

Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition

MINUTES OF THE LANCC GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, February 1, 2014 at 10 a.m.

LANCC Officers

Terrence Gomes, Chair
Fred Mariscal, Vice-Chair
Connie Acosta, Secretary
Glenn Bailey, Treasurer

MEETING LOCATION:

Hollywood Constituent Center
6501 Fountain Avenue
Hollywood, CA 90028

A. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Preface:

Fred Mariscal requested the emails of board members for contact during the month to discuss future agenda items. “We want to know what issues are affecting your community?” Terrence said.

1. Terrence Gomes, Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
2. Chair’s Report: Terrence Gomes

Gomes stated that the Budget Advocates and LANCC contacted the California Attorney General Office to take a look at the Joint Trading Institute with LADWP and IBEW Local 18 concerning the \$45 million dollars, “that no one seems to account for a dollar of it.”

3. Introductions: LANCC Representatives and Leaders from the L.A. Neighborhood Councils introduced themselves.

41- LANCC Members Present	J. Barbush, D. Barron, F. Wada, D. Rockello, M. O’Gara, E. Morales, P. Gohel, B. Zide, L. Vincent, P. Nichols, R. Waller, V. Lerma, M. Savage, R. Miller, J. Yvanek-Garb, R. Guevara, A. Teran, C. Acosta, T. Gomes, F. Mariscal, G. Bailey, L. Grant, A. Duarte, C. Cleghorn, K. Dela Doner, N. Royal, A. Walnum, S. Moore, G. Aggas, S. Gold, T. Wilkinson, G. Wilson, B. Peppermullen, M. Benedict, D. Uebersax, K. Nakata, I. Spiegel, A. Bessendorf, S. Twining, G. Liu, P. Darrieo
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B. Presentations

1. **PLAN FOR A HEALTHY LOS ANGELES**—Lys Mendez, Outreach Coordinator and Planner.
 - The Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles Initiative will now be a stand-alone Health and Wellness element of the General Plan to further uplift the city’s commitment to improving health opportunities for its residents.

Draft Minutes of the LANCC General Meeting of February 1, 2014.

- A series of workshops will be offered on Saturdays, mainly from March 15 through April 12. The workshops will cover Health, Transportation, and Zoning. Looking for NCs to host and support community engagement on these issues.

Contact Information: Direct line (213) 978-1207

Lys.mendez@lacity.org

Visit: www.raimiassociates.com

2. L.A. CITY ETHICS COMMISSION CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS & THEIR INFLUENCE

—Mike Altschule, Director of Policy.

Purpose: To discuss the Finance Campaign Ordinance for The City Council, Mayor, and City Attorney.

The Commission is looking for recommendations from NCs for improvements to the campaign finance law.

The Los Angeles Campaign Finance Ordinance wants to hear for you.

Send questions, comments or recommendations to:

Ethics.policy@lacity.org

For information on the Los Angeles city Ethics Commission visit: <http://ethics.lacity.org>

To view the complete Campaign Finance Ordinance effective January 30, 2013 go to:

http://www.fppc.ca.gov/ordinance/city/R_Los_Angeles.pdf

Questions by LANCC Members/Answers:

- Question: “How do you define appearance of corruption?”

Answer by Dir. of Policy: “I give you x if you do y for me. In that area we are constraint to Court decisions.”

- Question: “How do you go after the bad guy when shit happens?”

Answer by Dir. of Policy: “We also have a hotline and we do watch it carefully.”

3. RAISE LA (HOTEL LIVING WAGE POLICY) ---Ed Gutierrez, Senior Researcher for LAANE and Rachel Torres, from Alliance for a New Economy

www.laane.org

Email: egutierrez@laane.org

RAISE LA POLICY

This is a specific policy for raising the minimum wage of hotel workers to \$15.00 an hour. These workers must work in hotels with 100 rooms or more in the city of L.A. (Not the County).

- This policy will impact a projected number of about 9,000 workers in the city of L.A.

Other legislation that this policy includes to protect the rights of workers are:

- **An annual cost of living adjustment of either 2% or the consumer price index whichever one is greater.**
- **A minimum of 5-paid sick-days per year**
- **Workers who perform services are to receive their tips that they have earned and are left for them.** According to the presenters hotel workers don't receive their earned tips; the management keeps a portion or all of their tips after they have reached their quota. "It is for this reason that there needs to be legislation to protect the workers," stated the presenter.

The hospitality industry is the backbone of the tourism industry. It is profitable, growing, and highly subsidized by city tax dollars. "The city support is making hotels successful," said the speaker. Yet it has a large concentration of low-wage workers living below the poverty line. Statistics gathered in a study done by the non-profit Economic Policy Institute found that 43% of hospitality workers in the city of L.A. are earning below the poverty line, making it one of the largest low-wage sectors in the city. More than half of LA's hotel workforce, 89% in the housekeeper category is made up of Latino women who are raising children.

In the last 10 years between hotel development tax breaks, subsidies, and the money to promote tourism, almost a Billion dollars was put out by the city in making sure that the Hotel industry continued to thrive. Yet, many hotel workers qualified for a variety of public assistance programs such as: Med-Cal, WIC, Head Start, Cal Fresh (food Stamps), Housing and Family Assistance. "One of the most successful industries in our city is providing corporate welfare while taxpayers foot the bill," said the speaker. "We can't really tell what exact number of these workers are enrolled in these programs, but they do qualify by their earned wages of about \$10/hour for women with children."

This year the room cost was raised, but workers wages stayed the same. Workers are forced to clean more than 20 rooms in a single shift. This push has resulted in the increase of injuries of hotel housekeepers that keep them away from work; they rank in the top 10 out of the 800 professions in workplace injuries as tracked by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The majority of the hotel owners are based outside of L.A. creating an impact on the economy of the city; "Hotels are owned by real estate investment firms and larger corporations situated in other cities, so this money gets shifted out to other places and does not stay here," said Rachel.

Residents from all over the city support this policy: 750 small businesses and 2,500 residents. Go to video: www.youtube.com raisela –where supporters across the diverse city of L.A. provide their views on why it is important to support the raising of the minimum wage for hotel workers in the city of Los Angeles.

LANCC members voiced objections to this Policy

A LANCC member stated that she did not support this policy because these wage earners send their money to Mexico. Another member stated that it wouldn't be fair to raise hotel workers' wages and not the other wage earners who work just as hard.

Legislative

Motion 1

Moved that the Los Angeles City Council and the Los Angeles City Controller institute an audit of the Los Angeles Housing Department for the purposes of identifying all low [income] and affordable housing units that should be registered, are actually registered. In a random West L.A. audit, it was discovered that there are only 28 units of low [income] or affordable housing registered. Based on the WLANC resolutions approving SB1818 developments in their district, it is apparent that the total number of units [affordable for low income that were demolished] does not match the number of units built, thereby affording developers have an unfair profit on units designated for low [income] or affordable housing.

Sid Gold moved to amend the motion to include "to law makers."	Seconded by Dr. Standmore
The hand-vote count was 24-in favor, 0-nays, and 3-abstentions.	Motion to amend passes.

Terrence Gomes moved the original motion with the amendment.	Nina Royal seconded.
The hand vote count was 27-in favor, 0-nays, and 2-abstentions.	Original motion with amendment passed.

Motion 2

Moved that the Los Angeles City Council and the Los Angeles City Controller institute an audit of the Los Angeles Housing Department for the purposes of identifying all rental units designated under the Rent Stabilization Ordinance are actually registered. In a random West L.A. audit, it was discovered that many units that were covered under the Rent Stabilization Ordinance have been demolished and replaced with newer units in larger numbers on the same parcel of land. Under the law, every parcel demolished and rebuilt as rental units are still subject to the Rent Stabilization Ordinance. It is noted that it is done by the parcel not by the number of units demolished. Many units in the West L.A.N.C. district are in violation, as they are not posting [the required RSO certificate] in [at the entrance of] the buildings as required by law, nor can they be verified as rent control units.

Terrence Gomes moved the motion.	David Uebersax seconded.
The hand count vote was 28-in favor, 0-nays, and 0-abstentions.	Motion passed.

Gomes stated that the SB 1818 units are not being tagged.

To read about SB-1818 go to the following link:

Senate Bill No. 1818, Chapter 928: http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/03-04/bill/sen/sb_1801-1850/sb_1818_bill_20040930_chaptered.pdf

C. REPORTS

1) **EMPOWERLA/FUNDING PROGRAM**--- Grayce Liu, General Manager of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE)

- **The State of Public Safety in the Valley** -- The town hall meeting took place on January 29 at Van Nuys City Hall. Liu described the event as a big success. "The LAPD town hall event in the valley had a turnout of 225 people not including officers in uniform. Glenn Bailey worked on the outreach. Thank you to all those who helped put the event together and the NC leaders who supported the event" said Liu.

- **City Budget 101**--Join Mayor Garcetti in the 3rd town hall meeting. "I will be there," Liu stated.

Date: Wednesday, February 26
Time: 6-8 p.m.
Location: the Mar Vista Recreation Center
11430 Woodbine Street, Los Angeles, CA 90066.
Website: <http://www.marvistacc.org/node/2560>

- "We're trying to complete a case management spreadsheet for all NCs. We'll do outreach then with our collected data, we'll come up with a policy. We want to track the numbers to see how we're helping you," stated Liu. "Once I have those numbers, I'll post them and do a Matrix Performance to see how effective you are."

Grayce Liu wants NCs to track the attendance of board members and stakeholders at Board meetings, the number of NC events, and the number of Board requests for city electives to speak at NC meetings, and the number of times electives attend NC meetings. "Any ideas that you have on what we can measure let me know," Liu said.

- Grayce was invited to Memphis, Tennessee to assist with building NCs.
- "We do not have the ability to remove a felon from an NC," Liu affirmed.
- **Funding** ---THE CHECKING ACCOUNT SYSTEM HAS BEEN DELAYED.

2) **UPDATE ON ELECTIONS** ---Steven Box and Gracey Liu

- Community Interest Seat—*on going and significant relationship*.
- All NC's have one or more Community Interest Seat(s). Ordinance went into effect last Sunday.
- **RETAIL RECEIPTS** will not be used as a form of identification. If a person argues that he is a community interest stakeholder because he's a daily client of a given business, DONE will provide a template to the business proprietor to document the number of times the individual attends the business, and that may determine his community status.

Draft Minutes of the LANCC General Meeting of February 1, 2014.

- A recommendation for NCs is to host a candidate forum before or during an NC meeting to introduce the candidates to the community before NC elections.
- Volunteers Needed! Poll Managers and Poll Workers
- **Next Door---** to turn the account contact the Independent Elections Administrator (IEA)
Terrence Gomes at: Terrence@EmpowerLA.Org

2) **BUDGET ADVOCATES REPORT**—Joanne Yvanex, Budget Advocates Co-Chair

- Budget Advocates will be meeting weekly starting in April.
- The first Mayor Budget 101 workshop was held in the Valley.
- The Second Mayor Budget 101 workshop was held in Hollywood.
- **Next Mayor Budget 101 workshop will take place:**
Date: Monday, February 3, 2014
Time: 6 p.m. –8 p.m.
Place: Shepard of the Hills on Rinaldi,
between Tampa and Porter Ranch.

According to www.la2020reports.org --this report is the first of two that the commission will produce, describing the current fiscal situation and the involving economic issues facing the city of L.A. "The second report will cover commission recommendations and possibly alternative ideas for addressing the challenges facing Los Angeles,"

The Los Angeles 2020 Commission-- *A time for Truth, December 2013*
can be view and downloaded at:

www.la2020reports.org/reports/A-Time-For-Truth.pdf

The L.A. 2020 Commission would like to hear your ideas for improving L.A.
To provide your ideas, comments, or suggestions go to:
www.la2020reports.org

D. Updates

1) **BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS-** Len Shaffer

- We held a retreat last Monday to review the Good, the bad, and the Ugly of last year's NCs' meetings.
- Find agendas on website, empowerla.org under Commission.
- Send any ideas you may have for the commission on how it can improve itself and help NCs. Write to: Janet.Lindo@lacity.org

The next meeting ... Date: Tuesday, February 4
 Time: 6:00 p.m.
 Location: Manchester Elementary School
 661 W. 87th Street, Los Angeles, CA

F. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1) PLAN CHECK NC MEETING

Date:	February 8
Time:	10 a.m.
Location:	Boyle Heights LAPD Community Room
Topics:	1) Land Use Committee Outreach 2) Plan for Healthy L.A. 3) Mobility Plan Update and Recode L.A.

2) A PROJECTED NC COMMITTEE AT PUBLIC WORKS—Lidia Grant

Lidia Grant works as a volunteer at the L. A. City Department of Public Works, and is in the process of putting together a Public Works Committee made-up of board members from NCs throughout the city. Committee members will serve as a liaison between their community and the department to help expedite community requests instead of going through the time-consuming Bureau of Street Services request procedures. Lidia is asking the NCs to appoint a board member who interested in representing their council on this DPW Committee.

Question? Contact Lidia Grant at:
(818) 470-6229,
Lidiagrants@lacity.org

3) Tony (LANCC Member) discussed:

- The Senate Bill 208 article, in the *Sacramento Bee*, January 31, 2014.
- David Goldstine report on CBS Channel 2, Jan 28 or June 29, 2014.

4) PROGRAM OPPORTUNITY FOR AT-RISK YOUTH—Terrance Gomez

Offering Job training for at-risk youth.

Contact: Terrence@empowerla.org

5) CONGRESS OF COUNCILS --- Cindy Cleghorn, Chairperson

CONGRESS DATE IS SEPTEMBER 20, 2014

Next Planning meeting will be on February 15, 2014 at 11 AM

THE LOCATION IS YET TO BE ASSIGNED.

Planning sections include:

Food, Registration, Workshops, Logistics, Exhibitors, Fundraising, Outreach and Promotions, and Volunteers.

NC members are encouraged to participate especially from areas that we have not seen involved in congress planning.

If you would like to participate or have questions please contact Thomas Soong at DONE (213) 978-1481 Thomas.Soong@lacity.org or Congress Planning Chair at (818) 429-6699 cindycleghorn@mac.com

Check out last years Congress of NC Councils:
<http://www.nccongressla.com/>

The Next LANCC Meeting date is March 1, 2014 at 10 AM.

G. ADJOURNMENT: 12:00 Noon