

# Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition

## DRAFT MINUTES OF THE LANCC GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, January 4, 2014 at 10 a.m.

### LANCC Officers

**President:** Terrence Gomez

**Vice President:** Fred Mariscal

**Secretary:** Connie Acosta

**Treasurer:** Glenn Bailey

### NEW MEETING LOCATION

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

111 N. Hope Street, Los Angeles 90012

## A. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

President, Terrence Gomes called meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Board Members from the Regional Neighborhood Councils were instructed to sign-in before receiving a ballot to vote in the LANCC Elections, one voter representative per neighborhood Council (NC).

### **President’s Report: Terrence Gomez**

“What a year [2013] we had not only as a Coalition but also as Neighborhood Councils (NCs),” exclaimed Mr. Gomez and continued with last year’s accomplishments:

- “In January we started with a rapid response to the 3Billion Dollar Road Bond, which is presently morphing into a 4Billion Dollar Road Bond. We’ll be working on that this year.”
- “We were able to stop City Council from moving ahead and actually listing two NCs with regards to the Bond issue. And that’s something to be very proud of!”
- Proposition A: “We were able to get the word out about the tax increase and the fact that the Police Department would not loose officer positions if Prop A didn’t pass. As we saw, Prop A didn’t pass and we still have the full force of police officers.”

Board Members continued to signed-in while their voiced introductions were recorded.

## B. LANCC Elections 2014

Candidates submitted statements describing their goals and interests for the position sought. A week before this meeting, LANCC forwarded the received candidates’ statements via email to Board Members of the Regional NCs. In addition, these statements together with today’s agenda were made available to all present before the start of this meeting.

The Candidates for the LANCC officer positions and their respective NC’s are listed below:

President	Darlene Atkins (No candidate statement was received from her for this position.)	Voices 90037 NC
	Terrence Gomes (current LANCC president)	South Robertson NC (SORONC)
Vice President	Darlene Atkins	Voices 90037 NC
	Fred Mariscal	Greater Wilshire NC

Secretary	Connie Acosta	Greater Echo Park Elysian NC
Treasurer	Glenn Bailey	Encino NC

The candidates introduced themselves to the audience by providing snapshots of their backgrounds, interests, and intentions with the LANCC. Candidates present were: Terrence Gomez, Fred Mariscal, Connie Acosta, and Glenn Bailey.

Cindy Cleghorn with her election team collected and counted the 36 ballots. The agenda was adhered to; then, Cindy announced the 2014 election results.

The elected LANCC officers for 2014 are:

Terrence Gomez, President	Connie Acosta, Secretary
Fred Mariscal, Vice President	Glenn Bailey, Treasurer

### C. REPORTS

#### 1) **EmpowerLA/Funding Program--- Grayce Liu, General Manager of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE)**

Increased funding request for additional staffing in outreach and technology:

Ms. Liu stated that the 2014/2015 Budget was submitted and printed in the last Newsletter two weeks ago. "There were slight changes made during the holidays such as a request for \$140,000 for NC Outreach. Since we're doing great things with Nation Builder --launching early this month-- and Nextdoor.com, we not only want to maintain this level of outreach but actually built upon that throughout the years including non-election years".

"Funds will be going towards hiring a marketing expert to do a citywide campaign, who can assist DONE to get the news out about NCs," she said.

Liu stated that the funding request will also include a few positions in the area of technology: "We're moving towards performance budgeting and a performance matrix. Everything at DONE is presently in Google Docs or Excel, and then we hand count everything. It is so inefficient, something that the whole city is going through. DONE will be meeting with city officials to discuss bringing the city to a higher level of technology."

#### Funding

In January, DONE's new checking accounting system with Union Bank will be opening for those who have submitted completed paper work. NCs will have access to their accounts before the start of NC Elections. DONE will contact those NCs with missing paper work.

A recommendation for NC Boards is to keep Legacy Books for incoming councils with standing rules, contact information, funding items and their transactions, the minutes for the last 1.5 years, "a brag sheet" with Board's accomplishments when in office, etc.

#### 2) **Elections** -

Grayce Liu stated:

- For all regions, the major change is the stakeholder definition. City Council got rid of *Factual Basis* and put in the *substantial and on going Community Interest*. The ordinance takes effect on January 26, 2014.
- DONE will update Article-4, the *stakeholder* definition, in the NCs' Bylaws and insert the new language in Attachment B that has the description of candidates and voters.
- There is no longer a single receipt stakeholder.
- The homeless will continue to vote!
- Candidate identification: Prove who you are. Prove your identity. Prove how you qualify for that seat. If owner of a business in the area, a P.O. Box number alone is not sufficient. Need P.O. Box number, business cards, stationary with a letterhead, etc.
- There will be a Community Interest seat and a General-at-Large seat. If you find that this doesn't work for your NC, you can make changes for the next election cycle
- There are 4 regions which filing has opened; region 5 will open next week.

### **Elections EmpowerLA.org ---Steven Box**

Mr. Box emphasized to NC Board members, "GO TO EMPOWERLA.ORG AND LOOK AT YOUR NC PAGE. THAT'S WHAT THE PUBLIC SEES. THAT'S HOW STAKEHOLDERS FIND ELECTION FORMS. LOOK AT MAP, BYLAWS, MEETING TIME, ADDRESS OF MEETING PLACE, AND BOARD ROSTER."

### **To update NC rosters email: [rosters@empowerla.org](mailto:rosters@empowerla.org)**

A stakeholder can find his/her NC in several ways through Empowerla.org:

- 1) Click on Elections then click on Map of city to find individual's region,
- 2) Enter NC name, they are listed alphabetically,
- 3) Enter resident's address to find NC Name, or
- 4) Click on Map if knowledge of geographical location.

"On your NC webpage, there should be a button for the **2014 Elections** that links to empowerla.org. All documents are there from election procedures to the acceptable forms of documentation; there are many descriptive examples on how people can qualify. There is a timeline for the individual NC's elections, candidate filing forms and opportunities to enlist volunteers," said Mr. Box.

### **Outreach Recommendations for Elections ---Steven Box**

Mr. Box gave some outreach tips to NC Board members:

- “Have a conversation starter,” he said. “Tell how your NC changed the community last year and what are the plans for next year.”
- Carry a Call to Action Card, when walking the neighborhood, to give to stakeholders promoting civic engagement.
- What is your NC’s message going to be on Nexrdoor.com?

For additional outreach strategies from Mr. Box, refer to the handout: Empower-Elections-Outreach Foundation on pages 9 and 10 of this document.

### 3) Budget Advocates Opportunities - Jay Handal

Next Budget Advocates Meeting will take place on Thursday, January 9 at 7: p.m. at DONE’s Office, 20<sup>th</sup> Floor in City Hall.

Currently, there are 36 Budget Advocates (**BA**) separated into 16 committees that are spread out throughout the City of L.A. to “dig into the departments, unions, and all the issues going on in the City. Every area of the City is represented and Budget Advocates are showing up to the meetings,” stated Mr. Handal. He continued...

- “BA’s Goal is to help educate L.A. City Electives. We are trying get more services back to the people because over the last 5 years services have been curtailed from one end to the other.”
- “City has a-quarter of a billion dollar deficit even though revenues are up 5%.”
- “This year is the start of negotiations with the Unions--the Coalition, and that’s going to be an intense issue for the City; resulting in an additional 200 million dollars in deficit depending on how the negotiations go.”
- At next BA meeting, there will be a motion on the filing of a complaint with the State about the DWP nonprofits issue involving 43Million Dollars that the city is evading.

Mr. Handel stated that when **BA** passes these motions, they will be released to the NCs for their support with the intention to help push the electives into investigating the City issues.

He continued:

- “At next BA meeting, there will be a motion to approve a couple of dollars to get the website up and running again and in our own control; reports will be posted as PDFs.”
- “The Inspector General has adopted 22 of *our* (BA) points in his report to the City Council. Within those points, one of them was for a unified collection system. The City has 30+ departments that all bill and collect themselves.”

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- “CAO is putting into its budget about \$800,000 for **IT** to generate a collection system so everything that is billed will go to a centralized collection system, and we’ll have a better handle on how to get that money back”.

Refer to Empowerla.org for meetings, issues, and filing a complaint.

#### **4) Community Impact Statement (CIS)**

- Opportunity to weigh in on issues affecting our city.
- CIS go on the agenda of the Los Angeles City council.
- There is a CIS tutorial on empowerla.org
- LANCC has a 300-CIS goal for this fiscal year. Each council should pass at least 3.5 CISs

### **D. Updates**

#### 1) Board of Neighborhood Commissioners- Len Shaffer

Next meeting will be in Sherman Oaks, on January 7, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at Sherman Oaks Elementary School.

- We meet once a month in the community. We have two sections of public comment, once at the start of the meeting and the second at the end of the meeting.

#### *Agenda Topics:*

Links to latest survey

Meeting with Nury Martinez

Write a motion for all NC’s to take training on Workplace Harassment.

#### 2) BONC Actions

No report.

#### 3) Department of Water and Power- Tony Wilkinson

- Water rate increases are necessary to cover the reservoirs.
- The effects of drought years
- Metropolitan stored water is our lifeline for the future (71% of our water is to come from this state water project).
- Public outreach for new plan
- December 2014—Coal conversion, and
- The state of the billing system

“We passed a motion requesting the city to move the Rate Advocate Office into City Hall where the public can have access to information,” stated Wilkinson.

### **E. SUGGESTED ISSUES FOR LANCC TO ADDRESS in 2014**

#### 1) Development is Getting Rid of Affordable Housing

“Presently, Development is getting rid of affordable housing by demolishing dwellings across the city and not replacing them with dwellings that people can afford. There needs

to be an initiative to audit the Housing Department. People citywide want to see a Housing Motion in February,” stated a Board member at LANCC.

“The West L.A. NC and other NCs in the western area have experienced a problem with SB 18-18 and Density Bonuses,” stated J. Handal. “We did an audit in West L.A. and the Housing Department came back and stated that they had registered 28 low and affordable income units in the West L. A. Neighborhood Council District. He states, “Since 2007, I have been in the West-LANC and I think we have approved the 28 units in one building”.

J. Handal continued, “What I have found around the City with other NCs, Developers are taking advantage of Density Bonuses and additional unit Bonuses, but they are not registering and actually holding low and affordable units. At the same time in a lot of areas, rent control properties are being demolished and not replaced; Developers knock down an 8 unit building and replace it with 40 Units; those 40 Units are subject to rent control --with the first bump up to market-rate and then it’s rent control thereafter.”

“We’ve asked Councilman Bond, and City Controller Ron Galperin to initiate a full audit of the L. A. Housing Department. Further, I ask that in the February, LANCC put on the agenda a full motion to go City Wide,” said Handal. “The LAHD is a very dysfunctional group with a complete lack of control. You can’t find the right person to talk to. They have department heads on top of department heads. If you’re inquiring about SB18-18 or Affordable Housing or Rent Control, they refer you to various different groups. The ANSWER is YOU CAN’T GET AN ANSWERE!”

Terrence Gomez stated that both in the Northeast and South L.A., Rent Control properties are being torn down and being replaced with units that are no longer Affordable or Rent Control.

## 2) Street Parking --Punman Gohel (North Hills East NC)

Street parking is a major problem on street cleaning days in high-density areas citywide. The street maintenance timeframe on street cleaning days needs to be reduced so people can be able to park right after the maintenance truck has completed its task and decrease the street-parking problem. “Last December 2013, I invited Mr. Kevin James, Commissioner of Public Works to NHENC. He talked about how to reclaim parking hours on street cleaning days. I am strongly promoting this notion and am asking LANCC to support it with a motion,” said Gohel.

Terrence Gomez shared his observations, “I’ve noticed in Mid-Wilshire, a posted sign for street cleaning may be from 8:00 to 10 a.m., and the street cleaning truck gets there at 8:30 a.m.; but yet for an hour-and-a-half nobody can park until 10:00 a.m. This puts a burden in a high-density area. There was an article in the LA Times a year ago that addressed this problem.”

## 3) Libraries Maintenance a Basic City Function --Ari Bessendorf

“There are issues and challenges with keeping the public libraries clean in Echo Park, a very urban environment,” Ari stated. “Due to their design, the libraries are attracting the

homeless who are misusing its space, using it as a toilet or other unsavory activities. We have spent a lot of money keeping it clean from our own budget. Why do the Neighborhood Councils need to clean the libraries? It's a basic city function. Our librarian stated that the library is taking over its own maintenance and it's being run by the Department of Parks and Recreations. That's just not adequate for us. "We don't mind stepping in to fill the breach and deal with the immediate problem, but to me there's something fundamentally wrong with not being able to keep the library clean in your own neighborhood".

Terrence Gomez said, "We need to help guide our elective officials to resolve the Homeless problem. If the homeless problem is taken care of, then all the other problems that result from it --will resolve themselves, basically." The Homeless will have shelter-- whether drug addicts or with mental health issues. When they recover or are provided with mental healthcare, they will no longer be acting out in the library or anywhere else. This will increase the quality of life for them and us. We need to start guiding this vision.

### 3) Open a City File -Schafer

The working groups have a recommendation on the Council File issue which is being taken the to Commission this Tuesday.

Terrance Gomez stated, "But it'll still be able to be supported with all the voices of the 95 councils that will make it stronger."

Mr. Schafer answered, "When it goes to EEN that would be a good time to start pushing it."

Terrance Gomez ended with, "We can start to push it now!"

## **F. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 1) Town Hall Meeting in the Valley: "State of Public Safety in the Valley"  
January 29 at 6 p.m. in Van Nuys City Hall.

### Attendants will be:

- George Villegas, LAPD Deputy Chief who commands the 7 LAPD stations in the valley area with a population of 1.4 Million.
- Senior Lead Officers
- Neighborhood Watches
- 34 Neighborhood Council presidents
- Homeowner Associations
- Gang Prevention Organizations
- Public Safety Chairs in the Valley

This is an opportunity to connect with other organizations that are already active in the community.

- 1) Disaster Preparedness Training by LA City Fire Department, Certified by Red Cross.

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Training will take place at Pacoima Middle School starting Monday, January 7 at 7 p. m. On Saturday at 8 a.m., there will be a one-day CPR Class for \$40.

- 2) Rallies by NC Board Members and potential candidates in Regions 1 & 3 to take place on the following dates and places:

Region	Date	Place	Time
1	Friday, January 10 <sup>th</sup>	Sunland Tujunga-North Valley City Hall.	6:30 p.m.
3	Friday, January 17 <sup>th</sup>	The Reseda American Legion	6:30 p.m.

- 3) Cindy Cleghorn, Chairperson of the Congress of Councils invites everyone to think about how to get involve, participate, and contribute to the Congress of Council this year.

- Councils for Councils Meeting will be on January 16, 2014
- “We’re trying to regain the participation of 100 plus people for this year’s Congress. Starting in February, after the LANCC Meetings, there will be a series of meetings exclusively on the following topics: Registration, Food, and the Action Session.

5) OPEN INVITATION TO EVERYONE:

Westside Regional Alliance of Councils  
Land Use and Planning Committee Meeting  
Location: West Side Municipal Building at 1645 Cornet  
Sunday, January 5 at 9:00 a.m. --10:30 a.m.

- Topic: Senate Bill 18-18
- Board of Commissioners will talk about a different perspective on how to handle this all along the J.
- Parking is available in huge lot behind building.

6) **BLITZ:** David Rockello from Rampart NC stated that the Bureau of Street Services completed small street repairs by filling potholes. According to David, the City responded in the right way by carrying out five repairs in the GEPENC area and five repairs in the Rampart NC area.

**G. ADJOURNMENT** 12:20 p.m.



## **EmpowerLA - Elections - Outreach Foundation**

1. What's Your NC's Story?
  - a. The main article on your NC website should be a recap of 2013, the top ten things you did to engage your stakeholders, connect your neighborhoods with City Hall, monitor the delivery of city services, and improve the quality of life in your community.
  - b. This article is the essence of your Call to Action for engaging candidates
  - c. This article is the foundation for your Nextdoor and NationBuilder campaigns
  - d. This article is the street credibility that positions you for the Call to Action
2. NC Website - EmpowerLA Button
  - a. Home page, highly visible location, above the fold, takes visitors to EmpowerLA home page
  - b. Seriously, connect your community with City Hall
3. NC Website - Elections 2014 Button
  - a. Home page, highly visible location, above the fold, takes visitors to the NC Elections page.
  - b. Meet the IEA, get information on the elections, be part of a larger movement
4. NC Goal/Personal Commitment
  - a. How many open seats are there and what is the NC's goal for candidates?
  - b. How many candidates will each Board Member be enlisting?
  - c. In any organization, Board Development is key to strategic planning and organizational success. It's even part of some NC Strategic Plans.
5. Call to Action Cards
  - a. For all the big-picture campaigning, success (in any arena - from politics to sales to civic engagement and volunteerism) depends on face to face contact and the personal touch.
  - b. What do you put in their hands when you talk elections and challenge them to run as a candidate?
6. Conversation Starter
  - a. Put on a button that says "Vote Now" or "Change the World" or anything NC Elections related that will allow you to engage people in a conversation when they innocently ask "What's your button mean?"
  - b. How about an email Signature File that entices their contacts to ask about the election?

7. Nextdoor.com
  - a. What's the message going to be?
  - b. These people are already engaged, just 6% of the Nextdoor participants in each NC would be two candidates per open seat
  
8. Door-to-Door Strategy
  - a. For all of the talk of getting candidates, what's the plan?
  - b. Do you have print materials ready to promote the Election?
  
9. Partners/Public Events
  - a. PTAs, Rotary, Homeowner Associations...
  - b. Council Office, CPAB, Library, Community and Senior Centers, ...
  - c. Farmer's Markets....
  
10. NationBuilder.com
  - a. What's the story?
  - b. What's the Call to Action?
  - c. Is the NC ready for NationBuilder? (we're still working to get it ready)

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#### Neighborhood Council

Budget = \$? for Elections

Strategic Plan = Engage passionate Board Members? How?

Outreach Survey = What's the status?

The challenge is to get the NC Board to take personal responsibility for the outcome

How can we help?

Email: [Elections@EmpowerLA.org](mailto:Elections@EmpowerLA.org)

Telephone: 818-293-VOTE (8683)