



CITY OF
LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA



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WEST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

JOINT BOARD AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE ONLINE AND TELEPHONIC MEETING AGENDA MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2022 @ 7:30 PM

In conformity with the September 16, 2021 enactment of California Assembly Bill 361 (Rivas) and due to concerns over Covid-19, the West Hills Neighborhood Council meeting will be conducted entirely with a call-in option or internet based service option. All are invited to attend and participate.

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

To call in by phone, dial (669) 900-6833, then punch in this Webinar code when prompted:
97175160378.

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.

AB 361 Updates: Public comment cannot be required to be submitted in advance of the meeting; only real-time public comment is required. If there are any broadcasting interruptions that prevent the public from observing or hearing the meeting, the meeting must be recessed or adjourned. If members of the public are unable to provide public comment or be heard due to issues within the Neighborhood Council's control, the meeting must be recessed or adjourned.

- Call to Order
- Review minutes from June 23, June 27, June 30 and September 29, 2022
- Comments from the Co-Chairs
- Voting on CIS'
- Public Comment

NEW BUSINESS

- Discussion and Possible Action on Council File 22-1189, Elected Officials / Martinez, de Leon and Cedillo / Offensive Misconducts / Racist and Hateful Comments / City Charter / Immediate Resignation Demand
- Discussion and Possible Action on Council File 22-1192, Removed from Office / Select New Council President / Vacant
- Discussion and Possible Action on Council File 22-1193, Replacement / Elect New Council President / Resigned from Office
- Discussion and Possible Action on Council File 22-1195, Racially Insensitive and Divisive Statements / Professional Conduct Failure / City Charter / Ground for Removal
- Discussion and Possible Action on Council File 22-1197, New Ad Hoc Committee / City Government Reform / October 2021 Recordings Release / Transparency and Limit Corruption / Los Angeles Residents Trust
- Discussion and Possible Action on Council File 22-1196, Charter Reform Ballot Initiative / Los Angeles 2024 / Population Growth / Major Immigrant Destination / Los Angeles City Council Seats / City Residents Representation

OLD BUSINESS

- Discussion and Possible Action on renewing WHNC participation in the Department of Water and Power Memorandum of Understanding – DWP MOU - Update
- Discussion and Possible Action on CF 21-0352 - Strategic Long Term Resource Plan (SLTRP) - Update
- Discussion and Possible Action on CF 16-0243 – LA 100 – 100% renewable energy portfolio - Update

Public input at Neighborhood Council meetings: When prompted by the presiding officer, members of the public may address the committee on any agenda item before the committee takes an action on the item by punching in *9 (if calling in by phone) or by clicking on the “raise hand” button (if participating online through Zoom) and waiting to be recognized. Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the committee’s jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Ralph M. Brown Act, the committee 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 committee meeting. Public comment is limited to 2 minutes per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of said committee.

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

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 requieres servicios de traducción, favor de avisar al Concejo Vecinal 3 días de trabajo (72 horas) antes de 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 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Telephonic and Online

Friday September 29, 2022

Revised September 29, 2022

Attendance: Aida Abkarians, Faye Barta (arrived 7:18 PM), Clarice Chavira, Saif Mogri (left 7:48 PM), Steve Randall, Joan Trent (arrived 7:53PM), Brad Vanderhoof, and Joanne Yvanek-Garb

Committee Members Absent: Mark Neudorff, and Myrl Schreiberman

Other Board members in attendance: None

- Co-chair Joanne Yvanek-Garb called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM. A quorum was established.
- Review minutes from August 2022: The minutes were approved as amended.
- Comments from the Co-chairs: None
- Public Comment: None

NEW BUSINESS

• Renewing WHNC participation in the Department of Water and Power Memorandum of Understanding – DWP MOU: Saif read a statement from the DWP saying the old MOU has expired and a replacement has not been finalized. He advised we wait to approve participation. The committee agreed.

Brad moved to ask the WHNC Board to appoint the following as representatives.

Joanne Yvanek-Garb as the WHNC representative to the DWP MOU and Saif Mogri as the alternate.
Aida seconded.

Aida Abkarians – Yes, Faye Barta – Absent, Clarice Chavira – Yes, Saif Mogri – Yes,
Mark Neudorff – Absent, Steve Randall – Yes, Myrl Schreiberman – Absent, Joan Trent – Yes,
Brad Vanderhoof – Yes, Joanne Yvanek-Garb – Yes

Yes – 7, No – 0, Abstain – 0, Absent – 3, Ineligible – 0, Recused – 0

The motion passes and will be sent to the WHNC Board.

• CF 21-0352 - Strategic Long Term Resource Plan (SLTRP) and CF 16-0243 – LA 100 – 100% renewable energy portfolio: Saif reviewed SB 100, which requires all electrical generation to be carbon neutral. Brad asked if the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) must approve DWP rate increases. Saif said they do not, because DWP is a municipal utility. DWP will be asked to present at an Environment Committee. Joanne and Saif will attend the October 11 DWP Commission meeting. Item tabled to October.

Co-chair Joanne Yvanek-Garb adjourned the meeting at 7:54 PM.

The next meeting of this committee is October 17, 2022 at 7:30 PM, online and telephonic.

RESOLUTION

On October 9, 2022, the Los Angeles Times reported on statements made approximately one year earlier during a meeting among Councilmembers Nury Martinez, Kevin De León and Gil Cedillo, along with local labor leader Ron Herrera.

During that meeting, which was secretly recorded, the group participated in extended discussions that were fraught with blatantly racist and hateful comments. These comments included racial slurs and cruel mockery directed at members of the African American, LGBTQ, indigenous and Armenian American communities, as well as derisive comments about "white members" of the Council. Some of the comments were directed at an African American child who is the son of a Member of the City Council. The comments made during that meeting were abhorrent and indefensible.

All elected officials of the City are expected to conform to the highest standards of personal and professional conduct. At all times, and especially at the very moment when our nation and our city have suffered so painfully from hatred, racism and toxic divisiveness, every Member of the City Council must demonstrate a clear commitment to uniting people around our common values and our common interests in building a better future together. Every Member of the City Council has an obligation to ensure that our constituents can have confidence that we will serve each of them with equity, fairness and dignity, and that no resident of our city will be mistreated or excluded because of their identity.

During that meeting, each of the Members of the City Council who made or otherwise participated in these statements grossly failed to meet the high standards expected of them as elected officials of this city. Their actions and inactions were completely contrary to the standard of conduct that the public is entitled to demand of its elected public servants. They demonstrated contempt and disrespect toward communities and individuals they were elected to serve, and they have damaged the public's faith in how this city is governed.

Community leaders and members of the public have responded with justified outrage, condemning the words of all four participants in the recorded meeting and calling for the immediate resignation of the three Councilmembers.

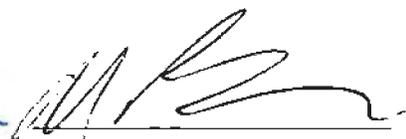
Under the City Charter, the Council's powers to suspend or remove a Member are limited to specific circumstances defined therein. The power to remove members for offensive misconduct of this kind is reserved to the voters of their districts. Section 209 of the Charter, however, gives the Council the power "to adopt, by a two-thirds vote, a resolution of censure with respect to any member of the Council whose actions constitute a gross failure to meet [the highest standards of personal and professional conduct], even if the action does not constitute a ground for removal from office under the Charter."

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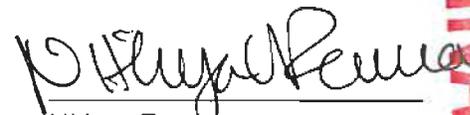
For all of these reasons, the City Council of Los Angeles does hereby RESOLVE that Councilmembers Nury Martinez, Kevin De León and Gil Cedillo are hereby CENSURED for their conduct and statements during the referenced meeting of October 2021, and the Council joins the community in demanding their immediate resignation from the Council.


Paul Krekorian
Councilmember, 2nd District


Mike Bonin
Councilmember, 11th District


Mitch O'Farrell
Councilmember, 13th District


Curren Price
Councilmember, 9th District


Nithya Raman
Councilmember, 4th District

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SECONDED BY: 

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TO CITY CLERK FOR PLACEMENT ON NEXT
REGULAR COUNCIL AGENDA TO BE POSTED #51

MOTION

I MOVE, pursuant to Council Rule 3, that an election be held to select a new Council President inasmuch as the resignation of the previously elected President has removed her from that office and rendered it vacant.

PRESENTED BY Monica Rodriguez
MONICA RODRIGUEZ
Councilwoman, 7th District

SECONDED BY [Signature]
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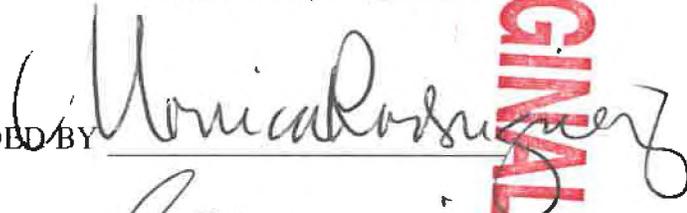
MOTION

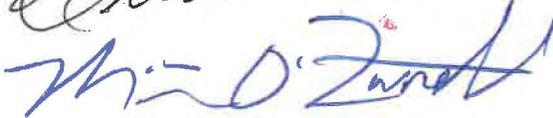
I MOVE that the Council hereby RESOLVE, pursuant to Charter §209, to censure Councilmembers Cedillo, DeLeon and Martinez for their racially insensitive and divisive statements, as reported in the media, which constitute a gross failure to conform with and meet the highest standards of personal and professional conduct, even if their actions do not constitute a ground for removal from office under the Charter.

PRESENTED BY


BOB BLUMENFIELD
Councilman, 3rd District

SECONDED BY





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OCT 11 2022



MOTION

The recently released recordings of an October 2021 conversation between former Council President Nury Martinez, Councilmember Kevin de León, Councilmember Gil Cedillo, and former Los Angeles County Federation of Labor President Ron Herrera have cast yet another shadow over Los Angeles City Hall. They follow federal indictments in recent years of three sitting City Councilmembers, and they have provided the public a window into a redistricting process stained by self-interested political gerrymandering and backroom deals.

The people of Los Angeles are right to be skeptical, suspicious, and distrustful of their city government.

To move forward, the City Council must respond to this crisis by seriously engaging with proposals for the reform of our City government that have long been circulating, but which the Council has yet to take deliberative action to pursue. Among these are the possibility of expanding the number of City Councilmembers, removing City Councilmembers' direct discretionary power over land use decisions in their districts, reforming City rules concerning lobbyists (as proposed by the City Ethics Commission in C.F. 22-0560), and establishing a truly independent redistricting commission (as called for in C.F. 21-1472).

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council convene a new Ad Hoc Committee on City Governance Reform, which will be charged with implementing reforms to increase transparency, limit corruption, and make City leadership more representative of our communities—with the aim of restoring the faith of the people of Los Angeles in their city government.

PRESENTED BY:

Nithya Raman

NITHYA RAMAN
Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY:

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OCT 11 2022
M. D.

Motion

Almost 100 years ago, the City voters adopted the charter reforms submitted by the "Board of Freeholders", which were developed in 1923, voted on in 1924, and enacted in 1925. At the time, the charter reform movement was focused on tackling corruption, ensuring efficient government, and improving representation. Although many smaller changes took place after the 1925 charter reform movement, the next major change didn't take place until the late 1990s, ushering in important updates such as the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, and restructured roles and duties of the Council and Mayor.

As the second largest city in the United States, Los Angeles is a major world-wide center of economic, cultural, and industrial power. As of the last US Census, the City grew approximately 3%, to 3.898 million people, a change of just over 106,000 residents since the 2010 census count. The City is home to some of the largest communities outside of their respective countries: Korean, Armenian, Salvadoran, Mexican, Filipino and others, making Los Angeles a major immigrant destination.

Between 1920 and 1929, the City's population grew from an approximate 577,000 residents, to just over 1.2 million. It was under this major growth that the City voters chose to create a Council with 15 members representing the unique corners of the City. With just under 4 million residents, it is time for the City to once again focus on representation. The Council should reflect the city residents that they serve; a charter amendment to increase the number of seats with methodology that ties council membership to population will help meet that goal.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the Chief Legislative Analyst, with the Assistance of the City Attorney, to report on the steps needed to place a charter reform ballot initiative before the voters of Los Angeles in 2024, with recommendations that ensure representation is fixed to population growth, in order to increase the number of Los Angeles City Council seats.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council instruct the Chief Legislative Analyst, with the assistance of the City Administrative Officer, to prepare a report that outlines and sets forth an immediate redistricting process to implement the updated reforms, after passage of the above-mentioned charter reform ballot initiative.

PRESENTED BY: *Mitch O'Farrell*
Mitch O'Farrell
Councilmember, 13th District

SECONDED BY: *Nancy Kelle*
Paul Kekorian
Paul Kety

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