

# Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition

## MINUTES OF THE LANCC GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, August 2, 2014 -- 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**

1. Terrence Gomes, Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
2. Chair’s Report: Terrence Gomes
3. LANCC Representatives present per sign-in sheet of August 2, 2014.

62 --LANCC members present.	A. Teran, B. Peppermuller, C. Butler, C. Cleghorn, D. Rockello, D. Uebersax, D. Selesnick, L. Mowery, C. N. Hart, E. Morales, F. Wada, F. Mariscal, G. Aggas, G. Bailey, G. Wilson, H. Keifer, J. Humphreville, J. Handal, R. Guevara, D. Brown, P. Gohel, L. Vincent, L. Jean Grant, M. Benedict, M. Ogarras, O. Smith, P. Nicholas, R. Waller, S. Gold, A. Hall, S. Ramsawack, M. Lizarraga, D. Thoms-Cappello, B. Anderson, J. D’Antonio, A. Job, T. Gomes, S. Twining, T. Wilkinson, R. Millar, Md Jon Libenman, D. Durkee, C. Len, M. Peters, H. Dion, J. Lao, L. Hart, J. Ackerman, H. Huezo, N. Martin, M. Loyola, P. Hatfield, M. Stelly, B. Hirsh, L. Portal, K. McCowan, A. McCowan, D. N. Tool, B. Broide, L. Mack, J. Greene, C. Acosta
7--Presenters present.	Michelle Constant and Scott Mac Kay, Kevin James, Amardee Gill, Mika Kim, Serge Haddad, and Lisa Mowery.

### Announcements:

### **BUDGET ADVOCATES (BAs)—Jay Handal, BAs Chair**

“The Mayor, the controller, and the CAO will be there. There will be a good breakfast too. I invite you to come out meet interesting people and network,” Jay

Neighborhood Council Budget Day is Saturday, August 16, 2014.

Registration and FREE BREAKFAST	--7:30 AM
Presentations begin	--- 8:30 AM
Closing	---12:30 PM

**NOTE: Newly elected NC Budget Advocates will convene until 2:00 p.m. to elect officers and begin planning.**

Where: Board of Public Works Room, **City Hall** 200 N. Spring Street L.A., CA 90012

All are invited to attend this free event.

To RSVP, register online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BudgetDay2014>

**Or call 213-978-1676 with name, contact info and NC affiliation (if any).**

To reserve parking, include your vehicle's make, model, & plate number.

## B. Presentations

1. **Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) Recycled Water Program, the Groundwater Replenishment Project, and their outreach efforts** --- Serge Haddad, Civil Engineer for LADWP manages the water policy group.

Stay updated on our website: [www.ladwp.com/recycledwater](http://www.ladwp.com/recycledwater)

- Recycled Water Advisory Group—Serge stated that group is presently made up 60 stakeholders from across the city of Los Angeles with members from 11 neighborhood councils and several environmental groups. “We’ve facilitated 12 workshops for this group, and have provided tours to various DWP facilities in and out side of LA. Group has helped us develop a consensus statement of what recycled water is and conditions that need to be met. Also, the Sierra Club and Green LA Coalition have written letters of support.” Serge said.
- To join RWAG contact: [serge.haddad@ladwp.com](mailto:serge.haddad@ladwp.com)
- Launched in December 2009, the department has been involved for the last 5 years in providing outreach tours. “Our outreach efforts and process are open and transparent,” Serge emphasized.
- “One of LADWP’s goals is to get you involved in recycled water; my purpose is to get you to engage, get your questions, concerns, and comments, so I can respond with the details. We’re trying to provide you with access to the department.” Serge spoke.

Because of the present drought conditions, 70-80% of our water in the City of Los Angeles comes from the Colorado River. In drought years about 10% of our water comes from the Sierra Nevada Mountains; on average years, it was 30%. There are court decisions and competition with imported water.

A small percentage of our water comes from recycled water capture. “We’re trying for conservation,” Serge said. For the last 30 years, we’ve used tertiary level water (purple pipes) to irrigate golf courses and parks as well as for industrial uses.

“Advanced water treatment goes through microfiltration, reverse osmosis and advanced oxidation processes,” Serge said.

Serge announced that DWP is looking for NC letters of support. [serge.haddad@ladwp.com](mailto:serge.haddad@ladwp.com)

## 2. Bureau of Street Services and the issues plaguing the department— Kevin James, President of the Board of Public Works

"I'm aware of the street conditions in the City of L.A. and asked for this job because of the challenge that the city faces in regards to infrastructure, roads, sidewalks and specifically this Bureau. I thought I'd offer solutions that are realistic." Kevin stated. "The Bureau of Street Services is not a policy making body; it implements the decisions of the city council, the Mayor, and some portion of the 'Board of the Bureau'."

Kevin discussed the Controller's audit report that was released last Thursday in the press covering the period from 2010 to 2013. "What the press and the Executive Summary failed to mention was that the audit ended before Mayor Garcetti took office and my position with the Bureau of Street Services. The press has failed to see that disconnection in time", said Kevin. "From when the audit started through 2013 there were 1,150 employees, and presently there are 704, a 40% reduction" in workforce. Kevin continued, "Even though I asked them to put this data in the Executive Summary; it was not included."

In addition, Kevin explained that in the report L.A. was compared to Tacoma, Washington and to Long Beach, California; "You do Chicago, Houston and New York so the comparison can be valid," he said. "Cities of the same size."

"In a newspaper you read, 'the Bureau took \$109 Million'; yet in another newspaper you read, 'The Bureau left \$109 Million' and it's neither," Kevin stated. "Another press release wrote, '\$21 Million that this Bureau was unable to spend was returned to the general fund'; the CAO required that those funds be returned to the general fund, and he makes those decisions for various reasons. It's not that the Bureau is incapable of working with funds."

Kevin found the overall data to be more reliable than what he had expected. "However, we still have data that is not reliable," said Kevin.

### About the Bureau:

- 40 to 60% of BSS workforce is going to retire in the next 5 years.
- 60% of the workers are working above their level [capacity], so they're working for free.
- Bid estimates for tree trimming contracts are coming in at 30% to 40% higher than other estimates because contractors know the city doesn't have a single crew to do that kind of job.
- It costs \$25,000 per mile to slurry seal a street in condition A, B, or C.
- To maintain a street which condition is at level D or F, it costs about \$600,000 to \$1 Million per mile.
- "One can't get an asphalt plant permit in the state of CA."

"The economy of the asphalt Plant, we need to upgrade the asphalt plant to save \$5 Million a year."

## 3. Commercial Waste Franchise Zones: "Don't Waste LA" CF10-1797--Amardeep Gill, LAANE website: [www.dontwastela.com](http://www.dontwastela.com)

"I'm here to get input from LA residents to guide this policy. LAANE is pushing it through our environmental groups. We want to reduce our dependency on landfills. Our goal is zero waste," stated Ms. Gill. LA is transitioning to a new waste and recycling system for **apartments and small businesses**.

Draft Minutes of the LANCC General Meeting of August 2, 2014.

The “improved waste and recycling system will provide to everyone: Recycling and compost collection; clean fuel trucks verses old diesel trash trucks that pollute the environment; trucks will collect on a regular schedule; safe jobs; and, fare rates with clear contracts and good customer service.”

Source separation using the three Bin System and Service Frequency

- Black bin -- for solid waste
- Blue bin -- for commingled recyclables, and
- Green bin -- for organics
- Collection must be at least once a week for all containers

In April, City Council approved a new plan to the trash pickup system. The “new plan divides the city into 11 regions and makes contractors bid to gain exclusive rights.”

The 11 Commercial Waste Franchise Zones in the city are:

Downtown	Northeast	South L.A.
East Downtown	Northeast	Valley West L.A.,
Harbor	Southeast	West Valley
North Central	Southeast Valley	

A “critical component in the implementation is the Request for Proposals (RFP), the first step in the competitive bidding process for waste haulers. The Bureau of Sanitation’s RFP was approved by the Board of Public Works on June 11 with applications due on October 29, 2014. The RFP specifically covers the city of L.A.’s commercial and multifamily waste and recycling collection, but does not include certain trash like hazardous waste. The Bureau of Sanitation will continue providing trash pick up to single family homes and smaller multifamily customers (4 units or less).”

For more information, contact Amardeep at 213-977-9400 ext. 127 or by email at [agill@laane.org](mailto:agill@laane.org)

**4. Happiness & Wellbeing Index in Los Angeles --- Mika Kim**

- “Place of the Future” in partnership with the Happiness Alliance (a non profit) initiated this research and development project. Launched in January 2014.
- Seeking the support of LANCC to help promote and publicize this initiative.
- Its goal is to convince approximately 1,000+ residents and business/property owners in Los Angeles to take the opt-in survey to measure “our overall Quality of Life and to achieve a 97% confidence level for the data being collected.”

Survey can be taken by visiting: <http://www.placeofthefuture.co/take-action.html>

Have questions email: [happy@placeofthefuture.co](mailto:happy@placeofthefuture.co)  
[mikakim@placeofthefuture.co](mailto:mikakim@placeofthefuture.co)

**5. 5 steps to Neighborhood Preparedness ---Sponsored by the City of Los Angeles  
Emergency Management Department ---Michelle Constant  
[michelle@constantassociates.com](mailto:michelle@constantassociates.com)**

Free workshops will teach simple ways to prepare neighborhoods for next disaster.

Visit [www.5steps.LA](http://www.5steps.LA) after August 15<sup>th</sup> to sign-up, space is limited and will fill quickly.

DATES & LOCATION: Workshops will be offered at four districts of the city: West, Central, Valley, & South.

- Wed. Sept 17, 2014—Cheviot Hill Recreation Center--- 2551 Motor Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90064
- Thurs, Sept 18, 2014—Alpine Recreation Center--- 817 Yale St., Los Angeles, CA 90012
- Wed. Sept 24, 2014—Sunland—Tujunga Municipal Building--- 7747 Foothill Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 91042
- Thurs. Sept 25, 2014—Crenshaw Christian Center--- 7901 S. Vermont, Los Angeles, CA 90044

TIME: The workshop runs from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. Check in starts at 6:30 PM.

Have questions? Contact [Crystal@constantassociates.com](mailto:Crystal@constantassociates.com). (424) 247-1214 TTY (213) 978-0463.

NOTE: 5-STEP MATERIALS ARE LIMITED TO 100 PER WORKSHOP.

<p><b>YOUTUBE VIDEO:</b> <a href="http://Emergency.lacity.org">Emergency.lacity.org</a> "You Can Build a Neighborhood Disaster Plan in Just 5 Steps" (updated 3-1-13)</p>
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**6. Chief Charlie Beck --- NOT PRESENT**

**7. L.A. Wastewater System ---Lisa Mowery**

"We do 60 miles of sewer clean up a year," Lisa stated.

Enhancements that have been done to the L.A. sewer system are:

- Rehabilitation of older sewers
- Increased cleaning of sewers
- Removal of fat, oil, and grease

As a result of the above: sewer spills and odors have decreased. Spills caused by fats, oils and grease have been reduced by 94% in the past 12 years.

In fiscal Year (FY) 2001 there were 684 spills; in FY-2013 that figure decreased to 124 spills.

For addition statistics on Sewer Cleanup refer to City of L.A. Wastewater System [cao.lacity.org](http://cao.lacity.org)

Announcement: Looking for wastewater operators to clean sewers; training programs available.

Contact Lisa Mowery at 213-485-2374 or email [lisa.mowery@lacity.org](mailto:lisa.mowery@lacity.org)

**8. LA Broken Sidewalks --- Terrance Gomes**

Terrance appointed Jack Humphreville to form a committee that would address sidewalk repairs and collaborate with the Department of Public Works.

Questions regarding broken sidewalks:

- What needs to be done?
- Survey? Who orchestrates?
- Are NCs working with the City? What is the plan?
- Who is responsible for the repair of the sidewalks, especially tree related damage?
- Who will repair the broken sidewalks in residential areas versus those in commercial areas?
- Financing?
- Private contractors? Replace segments versus whole sidewalk?

- City bureaucracy?

## C. REPORTS

### 1. EMPOWERLA/FUNDING PROGRAM:

- Funding Training: August 21, City Hall, 20th Floor- 6:00 pm
- There will be a Live Ethics and Budget Training at City Hall August 25 at 6:30 p.m.

### 2. 2014 LA Congress of Neighborhoods --Cindy Cleghorn and Denyse Selesnick

The Neighborhood Councils of the City of Los Angeles present: **KEYS TO SUCCESS**

**The event is free; it includes breakfast and lunch, workshops, networking and more.**

**Date:** Saturday, September 20, 2014

**Time:** 7:45 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Location:** City Hall – 200 N. Spring St., Los Angeles

For more info call 213-978-1481

To volunteer contact Cindy Cleghorn, Chair of Congress Planning Group: 818-429-6699 or e-mail: [cindycleghorn@me.com](mailto:cindycleghorn@me.com)

## D. UPDATES

### 1. BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS- Lydia Grant

At the 2014 Congress of Neighborhoods, Lydia will be doing a workshop, "Political Etiquette and Building your Credibility."

### 2. LADWP- Tony Wilkinson

Rafael Prieto--- Ratepayer advocate.

## **Community Impact Statements:**

**CF 14-1062:** to permit vendors to sell foods in Parks under city regulated conditions and permits

**CF 13-1493:** A regulatory system with potential to protect health, increase public safety, and economic growth with possibility to permit food vending in L.A. City sidewalks and public right of ways.

**CF: 08-2020** "Billboard Blight needs to be taken down. Digital signs need to be in sign districts.

Do not let the ordinance be written by sign companies," Brody said.

**CitywatchLA.com** ---- Political online newspaper --- contributing writer is Denyse Selesnick

"Decoy cars are different from Ghost cars. A Ghost car is fictitiously stating that there is a car there when there isn't one," Terrance explained.

## G. ADJOURNMENT: 1:30 p. m.

