

City of Los Angeles  
Voices Neighborhood Council  
Regular Board Meeting



Tuesday, December 10, 2019, 6:00 pm  
1201 W. 48<sup>th</sup> Street, LA 90037  
Vermont Square Library, Community Room

Sally Embrey, Area 1  
Odalis Perez, Area 2  
Vacant, Area 3  
Edward Garren, Area 4  
Parker Rand, At-Large  
Jaime Rabb, Corresponding Secretary  
Albert Farias, Vice Chairperson



Vincente Miles, Chairperson

Kelvin Guevara, Education  
Anita Gray, Youth  
Roberto Rodriguez, Faith-Based  
Sara Zurita, Community-Based  
Ingrid Guevara, Parliamentarian  
Steven Nieto, Recording Secretary  
Laure Ferguson, Treasurer

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The public is requested to fill out a "Speaker Card" to address the Board on any agenda item before the Board takes an action on an item. Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Board's jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Board is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future Board meeting. Public comment is limited to 3 minutes per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the Council, and given to the first 10 persons who submit Speakers Cards to the Recording Secretary.

### **NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC**

The City of Los Angeles Code of Conduct will be enforced to ensure the Voices Neighborhood Council meetings are collaborative, supportive, and respectful of divergent opinions.

### **QUORUM**

The Voices Neighborhood Council has 14 elected positions and one nominated position. The Voices Neighborhood Council must have eight members present for quorum to conduct official business.

### **AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)**

As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices and other auxiliary aids and/or services, may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least 3 business days (72 hours) prior to the meeting you wish to attend by emailing [VoicesNC90037@gmail.com](mailto:VoicesNC90037@gmail.com)

### **PUBLIC ACCESS OF RECORDS**

In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board in advance of a meeting may be viewed at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please email [VoicesNC90037@gmail.com](mailto:VoicesNC90037@gmail.com)

### **CONSIDERATION AND GRIEVANCE PROCESS**

For information on the Voices NC's process for board action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy, or any other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the Voices NC Bylaws. The Bylaws are available at our Board meetings and at <https://VoicesNC.org>.

### **SERVICIOS DE TRADUCCION**

Si requiere servicios de traducción, favor de avisar al Concejo Vecinal 3 días de trabajo (72 horas) antes del evento. Por favor contacte a Jaime Rabb, Secretario Correspondiente, por correo electrónico a [VNCCorrSec18@gmail.com](mailto:VNCCorrSec18@gmail.com) para avisar al Concejo Vecinal.

**MINUTES**  
**AGENDA FOR 12/10/2019**

**Call to Order at 6:16 PM**

**Roll Call: Present: A. Farias, J. Rabb, S. Nieto, S. Embrey, E. Garren, S. Zurita, A. Gray  
 Tardy: I. Guevara (6:28 PM) V. Miles (6:30 PM)  
 Absent: L. Ferguson, K. Guevara, R. Rodriguez, P. Rand, O. Perez**

*Pledge of Allegiance*

*Senior Lead Officer Report: SLO Canizales; There has been a surge in vehicle thefts on Fig; Don't leave stuff in cars. Winter Wonderland at 75<sup>th</sup> St. Elementary on 12/20/19 from 5 PM – 9PM.*

*Public Officials Report : Brittney Johnson, CD9 Field Deputy: Expo Center Winter Wonderland on 12/21/19 from 10 AM - 1PM.*

*General Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items: None*

**Adjourn at 7:56 PM**

**Action Items**

All items listed are designated for discussion and possible action by the Voices Neighborhood Council. Council items identified as presentation may be proposed for action by the Council and will be reflected as such in the meeting minutes.

Item	Reference Number	Matter	Time Allotted
1.	1219-01	<p><b>Council Meeting Minutes</b>                      Review and discussion of minutes from the Regular Board Meeting on October 8, 2019 and November 12, 2019                      Member/Committee: S. Nieto                      Proposed Action: Motion to approve the minutes for the October &amp; November Board Minutes.</p> <p><b>Motion: S. Nieto; Second: J. Rabb; Unanimously carried.</b></p>	3 mins
2.	1219-02	<p><b>Monthly Expenditure Report</b>                      Review and discussion of MERs for November 2019                      Member/Committee: L. Ferguson, V. Miles                      Proposed Action: Motion to approve the November 2019 MERs. Perform BAC for MERs to be submitted by December 31, 2019.</p> <p><b>Motion: J. Rabb; Second: S. Zurita; MERs reflect the additional amount (\$10,000) from the reallocation. J. Rabb completed BAC. Unanimously carried.</b></p>	3 mins
3.	1219-03	<p><b>Reimbursement to Jaime Rabb for Certified Letter</b>                      Proposed Action: Motion to reimburse Jaime Rabb \$6.85 for sending certified letter to Faith-Based Representative, Roberto Rodriguez, regarding vacating seat due to excessive absences. Perform BAC.</p> <p><b>Motion: E. Garren; Second: S. Nieto; J. Rabb completed BAC. Unanimously carried.</b></p>	2 mins
4.	1219-04	<p><b>Budget/Administrative Financial Positions</b>                      Member/Committee: V. Miles                      Proposed Action: Motion to select a primary (A. Farias) and secondary card holder (J. Rabb). Perform BAC.</p> <p><b>Motion: E. Garren Second: I. Guevara; J. Rabb completed BAC. Yes (8) No (0) Abstain (1). Motion carried.</b></p>	5 mins

5.	1219-05	<p><b>Budget Reallocation</b>                  Member/Committee: J. Rabb                  Proposed Action: Motion to reallocate \$1,000 from outreach to office expenditures for refreshments for board/committee meetings. Perform BAC.</p> <p><b>Motion: E. Garren; Second: A. Gray; J. Rabb completed BAC. Yes (8) No (0) Abstain (1). Motion carried.</b></p>	5 mins
6.	1219-06	<p><b>Voices Vacancies</b>                  Review and discussion of vacant council seat, unassigned committees, liaisons, liaison alternates, and recruitment of community stakeholders for committee assignment. Discuss council member absences. Invite all committee members to be sworn in during December meeting.                  Member/Committee: V. Miles, A. Farias                  Presentation by Voices Neighborhood Council Faith-Based Representative, Roberto Rodriguez.                  Proposed Actions:</p> <p>a) Motion to remove board member and Faith-Based Representative, Roberto Rodriguez, from the Voices Neighborhood Council Governing Board pursuant to Bylaw Article V, Section 7 due to excessive absences, specifically absences on the following Regular Board Meeting dates: Tuesday, July 9, 2019, Tuesday, August 13, 2019, Tuesday, September 10, 2019 and Tuesday, October 8, 2019.  <b>Motion: J. Rabb; Second: A. Gray; Unanimously carried.</b></p> <p>Presentation by candidate, Rikayah Kaamil Benoit, interested in Area 3 Representative for Voices Neighborhood Council. Isphal Singh has withdrawn his letter of intent.</p> <p>b) Motion to table selection of Area 3 Representative for vacant council seat until January General Board Meeting.  <b>Motion: E. Garren; Second: A. Gray; Unanimously carried.</b></p> <p>c) Council to motion on approving letter/email to be sent immediately to members who have exceeded the number of absences to inform seat is at risk of vacancy.;                  J Rabb to send certified letters to L. Ferguson and K. Guevara for excessive absences.  <b>Motion: E. Garren; Second: J. Rabb; Unanimously carried.</b></p>	20 mins
7.	1119-07	<p><b>Council File 19-1120, E-Cigarettes / Vape Pens / Cannabis Product Safety / Testing Laboratories</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Introduced on September 24, 2019 and referred to Rules, Elections, and intergovernmental Relations Committee. Motion is instructing the Department of Cannabis Regulation to report on the activities of testing laboratories within Los Angeles and elsewhere in California as they relate to cannabis product safety and public health and make recommendations for steps that the Council should take to compel the cannabis industry to remove all known threats to public health from cannabis vaping products.</li> <li>● Motion also requests that the City Attorney draft an ordinance that will prohibit the sale of all cannabis products and associated accessories used for vaping within the City of Los Angeles for one year, and to require renewal of that prohibition each year unless and until the Council affirmatively finds that particular cannabis vaping products have been determined safe for consumer use.</li> <li>● Motion that Voices NC <b>SUPPORT IF AMENDED</b> LA City Council File 19-1120 and <b>APPROVE and SUBMIT</b> community impact statement;</li> </ul> <p><b>"Voices NC will support the proposed ordinance if it is amended such that the prohibition of the sale of all cannabis vaping products and accessories within the City of Los Angeles be</b></p>	5 mins

		<p>limited to six month intervals unless and until the cannabis vaping products have been determined safe for consumer use."</p> <p><b>Motion: S. Nieto; Second: J. Rabb ; Unanimously carried.</b></p>	
8.	1119-08	<p><b>Council File 19-0002-S172, State of Emergency / Homelessness in the State of California</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduced on September 25, 2019 and referred to Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee. Resolution is requesting that the City of Los Angeles include in its 2019-2020 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for action by Governor Gavin Newsom to declare a State of Emergency on Homelessness in the State of California.</li> <li>Motion that Voices NC <b>SUPPORT</b> LA City Council File 19-0002-S172 and <b>APPROVE and SUBMIT</b> community impact statement;</li> </ul> <p>"Voices NC supports LA City Council's efforts to address the homelessness crisis in our City. We recommend that the resources allocated to the City of Los Angeles under a State of Emergency be based on numbers and need within each council district. Importantly, a State of Emergency on Homelessness should be implemented without infringing on the civil liberties of people who are homeless."</p> <p><b>Motion: S. Nieto; Second: E. Garren; Unanimously carried.</b></p>	5 mins
9.	1119-09	<p><b>Committee &amp; Liaison Reports</b></p> <p>Council to report on committee and liaison activities and invite interested stakeholders to participate in scheduled meetings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outreach Committee</li> <li>Planning &amp; Land Use Committee</li> <li>Arts, Parks &amp; Recreation Committee</li> <li>Youth &amp; Education Committee</li> <li>Budget &amp; Finance Committee</li> <li>CPAB (77th &amp; Southwest) Liaison</li> <li>Homeless Liaison</li> <li>SLAANC Liaison</li> <li>Census Goodwill Ambassador Liaisons</li> <li>Area Rep Reports</li> </ul> <p>Proposed Action: Motion to appoint Albert Farias and Sara Zurita as Census Goodwill Ambassador Liaisons for Voices Neighborhood Council. Committee and Liaison agenda motions will be listed individually for discussion and possible action.</p> <p><b>Motion: E. Garren; Second: J. Rabb; Unanimously carried.</b></p>	15 mins
10.	1119-10	<p><b>Board Retreat</b></p> <p>Discuss possible 'non-business' Voices board retreat for January 2020 at Ed Garren's residence. Ed to send out possible dates to the board for retreat.</p>	5 mins
11.	1209-11	<p><b>Swag/Board Items from Outreach Committee</b></p> <p>Member/Committee: J. Rabb</p> <p>Purchase kid swag, banners and t-shirts for board members and stakeholders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Motion to recommend that Voices NC <b>APPROVE</b> \$190.25 to purchase one vinyl banner and one fabric pop up banner with updated Voices NC logo, to be used at events, meetings, etc.</li> <li>Motion to recommend that Voices NC <b>APPROVE</b> \$1,107.45 for Voices NC swag items for kids to be dispersed at any community event. This is for 500 Voices NC branded round blinking light w/ back clip for backpacks and 500 Voices NC branded crayon 4 pack.</li> </ul>	15 mins

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Motion to recommend that Voices NC <b>APPROVE</b> \$347.39 for Voices NC T-shirts (25 qty) for board &amp; committee members.</li> </ul> <p><b>Motion: E. Garren; Second: A. Gray; J. Rabb completed BAC. Yes (7) No (0) Abstain (1). Motion passes.</b></p>	
12.	1219-12	<p><b>Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance</b></p> <p><b>Member/Committee: S. Nieto</b>  <b>Presentation by Lisa Hart, Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance</b>                  Proposed Action: Motion for Voices Neighborhood Council to join the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance and assign <b>E. Garren</b> to be a liaison.</p> <p><b>Motion: S. Nieto; Second: E. Garren; Unanimously carried.</b></p>	15 mins
13.	1219-13	<p><b>Council File 17-0981, Issue Over the Counter / On-Site Alcohol Sales / Conditional Use Permit</b>  <b>Member/Committee: P. Rand/A. Farias</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This council file addresses a stream-lined application process for approving a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for granting on-site sales of alcohol.</li> <li>Motion that Voices NC <b>SUPPORT</b> LA City Council File 17-0981 and <b>APPROVE IF AMENDED and SUBMIT</b> community impact statement;</li> </ul> <p><b>“Voices NC supports LA City Council’s file with amendment that applicants appear before our FULL BOARD to initiate a dialogue, address both parties concerns, and agree to engage each other in decision making.”</b></p> <p><b>Not Discussed; This item will be placed on the January 2020 general board meeting agenda.</b></p>	5 mins
14.	1219-14	<p><b>Council File 17-0117, Alcohol Restricted Use Subdistrict Ordinance (ARUS)</b>  <b>Member/Committee: P. Rand/A. Farias</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ARUS ordinance is a land-use tool that protects vulnerable communities that may already be flooded with alcohol retailers, giving them the power to limit how many of these businesses continue to enter their neighborhood.</li> <li>Motion that Voices NC <b>SUPPORT</b> LA City Council File 17-0117 and <b>APPROVE IF AMENDED and SUBMIT</b> community impact statement;</li> </ul> <p><b>“Voices NC supports LA City Council’s with amendments that retail liquor tax revenue be re-invested in our community with the consent of or at the discretion of the Neighborhood Council, liquor licensee to address and discourage public drinking on property, that Voices Neighborhood Council have a vote to rescind or renew any license issued to sell liquor in our neighborhood, that a 5-year renewal cycle be implemented concurrent and compliant with the Ordinances implementation and that blight, trash and graffiti on the Property of the Licensee be abated within 24 hours.”</b></p> <p><b>Not Discussed; This item will be placed on the January 2020 general board meeting agenda.</b></p>	5 mins

<b><u>Voices NC Council Vacancy</u></b>	
Interested stakeholders can email a Letter of Intent to <a href="mailto:VoicesNC90037@gmail.com">VoicesNC90037@gmail.com</a> . Additional information about Voices NC is available at <a href="https://VoicesNC.org">https://VoicesNC.org</a>	
<b>Council Vacancy</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>1. Area 3 Representative</b>	Represents all interests within Area 3 of the VNC.

--	--

<b><u>Voices NC Council Liaisons</u></b>			
<b>Council Liaison</b>	<b>Meeting Time</b>	<b>Assigned Member</b>	<b>Alternate Member</b>
<b>1. SLAANC</b>	Third Thursday of the month (6:30pm)	A. Farias	J. Rabb
<b>2. LAPD 77<sup>th</sup> C-PAB</b>	Second Thursday of the month (6:00pm)	S. Nieto	J. Rabb
<b>3. LAPD Southwest C-PAB</b>	First Monday of the month (6:00pm)	V. Miles	Vacant
<b>4. Homeless</b>	Last Tuesday of the month (6:30pm)	A. Farias	Vacant
<b>5. Resilience/Disaster Preparedness</b>	TBD	S. Zurita	Vacant
<b>6. Budget Advocate</b>	First Monday of the month (7:00pm)	L. Ferguson	J. Rabb

<b><u>Voices NC Council Financial Responsibilities</u></b>				
--	--	--	--	--

<b>Primary Signer</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Signer</b>	<b>Alternate Signer</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Bankcard holder</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Bankcard holder</b>
L. Ferguson (Treasurer)	V. Miles /A. Farias	J. Rabb	V. Miles	Vacant

<b><u>Voices NC Standing Committees</u></b>		
<p><i>All meetings are open to the public and will be posted on <a href="http://www.empowerla.org">www.empowerla.org</a>. All meetings will be held at Vermont Square Library unless otherwise posted. For more about Voices NC Standing Committees refer to Bylaws, Article VI, and Section 1.</i></p>		
<b>Standing Committees</b>	<b>Assigned Council Member</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>1. Arts, Parks, &amp; Recreation</b>	S. Zurita	The Arts, Parks and Recreation Committee will have the responsibility to discuss issues, promote partnerships on projects and brainstorm ideas to encourage greater community involvement and support. The Arts, parks and Recreation Committee will explore issues and ideas in order to define community identity and values by giving voice to its citizens and providing a form for group action and expression. The committee submits reports of meetings in written form and makes recommendations to the Board for action. The Chair selects meeting site, date and time and meets as directed in these Bylaws.
<b>2. Budget &amp; Finance</b>	L. Ferguson	The Budget and Finance Committee Investigate and pursue sources of income and funding. Make an initial review of project proposals and provide a report to the VNC board with recommendations. Generate a budget for each fiscal year, showing planned income and expenditures. And, maintain the Council budget current and report any issues to the Board.
<b>3. Outreach</b>	J. Rabb	The Outreach Committee shall be charged with continuing to outreach to the VNC stakeholders by utilizing any acceptable and Board approved forms of media (e.g. flyers, newsletters, print, television/electronic media, signs, banners, website, etc.) to inform stakeholders regarding projects and

		events. The content and method of distribution must be pre-approved by the Board.
<b>4. Planning &amp; Land Use</b>	P. Rand	The Planning & Land Use Committee shall review, take public input, report on and make recommendations of actions to the Board on any land use, beautification, and planning issues affecting the community in order to improve the health and quality of life of its citizens. The committee also reviews and recommends action regarding building development projects requiring land use permits within the VNC boundaries; advocates positions on land use and building design for the betterment of the community; and considers and provides recommendations to Council on other topics, such as rezoning, applications, development permits, and any subdivision that require council approval.
<b>5. Senior Services</b>	Vacant	The Senior Services Committee addresses the needs of senior citizens in the community and provides an environment where seniors can discuss current issues, share ideas and voice their concerns. The committee will be supportive of programs and services that provide seniors with maximum vitality and independence. It will identify, monitor and address issues that have impact upon seniors' quality of life. The committee will promote "Healthy Aging" by creating an environment where individual differences and needs are recognized; by promoting multicultural awareness, understanding and interaction; and by serving as a bridge to access government information and resources.
<b>6. Youth &amp; Education</b>	A. Gray, K. Guevara	The Youth & Education Committee addresses the issues, concerns, programs and services related to the education of children, youth and adults and developing specific strategies and policies for influencing and achieving constructive outcomes within schools, classrooms, and other education/learning centers that serve the Voices community. Additionally, this committee has the general responsibility to discuss issues, foster collaboration on projects, and brainstorm ideas to encourage greater community involvement/support and participation.
<b>7. Health &amp; Safety</b>	S. Nieto	The Health & Safety Committee seeks opportunities to organize and forums to mobilize the community in seeking safety practices. This includes partnering with Neighborhood Watch, Volunteer Safety Task Force (to enhance the Services provided by the School Crossing Guards), School Crossing Guards, Los Angeles Police Department Senior Lead Officers and Traffic Division and the Los Angeles Fire Department. Representatives of VNC will work to formalize a relationship with these City agencies and other entities responsible for "safety issues" in our community.