steven Nieto)</li> <li>• Ad hoc Sustainability Committee (Kaamil Benoit)</li> <li>• Ad hoc Business Committee (Ingrid Guevara)</li> <li>• LA LGBTQ+ Alliance of Neighborhood Councils Liaison (Sally Embrey/Kaamil Benoit)</li> <li>• CPAB - 77th Liaison (Steven Nieto) &amp; Southwest Liaison (Sally Embrey)</li> <li>• Homeless Liaison (Albert Farias)</li> <li>• SLAANC Liaison (Albert Farias)</li> <li>• Area Representatives (1, 2, 3, 4 and At-Large)</li> </ul> Proposed Action: No motions from updates. Committee and Liaison agenda motions will be listed individually for discussion and possible action.	15 min.
11.	0521-11	<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 appoint vacant board seats.	5 min.
12.	0521-12	<b>General Board Announcements on Non-Agenda Items (Not for Discussion)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voices Neighborhood Council 2021 Elections - <a href="#">List of Candidates</a></li> </ul> Ballot Drop Box at Vermont Square Library - opens Friday, May 14 at 9:00am - closes on Election Day, Tuesday, May 18 at 8:00pm.	10 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)

<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>				
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<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

<b><u>Voices NC Standing Committees</u></b>
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*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.*

Standing Committees	Assigned Council Member	Description
<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.