

City of Los Angeles
Voices Neighborhood Council
Regular Board Meeting



Tuesday, September 14, 2021, 6:00 pm
VIA Telephone or Internet (Zoom)

Sally Embrey, Area 1
Javonne Sanders, Area 2
Abasi Patton, Area 3
Edward Garren, Area 4
Parker Rand, At-Large
Matthew Crawford, Corresponding Secretary
Jaime Rabb, Vice Chairperson



Albert Farias, Chairperson

Vacant, Education
Vacant, Youth
Elizabeth Ebow, Housing
Estuardo Mazariegos, Community-Based
Sunny Keaton, Parliamentarian
Vacant Recording Secretary
Steven Nieto, Treasurer

Regular Board Meeting **MINUTES**

Tuesday, September 14, 2021

6:00 pm

Zoom Meeting Online or By Telephone

<https://zoom.us/j/96107326167>

Dial (669) 900-6833 or 877 853 5257 (Toll Free) to Join the Meeting

Then Enter This Webinar ID: 961 0732 6167

In conformity with the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 (March 17, 2020), and due to public health concerns and directives issued by the Mayor of Los Angeles and Los Angeles County Public Health Department regarding reducing the spread of COVID-19, meetings of the VoicesNC will be conducted entirely by video conference or telephonically. This will be effective starting May 1, 2020 and will continue during the period in which state or local public health officials have imposed or recommended social distancing measures.

PUBLIC INPUT AT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS

The public is requested dial *9, when prompted by the presiding officer, 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 Board.

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.

PUBLIC POSTING OF AGENDAS – Neighborhood Council agendas are posted for public review as follows:

- Vermont Square Library Front Door, 1201 W. 48th St.
- www.voicesnc.org
- You can also receive our agendas via email by subscribing to L.A. City's Early Notification System at <https://www.lacity.org/subscriptions>

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 Note: for TTY/TDD services, please refer to state provided services at <https://ddtp.cpuc.ca.gov/homepage.aspx>. Zoom meetings feature closed captioning functionality.

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

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, Vice Chair, por correo electrónico a Vicechair@voicesnc.org para avisar al Concejo Vecinal.

NOTICE TO PAID REPRESENTATIVES

If you are compensated to monitor, attend, or speak at this meeting, City law may require you to register as a lobbyist and report your activity. See Los Angeles Municipal Code §§ 48.01 *et seq.* More information is available at ethics.lacity.org/lobbying. For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or ethics.commission@lacity.org.

MINUTES FOR 9/14/2021

Call to Order @6:08 pm Adjourn @8:47pm

Roll Call Present: *A. Farias, J. Rabb, S. Nieto, E. Garren, S. Embrey, P. Rand, J. Sanders, S. Keaton, E. Mazariegos (left meeting early), M. Crawford Tardy: A. Patton Absent: E. Ebow*

Action Items

All items listed are designated for discussion and possible action by the Voices Neighborhood Council. Council items identified as presentations 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.	0921-01	General Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items (limit 3 minutes per speaker) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Dee Ward lives off 57th & Budlong Ave. Wants to know what’s happening with the open space on Denker to Slauson & Fig; Alley clean up - request LA Sanitation to speak about how they can help; she uses 311 and they often get closed without being cleaned up; curious why the construction on park stopped on Slauson.</i> - <i>Josef Siroky - State Senator Kamlager-Dove’s office, josef.siroky@sen.ca.gov</i> - <i>Chelsea McElwee, Prevention, National Awareness around recovery month; acknowledge those and highligh suicide prevention</i> 	10 min.
2.	0921-02	Community/Government Reports and Announcements	30 min.

		<p>A. LAPD Senior Lead Officers -Southwest and 77th St. <i>Officer Sam Salazar/Southwest - aggravated assaults are down; GTAs have spiked (Vermont & Hoover/MLK/Vernon - random), Free Club for your car at SW, reach out to Salazar if interested; trying to clean up excess trash around encampments. Lunch w/ Cops at Menlo Elementary on 9/16.</i></p> <p>B. Office of Supervisor Mitchell's office - Alfonso Ruiz-Delgado - <i>not present</i></p> <p>C. Council District 9 - Kendal Lake - <i>In regards to the 27th Street Recovery Plan: CD9 is calling for an additional \$5 million to further address the impact of the detonation - the money will go towards mental health services, infrastructure improvements, job and workforce development, access to children's services, business grants. They are looking to expand the boundaries and include more affected residents and businesses: 24th St to 30th St from Trinity St to Griffith Ave. The outlines of the different elements of the Recovery Plan are expected by the end of September. Will deliver senior lunches the week of October 25-29th - let Kendal know if any seniors would like to be added to the list.</i></p> <p>D. Mayor's Office - Edith Vega - <i>Rental assistance program application process open; will send flyers; Mayor's Youth Council - deadline 9/24 open to all students</i></p> <p>E. USC Civic Engagement- Steve Wesson - <i>students back on campus 8/21; email swesson@usc.edu directly if anyone has issues with students; new initiative launched Trojan Shop Local urging students, staff, etc. to do business within the area - trojanshoplocal.com; email garyb@usc.edu if you are a business that wants to participate in shop local.</i></p> <p>F. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment- Karen Hernandez - <i>not present; Thomas Soong - Code of Conduct Sessions to help propose amendments to the policy; Review the announcements in the Monthly Profile; want a Voices NC t-shirt.</i></p>	
3.	0921-03	<p>Treasurer's Report: Monthly Expenditure Report Review and discussion of VoicesNC Budget and MERs for August 2021. Member/Committee: S. Nieto, Treasurer <u>Proposed Action 1:</u> Motion to APPROVE the August 2021 MERs. MERs to be submitted by September 30, 2021. Perform BAC. <i>Proposed Motion: 1: S. Nieto, 2nd: J. Rabb. 9 YES, 0 NO, MOTION CARRIES.</i></p>	10 min.
4.	0921-04	<p>Meeting Minutes Review and discussion of minutes from the August (8/10/21) meeting. Member/Committee: A. Farias Proposed Action: Motion to APPROVE the minutes for the August 2021 General Board Meeting. <i>Proposed Motion: 1: J. Rabb, 2nd: S. Keaton. 9 YES, 0 NO, MOTION CARRIES.</i></p>	5 min.
5.	0921-05	<p>Strong Shoulders NPG Request Presentation by Tyrice Cagle, Strong Shoulders <u>Proposed Action:</u> Motion to APPROVE NPG for \$3,000 to Strong Shoulders. Feeding every Tuesday and Saturday; helping give youth jobs at church on 71st and Menlo; helping youth with their candy drive. Food for the month cost \$1,000 and they are taking this out of their pocket; \$300 utensils; \$300 back to school backpacks to 60 youth; feed homeless in the area. Feed about 75 people per week. Abasi Patton and Matthew Crawford asked for Pastor Cagle to come back next month with more documentation on services as well as a budget. Activist Gustyn suggest to reach out to other non-profit reach out to donate food; he thinks the \$3k is excessive; look and motify when a budget is given. <i>Proposed Motion: 1: M. Crawford moved to table the NPQ request to our October meeting and request Pastor Cagle bring a detailed budget and documentation regarding how it will impact our community. 2nd: S. Nieto, MOTION CARRIES.</i></p>	20 min.
6.	0921-06	<p>Letter of Support for Ishpal Singh's 7Eleven <u>Proposed Action:</u> Motion to APPROVE letter of support for Ishpal Singh regarding 7Eleven's partnership with Voices NC. <i>Requesting a letter of support from Voices NC as they expand their</i></p>	15 min.

		<p>stores to the Riverside area. Caller Activist Gustyn states we should not be supporting another business in another county; he states the 7Eleven on Vermont & 54th St. does not keep a clean store & they don't hire African Americans.</p> <p><i>Proposed Motion: 1: M. Crawford moved we approve the letter of support outlining Ishpal Singh's contribution to our community. 2nd: E. Garren. E. Garren abstained; 8 YES; MOTION CARRIES.</i></p>	
7.	0921-07	<p>ZA-1994-660-RV-PA4 - 5304 S Figueroa - Copa Cabana (aka Ding Dong Motel) Member/Committee: A. Farias <u>Proposed Action:</u> Motion to OPPOSE request for revocation of conditions of operation. <i>Gracelia Lanza, Owner of Copa Cabana Hotel - operated since 1995; asked for all conditions to be removed due to financial issues; 24 hour complaint with live operator and photo id required to book hotel room; Reports of prostitution, not cleaning up around motel and graffiti removal. 77th LAPD, Council District 9 support the opposition for the removal of existing conditions. Community input was requested as well from the neighbors around the motel. Gracelia Lanza purchased the motel and cleaned it up for the past 18 years and invested money for improving it. She has families staying there and 15 cameras around the motel. Some customers destroy the place; she states it's the area she's in and the nature of the business. She said they do not have prostitution. Caller Detective Dana Harris, Gang & Narcotics Division states conditions were imposed in 1995 when the motel was in disrepair with lots of calls, crime, prostitution, sexual assault, suicide, narcotics, etc. Caller Activist Gustyn encouraged the business owner to make sure the police have a warrant to review cameras, etc. Caller Antonio stated conditions of approval run with the land and not the business itself; these placed conditions are there to protect the community and as a business owner himself he hopes to see the motion carried.</i> <u>Proposed Motion:</u> 1: M. Crawford OPPOSE request for revocation of conditions of operation and request we write a letter to Curren Price to explore ways to ease the cost for reporting or waive fees associated with the reporting. 2nd E. Garren A. Patton abstained; 8 YES; MOTION CARRIES.</p>	15 min.
8.	0721-08	<p>Figueroa and Slauson Park Presentation by Sherilyn Correa and a representative from the Recreation and Park Department. <u>Proposed Action:</u> Motion to APPROVE support with recommendations for the Figueroa and Slauson Park <i>No action taken</i> <i>Sherilyn Correa from CD9 said they plan to hold another Community meeting to share the final renderings and will let us know when this will take place.</i></p>	15 min.
9.	0921-09	<p>Expansion of NSO to Voices NC <u>Proposed Action:</u> Voices to motion to support City Planning Report <i>By limiting the number of bedrooms per units indirecting effects parking issues; M Crawford wants CD 9 to look at re-zoning in South LA; will address more affordable housing; adding parking and more units by decreasing the bedroom size. S Embrey mentions that we need to maintain and preserve the characterization of the homes in the area.</i> <u>Proposed Motion:</u> 1: E. Garren moved to support the adoption of option #2 NSO District Amendment + TOC Refinement, requesting units to have no more than 2 bedrooms & include character preservation and support option #2 NSO in an effort to work toward a full South LA Community Plan Re: Code. 2nd: M. Crawford 9 YES; MOTION CARRIES.</p>	15 min.
10.	0921-10	<p>Purchase of Board/Committee Member T-Shirts Member/Committee: J. Rabb <u>Proposed Action:</u> Motion to APPROVE not to exceed \$300.00 purchase of t-shirts for board and committee members. <u>Proposed Motion:</u> 1: J. Rabb; 2nd: M. Crawford; 9 YES; MOTION CARRIES.</p>	15 min.
11.	0921-11	<p>Fall Community Clean Up - Location/Date to be Announced Member/Committee: J. Rabb</p>	15 min.

		<p><u>Proposed Action:</u> Motion to APPROVE not to exceed \$500.00 to purchase food/refreshments for attendees. <i>Proposed Motion: 1: J. Rabb; 2nd: E. Garren; 8 YES; MOTION CARRIES.</i></p>	
12.	0921-12	<p>Committee & Liaison Reports Assignments Council to report on committee and liaison activities and invite interested stakeholders to participate in scheduled meetings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach Committee • Planning & Land Use Committee • Arts, Parks & Recreation Committee • Health and Safety Committee • Budget & Finance Committee • Ad hoc Sustainability Committee • Ad hoc Business Committee • LA LGBTQ+ Alliance of Neighborhood Councils Liaison • CPAB - 77th Liaison & Southwest Liaison • Homeless Liaison • SLAANC Liaison • Area Representatives (1, 2, 3, 4 and At-Large) <p><u>Proposed Action:</u> Council to establish standing committee, to assign committee chairs, members and liaisons. <i>Proposed Motion: 1: J. Rabb moved we combine the Outreach and Arts, Parks, Recreation Committees to form the BOP (Beautification, Outreach & Programming) Committee; 2nd: M. Crawford; MOTION CARRIES.</i> <i>Proposed Motion: Planning & Land Use Committee will be co-chaired by E. Garren and E. Mazariegos and members will include A. Farias, M. Crawford. A. Patton and J. Sanders requested to join the committee however due to the Brown Act there can be no more than 4 board members on a committee. Will table to October meeting since we lost quorum.</i></p>	15 min.
13.	0921-13	<p>Voices Vacancies 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 the February meeting. Member/Committee: A. Farias <u>Proposed Action:</u> 1) Council to appoint vacant board seats - Recording Secretary, Education Rep and Youth Rep NO ACTION TAKEN</p>	5 min.
14.	0921-14	<p>Voices Neighborhood Council Board Member Communication and Responsibilities Council to discuss access to public email addresses, google drive for important documents, and a general discussion about responsibilities and expectations as outlined in the bylaws and standing rules. Presentation by A. Farias and J. Rabb NO ACTION TAKEN</p>	15 min.
15.	0921-15	<p>General Board Announcements on Non-Agenda Items (Not for Discussion) NO ACTION TAKEN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voices NC Board Member Training Updates • Community Refrigerator at United Market on 51st Place & Vermont Sign Up • Others 	3 min.

RALPH M. BROWN ACT

54954.2. (a) At least 72 hours before a regular meeting, the legislative body of the local agency, or its designee, shall post an agenda containing a brief general description of each item of business to be transacted or discussed at the 5 meetings, including items to be discussed in closed session. A brief general description of an item generally need not exceed 20 words. The agenda shall specify the time and location of the regular meeting and shall be posted in a location that is freely accessible to members of the public. If requested, the agenda shall be made

available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12132), and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof. The agenda shall include information regarding how, to whom, and when a request for disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services may be made by a person with a disability who requires a modification or accommodation in order to participate in the public meeting.

REMOVAL WARNING

In the event that any meeting is willfully interrupted by a group or groups of persons so as to render the orderly conduct of such meeting unfeasible and order cannot be restored by the removal of individuals who are willfully interrupting the meeting, the members of the legislative body conducting the meeting may order the meeting room cleared and continue in session. Only matters appearing on the agenda may be considered in such a session. Representatives of the press or other news media, except those participating in the disturbance, shall be allowed to attend any session held pursuant to this section. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the legislative body from establishing a procedure for readmitting an individual or individuals not responsible for willfully disturbing the orderly conduct of the meeting.

Government code Section 54957.9

DISRUPTION OF MEETINGS

Any person who interferes with the conduct of a Neighborhood Council meeting by willfully interrupting and/or disrupting the meeting is subject to removal. A Peace Officer may be requested to assist with the removal by the Neighborhood Council.

Any person who resists removal by a Peace Officer is subject to arrest and prosecution.

Penal Code Section 403, Penal Code Section 602.1(b)

<u>Voices NC Council Vacancy</u>	
Interested stakeholders can email a Letter of Intent to chair@voicesnc.org . Additional information about Voices NC is available at https://VoicesNC.org	
Council Vacancy	Description
1. Recording Secretary	The Recording Secretary records the minutes of each regular and special board meeting, maintain and archive all regular and special board meeting records. Make a record of each meeting available to the public and the Board by suitable means in a timely manner. The Recording Secretary may delegate a person to take minutes at a meeting in the event of an absence.
2. Education Representative	The Education Representative represents the interest of students and educators within our community. This representative should be informed on the issues and concerns related to educational organizations and institutions within Voices Neighborhood Council boundaries.
3. Youth Representative	The Youth Representative is appointed by the Board and must be at least sixteen (16) years of age at the time of appointment. This representative should be informed on the issues and concerns related to area youth and/or youth culture. If the appointed Youth Representative is less than eighteen (18) years of age, the person is excluded from voting on the (1) expenditure of Voices Neighborhood Council funds; (2) the hiring or firing of staff of the Voices Neighborhood Council; or (3) entering into contracts and agreements.

<u>Voices NC Council Liaisons</u>			
Council Liaison	Meeting Time	Assigned Member	Alternate Member
1. SLAANC	Third Thursday of the month (6:30pm)	Albert Farias	Matthew Crawford
2. LAPD 77th C-PAB	Second Thursday of the month (6:00pm)	Jaime Rabb	Matthew Crawford
3. LAPD Southwest C-PAB	First Monday of the month (6:30pm)		
4. Homelessness	Every Other Month (TBD) (6:30pm)	Elizabeth Ebow	
5. Resilience/Disaster Preparedness	TBD		
6. Budget Advocate	First Monday of the month (7:00pm)		
7. Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance	TBD		

Voices NC Council Financial Responsibilities

Primary Signer	2nd Signer	Alternate Signer	1st Bankcard holder	2nd Bankcard holder
S. Nieto (Treasurer)	A. Farias	J. Rabb	A. Farias	J. Rabb

Voices NC Standing Committees

All meetings are open to the public and will be posted on www.empowerla.org. 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.

Standing Committees	Assigned Council Member	Description
1. Arts, Parks, & Recreation		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.
2. Budget & Finance		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.
3. Outreach		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.
4. Planning & Land Use		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.
5. Senior Services		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.
6. Youth & Education		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.
7. Health & Safety		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.