

August 7, 2021 - Draft Meeting Notes

Call to Order

Roll Call of Officers:

Chair - Terrence Gomes

Vice Chair - David Uebersax

Treasurer - Glenn Bailey

Presentations/Reports

1. Jeff Prang, Los Angeles County Assessor

Presentation on the Los Angeles County Assessor.

Responsible for valuing all taxable 1.7 trillion properties assessing the value of properties for tax revenues. One of the primary sources of revenue for local government. Hospital, roads, library's, including personal property such as mobile homes, boats and others. When a property is sold we get a copy of the deed and we assess this which is sent over to the tax collector. The primary responsibility of this office is the assessment role, the foundation of the property tax system and serves an indication of the real estate market property value growth. June 30, 2021 the latest report was generated, and this is the 11th consecutive year since the 2008 recession. There was a 3.7% county average growth. The positive growth does reflect a healthy growth supported by new construction growth despite the pandemic. There are a large amount of projects which will contribute to the roll growth and there are renovations which will have an impact on the assessment roll. The market in LA did reasonably well, there was a 22% increase for a single family residence which was over 1 million dollars. There was a diminished sale as there were not as many homes being sold during the pandemic. Industrial space was not as affected as there was a need for online shopping that needed these industrial spaces. We are proactively looking at properties that were negatively impacted by hotels and there was a negative impact on the property values to help determine tax relief. Business

personal property, such as a restaurant and their kitchen equipment, we provided \$47K small business with some tax relief. 210 million dollars, which will be reflective in the assessment roll. This represents about 45% of businesses. A decline in value review application can be found on our website for assistance. Prop 19 was adopted last November, and the first component allows a homeowner over 55 to transfer their property tax with them when they purchase a new home within the state. This allows you to transfer the benefit up to 3 times. The second component restricts the transfer of property to your heirs and Prop 19 will only keep the same tax base to the primary residence and the heirs must also inhabit the property within one year. It cannot be used as a rental property without it being reassessed at a higher tax rate. Prop 19 there are ambiguities and there was a limited time given to assessors for review. I do not have the authority to interpret law, and there is legislation that is working its way through the process and will make it way soon enough. There are deficiencies in the initiative process and will soon be addressed. On the assessor website there should. It's a one time application that not many homeowners do not take advantage of the form for a tax reduction for a tax exemption. Please make sure to share that form with stakeholders. Will come back to the group and seek support for any legislation in the future. Assessed value are capped at 2% under prop 13.

Q&A session. See Zoom Recording for these details

Prop 19 Form:

<https://res.cloudinary.com/los-angeles-county-assessor/image/upload/v1622785182/Form/BOE-19B.pdf>

Website:

<https://assessor.lacounty.gov>

Contact Info:

Assessor Jeff Prang

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www.assessor.lacounty.gov

Subscribe to newsletter:

<https://assessor.lacounty.gov/stay-informed-3/>

HOMEOWNERS' EXEMPTION

- Reduces property's assessed value by **\$7,000**
- Results in **\$70 off** property tax bill
- **\$30 million** dollars unclaimed in LA County, annually
- **Over 34%** of homeowners in the City of Los Angeles do not claim the exemption

ASSESSOR.LACOUNTY.GOV

Are You Overpaying on Property Taxes?
How to qualify for the Homeowner's Exemption

START HERE
ARE YOU A HOMEOWNER
Yes

IS YOUR HOME YOUR PRIMARY RESIDENCE?
Yes

APPLICATION ON assessor.lacounty.gov
Apply

YOU QUALIFY TO SAVE \$70 OFF YOUR PROPERTY TAX BILL

Assessor Jeff Prang

2. Max Kirkham, President updates from the LGBTQ plus Alliance

New Alliance created in the fall of 2019 and launched just prior to the pandemic last year.

Website: <https://www.lalgbtqalliance.org>

Q&A – Request for all members of our straight allies as well as the queer family.

Our Purpose

The Alliance works to achieve visibility, safety, equality, racial justice, and representation for Angelenos identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex and all others across the gender and sexuality spectrum by serving as a bridge between LGBTQ+ stakeholders, the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council system and the City of Los Angeles.



3. Motion to appoint Adriana De La Cruz as LANCC Secretary (MM&C)
4. Discussion and possible action on BONC's consideration of the proposed amendments to the Code of Conduct (as submitted by AD HOC Chair - Doug Epperhart)

Whereas, the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners has before it consideration of amendments to the Code of Conduct Policy, that are extreme, anti-democratic, and un-American, and

Whereas, these amendments include the following:

“If a Board Member or Committee Member is *alleged* to have violated either the City’s Workplace Equity Policy or the Commission’s Code of Conduct, the Department, with written approval from the General Manager, may immediately suspend the Board Member or Committee Member for a period of up to 90 days.”

and

Whereas, punitive action should never be based on an allegation and occur only following due process involving investigation and a hearing and provide the accused the right to a presumption of innocence and opportunity to mount a defense, and

Whereas, the following clause grants authority to arbitrarily impose suspensions at the sole discretion of an individual who is not accountable to anyone.

“The Department shall be the *sole decision-maker* with respect to a suspension. The Board Member or Committee Member *may not appeal* the suspension decision.”

and

Whereas, this clause fails to provide adequate protections for the rights of

individuals accused of misconduct and states that any board or committee member may be suspended *solely* on an allegation, and

Whereas, this is a direct disenfranchisement of the voters who elected the board member and removing a board member without due process gives DONE the unilateral ability to overturn an election;

Therefore, be it resolved that:

The _____ Neighborhood Council expresses grave concern regarding proposed amendments to the Code of Conduct Policy submitted by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment to the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners.

Be it further resolved that:

1. BONC is strongly advised to immediately withdraw consideration of the proposed amendments to the Code of Conduct;
2. In connection with future revisions of Neighborhood Council paperwork, DONE shall request the Neighborhood Councils appoint a group of representatives to consult with BONC, DONE and the City Attorney on an ad hoc basis;
3. An aggregate majority of those meeting shall at all times be Neighborhood Council board members;
4. The initial focus of this group shall be to develop and incorporate rules under the City's recently adopted Workplace Violence Policy into the existing Code of Conduct, including appropriate enforcement actions;
5. Discussion about incorporating the proposed Workplace Equity Policy shall be deferred until such a policy is formally adopted by the City, if at all; and
6. Any amendments to the Code of Conduct must take into account varying degrees of conduct when considering suspension and appropriate penalties, if warranted.
7. At all times, policy should require that the minimum correction necessary to address any issue be used;
8. No person shall be suspended or otherwise penalized for that which is protected political speech.
9. No board member or Neighborhood Council affiliate shall be required to waive rights granted under the Constitution of the United States and the State of California, including but not limited to freedom of speech and assembly, probable cause and due process.

Discussion:

Liz Amsden – its best to use common sense on a case-by-case basis and the persons in the community can determine the best path. The strength of our neighborhood council is

Len Shaffer – there are several strong areas that are considering this – you should consider new city policy that will be implemented shortly with the code of conduct, such as bullying and etc. I will be recusing myself form any vote. There are other aspects that you should be looking at the same time.

Jennifer Goodie – appalling that the action shall be taken on an allegation regarding the suspension and that we are elected and removing for an elected for a quarter.

Doug Epperhart – this is version 6 of the draft and if we can move forward in a collaborative effort. Len brings up a good point but there is no city policy to this as yet and when it does come about we will review it. I have presided at a meeting that attendees were escorted out of a meeting and I have seen board members act in a bad way, but what we are really asking for is to be included in the process which will affect us all. The workshops that Empower LA hosts are not the same as taking valid concerns. If we are not willing to stand up for ourselves no one else will and this is a first step.

Terrence (moved)/ Jennifer Goodie (second) – (MM&C) 14-1-1

5. Budget Advocacy

a. Budget Advocates, Co-Chairs Jennifer Goodie/Glenn Bailey

We had elections at the July meeting. Mainly we are focused on NC Budget Day 8/21/21, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm – Register www.BudgetAdvocates.org

b. Tribunes, Josh Nadel (absent)

6. Congress of Neighborhoods 2021 Congress, Kay Hartman

Event: Next Planning meeting starts at 1:30 p.m. following the

Agenda: https://info.neighborhoodcongress.la/8/7_agenda

Meeting online via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4657525454>

Or dial in +1 669 900 6833

Meeting ID: 465 752 5454

#seeyouthere #NeighborhoodCongressLA #CongressLA21

7. Empower LA - Mike Fong (absent)

8. Board of Neighborhood Commissioners - Len Shaffer

Elections occurred at the next meeting. The president serves 2 terms and in this case the VP declined, and the current President was re-elected on more year. The Governor has not determined the emergency order beyond December. If there is such a suspension of the state statute such as the brown act - the Virtual Governance working group will consider how to encourage NC's to have stakeholders attend virtually. I am all in favor of an extending ability to attend meetings virtually for stakeholders.

12. Discussion and possible action on Draft Communications Media Policy for Neighborhood Councils ([07.01.2021 Draft](#) and [09.29.2020 Draft](#))(20 minutes). (<http://tiny.cc/DigitalCommunicationsPolicyReport> - link to presentation & support materials, [Feedback from the Neighborhood Council System on Digital Communications Policy](#) , [Department of Neighborhood Empowerment Report to Board of Neighborhood Commissioners](#))
13. Discussion and possible action regarding revisions to the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners Code of Conduct Policy. ([See attachment](#))

Hyperlinks:

<https://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Draft-Digital-Media-Policy-for-BONC-on-7.1.2021.pdf>

<https://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Draft-Digital-Media-Policy-for-BONC-on-9.29.2020.pdf>

Q&A

See recording - there was a lengthy discussion

9. Azya Jackson, PE, Los Angeles-Glendale and Donald C Tillman Water Reclamation Plants and the upcoming project known as the LAG Advanced water Purification Demonstration Project. *(tabled for September)*

10. Adjournment 12:34 p.m.

Future Meeting Dates:

Sept 4

Oct 2

Nov 6

Dec 4

Recurring Zoom Meeting

Zoom Meeting ID: 998 8261 2542

DRAFT