



CITY OF
LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA



P.O. BOX 4670, WEST HILLS, CA 91308
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MAIL@WESTHILLSNC.ORG

WEST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, March 5, 2026@ 7:00 p.m.

de Toledo High School, 22622 Vanowen Street, West Hills 91307

In conformity with the January 1, 2026 enactment of California Senate Bill 707 (Durazo) and LA City Council File 23-1114, the West Hills Neighborhood Council Board Regular Meeting, will be conducted virtually, telephonically and in person. All are invited to attend and participate.

- **To attend online** via Zoom Webinar: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86151176250>
- **To call in by phone**, dial (669) 900-6833, then punch in this Webinar code when prompted: **8615 117 6250**, then press #.
- **To attend in person**, please attend de Toldeo High School location at 22662 Vanowen Street, West Hills 91307

This meeting is open to the public. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. 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.

<p><u>Opening Business</u></p> <p>Call to Order</p> <p>Roll Call – Establish Quorum Pledge of Allegiance Approval to allow Board Member(s) to attend the March 5, 2026 WHNC Board Meeting virtually under the provisions of AB2449 Approve Meeting Minutes of February 5, 2026 Senior Lead Officer Report</p> <p>Los Angeles County Fire Department Treasurer’s Report Controller’s Report Comments From the Co-Chair(s)</p> <p>Board Vacancy Announcement(s)</p>	<p>7:00 P.M.</p>	<p>Co-Chairs: Mrs. Charlene Rothstein Mrs. Aida Abkarians Secretary: Mr. Brad Vanderhoof Co-Chair: Mrs. Aida Abkarians Secretary: Mr. Brad Vanderhoof</p> <p>Secretary: Mr. Brad Vanderhoof Secretary: Mr. Brad Vanderhoof SLO Dinse SLO Dao</p> <p>Treasurer: Mrs. Carolyn Greenwood Controller: Mr. Saif Mogri Co-Chairs: Mrs. Charlene Rothstein Mrs. Aida Abkarians Mrs. Charlene Rothstein</p>
<p><u>Announcements</u></p> <p>Office of Assemblyman Jesse Gabriel Council District 12 Department of Neighborhood Empowerment</p> <p>Los Angeles County Supervisor District 3 Budget Advocates</p>		<p>Ms. Solen Ronarch, Field Representative Mr. Tim Kartiala, Housing & Livability Deputy Dr. Vincent Autiero, Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate Mr. Daniell Vicente, Field Representative Mr. Glenn Bailey</p>

<p><u>Public Comment</u> Comments & statements from stakeholders or interested parties on subjects <u>NOT</u> on this meeting’s agenda. *The Council affords an opportunity to members of the public to address the Council on items of interest that are within the Council’s jurisdiction. The Council is not permitted to take action on items that are not identified on the agenda. The Council reserves the right to limit speakers’ time if necessary to provide an adequate opportunity for all to be heard.*</p>		<p>Co-Chair: Mrs. Aida Abkarians</p>
<p><u>Council Announcement</u> Committee & Liaison Reports</p>		
<p><u>New Business</u> 26-0009 - Discussion and possible action regarding approval of the WHNC’s January 2026 Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) (5 Minutes Max)</p> <p>26-0010 – Discussion and possible action to approve using The Webcorner services for the 25-26 FY (5 Minutes Max)</p> <p>26-0011 - Discussion and possible action on WHNC’s tabling at the Chatsworth Nature Preserve Open House and Spring Equinox on Saturday, March 28, 2025 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (5 Minutes Max)</p> <p>26-0012 - Discussion and possible action to have the WHNC table at Pomelo Community Charter School during The Church at Rocky Peak’s Day of Service. Saturday, March 7, 8:00 to 11:00 AM. (5 Minutes Max)</p> <p>26-0013 - Discussion and possible action of submitting a Community Impact Statement (“CIS”) for CF 25-0848 to support request for report on evacuation capacity of city streets during emergency situations. (10 Minutes Max)</p> <p>26-0014 - Discussion and possible action of submitting a Community Impact Statement (“CIS”) for CF 25-1486 to support request for report of detailed analysis of application of AB 2011, AB 2243, and AB 893 to address overly broad definition of Commercial Corridor.(10 Minutes Max)</p> <p>26-0015 - Discussion and possible action to submit a Letter requesting a motion to Restore Local Control to Los Angeles City Planning and to Delay Completion of Community Plans (10 Minutes Max)</p>		<p>Mrs. Carolyn Greenwood, Co-Chair Budget Committee Mr. Saif Mogri, Co-Chair Budget Committee</p> <p>Mrs. Carolyn Greenwood, Co-Chair Budget Committee Mr. Saif Mogri, Co-Chair Budget Committee</p> <p>Mrs. Aida Abkarians, Co-Chair Mrs. Charlene Rothstein, Co-Chair</p> <p>Mrs. Aida Abkarians, Co-Chair Mr. Brad Vanderhoof , Co-Chair Beautification Committee Dr. Faye Barta, Co-Chair Beautification Committee</p> <p>Mr. Bill Rose, Co-Chair Zoning & Planning Committee Mrs. Charlene Rothstein, Co-Chair Zoning & Planning Committee Mrs. Penny Newmark, Member Zoning & Planning Committee</p> <p>Mr. Bill Rose, Co-Chair Zoning & Planning Committee Mrs. Charlene Rothstein, Co-Chair Zoning & Planning Committee Mrs. Penny Newmark, Member Zoning & Planning Committee</p> <p>Mr. Bill Rose, Co-Chair Zoning & Planning Committee Mrs. Charlene Rothstein, Co-Chair Zoning & Planning Committee Mrs. Penny Newmark, Member Zoning & Planning Committee</p>

26-0016 - Discussion and possible action on an update to the Charter Reform Commission CIS #25-089 (5 Minutes Max)		Ms. Brenda Citrom, Co-Chair Government Relations Committee Ms. Joanne Yvanek-Garb, Co-Chair Government Relations Committee Ms. Kim Koerber, Co-Chair Government Relations Committee
<u>Adjournment</u>		

In the event of a disruption that prevents the eligible legislative body from broadcasting the meeting to members of the public using the call-in option or internet-based service option, or in the event of a disruption within the eligible legislative body's control that prevents members of the public from offering public comments using the call-in option or internet-based service option, the eligible legislative body shall take no further action on items appearing on the meeting agenda until public access to the meeting via the call-in option or internet-based service option is restored. Actions taken on agenda items during a disruption that prevents the eligible legislative body from broadcasting the meeting may be challenged pursuant to Section 54960.1. California Government Code Section 54953.8(b) (3). The legislative body shall not require public comments to be submitted in advance of the meeting and shall provide an opportunity for the public to address the legislative body and offer comments in real time. California Government Code Section 54953.8(b)(4). Notwithstanding Section 54953.3, an individual desiring to provide public comment through the use of an internet website, or other online platform, not under the control of eligible legislative body, that requires registration to log in to a teleconference may be required to register as required by the third-party internet website or online platform to participate. California Government Code Section 54953.8(b)(5). A legislative body that provides a time public comment period for each agenda item shall not close the public comment period for the agenda item, or the opportunity to register, pursuant to paragraph (5), to provide public comment until that timed public comment period has elapsed. California Government Code Section 54953.8(b)(6)(A). A legislative body that does not provide a time public comment period, but takes public comment separately on each agenda item, shall allow a reasonable amount of time per agenda item to allow public members the opportunity to provide public comment, including time for members of the public to register pursuant to paragraph (5), or otherwise to be recognized for the purpose of providing public comment. California Government Code Section 54953.8(b)(6)(B).

Public Input: 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 2 minutes per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the Board.

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, or 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 by contacting the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment by calling (213) 978-1551 or email: NCsupport@lacity.org

Public Posting of Agendas - WHNC agendas are posted for public review at Platt Village, on the Southside of Pavilions, closest to Nothing Bundt Cakes at 6534 Platt Avenue, West Hills, CA 91307 or at our website, www.westhillsnc.org You can also receive our agendas via email by subscribing to [L.A. City's Early Notification System \(ENS\)](#)

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 Section 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

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 our website: www.westhillsnc.org or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact the WHNC's executive director via email at michelle.ritchie@westhillsnc.org

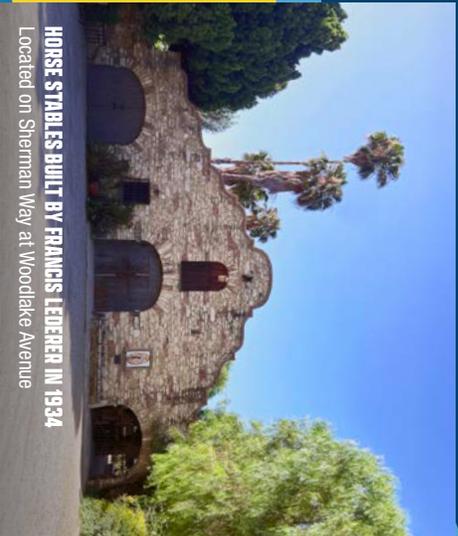
Reconsideration and Grievance Process - For information on the NC's process for board action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy, or any other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the NC Bylaws. The Bylaws are available at our Board meetings and our website www.westhillsnc.org

Servicios De Traducción: 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

HISTORY

West Hills Neighborhood Council

- The West Hills Neighborhood Council (WHNC) was certified by the City of Los Angeles in 2001.
- It was the first Neighborhood Council in the San Fernando Valley and the fourth citywide to incorporate under the revised 1999 City Charter.
- WHNC is highly respected among Neighborhood Councils of Los Angeles.
- It has numerous active committees that promote community involvement.
- WHNC represents and supports over 40,000 West Hills residents and local businesses to maintain a safe, welcoming and vibrant community.
- West Hills is home to Orcutt Ranch, a historic 1920s estate of oil pioneer William Orcutt, featuring gardens, orchards, and adobe-style architecture.
- Francis Lederer, Czech-American actor turned Southern California rancher, built Mission-Renewal estate in 1934 on 300-acre ranch, now a West Hills landmark. >



HORSE STABLES BUILT BY FRANCIS LEDERER IN 1934
Located on Sherman Way at Woodlake Avenue



USE THIS QR CODE FOR A DEEPER LOOK AT
WEST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

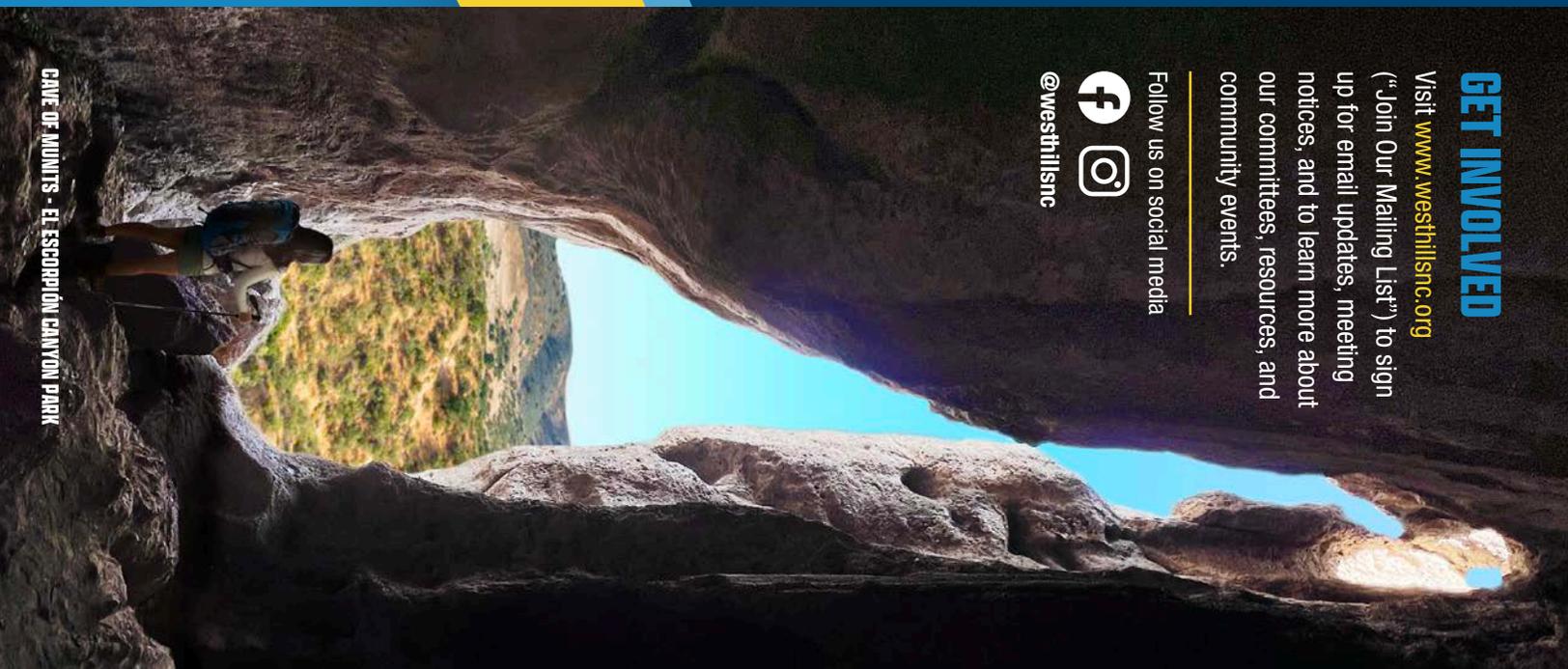
GET INVOLVED

Visit www.westhillsnc.org
("Join Our Mailing List") to sign up for email updates, meeting notices, and to learn more about our committees, resources, and community events.

Follow us on social media



@westhillsnc



CANE OF MOUNTAINS - EL ESCORPION CANYON PARK



Where Neighbors Become Family





ORCUTT RANCH

ABOUT US

You are the reason for the West Hills Neighborhood Council!

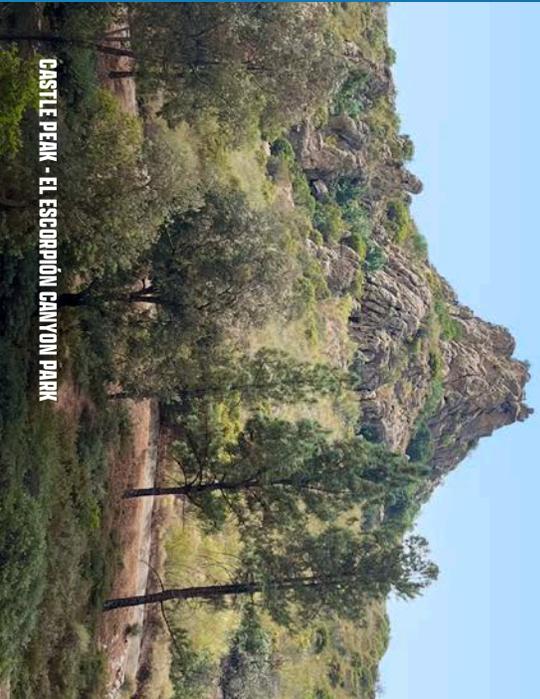
Everyone who lives in, owns property or works in West Hills has an ongoing stake in preserving the unique character of our community. The Neighborhood Council has 25 volunteer Board members chosen by community stakeholders in elections administered by the City of Los Angeles. The WHNC Board listens to and encourages participation by every stakeholder.

Mission Statement

To provide a forum in which West Hills stakeholders can learn about issues that affect the community and express their concerns and ideas; to recommend actions by government officials to address the needs of the West Hills Community; to promote communication between stakeholders and all levels of government; and to foster pride and participation in addressing the needs of the community.

WHAT WE DO

- Collaborate with City Council representatives and staff to help improve city services.
- Connect stakeholders with appropriate city departments to facilitate issue resolutions.
- Provide informed recommendations on development proposals and zoning matters.
- Create and participate in community events and annual festivals.
- Organize monthly neighborhood cleanups with volunteers of all ages.
- Educate residents on public safety and emergency preparedness.
- Partner with law enforcement to share crime trends and mitigation strategies.
- Assist local schools in developing Neighborhood Purpose Grant proposals to benefit students and the broader community.
- As a team, we work to bring the West Hills community closer together.



CASTLE PEAK - EL ESCORPION CANYON PARK

OUR COMMITTEES



 Board of Directors

 Beautification

 Budget

 Bylaws

 Communication & Outreach

 Education

 Environment

 Government Relations

 Homelessness

 Operations

 Public Health & Safety

 Special Events

 Streets & Transportation

 Zoning & Planning

Committee Meetings Location

Chaminade College Preparatory, Condon Center, 2nd Floor
23241 W. Cohasset Street, West Hills, CA 91304

Board Meetings Location (First Thursday of Every Month)

de Toledo High School
22622 Vanowen Street, West Hills, CA 91307



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WEST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

de Toledo High School

February 5, 2026

Revised February 6, 2026

The Board shall take official action by a simple majority of yes and no votes cast by the Directors present at a duly noticed regular or special Board meeting, not to include abstentions. There shall be no proxy voting.

PRESENT: Aida Abkarians, Faye Barta (SB707), Brenda Citrom, Nick Eskandari, Melissa Findling, Carolyn Greenwood, Jessica Irias (arrived 7:25 PM), Glenn Jennings, Kim Koerber, Jason Lally, Saif Mogri, Brian Murray, Penelope Newmark, Chris Pike, Bill Rose, Char Rothstein (SB707), Joan Trent, Brad Vanderhoof, and Joanne Yvanek-Garb

ABSENT: Fran Rubin and Zhelbert Zohrabian

Vice President Aida Abkarians called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM.

Secretary Brad Vanderhoof called roll and an in-person a quorum was established.

Vice President Aida Abkarians led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval to allow Board Member(s) to attend the WHNC Board Meeting virtually under the provisions of AB2449: Faye Barta and Char Rothstein attended remotely.

Announcements:

LAPD SLO Dao gave YTD crime statistics. There were 48 violent crimes (-6 from 2025). This includes 2 homicides. Property crimes were 312 (-53 from 2025). Coffee with a Cop will be held Wednesday, February 11th, from 10:00 to 11:30 AM, at the Starbucks on Fallbrook and Victory.

Approve Meeting Minutes from January meeting: The meeting minutes were approved.

LAFD Captain Lopez said Jamie Moore is confirmed as the new Fire Chief. He thanked the community for a very successful Toys for Tots drive. FS 106 is accepting discarded Christmas trees.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Carolyn Greenwood gave the report. Spending was normal office expenditures.

Beginning Balance -- \$20898.42, Spending -- \$1838.75, Balance -- \$19059.67, Outstanding -- \$1200, Net Available -- \$17849.17

26-00014 -- Approval of the WHNC's December 2025 Monthly Expenditure Report (MER):

Aida Abkarians -- Yes	Faye Barta -- Abstain	Brenda Citrom – Yes
Nick Eskandari – Yes	Melissa Findling – Yes	Carolyn Greenwood – Yes
Jessica Irias – Absent	Glenn Jennings -- Yes	Kim Koerber – Yes
Jason Lally – Yes	Saif Mogri -- Abstain	Brian Murray – Yes
Penelope Newmark – Ineligible	Chris Pike—Yes	Bill Rose – Yes
Char Rothstein – Ineligible	Fran Rubin – Absent	Joan Trent – Ineligible
Brad Vanderhoof – Yes	Joanne Yvanek-Garb – Ineligible	Zhelbert Zohrabian – Absent

Yes – 12, No – 0, Abstain -- 2, Absent – 3, Ineligible – 4, Recusal – 0
The MER is approved.

Controller's Report: Controller Saif Mogri gave the report. January spending included nametags \$30, and a \$500 education NPG. Total January spending was \$2769.26, leaving a balance of \$18252.67. Fiscal year spending is \$20065.15. Saif found a discrepancy between the MER and accounting records. He and Treasurer Greenwood will work to reconcile.

Comments from the Co-Chair(s): President Rothstein said it is good to be back. Vice president Abkarians said all Board members are needed to help with the Valentine's Dance. Setup starts at 4:00 PM.

Jessica Irias joined the meeting.

Announcements:

Solen Ronarch, Field Representative, State Assembly District 46, said this Saturday is the Tacos and Taxes event offering lunch and free tax preparation for anyone with income under \$69K. The 2026 Day of Service will be April 19.

Nicole Lewis, Legislative Deputy, Council District 12, parity and transit taxes are proposed to fund homelessness projects. There is a new street lighting assessment before to City Council, and if passed it will be on the November ballot.

Vincent Autiero, Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate, DONE, said Shine LA events will be February 7th, 7 AM at the Sylmar Discovery Cube, and February 20th, 9 AM at MacArthur Park. The Done office will be closed Monday due to staff furloughs. NC agenda posting requirements will have DONE posting to the ENS on weekends. He will send timelines for agenda submission.

Daniell Vicente, Field Representative, LA County Supervisorial District 3, said Supervisors Horvath and Barger have coauthored a motion for homeless service contracts. Supervisor Horvath is pushing for I.C.E. free zones at all LA County facilities. This Saturday there is an Emergency Resource Fair this Saturday, at LA Mission College, 9 Am to 1 PM, 13356 Eldridge Ave., Sylmar.

Glenn Bailey, Budget Advocates, said the annual meeting with DONE was held, and the recording is available at budgetadvocates.org. William Burg is the new Region 3 Budget Advocate. He is the treasurer of the Winnetka NC. Budget Day planning is underway for June 27 at City Hall. The City Clerk has requested \$25K for NC allocations for fiscal year 2026-2027. The council file for this is CF 26-0600.

Public Comment:

Ian Afazeli spoke about the revolution in Iran and asked for support for a City Council resolution denouncing the atrocities being committed by the government.

Glenn Bailey said the next VANC meeting will have a guest speaker from a business group, and Gibson Nyambura from DONE. The City Clerk, as a budget balancing action, has recommended cancelling the 2027 NC elections and extending terms to 2029.

Committee Announcements:

Joanne Yvanek-Garb, Brenda Citrom, and Joan Trent went to the Charter Reform Commission meeting. Bill Rose said the hearing for the Platt and Victory Starbucks is this Thursday. He reported on a meeting with the builder for the new owner of the Woodlake and Saticoy property. The new proposal is for ½ the number of units but larger units, so the structure will still be 4 or 5 stories. Plan is 1, 2 and 3 bedroom units with an income limit. They will be at the March Zoning and Planning meeting.

New Business:

26-0005 – Approval of the Updated WHNC Tri-Fold Brochure:

Aida Abkarians – Yes	Faye Barta -- Abstain	Brenda Citrom – Yes
Nick Eskandari – Yes	Melissa Findling – Yes	Carolyn Greenwood – Yes
Jessica Irias – Yes	Glenn Jennings -- Yes	Kim Koerber – Yes
Jason Lally – Yes	Saif Mogri -- Yes	Brian Murray – Yes
Penelope Newmark – Ineligible	Chris Pike—Yes	Bill Rose – Yes
Char Rothstein – Ineligible	Fran Rubin – Absent	Joan Trent – Ineligible
Brad Vanderhoof – Yes	Joanne Yvanek-Garb – Ineligible	Zhelbert Zohrabian -- Absent

Yes – 14, No – 0, Abstain -- 1, Absent – 2, Ineligible – 4, Recusal – 0
The brochure design is approved.

26-0006– Spending Request in the amount of \$200.00 by the Communications Committee for the WHNC 4/C Tri fold Brochure:

Aida Abkarians -- Yes	Faye Barta -- Abstain	Brenda Citrom – Yes
Nick Eskandari – Yes	Melissa Findling – Yes	Carolyn Greenwood – Yes
Jessica Irias – Yes	Glenn Jennings -- Yes	Kim Koerber – Yes
Jason Lally – Yes	Saif Mogri -- Yes	Brian Murray – Yes
Penelope Newmark – Ineligible	Chris Pike—Yes	Bill Rose – Yes
Char Rothstein – Ineligible	Fran Rubin – Absent	Joan Trent – Ineligible
Brad Vanderhoof – Yes	Joanne Yvanek-Garb – Ineligible	Zhelbert Zohrabian -- Absent

Yes – 14, No – 0, Abstain -- 1, Absent – 2, Ineligible – 4, Recusal – 0
The expenditure is approved.

26-0007 -- WHNC Beautification Committee Clean-Up Event on Saturday, February 21, 2026 from 8:30 a.m. –11:30 AM on Valley Circle from Ingomar to Dorie:

Aida Abkarians -- Yes	Faye Barta -- Abstain	Brenda Citrom – Yes
Nick Eskandari – Yes	Melissa Findling – Yes	Carolyn Greenwood – Yes
Jessica Irias – Yes	Glenn Jennings -- Yes	Kim Koerber – Yes
Jason Lally – Yes	Saif Mogri -- Yes	Brian Murray – Yes
Penelope Newmark – Ineligible	Chris Pike—Yes	Bill Rose – Yes
Char Rothstein – Ineligible	Fran Rubin – Absent	Joan Trent – Ineligible
Brad Vanderhoof – Yes	Joanne Yvanek-Garb – Ineligible	Zhelbert Zohrabian -- Absent

Yes – 14, No – 0, Abstain -- 1, Absent – 2, Ineligible – 4, Recusal – 0
The Cleanup is approved.

26-0008 -- WHNC 2026 Bylaws Amendment Application for Submission to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment:

Aida Abkarians -- Yes	Faye Barta -- Abstain	Brenda Citrom – Yes
Nick Eskandari – Yes	Melissa Findling – Yes	Carolyn Greenwood – Yes
Jessica Irias – Yes	Glenn Jennings -- Yes	Kim Koerber -- Yes
Jason Lally – Yes	Saif Mogri -- Yes	Brian Murray – Yes
Penelope Newmark – Ineligible	Chris Pike—Yes	Bill Rose – Yes
Char Rothstein – Ineligible	Fran Rubin – Absent	Joan Trent – Ineligible
Brad Vanderhoof – Yes	Joanne Yvanek-Garb – Ineligible	Zhelbert Zohrabian -- Absent

Yes – 14, No – 0, Abstain -- 1, Absent – 2, Ineligible – 4, Recusal – 0
The WHNC Bylaws Amendment Package is approved.
Secretary Brad Vanderhoof will submit it to DONE.

Vice President Aida Abkarians adjourned the meeting at 8:17 PM.

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for March 5, 2026.

Monthly Expenditure Report



Reporting Month: January 2026

Budget Fiscal Year: 2025-2026

NC Name: West Hills Neighborhood Council

Monthly Cash Reconciliation					
Beginning Balance	Total Spent	Remaining Balance	Outstanding	Commitments	Net Available
\$19059.67	\$1865.76	\$17193.91	\$2114.00	\$0.00	\$15079.91

Monthly Cash Flow Analysis					
Budget Category	Adopted Budget	Total Spent this Month	Unspent Budget Balance	Outstanding	Net Available
Office	\$32052.59	\$1865.76	\$14693.91	\$1614.00	\$13079.91
Outreach		\$0.00		\$0.00	
Elections		\$0.00		\$0.00	
Community Improvement Project	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Neighborhood Purpose Grants	\$3500.00	\$0.00	\$2500.00	\$500.00	\$2000.00
Funding Requests Under Review: \$0.00		Encumbrances: \$0.00		Previous Expenditures: \$16492.92	

Expenditures						
#	Vendor	Date	Description	Budget Category	Sub-category	Total
1	THE WEB CORNER, INC.	01/01/2026	Email to WHNC stakeholders	General Operations Expenditure	Office	\$150.00
2	IN AKD	01/10/2026	WHNC Badges for new board members	General Operations Expenditure	Office	\$30.00
3	RACKSPACE EMAIL & APPS	01/22/2026	WHNC Board Email Service	General Operations Expenditure	Office	\$71.76
4	PARTNERS IN DIVERSITY, INC.	12/24/2025	WHNC Executive Assistant	General Operations Expenditure	Office	\$807.00
5	PARTNERS IN DIVERSITY, INC.	01/05/2026	WHNC Executive Assistant	General Operations Expenditure	Office	\$403.50
6	PARTNERS IN DIVERSITY, INC.	01/16/2026	WHNC Executive Assistant	General Operations Expenditure	Office	\$403.50
Subtotal:						\$1865.76

Outstanding Expenditures						
#	Vendor	Date	Description	Budget Category	Sub-category	Total

1	HAMLIN CHARTER	01/20/2026	Proxy payment to re-issue check from FY 21-22 and FY 23-24 that was never received by Hamlin Charter. Approval of an NOG in the amount of \$500 to Hamlin Elementary for a variety of sensory it...	Neighborhood Purpose Grants		\$500.00
2	PARTNERS IN DIVERSITY, INC.	01/28/2026	WHNC Executive Assistant	General Operations Expenditure	Office	\$807.00
3	PARTNERS IN DIVERSITY, INC.	01/29/2026	WHNC Executive Assistant	General Operations Expenditure	Office	\$403.50
4	PARTNERS IN DIVERSITY, INC.	02/06/2026	WHNC Executive Assistant	General Operations Expenditure	Office	\$403.50
Subtotal: Outstanding						\$2114.00



BUILDING A STRONGER L.A.

26-0011 - Discussion and possible action on WHNC's tabling at the Chatsworth Nature Preserve Open House and Spring Equinox on Saturday, March 28, 2025 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Karen Bass, Mayor
Board of Commissioners
Nurit D. Katz
Allan T. Marks
Wilma J. Pinder
Benny B. Tran
Chante L. Mitchell, Secretary

USE OF FACILITIES

Janisse Quiñones, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Engineer

EVENT DATE: March 28, 2026
EVENT: Chatsworth Nature Preserve Spring Equinox Open House
ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE: 2,000
PRE/POST EVENT TIME: 8:00AM – 3:00PM
ADVERTISED EVENT TIME: 10:00AM TO 2:00PM

ORGANIZATION West Hills NC PHONE No. N/A
ADDRESS PO Box 4970 91308
CONTACT NAME Brad Vanderhoof PHONE No. 747 364-5862
EMAIL ADDRESS brad.vanderhoof@westhillsnc.org

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The Permittee is responsible for ensuring that Permittee and its invitees, agents, or assigns stay within delineated boundary of event area (See Attachment "A"). Fires, burning of materials, and smoking are strictly prohibited. Alcohol consumption is not permitted. If your exhibition includes animals, please specify on the online form. The Permittee must ensure that all trash, debris, and waste resulting from the permitted activity are collected and removed from the property. The Permittee and its invitees must not block access to any LADWP roads, tanks, and other facilities at all times.

HOLD HARMLESS CLAUSE

The Permittee hereby expressly agrees on its behalf and that of its dependents, heirs, assigns and legal representatives: That the City of Los Angeles (City), the Los Angeles City Council, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), its Board of Water & Power Commissioners, its officers, agencies, employees and volunteers (LADWP Indemnitees") shall not be responsible or liable for any injury (physical or mental), death, damage, loss or expense (including legal costs and reasonable attorney fees) incurred by the Permittee, its invitees, or their property while exercising the permitted activities or engaging in related activities. PERMITTEE HEREBY ASSUMES FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY AND ALL RISK OF INJURY, DEATH OR PROPERTY DAMAGE arising out of said activities. Permittee further agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the LADWP Indemnitees from all loss or liability, actual or alleged, that may arise from Permittee's conduct, or the conduct of its invitees, agents, or assignees, either intentional or negligent, while participating in the above described activities. However, neither the waiver nor the indemnity agreement exempts the LADWP Indemnitees from acts of gross negligence or willful misconduct.

The Permittee acknowledges and accepts the condition of the public premises and accepts the premises in their present condition. The Permittee agrees to abide by all laws, terms and conditions, and safety regulations. The Permittee has carefully reviewed this document, understands its contents, and signs it voluntarily, without being subject to coercion.

Brad Vanderhoof
Print Name of Permittee

Signature of Permittee

March 5, 2026
Date



Spring Equinox

at Chatsworth Nature Preserve

Saturday, March 28th, 2026

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Join us for a special event to welcome the spring season and celebrate community and nature! This family-friendly event is open to all, beginning with an opening ceremony and Native American blessing, followed by a community resource fair, interactive storytelling sessions, guided nature walks, and more.

Bring hats, refillable water bottles, sunscreen and comfortable walking shoes. No pets, drones, smoking, bikes or scooters.

Enter on Valley Circle Blvd, west of Plummer St.
Street parking available with limited on-site parking.

In case of inclement weather, this event will be rescheduled.

Check out our website for updates.

LADWP.com/ChatsworthOpenHouse

Scan QR code for Info



Sign Language interpreters, Assistive Listening Devices, or other auxiliary aids and/ or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability, you are advised to make your request at least 72 hours prior to the event you wish to attend. Due to difficulties in securing Sign Language interpreters, five or more business day notice is strongly recommended. To request accommodation, please call 213-367-5218. TDD: 800 HEAR DWP (800 432-7397).

Agenda Item 26-0012 - Discussion and possible action to have the WHNC table at Pomelo Community Charter School during The Church at Rocky Peak's Day of Service. Saturday, March 7, 8:00 to 11:00 AM.



**NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
EVENT APPROVAL REQUEST FORM**

Office of the City Clerk – Neighborhood Council Funding Program
200 N. Spring Street, Rm 224, Los Angeles, CA 90012 • (213) 978-1058 or Toll-Free 3-1-1
E-mail: Clerk.NCFunding@LACity.org • www.Clerk.LACity.org

Events are great opportunities for Neighborhood Councils to interact with their stakeholders. There are, however, liability and permitting issues that must be handled prior to the event. The Office of the City Clerk, Administrative Services Division, NC Funding Program Section must approve all Neighborhood Council sponsored events before any payments can be processed.

Please complete, sign, and submit this form at least 30 days prior to your event. Missing or incomplete required information or documents will delay review.

Neighborhood Council: West Hills Neighborhood Council

The Neighborhood Council is the Main Sponsor or Co-Sponsor for the event.

Main sponsor: The Church at Rocky Peak

Contact Person: NA

Email: NA

Co-Sponsor (if applicable): West Hills Neighborhood Council

Contact Person: Brad Vanderhoof and Faye Barta

Phone: N/A Email: Brad.Vanderhoof@westhillsnc.org; Faye.Barta@westhillsnc.org

Event Information

Event Title and Description: Tabling Event at Pomelo Community Charter School
Day of Service – The Church at Rocky Peak

Date: 3/7/2026 Time Frame: 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Est. number of attendees: Unknown Event Budget: \$ 00

Venue Name: Pomelo Community Charter School Venue Address: 7633 March Ave., West Hills

Contact Person: Aida Abkarians

Email: Aida.Abkarians@westhillsnc.org

Please note: If the venue for the event is at a City or public facility, e.g. park, school, the venue approval may be easier and at little or no cost. If the venue for the event is not a City facility, a separate contract may be needed and can take up to 60 days to complete.

Please scan the following documents and email to Clerk.NCFunding@lacity.org for approval PRIOR to event:

- Neighborhood Council Event Approval Form – Signed by Treasurer, 2nd Signer or Event Chair
- Board Action Request (BAC) Form – Completed and signed by Treasurer and 2nd Signer, or Alternate Signer
- Itemized Detailed Event Budget – Total budget with funding categories (food, entertainment, flyers, permits, etc.) and with specific vendors if available.

If a bank card credit limit increase will be necessary to pay for expenditures for this event, please contact your

Agenda Item 26-0013 - Discussion and possible action of submitting a Community Impact Statement (“CIS”) for CF 25-0848 to support request for report on evacuation capacity of city streets during emergency situations.

PUBLIC SAFETY

MOTION

In 2019, the State of California enacted Assembly Bill 747 (Levine), requiring cities and counties to review and update their safety elements following the adoption of a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. This review includes evacuation route identification, capacity, safety, and viability under a range of emergency scenarios, including wildfires, tsunamis, and other natural disasters.

While the City adopted its Local Hazard Mitigation Plan in September 2024, it has yet to update its safety element as required by AB 747. Given the growing frequency and intensity of wildfires, particularly in high-risk areas like the Pacific Palisades, Brentwood, and other parts of the wildland-urban interface in Council District 11 and across our City, fulfilling this mandate is urgent and critical to ensuring the safety and resilience of our communities.

The Palisades Fire underscored just how vulnerable our hillside communities remain. With limited ingress and egress options, the evacuation on January 7, 2025 was chaotic, with unclear instructions, and residents trapped in gridlocked traffic, many of whom fled on foot leaving their vehicles behind, which further delayed and impeded the fire response and ongoing evacuation. Many were forced to flee with little to no warning, and several evacuation routes were overwhelmed within minutes. This real-world stress test highlighted longstanding concerns about our emergency preparedness and the adequacy of existing evacuation infrastructure. This event, in addition to the July 29, 2025 Tsunami Advisory - which impacted coastal neighborhoods also lacking in adequate emergency evacuation routes - reaffirms the urgent need to comply with AB 747 and update the City’s emergency planning to reflect current realities.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the Department of City Planning, in coordination with the Emergency Management Department, Los Angeles Fire Department, Police Department, Department of Transportation, and any other relevant departments, to report back within 30 days on:

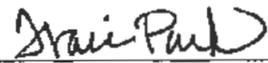
1. The City’s current status of compliance with AB 747, including a summary of existing evacuation plans or assessments, updates, or modifications related to evacuation route planning.
2. A list and evaluation of all evacuation routes in high-risk areas within Council District 11, including an assessment of:
 - a. Route capacity and bottlenecks, including consideration of density
 - b. Physical safety hazards
 - c. Viability under various emergency scenarios, including but not limited to wildfires, earthquakes, and tsunamis
 - d. Traffic and choke-point mitigation plans and strategies
 - e. Plans for community education and evacuation simulations and drills
 - f. Alternate routes and emergency ingress and egress
3. Plans to improve evacuation route infrastructure, signage, traffic control, and public education.


JUL 30 2025

4. A timeline and funding strategy for completing any remaining updates required under AB 747.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council instruct the City Administrative Officer to report back in 30 days regarding state and federal grant funding to support evacuation infrastructure improvements and community resilience planning efforts, especially in neighborhoods identified as high-risk zones under Cal Fire's recently updated Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps.

PRESENTED BY:



TRACI PARK

Councilwoman, 11th District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL

File 25-1486

Agenda Item 26-0014 - Discussion and possible action of submitting a Community Impact Statement ("CIS") for CF 25-1486 to support request for report of detailed analysis of application of AB 2011, AB 2243, and AB 893 to address overly broad definition of Commercial Corridor

PLANNING & LAND USE MANAGEMENT

MOTION

An application was recently submitted for a high-density multi-family project on the property currently owned by the Woodland Hills Country Club in Council District 3. The community is in a single family zoned and very high fire zone neighborhood. The proposed project takes advantage of new State laws that may have made it impossible to get detailed environmental review and consider community input. These changes, which could affect many areas in the City, have happened with little scrutiny or local awareness.

The new State laws appear to provide streamlined, ministerial approvals for the project, meaning the City would have no discretion to review the project, no authority to require CEQA and that the project would not be appealable by the community or the City. The state bill being used is AB 2011, which was amended by AB 2243 and AB 893.

AB 2011 allows high density multi-family projects ministerially along commercial corridors. The subsequent bills which amended the underlying bill were signed by the Governor in October and redefined specific terms. Among many elements that affect the City's authority to review projects, these changes include:

- Defining a commercial corridor in an overly broad way that includes Canoga Avenue along which the Woodland Hills Golf Course sits. Commercial Corridor is defined by width of street, not the zone, uses, or existing conditions.
- Removing zoning limits in Specific Plans that are over 25 years old, effectively circumventing the goals and requirements of the Mulholland Scenic Parkway Specific Plan and the Girard Tract Specific Plan.
- Creating a loophole in single family zoning by allowing that zoning to be ignored as long as parking is a principally permitted use whether a Conditional Use Permit is required or not, which applies in this case.
- Very High Fire Severity Zone limitations only apply if the site is vacant, which could raise concerns about the Palisades where many lots are currently vacant after being lost to fire in January 2025.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of City Planning, with the assistance of the City Attorney, be INSTRUCTED to report within 30 days with a detailed analysis of the application of AB 2011, AB 2243 and AB 893 both to the proposed Woodland Hills Country Club project and to other parts of the city along "commercial corridors" as defined in State law.

PRESENTED BY: Bob Blumenfeld
BOB BLUMENFIELD
Councilmember, 3rd District

SECONDED BY: Monica Rodriguez

ORIGINAL

MJR
DEC 10 2025

Agenda Item 26-0015 - Discussion and possible action to submit Letter requesting a Motion by City Council to delay further advancement on the Southwest Valley Community Plan until City Council completes analysis and decision finalized on how to proceed with CF 25-1083

MOTION

PLANNING & LAND USE MANAGEMENT

On September 12, 2025, the California State Legislature passed Senate Bill 79 (SB 79) (Wiener). If enacted, SB 79 will significantly alter land use, zoning, and development regulations for cities across California. The City must conduct an analysis to understand the impacts of SB79 on our neighborhoods and the rippling effects it will have across City Departments.

The Department of City Planning, neighborhood councils, community groups and Council offices invested countless hours into public meetings to educate and solicit feedback from the community in order to create a blueprint to address our housing shortage. This extensive outreach and engagement resulted in the approved Citywide Housing Incentive Program (“CHIP”) and updated Community Plans, which was part of the approved Housing Element. The Department of City Planning carefully evaluated CHIP, which is reflected in the Environmental Impact Report that was completed.

SB79 would fundamentally change the zoning of neighborhoods without consideration to community, infrastructure, traffic, parking, and public safety. It would effectively rezone hundreds of parcels across the city without completing environmental review through an Environmental Impact Report. While the intent of SB79 may be to expand housing opportunities and streamline certain development processes, the legislation also raises serious questions and concerns about the capacity and resiliency of existing city infrastructure to accommodate and support substantial new density given the City also already faces chronic challenges in maintaining and modernizing its infrastructure.

The impacts of the legislation, which was amended over a dozen times, needs to be thoroughly understood by City staff and community stakeholders in the event Governor Newsom decides to sign SB79 and enact it into law. This analysis should also explore how these new state mandates will affect our ability to create and maintain safe, reliable and adequate infrastructure and utility systems, in addition to recommendations for mitigation and funding strategies to plan for increased density around SB79 eligible transit stops.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council instruct the Department of City Planning, Transportation Department, and the Housing Department, and in consultation with the City Attorney, and Chief Legislative Analyst, to prepare a report in 90 days on an assessment detailing the impacts of SB79. The report should include the following:

- The definition of a “Transit-oriented development stop.”
- Detail the applicability of SB79 to Cities neighboring the City of Los Angeles.
- Detailed maps of the locations of a “Transit-oriented development stop” highlighting the one-quarter (¼) mile and one-half mile (½).
- Detail the allowable density per acre, height, floor area ratio (FAR) and parking.
- Detail how SB79 works in conjunction with Density Bonus Law, including waivers and incentives.
- Detail how SB79 would impact the following:
 - Residential units subject to the Rent Stabilization Ordinance.
 - Sites located within the Coastal Zone and Sea Rise areas.
 - Sites located within Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.
 - Sites located within Tsunami Zones.
 - Sites located in or near evacuation routes.


SEP 16 2025

Los Angeles City Council
200 N Spring Street
Los Angeles, Ca 90012

Attention: Los Angeles City Council Members

March 5, 2026

Re: Request for a motion to Restore Local Control to Los Angeles City Planning
And Delay Completion of Community Plans

Dear City Council members:

The West Hills Neighborhood Council (WHNC) respectfully requests that the Los Angeles City Council enact a motion to immediately restore local control to Los Angeles City Planning and stay any further advancement or completion of the community plans.

The U.S. Constitution, Article IV, section 4, guarantees to every state a “republican form” of government. “Republican form of government” is defined as a system where authority is derived from the people, who exercise their power by electing representatives to make laws and govern on their behalf. We are fortunate to have all of you as our representatives.

As you know, Sacramento has significantly shifted planning authority away from Los Angeles Planning and the people of our cities. Now is the time to take back Los Angeles and our communities.

Completion of our Community Plans depends on the implementation of AB747, completed and applied provisions of Council File 25-1053, completed and adopted provisions of Council File 25-1083, a strategy that incorporates SB79, Option D in a transparent and publicly vetted manner and a clear definition of “commercial corridor”.

Thank you for your service and the success you have at hand.

Respectfully,

Bill Rose
Zoning & Planning
Co-chair

Char Rothstein
Zoning & Planning
Co-chair

- Sites that have a designated historic resource either by the City, State or Federal Governments, including individual designations and Historic Districts.
- Historic Preservation Overlay Zones or National Register Historic Districts (NRHD).
- Details on the City's ability to delay effectuation of SB79 and on the potential development of a local "Transit Oriented Development Alternative Plan," including but not limited to the following:
 - The necessary findings.
 - The number of "Transit-oriented development stops" that are anticipated to be analyzed.
 - Phasing and time requirements of delayed effectuation and Transit Oriented Development Alternative plans.
- Recommendations on local implementation options including:
 - Detailed cost analysis, including staffing resources and consultant costs anticipated to be needed by the Department of City Planning to implement SB79, and potential resources needed for delayed effectuation, a local Transit Oriented Development Alternative Plan, and case processing. Details on how the implementation will interface with already adopted and proposed Community Plans and the Citywide Housing Incentive Program (CHIP).

I FURTHER MOVE that the Council instruct the Chief Legislative Analyst, with the assistance of the City Administrative Officer, City Planning, the Department of Transportation, Bureau of Sanitation, Bureau of Street Services, Bureau of Engineering, the Fire Department, the Police Department, and request the Department of Water and Power, to prepare a comprehensive report identifying and assessing the projected impacts of SB79 density on the City's infrastructure and utility systems including:

- Costs to update, expand, and modernize the City's infrastructure and utility systems to support projected density from SB79.
- Costs to maintain expanded and upgraded infrastructure and utility systems needed to support SB79 density.
- Enhancements to emergency services staffing and resources necessary to support SB79 density.
- Citywide staffing enhancements necessary to design and deliver an upgraded infrastructure and utility enhancement plan to support new SB79 density.
- Recommendations for mitigation, funding strategies, and any additional policy actions the City Council should consider to mitigate the effects of SB79.
- Estimated increase of revenues generated from the reassessment of properties redeveloped with SB79 projects.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Council request the City Attorney to issue a confidential report to Council on potential legal challenges to SB79 and possible bases for cost-recovery from the state.

PRESENTED BY: Traci Park
 TRACI PARK
 Councilwoman, 11th District

SECONDED BY: Monica Rodriguez
J. S. [Signature]

ORIGINAL

January 13, 2026

COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT

COUNCIL FILE 25-0869

To the members of the Los Angeles City Council and Mayor Bass

The Board of West Hills Neighborhood Council met on January 8, 2026 to approve language to be submitted to the Commission to Reform the City Charter. These suggestions were deliberated over several months by members of the Government Relations Committee (GRC), the Homeless Committee as well as the Zoning and Planning Committee.

A vote was taken by the board to submit our suggestions with the following results:

For: 12

Against: 0

Abstaining 0

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne M. Yvanek-Garb, Co-Chair Government Relations Committee

Brenda Citrom, Co-Chair Government Relations Committee

Kim Koerber, Co-Chair Government Relations Committee

cc: Mayor Karen Bass

Commission to Reform the City Charter

Council Members

District 1: Eunisses Hernandez - councilmember.hernandez@lacity.org

District 2: Adrin Nazarian - Councilmember.Nazarian@lacity.org

District 3: Bob Blumenfield - councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org

District 4: Nithya Raman - contactCD4@lacity.org

District 5: Katy Yaroslavsky - councilmember.yaroslavsky@lacity.org

District 6: Imelda Padilla - councilmember.padilla@lacity.org

District 7: Monica Rodriguez - councilmember.rodriguez@lacity.org

District 8: Marqueece Harris-Dawson - councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org

District 9: Curren D. Price, Jr. - councilmember.price@lacity.org

District 10: Heather Hutt - cd10@lacity.org

District 11: Traci Park - councilmember.park@lacity.org

District 12: John Lee - councilmember.lee@lacity.org

District 13: Hugo Soto-Martínez - councilmember.soto-martinez@lacity.org

District 14: Ysabel J. Jurado - Councilmember.Jurado@lacity.org

District 15: Tim McOsker - councilmember.mcosker@lacity.org

West Hills Neighborhood Council City Charter Reform Recommendations

The West Hills Neighborhood Council extends our sincere appreciation for your enormous responsibility. Reforming the City Charter is both technically complex and democratically consequential, and we recognize the diligence, judgment, and civic commitment required to undertake this work. At the same time, we must underscore the urgency of this moment.

Neighborhood Councils—created to serve as the City’s eyes and ears—have been persistently under-resourced, underutilized, and structurally constrained in fulfilling their intended role. Neighborhood Councils MUST have equal powers with the support of and respect from government officials and agencies, especially when it affects each of the unique communities represented by Neighborhood Councils. Effective, durable reform is needed now. We respectfully submit the following recommendations for your consideration.

I. Fiscal Transparency and Revenue Authority

Los Angeles cannot build public trust or maintain essential services without full financial transparency. The City must update its four-year general fund budget outlook to reflect anticipated raises for city employees, ensuring projections are honest and aligned with real labor costs. The City also needs modern revenue tools for example, allowing City-operated asphalt-recycling facilities to sell reclaimed material, and taxing commercial users of the public right-of-way, such as autonomous delivery robots and autonomous vehicles like Waymo, that impose measurable wear on streets without contributing to their upkeep. These measures, paired with open and transparent labor negotiations that include meaningful public outreach before, during, and after bargaining, would strengthen fiscal resilience and reinforce a fairer, more sustainable revenue structure. The Charter must require that all City budget and financial data be publicly accessible in clear, searchable formats so residents can understand how public resources are allocated and spent.

City Controller Kenneth Mejia has repeatedly highlighted the lack of “budget conformity,” in which the adopted budget does not reflect actual spending or operational practices. His findings underscore the need for a Charter framework that guarantees transparent, accurate, and accessible financial information—not just for today’s obligations, but to ensure the City develops a long-term infrastructure plan capable of addressing deferred maintenance and future capital expenditures. Ensuring reliable fiscal data is essential for rebuilding public trust and enabling residents, Neighborhood Councils (NCs), and policymakers to make informed decisions.

To support these transparency reforms, the Office of the City Controller must be structurally strengthened. The Charter should provide the Controller with an independent budget, designate the Controller as the City’s Chief Financial Officer, and establish minimum professional qualifications for the office. The Charter should also clarify that the Controller’s audit authority includes performance audits of all City programs funded with public tax dollars, including those overseen by elected officials. Additionally, the Controller must be empowered to hire outside counsel when necessary, and the City’s Fraud, Waste, and Abuse function should be fully enshrined in the Charter.

A robust Reserve Fund should be created that can only be used during declared emergencies rather than to balance the budget, as currently practiced. Furthermore, the City of Los Angeles should be fixing the problems that result in lawsuits and nuisance claims and the City Council should be providing visibility into the outrageous and inexcusable settlements they reach. The City should not be paying outside counsel when they already have capable internal attorneys.

2. Democratic Representation by City Council

The scale and diversity of Los Angeles demand a legislative structure proportional to its population. Expanding the size of the City Council and establishing district populations no greater than 150,000 residents (based on 2024 estimated population), like peer cities, would create more responsive representation. With today's population, considering Los Angeles is the second most populist city in the United States, this adjustment would result in roughly 26 council seats which is appropriate for our population. More reasonable district sizes promote constituent access, accountability, and more geographically relevant policymaking. The City Council must be more responsive and accountable to NC comments and suggestions.

3. Ethics and Accountability Reform

Los Angeles must modernize its ethics rules and enforcement mechanisms to reflect contemporary political and economic realities. Granting the Ethics Commission (EC) authority to place ordinances directly on the City ballot would introduce a meaningful check on Council inaction and allow the public to address urgent issues without undue delay. The EC plays a central role in maintaining integrity within City government. Expanding the EC from five to seven commissioners, including two selected through an open application process, would introduce new voices, reduce political influence, and reinforce public confidence.

A stable and predictable funding formula – tied to Consumer Price Index (CPI), new mandates, Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA), and step increases – is necessary to ensure the EC can fulfill its growing responsibilities. To keep contribution limits aligned with real economic conditions, the ECs should have the authority to adjust those limits using broader indicators – such as wage growth, disposable income, and poverty rates – rather than relying solely on the CPI.

The Charter should also close long-standing loopholes. Currently, lobbyist employers and clients may still give gifts to City officials even though lobbyists themselves cannot. This inconsistency undermines trust and should be corrected. Similarly, the ability of lobbyists and firms to bundle campaign contributions weakens the existing campaign finance restrictions and should be prohibited.

Because ethics violations remain inconsistently enforced, it is essential for the City to clearly assign prosecutorial responsibility – whether to the EC itself, the City Attorney, the District Attorney, or a dedicated independent office. The City must also ensure that enforcement processes and related funding are transparent to the public, including resources intended to deter nuisance litigation. Strengthening the legal infrastructure for NCs is equally important. While the City Attorney's office has historically supported NCs, assigned dedicated legal representatives who have a deep understanding of NCs' areas should be reinstated. This would provide consistent guidance and greatly enhance the system's ability to function effectively. Together, these reforms would create a clear and enforceable ethics framework.

4. Transparency and Data Infrastructure

A 21st-century city requires 21st-century data capacity. The current reliance on third-party vendors for essential datasets often leads to fragmentation, high costs, and barriers to transparency. Establishing a City Data Bureau would centralize data expertise, streamline operations across departments, and strengthen public access to information. Integrating an AI-driven search interface would further simplify how residents and staff locate and interpret City data.

Such a bureau is especially vital for complex processes such as redistricting, where accurate data and clear public visibility are indispensable. A permanent in-house team would reduce redundancy, improve analysis quality, and ensure consistent citywide data standards.

5. Infrastructure and Governance Modernization

Los Angeles must overhaul how it manages the public right-of-way. Making Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) a Charter department with full responsibility for street and sidewalk construction, maintenance, and repair would create a unified and accountable structure for one of the City's most essential functions. The current multi-agency system diffuses responsibility, slows coordination, and complicates capital planning.

Replacing the Board of Public Works with a single reporting entity to the NCs would streamline oversight and eliminate the fragmented governance that has often impeded timely infrastructure delivery. To coordinate the City's complex capital programs, we recommend creating an Office of Infrastructure Management led by an executive chosen for demonstrated operational and capital-delivery expertise.

This Office should house the City's Capital Improvement Plan and the Charter should require two-year budget cycles and a five-year plan to bring predictability, transparency, and apolitical stability to long-term planning. Funding should be stabilized through dedicated revenues to LADOT, restoring service levels to a capacity that would insulate infrastructure maintenance from fiscal volatility.

6. Neighborhood Empowerment and System Reform

Neighborhood Councils require clear authority and dependable support if they are to fulfill their chartered purpose. They should be empowered to take official positions on county, state, and federal legislation affecting their communities. Establishing an assembly of NCs would ensure that bottom-up, community-driven priorities reach the legislative agenda by allowing the assembly to select one topic annually for an evening City Council meeting. Complementing this, there should be reforms that promote deliberation with City departments at a regional level. This could involve bringing representatives from various neighborhoods experiencing similar issues together with key decision makers and staff from appropriate City departments, allowing greater focus on regional solutions, sharing best practices, identifying common concerns and fostering more innovative and coordinated approaches to address issues across the City.

There should be no term limits for NC board members. Term limits would lead to the loss of institutional knowledge and experience that long-serving board members bring to their councils. Frequent turnover could disrupt continuity, delay long-term projects, and interrupt established relationships with City departments. The volunteer nature of NC service already makes recruitment challenging, and mandatory turnover could leave some boards without enough willing members to serve. It is difficult enough now to get community and stakeholders involved during the election process. Limiting stakeholders' ability to elect knowledgeable and effective representatives of their choice, reducing leadership continuity, and diminishing the strength of advocacy for underserved communities is already challenging. Term limits will affect continuity and community trust which are essential to the effective functioning of NCs.

The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) must recognize that NC members are volunteers with limited time and competing personal and professional obligations. They cannot accommodate hours-long training sessions that extend well beyond what is necessary for compliance. Most required trainings can be completed within a half hour and if they were made interactive, they would be far more effective and retainable.

Neighborhood Councils need practical, accessible training on everything from navigating City processes to sharing proposals with other councils and advancing ideas to the City through Community Impact Statements (CIS). These trainings should be easy to find, intuitive, and widely available. To support this, DONE should build a significantly improved and more functional website where NC members can quickly access training materials, step-by-step guidance, and practical resources for core NC procedures and applications.

DONE must be restructured as a facilitative rather than directive agency. DONE should not impose discretionary policy constraints or interfere in local decision-making. Instead, it should operate with transparency and accountability by publishing regular performance dashboards tracking election logistics, funding approvals, and service delivery – a facilitative role. Its budget should provide equitable support across all NCs. In summary, the role of DONE should be to help NCs and to make things easier by providing support, not dictating direction. NCs should be setting policies, not DONE.

Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC) also requires modernization. Seats should be reserved for NC-elected or regionally nominated commissioners to ensure deeper community understanding and direct system experience. Annual "State of the Neighborhood Council System" reports should measure election turnout, grievance resolution timelines, board retention, and overall system health. Regular evening meetings held across multiple regions would further democratize access and ensure that commissioners engage directly with the communities they oversee.

These reforms would return NCs to their original purpose ensuring that local civic participation is respected, supported, and genuinely woven into City governance. They would also reaffirm the system's core identity as grassroots, bottom-up, decentralized model of engagement, rather than a top-down hierarchy that sidelines community initiative.

7. Strengthening Community Participation and Access

Civic participation is strongest when it is accessible. City Council and Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) committee meetings should be held at times and locations that allow maximum public engagement, particularly evenings and weekends in or near the communities affected by the agenda items. Improving hybrid broadcast quality, translation services, and accommodation accessibility is essential to inclusive participation.

Neighborhood Councils must receive timely notice of City decisions that affect their communities. It should be more visible and easier to subscribe via email to receive content for Council Files, City Council meetings, Committee meetings and motions. Content should be released and received within a 48-hour time period. City departments should be required to send representation to NC committee and Board meetings within 60 days' notice.

8. Land Use, Local Authority, Appeals, and Planning

Neighborhood Councils possess local knowledge essential to sound planning. Control and authority over zoning and planning decisions should reside with the City and the communities directly affected by those decisions, not solely with City departments. This approach ensures that land-use policy reflects actual neighborhood conditions and needs rather than imposing one-size-fits-all outcomes. Neighborhood Councils must therefore be granted equal authority in land-use matters, as diminishing or bypassing local input can produce unintended consequences, including declining property values that weaken the property-tax base. A lack of meaningful community participation may also disrupt public-school enrollment patterns, increase traffic congestion, and place additional strain on public transportation systems, underscoring why sound planning depends on local knowledge and accountability.

Consistent with this authority, Neighborhood Councils must not be excluded from filing appeals to City Planning or Building & Safety, and all associated filing fees should be waived. When City departments deny NC recommendations, written findings must directly address each specific issue with the opportunity and full consideration given to NCs for their responses.

City Planning must assign case numbers promptly for every project application received (ministerial included) and subsequently post all documents and information for the NCs and the public to view. Each case should include an option to subscribe via email for updates. This would allow NCs and residents to review, consider and respond to information appropriately.

Commissions, including the Area Planning Commission (APC), should be restructured or dissolved if unable to acknowledge and support NCs and their respective communities. Commissioners must be free from political influence, have no past or present conflicts of interest, and demonstrate relevant experience with unbiased expertise.

City departments and commissions must further recognize that effective land-use governance begins with and utilizes ongoing public participation.

9. Strategic Collaboration and Ongoing Evaluation

Charter reform must establish processes for continuous improvement. The City should mandate regular review of engagement tools, oversight structures, and communication systems. Neighborhood Councils should have the authority to initiate system reviews, assess public communication strategies, and recommend improvements to City processes.

Ongoing evaluation ensures that reforms remain relevant and responsive as Los Angeles evolves.

Closing Statement

Neighborhood Councils can fulfill their foundational purpose only if the City Charter recognizes the partnership formed by NCs and the City of Los Angeles. This partnership is essential to restoring trust and ensuring that the civic engagement in Los Angeles is substantive rather than symbolic.

We consider these suggestions critical to the survival of all Neighborhood Council Systems.

Submitted by

West Hills Neighborhood Council