

MEETING MINUTES
LOS ANGELES NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL COALITION
A Coalition of 96 Neighborhood Councils

West Los Angeles Municipal Building
1645 Corinth Avenue, Second Floor
Los Angeles, Calif 90025
November 7, 2015 10:00am to 1:00pm

The meeting was called to order at 10:10am by President Terrence Gomes

Presentations

1. Jay Handel spoke with conviction on the challenges and opportunities to each of the 96 Neighborhood Councils about the Outreach for the Elections 2016, and how when we put out the effort we could actually exceed the recent City total for voters in recent elections. Jay has been hired by the City Clerk to use the numerous means available to conduct a vigorous NC Election in 2016.

(a) To use AAA Flag and Banner and they can waive the first year fee, and provide a cheaper cost (\$120 per banner) at a one-stop site¹

(b) Go to EmpowerLA to get the timelines for each Election Region

(c) Go to EmpowerLA to get the numerous workshops on the Elections in each of the 12 Election Regions

(d) The portal will open on December 1st, to register for the Online Voting. Handel suggested that for those Councils using online voting the expectation of at least 1,000 online votes

(e) Each NC has to spend the money to successfully Outreach to the Stakeholders

(f) EmpowerLA has the order forms to fill out and to send to the printer for postcards and flyers

(g) To be effective the Outreach should have a minimum of two (2) mailings

(h) Urged NCs to throw a party on Election Day and give out Free Burgers to the voter who has completed his ballot

(i) Each region will have an IEA — Independent Election Administrator

(j) Print at least 10,000 post cards and pay to have flyers delivered to each address in the Neighborhood Council

(k) Provide printed Election data in numerous sources including Chambers of Commerce, to provide to the offices of City Council District, to LAPD Senior Lead Officers, to CD Newsletters, and many others

(l) For more information contact Jay Handel at <jay@empowerLA.org> or call his cell phone at #310-460-0645

¹ According to the internet for this business one of the three locations is in the San Fernando Valley—-at 14460 Ventura Blvd., ph#818-784-9846. There is also a location on West Pico, and one location at 8955 National Blvd. Go to Google: AAA Flag & Banner

2. Andy Shrader and Charles Edelson—describe a 2013 **sniper attack** on a San Jose Power Substation. Repairs took 27 days. Consequences of a domino effect as result of damage to the power grid were discussed. The shooters in San Jose disappeared as police drove up in the night darkness, and no arrests have been made. (It may be said that few Americans were ever aware of the attack.

Numerous news stories of the San Jose Power Substation of April 16, 2013 can be found online with GOOGLE.

Andy Shrader spoke about expected El Nino, and Office of Paul Koretz CD#5, has cleaned storm drains, to help drain the community. Stakeholders to stock up on food and water. And he talked about the vulnerabilities of our power grid and how one outage can cause more outages so that an entire community, or several states can be in the dark. Shredder recommended the new book by Ted Koppel, *Lights out*.

Charles Edelson—is a retired former Chief of Science at Hughes Aircraft, and he spoke about power outages, and when the life expectancy of transformers causes need for replacements with upgrades that the removed transformers are stored for emergency uses. Edelson provided the presentation entitled IS OUR POWER GRID VULNERABLE? which he had provided to the Comstock Hills Homeowners Association.²

He said that whereas Westinghouse did build the transformers in the past, that today, they are manufactured by Siemens in Germany.

Based on the above information, it was pointed out that Paul Koretz, from Council District CD#5, introduced a motion to have DWP report on how they are protecting the grid under Council **File #14-1690**, and NCs can support this with a Community Impact Statement.³

A terrorist threat can hack into the national power grid to create great havoc per Charles Edelson. He said all power plants are custom designed for various voltage levels.⁴ He said that each power grid has all cities connected and that when one grid goes down that the domino effect can knock out entire regions across the states.

3. Shari Farmer, the Field Deputy for the LA County District Attorney's Bureau of Victim Services came to explain how they assist victims of violent crimes and the services that are paid for through the state at <www.da.lacounty.gov/VWAP> She said that the maximum amount per victim can be helped up to \$63,000 on this program. Criteria for acceptance to this program include not becoming a victim as a parole, or not having committed a felony, and cannot have contributed to the crime that occurred. She also cited the **2008 Marsy's Law** has over 17 different laws to support the victim.

²The power grid presentation of Charles Edelson is attached.

³ Motion by Paul Koretz referred to the Energy & Environment Committee on Dec. 9, 2014, attached. The CIS from Westwood NC Minutes on the CF#14-1690 also attached. Also 5-page LADWP report of Feb. 23, 2015, signed by Marcie Edwards, GM of DWP, is attached.

⁴ Disaster tips can be found online at ReadyLA.org.

4. Leo Daube, works as Special Projects Coordinator of Public Works with an introduction to the Clean Streets Program, that began in April 2015 with \$9,000,000 budget funded with the Dept. of Sanitation. The DOS is forming strike teams⁵ under the supervision of Leo Martinez to crack down on illegal dumping over the 70,000 blocks in the City of Los Angeles. To assist street cleaning the City of Los Angeles has 12 different graffiti organizations that also remove weeds.

5. Side-walk Vending presentation by Terrence Gomes in area of Mac Arthur Park in Los Angeles between 7th Street and 8th Street along Alvarado. A comparison was explained that compares this area with street vending to the clean streets of the City of San Fernando where this is not a rampant problem.

The enforcement authority on street vending is the Los Angeles County Health Dept., in cooperation with the LA City Bureau of Sanitation.

Some of the Guidelines are:

1. Only two street vendors per block with nothing on side walk to restrict pedestrian traffic
2. Pay \$1,500 annual permit application fee
3. Have BTRC visible
4. To not be in competition with the brick & mortar restaurants in the location
5. To be only in commercial zones
6. Application to be reviewed by the Neighborhood Council and by the Street Services, and the signed petition in the 500 foot radius
7. Must pay a sanitation fee and use City-approved Carts

David Rockello made the motion to support the rules and regulations for Street Vending. The motion was seconded by _____. Terrence Gomes stressed that Neighborhood Councils should discuss this issue. **The vote was taken: 13-Yes, 0-No, and 1-Abstain.**

Legislative

1. Discussion and possible action to have the City Council direct GSD to identify excess City properties for NC office use. We understand that the inventory of city owned buildings has been received. To follow up.

2. Discussion to have the County, State, and Federal Government match the City of Los Angeles monetary pledge for homelessness.

3. Discussion to request the City Council to direct the GSD to identify excess City property to be used for homeless transitional housing.

With some 35,000 individuals in the state of homelessness in Los Angeles, there is concern with the possible Federal cut in housing funds. We do have some 4,396 homeless VETS to receive housing. It seems the General Services Department has not identified the city properties for homeless housing, and instead is giving the buildings to non-profit uses. To follow up.

⁵ See attached 2-sided Flyer on CLEAN STREETSLA.ORG from Leo Daube.

Reports

1. Grayce Liu was not able to attend. Octavio Rios came and said that over 60% of the Neighborhood Councils have not appointed a DWP liaison. The Public Works liaison is expected to attend the meetings and report to their Councils at least every two months.

2. Budget Advocates were represented by Liz Amsden and Terrence Gomes. Liz Amsden urged every attendee to spread the business card sized request for every member and stakeholder to go online and that the survey to **RATE YOUR CITY SERVICES**, and she offered numbers opportunities to spread the word and for the Advocates to receive a good response level, as they work toward their White Paper for the Mayor.

3. BONC president Len Shaffer and Lydia Grant spoke. Len Shaffer said the City Council Awards, to the winning recipients of the seven BONC areas, will be on Friday, November 20th in the City Council Chambers.

Len Shaffer also said that the debate in BONC still centers on the definition of 'ongoing' and 'substantial' for eligibility of the Community Interest Stakeholder, and that NCs feedback is still requested.

Lydia Grant spoke about the need to have NC feedback concerning Approved Minutes on the NC Website for all board meetings and all committees.

4. Jack Humphreville spoke about the LADWP, and the anticipated response of Dr. Fred Pickel, the Rate Payer Advocate to the proposed DWP rate increases by December 4, 2015, and if approved, to be effective on April 1, 2015.

5. Kevin Modus spoke to oppose the proposed increasing the presence of towers for cell phone transmission without public hearing, and the health dangers with the increased exposure of Wi-Fi citywide.

The meeting was adjourned at 1pm.

Respectfully submitted by

SARAH RAMSAWACK, Interim Secretary
Ph#818-681-5667

Attachments:

- IS OUR POWER GRID VULNERABLE?
- CF#14-1690 by Paul Koretz motion for LADWP to provide report on protections for our grid with the page from the City Clerk on #14-1690, with the **five** page Report of LADWP, dated Feb. 23, 2015, signed by GM Marcie Edwards
- Flyer (2-sided) for CLEANSTREETSLA.ORG
- The CIS from Westwood Neighborhood Council Minutes of Jan. 14, 2015
- One page to OPPOSE CITY WIDE WIFI with CF#13-0953
- Two pages of Sign-in Sheet for LANCC meeting of 11-07-15