

Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition: A Coalition of Councils General Meeting Agenda

Saturday April 1, 2023 10:00AM

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1. Welcome and roll call of Neighborhood Council Elected Representatives. 5 minutes
2. Approval of outstanding minutes.
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1aXqQiejy_sYA7SVS6FvNNndGc8oVtheX?usp=sharing
3. Motions from our member NCs and Alliances: None
4. Update from the WG4CC committee and motion:
 - a. The Working Group for Constructive Change, a committee for LANCC, is soliciting input to create a Bill of Rights addressing the concerns of all Neighborhood Councils, their board members and stakeholders. Attached are some ideas people have submitted so far but we want to ensure that everyone feels included and that means you need to speak up - what you like and don't like, what you feel are the most important issues, and help us make this a Bill of Rights, not just for some but for everyone. The Working Group is waiting to hear from you at lanccWG4CC@gmail.com

Proposed items to go into a Neighborhood Council Bill of Rights

There shall be No imposed bylaws and the city shall rescind previously imposed bylaws at the request of any neighborhood council regarding its own bylaws.

Neighborhood councils shall have a role in the choice of BONC appointees by one of the following:

appointment subject to ratification by majority of nc's in the region or

nc's have veto power over an appointee, or

requirement for 60% nc approval

The right to freedom of speech exists in neighborhood council deliberations and participation.

Neighborhood councils have the right to petition and communicate with all levels of government.

Neighborhood councils shall have the right to limit stakeholder status to the minimum described in the Charter and shall not be forced to include other categories of stakeholder.

Neighborhood councils are government bodies and hold equal status with other such bodies.

Neighborhood councils shall in the aggregate hold veto power over BONC decisions, by majority vote of those voting, out of a quorum of at least 10 neighborhood councils, each neighborhood council holding one vote to be cast by majority vote of its governing board.

The office of the City Attorney shall take care not to represent one part of city government against any neighborhood council or against neighborhood councils in general, as the neighborhood councils are an equal branch of city government as defined by the Charter. It shall be a conflict of interest for the City Attorney to represent any branch of government against the neighborhood councils without providing for an equal level of representation for neighborhood councils.

The city recognizes that neighborhood council participants are not employees of the city simply due to their neighborhood council status, and the city has no right of ownership, control, or the equivalent over the persons, thoughts, or time of neighborhood council participants.

Neighborhood councils recognize state law calling for ethics training each two years and accept a minimal amount of additional training not to exceed 30 minutes every two years on the subjects already defined by city rules; Other than these training requirements which already exist, the city and its agencies and departments shall have no right to impose training of any kind or duration on neighborhood council participants; training may be offered to individuals or boards on a voluntary basis.

Neighborhood councils shall collectively have the right to consult with the city government and the mayor over the choice of appointees to the position of General Manager of DONE and over the choice of appointees to the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, and shall have the right to call for the removal of the General Manager and of BONC commissioners.

There shall be a strong presumption that any neighborhood council board member who has been elected by the voters of his/her district holds the board seat lawfully and rightfully by decision of those voters. Removal of a board member by anybody other than the governing board of that member's district shall only be carried out on the basis of extreme circumstances which shall include violence, threats against a board member or a member of the public, or conviction of a crime which affects the neighborhood council or the neighborhood council system as a whole. This shall not be construed to limit bylaws rules which remove a board member due to a certain number of consecutive absences or due to a certain number of absences over the course of a year. Bylaws rules regarding "censure and removal" shall not be enforced unless the neighborhood council itself has intentionally included those rules in its own bylaws; the imposition of these bylaws on neighborhood councils which do not intentionally include them shall not be enforceable.

No training, work requirement, or attendance at any function, governmentally related or not, shall be required of any neighborhood council participant. Neighborhood council individuals or, if they so choose, their bargaining units, shall have the right to negotiate payments or salaries for such work or attendance, should the city government be willing.

The city government shall enter in good faith into negotiations to develop and accept a Memorandum of Understanding between the neighborhood councils and city government, and the MOU shall include this Neighborhood Council Bill of Rights.

version of March 10, 2023

- b. Addressing the need for Neighborhood Councils to engage in decisions that impact their work. Given BONC has no Commissioner representing the West area of Los Angeles, the NCs in Region 11 should request that the Mayor consult with them on a choice and, in the interim, solicit possible candidates who have an understanding of the NC system and the concerns of the west area.
- c. Report from the Working Group
 - i. Motion for LANCC to contact the Mayor's office to request the Mayor include current and past board members, experienced in the Neighborhood Council system, to provide insight into the skills and character and all other criteria for the next General Manager for Department of Neighborhood Empowerment ensuring this is an open and transparent process from the inception of the search for the General Manager through final selection
 - ii. Motion for LANCC and NCs request BONC extend the review of the Digital Communication Policy by an additional six (6) months to allow time for BONC to set up programs to educate NCs and actively solicit input before they consider the policy a success or failure.
 - iii. Discussion about reaching out to the Mayor about evaluating the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners based on increased concerns being expressed about Commissioner attendance, Commissioner comments criticizing freedom of speech, vote flipping, and the need for BONC to be more responsive to the needs of Neighborhood Councils.
5. LANCC Elections Update.
 - a. Nomination (self-nomination) from the floor by appointed members for the positions of Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
6. Council File Updates:
 - a. Council File [23-0359](#) Democracy Vouchers motion, including the City Clerk's summary **To Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee** Motion (Raman - et al. - Hernandez - et al.) relative to instructing the Chief Legislative Analyst, in consultation with the Ethics Commission and relevant City departments, as needed, to report on the feasibility of establishing a Democracy Vouchers program in the City of Los Angeles.
7. Update from Budget Advocates – Co-Chairs Jennifer Goodie/Kay Hartman Budget Day is June 17, 2023
8. Update from Congress of Neighborhoods 2023 Congress. Congress Committee elections
9. Update from DONE.
10. Update from BONC Len Shaffer 5 minutes
 - a. Status report on revised Code of Conduct.
11. Update from any other NC regional alliance 5 minutes
12. Announcements 5 minutes
13. Adjournment-Meeting ends at 1:00PM