

NCWP Board Meeting

Draft MINUTES

Submitted by: Kevin O'Brien & Theresa Torrance

Tuesday, September 3, 2024 - 6:30 pm

7166 Manchester Avenue, Westchester, CA 90045

Present: Al Hernandez, Jack Hughes, Alex Reynolds, Chip Mallek, Tom Flintoft, Greg Aniolek, Julie Ross, Garrett Smith, Theresa Torrance, Jennifer Kingshott, Steve Donell, David Voss, Kevin O'Brien, Greg Melton, Alan Quon, Fred Puza, Dennis Miller, Debra Huston, Julie Zaller, Paula Gerez, Nicole Carcel

Absent: Brian Lockwood

Excused: Denny Schneider, Casey Yeazel, Matt Lipschutz, John Logsdon, Geoff Maleman, Dan Mohler

1. **Call to Order-President Gerez called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.**
2. **Salute the Flag**
3. **Introductions**
4. **Consent Calendar: (The following items will be treated as one item and enacted with one vote unless a Board member or a stakeholder requests that an item be placed on the Discussion Calendar.)**
 1. Approval of Minutes of July 2, 2024 Board meeting
 2. Receive, Approve and file the Treasurer's Report and MER for June 2024 and July 2024.
 3. Motion to approve letter to Councilwoman Traci Park asking for her help to clear Dockweiler / Playa Del Rey Beach / Vista Mar of homeless encampments per Executive Order N-1-24.
 4. Motion to approve letter to Mayor Bass, All City of Los Angeles Council Members, Los Angeles County Supervisors to Prioritize Mental Health Services, Prioritize Drug Addiction Services, Protect the Public Space, Implementation of SB 43 and Clearing of Encampments on City-Owned and County-Owned Property.
 5. Motion to approve the NPG from Friends of the Jungle in the amount of \$1,500 for their 45th Clean Up that will take place on Saturday, September 21, 2024 from 8am – 12pm on Trolleyway in Playa Del Rey to ensure that the annual Jungle Clean Up for the Community will continue.
 6. Motion to approve appointment of Alexandra Reynolds, NCWP representative to the LMU Neighborhood Advisory Committee.
 7. Motion to approve assignment of Board Member, Alexandra Reynolds to the Government Affairs Committee.
 8. Motion to approve CIS to preserve R1 zoning in the housing element. Proposed Resolution Supporting Exclusion of Single-Family Zones From the CHIP Ordinance for the Housing Element.
 9. Motion to approve CIS in opposition to the approved sewage rate increase.

Highlighted items were called Special and discussed as part of the Discussion Calendar.

M/S Smith/Kingshot to approve the consent calendar. Motion passed unanimously. Puza abstaining.

5. **Announcements from Governmental Representative** (limit to 3 minutes please)

Trey Grogan from CD11

- RV's and Homeless: CARE and CARE+ operations continuing around the district.
- A couple of motions passed on vehicle dwelling.
- First is to get clarity on towing enforcement rules.
 - Second is to restrict RV dwelling in residential areas and commercials

corridors.

- Crime prevention is a focus for the office. The office is looking into license plate readers and other technological resources.
- Fire station 5 -there was a motion approved for it to be converted into a community center focused on youth programming.

Brett Roberts: LA Metro (robertsbr@metro.net)

- The K line's Century and Aviation station scheduled to open later this month. This means K Line will connect
- The LAX Metro Transit station scheduled for Nov/Dec 24
- There will be a community update meeting on 9/25 (he will send Paula details)
- Huston and Gerez expressed concerns about the safety on metro. Brett advised that they have learned that most crime happened from non-paying riders so they will now be enforcing payment and will make other efforts for safety, to include increased lighting and surveillance and will also be working on getting their own security/police force. Currently they are coordinating with partners LAX PD and LAPD. Gerez commented that she is not confident some of these efforts will be effective.

Marian Ensley from Mayor Bass' Office

- Warning of excessive heat wave heating LA and letting people know about heat relief facilities opening
- Bureau of Engineering is kicking off assessment of minimum requirements to understand pedestrian facilities
- Another Inside Safe operation in de Leon's district
- CIRCLE is being expanded in WPDR
- There is a small business summit on Sep 12. A free in person event on how to access capital and government contracts
- Mayor Bass announced a completion of school slow zones and speed humps ahead of the first day of school
- President Gerez requests more support from the Mayor in combatting crime and burglaries. Paula noted that Brentwood recently hosted Mayor Bass and requested that Mayor Bass come to one of our meetings.
- Chip Mallek expresses concern that a crackdown in Brentwood burglary might move even more to Westchester. He also requested statistics on home retention, not just number of homelessness moved inside
- Alex Reynolds thinks we should talk more about reunification programs and mental health services
- Paula stated the Mayor needs to make better efforts with respect to addressing the mentally ill, drug users and senseless crime due to not addressing these issues in an effective manner.
- Julie commented on the poor rollout of the new LAPD system, which is not yet working, yet the Crimemapping system has been shut down so we can't get true stats. She has been navigating the number of burglaries in our community on her own and tracking on an Excel spreadsheet due to this.. She is stunned at how the city could allow this to happen with our police force.
- Debra mentioned we have had crew burglaries for two years. We have had hundreds of burglaries with no arrests.

Janet Turner - Ted Lieu

- Congressman joined Mayor Bass and Sec Buttigeig to celebrate a grant for Metro coming to LA
- Congressman applauds HUD to update changes to income requirements for disabled Vets
- Rep. Lieu is the chair of the Paralympics committee
- Rep. Lieu got \$1M for the Circle program
- Passports approvals have been expedited to 48 hours
- Julie asks a follow up question on the section 8 housing and mental health services. What extra services will be provided? She advised senior services and other and would get that info to Julie.
- Alex asked about crime against postal workers and stealing of mail. Janet advised

Rep. Lieu is working to address this.

Vincent Autiero of DONE

Announcements/Updates

- **311 Event Link:** The DONE Outreach & Engagement Director, Marilú Guevara, recently met with MyLA311 to discuss collaboration with NCs, including opportunities to table at events. They're relaunching the 3-1-1 mobile app in February and are interested in participating in events to showcase the new features. You can request their participation [here](#).
- **Council Motion on NC Youth Participation and Term Limits:** CM Rodriguez introduced a motion requesting "recommendations on potential methods and options to amend the Neighborhood Council Bylaws to ensure youth participation in Neighborhood Councils" and research on term limits. This CF is currently in Committee. [You can review the council file here](#).
- **EmpowerLA Bylaw Amendment Invitation:** EmpowerLA recently sent an invite for Neighborhood Councils to amend Article X Section 4 of their bylaws to simplify the stakeholder verification process. Amendments must be agendaized, voted on, and completed by September 30, 2024. Applications must be sent to ncsupport@lacity.org. Contact me if you have questions.
- **LA Times Map Tool:** The *Los Angeles Times* recently launched a new tool called **Shape Your LA** that provides detailed information about your local government and Neighborhood Councils based on your address. You can check it out [here](#).

Reminders

- **2024 Congress of Neighborhood:** Scheduled for **Saturday, September 28th**. This is a great opportunity to network and share information between NCs. They'll be launching the list of workshops soon!
- **#BoardmemberMonday:** Every Monday, our department features an NC Board Member on social media, highlighting the important and impactful work they do in their community. [General submissions here](#).
- **NPG Request for Action:** NCs can request that grantees provide an [impact form](#). Please feel free to send this to the NPG grantees after the grant is awarded.
- **NC Elections Reminder:** NC Elections in 2025 will be all vote-by-mail. Make sure to connect with your Outreach Committee to strategize on boosting awareness and voter turnout for the election. Let's work together to maximize participation!
- **Legislative & A+E Reports:** Attached is the most recent Legislative report along with the A+E 23/24 report. You can also review extensive NEA announcements with additional links.

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6. Announcements from Board Members

1. President's note to bring attention to the current lawsuit and reminder that we must still utilize the tools given to us and never give up. I believe this to be especially timely given the Community Plan Update going on currently. Those of us who have appeared before the PLUM Committee (first under CM Huizar and now under CM Harris-Dawson) (and the full City Council) understand this process to most often be an exercise in futility. When we speak it is to allow the committee / council to be able to say that they held a public comment period. Rarely, if ever, are our comments considered as it is clear that decisions have been made and scripted in advance. In most instances, we participate in order to demonstrate that we have exhausted our opportunities to be heard. At that point, we have established our standing and are then able to take legal action should we choose to do so. It is often said that the City only begins to listen after a lawsuit has

been filed. This means that those without the financial ability to hire a lawyer and take legal action are unable to be heard and to seek justice. And, even if a group is able to engage in litigation, the courts often defer to the City and/or fail to understand the issues sufficiently to overrule the City's action taken. The courts have been less favorable to citizen actions of late and the opportunities to file legal challenges have diminished significantly on land use matters as more and more projects/ project types are exempted from CEQA review. More and more projects bypass any community review and are permitted "by right." The following article addresses a current lawsuit brought by a local citizen group that is addressing the Council's Brown Act violations. Have a read CityWatch article on City Council/PLUM corrupt practices, in case you missed it: <https://www.citywatchla.com/los-angeles/29425-secret-la-city-coun cil-meetings-contradict-previous-votes-by-bass-krekorian-deleon-and-price-and- violate-brown-act>

- **Carcel (LAWA) Update**
 - Being sent over email
 - Garrett asked about the welcome to Westchester sound
 - Dennis expressed that the wheelchair service is bad at LAX. Nicole expresses that it's a service provided by airlines
 - Chip requests that LAWA releases a statement about the building on the North runway.
- **Puza (LMU) Update**
 - Students came back Aug 26h coming from 46 states
 - Fred sent info on how to report neighborhood disturbances
 - Fred met with LAPD, and students who lived in LMU-owned homes
 - LMU is still working to stabilize the letters on the bluff. There is a crew that comes out weekly to clean up the road below the bluff
 - LMU will be hosting a STEM outreach expo geared towards middle school and high school students
 - LMU will be serving as a vote center on election day
- **Donell (PLUC) Update**
 - PLUC meeting will be held on 9/17. Will discuss proposed Hertz site
 - At October 15th meeting there will be 3 presentations by 1) Land owner of Staples; 2) Brookfield Homes and 3) Pep Boys site
 -
- **Kingshott Update**
 - Sat Oct 15th is annual Playa Vista yard sale
- **Mallek** gave update on behalf of **Logsdon** (Public Safety Committee)
 - Sherriff Luna will be at next meeting on 9/24 in the community room at the LAX police station

7. Presentations

1. The Circle Team Program Manager, Nicholas Waldon from the Mayor's Office will make a special presentation on the expansion of the program. Followed by Questions and Answers with the Board.

Nicholas Waldon

- Circle is 24/7 response program that responds to non-criminal, non-medically urgent, non-violent incidents involving unhoused individuals. Team is 2-3 people and gets dispatched from either 911 or from us when we use 877-ASKLAPD
- Circle has reunited people with family out of state.
- Loitering is a major source of calls. Cleaning up used needles.
- Circle keeps clothes in the vehicle to cloth individuals.
- They have NARCAN and CPR training

Public Comment:

- **Lucy Han** (Friends of the Jungle)
 - Lucy wants to know where decompression centers are

- Lucy also thinks one hour is too long for connection to Circle being made
- **Mo Sadrpour**
 - There was an incident last week in the Ralph's parking lot. Tried for over an hour to dial the ask LAPD number and couldn't get through. He tried calling CD-11's office too. Private security called LAPD. There's no way to access Circle
- **Howard Haglund**
 - He recently tried to get ahold of circle because his neighbor is schizophrenic but they would not help since he is not unhoused.

Board Comment:

- **Gerez**
 - Requests the community is involved in any decisions about where a decompression center will be located.
 - The ASK-LAPD line is a really broken system
 - Paula is concerned our SLO's are being occupied watching encampments getting cleaned. Asks If the homeless are not threats, why do the SLO's need to be taken away from protecting our neighborhoods to oversee clean ups?
- **Ross**
 - Asks how large Circle is (both in totality and in Pacific).
 - Nicholas confirmed the entire staff is about 85 individuals and each area is about 12
 - Julie asked for the budget and metrics of success
- **Voss**
 - Asks if there's any website for Circle (It's being worked on).
 - Comments that the Mayor is touting Circle in press conferences but there's no metrics for taxpayers to access or learn more then where is the accountability
- **Mallek**
 - Wants to get beyond gross numbers and points out that if there are 14,000 encounters, we should know how many had successful resolutions. We deserve to know details on any progress
- **Hernandez**
 - Expresses concern with Circle the person has to want to be helped. If they're dangerous then LAPD will get called. But LAPD won't do anything unless they've committed a crime
 - Al mentioned he had a good experience with Circle but thinks its a state issue. We need a change in the state assembly.
- **Ross**
 - Believes the Circle team is a good resource but she expresses concern there will be a decompression center here.
- **Huston**
 - She has received communications from constituents about concerns of possibly having the decompression center in Westchester.

8. Discussion Calendar and related Public comment

1. Discussion and possible motion to appoint an Outreach Chair and Outreach committee members.

- **M/S Kingshott/Reynolds to approve discussion and possible appointment. Julie Zaller volunteers to Chair committee. Motion passes unanimously (Puza and Carcel abstaining)**
- **M/S Kingshott/Reynolds to add Reynolds and Mallek to Outreach Committee. Motion passes unanimously (Puza and Carcel**

abstaining)

2. Discussion and possible motion to approve or not approve a Basic Sponsorship pledge in support of the Westchester Arts and Music Block Party, an annual community event supporting local non-profits. This years event will be held on Saturday, September 21, 2024 from 12p – 8p at Emerson Avenue, between 80th St. and 80th Pl. in Westchester, CA in an amount not to exceed \$800.00. Heavy consideration should be based on NCWP Board member availability to attend and run an Outreach tent at the event.

- M/S Kingshott/Ross to approve discussion and possible sponsorship.
- Gerez advised NCWP should only sponsor if someone will work the NCWP table and asked board members of availability. There were no volunteers and so therefore, no sponsorship will be voted on/approved for this event.

3. **Item 3 from Consent Calendar**

M/S Kingshott/Reynolds to approve letter to Councilwoman Traci Park asking for her help to clear Dockweiler / Playa Del Rey Beach / Vista Mar of homeless encampments per Executive Order N-1-24, including anything that is State land, including along Lincoln Blvd. Motion passes unanimously (Carcel and Puza abstaining)

4. **Item 8**

M/S Miller/Kingshott to approve CIS to preserve R1 zoning in the housing element. Proposed Resolution Supporting Exclusion of Single-Family Zones From the CHIP Ordinance for the Housing Element. Motion Passes 17-1 (AYES: Hernandez, Hughes, Reynolds, Mallek, Flintoft, Aniolek, Ross, Smith, Torrance, Kingshott, Donell, Voss, O'Brien, Melton, Quon, Huston, Zaller. NAYS: Miller. Abstaining Puza, Carcel.)

9. **Public Comment** – non-agenda items (limited to 1 minute per speaker unless otherwise declared by the President or presiding director. Public comment on agendized items will be called as each agenda item is brought forward.)

Lisa Ferris spoke re: The Playa del Rey beach squatters problem has gone way too far. No one is enforcing the beach. They are not following the laws. Summer camps were disrupted.

10. **Committee Reports**

SEE ITEM 6 ABOVE-ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

11. **Adjourn**

Next Meeting Date: 10/01/2024 @ 6:30PM