

City of Los Angeles  
Voices Neighborhood Council  
Regular Board Meeting



Saturday, May 1, 2021, 1:00 pm  
VIA Telephone or Internet (Zoom)

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



Kelvin Guevara, Education  
Anita Gray, Youth  
Elizabeth Ebow, Housing  
Sara Zurita, Community-Based  
Ingrid Guevara, Parliamentarian  
Kaamil Benoit, Recording Secretary  
Steven Nieto, Treasurer

Albert Farias, Chairperson

## Special Board Meeting – CANDIDATE FORUM

Saturday, May 1, 2021

1:00 PM

Zoom Meeting Online or By Telephone

[https://zoom.us/j/847 3668 6012](https://zoom.us/j/84736686012)

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

**Then Enter This Webinar ID: 847 3668 6012**

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](http://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](mailto: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](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, Vice Chair, por correo electrónico a [Vicechair@voicesnc.org](mailto: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](http://ethics.lacity.org/lobbying). For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or [ethics.commission@lacity.org](mailto:ethics.commission@lacity.org).

### **AGENDA FOR 5/1/2021**

Call to Order  
Roll Call

### **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.	0521-01a	General Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items <i>(limit 3 minutes per speaker)</i>	10 min.
2.	0521-02a	Brief Overview of Neighborhood Councils and Standing Committees	10 min.
3.	0521-03a	Formal Candidate Introductions Candidate statements or remarks are limited to 2 minutes per person	26 min.

4.	0521-04a	<b>Moderated Q&amp;A with Candidates, facilitated by Thomas Soong, Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment</b> Each candidate will have 1 minute to answer each question.	45 min.
5.	0521-05a	<b>Audience questions &amp; comments</b>	20 min.
6.	0521-06a	<b>Candidates Closing remarks (1 minute each)</b>	13 min.

*Adjourn*

**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 meeting, 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)

<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 (6:30pm)	S. Embrey	A. Patton
<b>4. Homelessness</b>	Every Other Month (TBD) (6:30pm)	A. Farias	K. Benoit, A. Gray, P. Rand

<b>5. Resilience/Disaster Preparedness</b>	TBD	S. Zurita	S. Embrey
<b>6. Budget Advocate</b>	First Monday of the month (7:00pm)	S. Nieto	E. Garren
<b>7. Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance</b>	TBD	K. Benoit	A. Patton

<b>Voices NC Council Financial Responsibilities</b>
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Primary Signer	2 <sup>nd</sup> Signer	Alternate Signer	1 <sup>st</sup> Bankcard holder	2 <sup>nd</sup> Bankcard holder
S. Nieto (Treasurer)	A. Farias	J. Rabb	A. Farias	J. Rabb

<b>Voices NC Standing Committees</b>
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*All meetings are open to the public and will be posted on [www.empowerla.org](http://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
<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>	S. Nieto	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.

# Candidates for Voices Neighborhood Council Elections 2021

Term: 2 years

## Chairperson

Albert Farias  
David Morgan

## Community/Non-Profit Representative

Estuardo Mazariegos

## Vice Chairperson

Jaime Rabb

## Housing Advocate Representative

Elizabeth Ebow

## Treasurer

Steven Nieto

## Education Representative

Vacant

## Recording Secretary

Kaamil Benoit

## Area 1 Representative

Sally Embrey

## Corresponding Secretary

Matthew N. Crawford

## Area 2 Representative

Javonne Sanders

## Parliamentarian

Sunny Keaton

## Area 3 Representative

Vacant

## At-Large Representative

Parker Rand  
Ruffin Patterson

## Area 4 Representative

Vacant

## **Moderated Questions:**

Each candidate will have no more than 1 minute to answer each question.

1. What are the top 3 priorities that you plan to address as a board member and how will you accomplish this?
2. Each board members role involves a substantial amount of time and commitment that can involve sitting on a standing committee, representing the Voices NC at other on-going meetings such as the South Los Angeles Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (SLAANC), and working on other initiatives engaging stakeholders. How do you plan to address the time commitment as a volunteer?
3. What about our community makes you most proud to be a resident or stakeholder and why?

## **Preguntas para los candidatos:**

Cada candidato vas a tener uno minto para responder por cada pregunta.

1. ¿Cuáles son las 3 cosas principales que hará como miembro del consejo vecinal y cómo lo hará?
2. Cada miembro del consejo de vecindario dedica mucho tiempo a realizar diversas tareas, como asistir a un comité, representar al consejo de vecindario en otras reuniones, como la Alianza de Consejos de Vecindarios del Sur de Los Ángeles (SLAANC), y trabajar en otros temas en el barrio. ¿Cómo piensa abordar el compromiso de tiempo como voluntario?
3. ¿Qué en nuestra comunidad te hace sentir más orgulloso de ser residente y por qué?