



CITY OF
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CALIFORNIA



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WEST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

JOINT BOARD AND GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE ONLINE AND TELEPHONIC MEETING AGENDA

Thursday May 20, 2021 at 6:30 PM

This meeting of the West Hills Neighborhood Council Government Relations Committee will be conducted online via Zoom Webinar and telephonically. All are invited to attend and participate.

To attend online via Zoom Webinar, paste the following link into your browser: **<https://zoom.us/j/97175160378>**

To call in by phone, dial (669) 900-6833, then punch in this Webinar code when prompted: **971 7516 0378**, then #

This meeting is open to the public. Comments on matters not on the agenda will be heard during the Public Comment period. Those who wish to speak on an agenda item will be heard when the item is considered.

1. Call to Order
2. Review minutes from April 2021.
3. Comments from the Co-Chairs
4. Public Comment

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion and Possible Action on the CIS regarding City Council File 21-0407, City Clerk be directed to report on the costs associated with administering the existing non-standardized Neighborhood Council election systems, and provide recommendations for streamlining a Neighborhood Council elections, and potential cost savings that could result from standardizing Neighborhood Council election rules.
2. Discussion and Possible Action to write a letter to Councilman John Lee with copies to Sen. Henry Stern and State Legislator Jesse Gabriel regarding the hidden intricacies of SB50.
3. Other Discussion
4. Adjournment

Public Input: 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, an issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future committee meeting. Public comment is limited to two minutes per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the committee.

Public Posting Of Agendas: WHNC agendas are posted for public review at Shadow Ranch Park, 22633 Vanowen St., West Hills, CA 91307 or at our website, www.westhillsnc.org. You can also receive our agendas via email by subscribing to the City of Los Angeles Early Notification System at www.lacity.org/government/Subscriptions/NeighborhoodCouncils/index.

The Americans 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 three business days (72 hours) prior to the meeting you wish to attend by contacting via email NCSupport@lacity.org or calling (213) 978-1551. If you are hearing impaired please call 711.

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 meeting where such writing was considered or by contacting the WHNC's executive director via email at Michelle.Ritchie@westhillsnc.org Requests can be made for a copy of a record related to an item on the agenda.

Reconsideration and Grievance Process: For information on the WHNC's process for board action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy or any other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the WHNC Bylaws. The Bylaws are available at our website, www.WestHillsNC.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 Michelle.Ritchie@westhillsnc.org

IT'S OUR NEIGHBORHOOD. LET'S BUILD A COMMUNITY.



West Hills Neighborhood Council

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JOINT GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE/BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Telephonic and Online Monday, April 19, 2021

Revised April 20, 2021

Attendance: Saif Mogri, Joanne Yvanek-Garb, Aida Abkarians, Faye Barta, Tariq El-Atrache, Olivia Naturman, Steve Randall, Reeyan Raynes, Myrl Schreiberman, Joan Trent, and Brad Vanderhoof

Public Attendance: None

Committee Co-chair Joanne Yvanek-Garb called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM. A quorum was established.

Comments from the Chair: None

Public Comment: None

Highlights of Mayor's State of the City Address: Joanne reviewed Mayor Garcetti's address and provided the following highlights.

- This will be the biggest budget in LA City history.
- \$75 million for covid vaccines and personal protective equipment
- Funding for social justice is included.
- Red tape will be cut to allow easier business resumption
- \$25 million in the form of \$5K to 5k businesses to open/reopen in LA
- \$1.5 million in modern carts for street vendors
- \$200 million in business subsidies
- \$300 million in aid
- LA is requesting \$700 million from FEMA.
- LA has purchased 20 building in the last 3 months for creation of housing for the unhoused.
- LA has requested funding for \$150 million for shelter beds from the state and federal governments.
- Free Metro services will be provided to low income residents.

The complete budget is available online.

The March meeting minutes were approved. Item 2 was tabled in March and left off the April agenda. The item will be on the May committee agenda.

Numbers refer to agenda items

1. CIS regarding City Council File 21-002-S19, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2021-22 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for the California Statewide Campaign, Yes! Immigrants Moving Forward, to urge the Congress and President of the United States to pass legislation that provides a permanent solution with a pathway to citizenship for all 11 million undocumented immigrants.

Yes – 8. No – 0, Abstain – 0

The CIS in support of CF 21-0002-S19 is approved and will be sent to the WHNC Board

2. CIS regarding City Council File 21-0002-S37, RESOLUTION relative to establishing the City's position regarding the 2021-22 State Legislative Program for SB 260 (Weiner), the Climate Corporate Accountability Act, which would require companies doing business in California and having \$1 billion in gross annual revenue to disclose their greenhouse gas emissions and set science-based targets to reduce those emissions.

Yes – 8. No – 0, Abstain – 0

The CIS in support of CF 21-0002-S37 is approved and will be sent to the WHNC Board

3. Municipal Bank of Los Angeles: Reeyan Raynes said this proposal has failed and there is no council file related to the item since 2019. The committee will discuss a possible CIS in opposition next month.

4. Event with the Street Services Department: Joanne will ask the manager of StreetsLA for a proposed meeting agenda.

Committee Co-chair Saif Mogri adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM.

The next meeting of this committee is May 17, 2021, online and telephonic.

MOTION

The Neighborhood Council system was established in 1999 to connect LA's diverse communities to City Hall. Neighborhood Council board members are volunteers, elected to office by the members of their community, with the purpose of ensuring that the diverse voices from every neighborhood are heard by City Hall. Democracy cannot exist without a fair electoral process at every level of government. As the closest form of government to the people, Neighborhood Councils must ensure their elections are inclusive, accessible and transparent.

Today, the City of Los Angeles is home to 99 Neighborhood Councils, each with its own election process. Where a person lives in the city determines the inclusivity of the process to cast a ballot, including whether photo identification is required. Requiring photo identification to vote, although seemingly unobstructive, is voter suppression, as many have experienced during the current Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council election. Obtaining identification is a significant burden for many groups as IDs can be costly and the travel required is often an obstacle for people with disabilities, the elderly, and people living in rural areas.

As voter suppression efforts take root across the United States, it is even more important that the City of Los Angeles reconfirms our commitment to voter rights, and equal and consistent elections throughout the neighborhood council system, ensuring that everyone who wants to participate in this grassroots democracy, is provided the same opportunity as their neighbors in other communities.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment be instructed to report with a survey of Neighborhood Council Election rules, with an analysis on how the bylaws of different Neighborhood Councils vary on election issues, including, but not limited to: eligibility requirements for Board seats, governing board structure, stakeholder requirements, and stakeholder verification.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Attorney be requested to report on the City Council's authority to standardize election rules across Neighborhood Councils, and potential limits to this authority.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Clerk be directed to report on the costs associated with administering the existing nonstandardized Neighborhood Council election systems, and provide recommendations for streamlining a Neighborhood Council elections, and potential cost savings that could result from standardizing Neighborhood Council election rules.

PRESENTED BY: 
 MONICA RODRIGUEZ
 Councilwoman, 7th District

SECONDED BY: 


 APR 14 2021