

Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition
A Coalition of Councils General Meeting Agenda
March 3, 2018 10:00 AM

Making it better together!

Note Location!

LADWP Headquarters 111 N. Hope Street Los Angeles, California 90012

[GoogleMap to LADWP](#)

An Informed Community is an Empowered Community

Website: www.lancc.org

WEB-BLOG (Notices, etc.): lanccreports.blogspot.com

Send emails (questions, comments): LANCC@EMPOWERLA.ORG

Council Files tracking matrix for Neighborhood Councils LANCC Citywide Issues webpage link:

<https://goo.gl/iohNB4>

Agenda

1. PRESENTATIONS

1. Lisette Covarrubias, , Department of City Planning, will provide planning updates and introduce new Neighborhood Liaisons
2. Glenikia Young, Volunteer of America Los Angeles, provide NCs with the tools to assist victims of human trafficking.
3. Louis Ting, P.E., Director, Power Planning & Development, Los Angeles Department of Water & Power, LADWP is creating a clean energy future for Los Angeles while maintaining a reliable and cost-effective power supply for customers. Our future energy supply has zero coal, expanded renewables, energy efficiency, and clean energy projects, and dramatically reduces fossil fuel emissions. LADWP is committed to an open and transparent process as we lay the groundwork and make progress toward creating LA's clean energy future.
4. Leyla Campos, City Clerk, questions and answers on the NC Funding Program.

2. LEGISLATIVE

Campaign Finance CIS Statement

The _____ Neighborhood Council, at its regular meeting of (date), passed the following Community

Impact Statement by a vote of: (specify #-#-#). We request that this statement be added to Council Files 17-0042 (Ban on Developer Campaign Contributions – Ryu, Krekorian, Buscaino, Koretz) and 15-1088-S1 (Matching Funds Rate Increase – Ryu, Krekorian, Buscaino).

This Neighborhood Council SUPPORTS the motions introduced to reform the Los Angeles City campaign finance system in order to reduce the influence of developer interests at city hall and increase and empower the voice of small dollar donors. This Neighborhood Council also urges the Los Angeles City Council and Los Angeles Ethics Commission to schedule these items and approve them as soon as possible.

Reform is necessary as developers have a clear financial interest in influencing City Hall to generate land use decisions that will benefit their projects. In 2011, the City approved Measure H, which limited campaign donations from contractors doing business or bidding to do business with the City, due to the

clear financial conflict of interest. A similar concern exists with real estate developments where discretionary action required by the City is part of the planning process and incentivizes developers to donate to political campaigns in the hope of partial treatment. Whether the influence gained is merely perceived or real, the citizens of Los Angeles, like with Measure H, have a clear “anticorruption and anti-circumvention interest” in prohibiting this activity. This ordinance would restore trust in the city planning process and has been upheld for similar bans by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

In the same vein, it is in the interests of the citizens of Los Angeles to incentivize candidates to pursue donations from small donors. All political campaigns cost money, and therefore the natural inclination of candidates is to attempt to raise dollars from those donors who can give a maximum check amount. This leads to affluent individuals having a disproportionate influence on city politics. One system in place to reduce this imbalance is the City’s Matching Funds System. Matching funds provide candidates with additional public funds to match small dollar donations in order to incentivize candidates to court these voices as well. This system is beneficial, but could be made better. As it currently stands, the match is set at 2:1 for primary elections and 4:1 for general elections, matching up to \$250. The Ethics Commission in 2014 recommended those rates be changed to 6:1 in both elections. Further, reducing the amount to be matched to \$100 would allow a small dollar donor at \$100, matched 6:1 with \$600, to in effect contribute \$700 to a campaign, the same as a maximum donor can now. This change would help even the playing field so that candidates will be equally benefited by a donor who can contribute \$700 as they are from one who can contribute \$100, thus encouraging them to listen to both voices once elected.

For these reasons, this Neighborhood Council supports Council Files 17-0042 (Ban on Developer Campaign Contributions – Ryu, Krekorian, Buscaino, and Koretz) and 15-1088-S1 (Matching Funds Rate Increase – Ryu, Krekorian, and Buscaino).

3. **REPORTS**

1. EmpowerLA- Grayce Liu/Mike Fong
2. Budget Advocates
3. Congress of Neighborhoods
4. Board of Neighborhood Commissioners-Len Shaffer
5. Speed Round/ Announcements/ Alliances’ Updates
6. Adjournment