1. The MEETING was CALLED TO ORDER REPORT. By Chairman Bob Gelfand at 10:15 a.m.

   a. Chairman Gelfand spoke of the elections to be held, today.

   b. No Preparatory “Officers and Others” Meeting was held, last Month

   c. Five Items were proposed for addition to today’s Agenda

      - A City Council Proposal for a ½ cent SALES TAX INCREASE Ballot Measure
      - A City Council Proposal (CF #13-1300-S1) for a $3 billion City Streets Repair Ballot Measure
      - The BONC Proposal for a NC PLAN (Ordinance # ) revision
      - Questions to ask Mayoral and City Council Candidates
      - A Flood Control District proposal for a Storm Water Drain Ballot Measure

2. The Chair asked all PARTICIPANTS and GUESTS to (voluntarily) identify themselves and to (voluntarily) sign-up for minutes and notices on the sign-up sheets.

   There were 39 NC ACTIVE STAKEHOLDERS (NCASHs) who “signed up” and
   57 NCASHs were in attendance (by “nose count”)
   34 of the 95 NCs were represented by NCASHs qualified to vote in the election

   Three Guests:  Graycie Liu (DONE or EmpowerLA)
                 Stephen Box (DONE Acting Senior Project Director)
3. The **AGENDA was reviewed and passed** with the addition of the four items presented, above, by the Chair.

4. The **MINUTES** of the **December 1, 2012 MEETING** were distributed, reviewed, corrected and **APPROVED** with the following attachment (A review of the LANCC 2012 accomplishments).

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT – LIGHTNING ROUND – COMMENTS & REPORTS**

   a. Steve Twining expressed his concern for the Democratic Party-controlled State Legislature, especially with regard to the Proposition 13 issue.

   b. Heinrich Keifer told of the continuing efforts to save the SouthWest Museum.

   c. Rusty Millar would like to see evolution of a policy by which LANCC motions and policy statements are actively directed toward the decision makers and the Public. For instance, he would like to see a policy statement on the City Revenues collected or “deferred” for the new ownership of Dodgers & Franchise Fees support for ESPN and Foreign Language Channels.

   d. Nina Royal spoke of the LA Clean Sweep project

   e. Daniel Wiseman got a round of applause (for Grayce) when he spoke of her as PERMANENT General Manager. Her appearance and approval before City Council may occur as early as Friday, January 11, 2013. (CF #12-1934)

   f. Jesse Barron announced his candidacy for City Council Seat #7 and some of his plans for the City; decrease waste and increase efficiency.

   g. Patricia Bell Hearst (Federation of Hillside Canyon Association) encouraged the NCs to become active advocates and protect their communities.

   h. Cindy Cleghorn announced a special meeting in the Sunland-Tujunga Area.

6. The **L.A.N.C. COALITION (annual) ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

   Cindy Cleghorn (LANCC Election Supervisor) told us of the rules that govern these elections and recent activities, including:

   #1 – The Candidates have all filed in a timely manner and have been qualified.

   #2 – One person is authorized to vote for each of these positions from each NC. 34 NCs were represented and the 50% plus one majority (18) elects.

   #3 – Each of the candidates was given 1 minute to address the group.

   a. The new **LANCC PRESIDENT** is **Terry Gomes.**

      He accepted the gavel and assumed the conduct of the meeting.
b. The new LANCC Vice-PRESIDENT is Glenn Bailey.

c. The new LANCC SECRETARY is Daniel Wiseman.

d. The new LANCC TREASURER is Alisa Smith.

7. SPECIAL PRESENTATION: DONE/EmpowerLA PERMANENT GENERAL MANAGER Grayce Liu

a. UPDATE: Budget hearings coming up. DONE Budget and NC Allocations
DONE has 14 regular and 4 resolution employees and is severely limited, now
Like other Departments, DONE was asked to but did not request a 10% cut
because any further cuts in personnel would require definite decreases in funds control and vital NC support services. NC support for this position is requested.

b. Grayce wants to eliminate Demand Warrants and go to “P-cards” with higher ($ 500) limits. She is working to implement “Impressed Checking accounts” and/or debit cards because they are easier to control.

c. Grayce supports BONC’s action for NC PLAN REVISION (Ordinance #174975) and believes that reform could make the NCs more “independent.”

d. Grayce expressed pride in the DONE (Stephen Box et al.) management of the recent NC Elections and she suggested using “Holiday Cards” and other communications to thank City Family for their support and to brag about our accomplishments.

e. Daniel Wiseman spoke of steps necessary to recreation of the YNC Channel 35 Programs. Channel Supervisor Tony Ighani will want a formal request from DONE. We will prepare 30 minute programs, using recordings of NC meetings, on-location video of NC projects and studio-based programs. Other NC Stakeholders with TV Production experience include Stephen Box, Michael Cohen, David Hernandez and others. We already have a library of “timeless” programs to assure regularity. Grayce welcomed the idea.

8. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS: BONC (Board of Neighborhood Commissioners) - Commissioner Leonard Shaffer

a. BONC is recommending a change of posting policy requiring Brown Act compliance (3-day, 72-hour notices) and that one of the 5-7 posting locations be the NC’s Website (or, perhaps, a central website created by DONE for all NCs).

b. BONC is supporting a policy which recommends “allowing” 5-minute presentations (separate from Public Comment) on NC-approved statements by official/authorized NC Spokespersons at all City Council and Committee meetings.

c. BONC is supporting the DONE Budget request to maintain current funding (i.e. no “10% cut” for DONE’s Allocation or the annual NC allocations)

d. Three BONC Commissioners (Shaffer, Epperhart & Gatica) will 9 meetings (between
January and May 2013) in which 15 NC Stakeholders recommend revision(s) of the PLAN FOR A NC SYSTEM (Ordinance #174975). This may include reconsideration of the definitions of “…lives, works & owns property…” and the “…factual-based Stakeholder.

e. Mr. Shaffer invited NC Stakeholders to send topics for discussion, materials and suggestions for consideration at BONC meetings to Janet Lindo (BONC support person).

9. RAPID RESPONSE TOPIC: $3 billion STREET REPAIR PROPOSAL

According to Dr. Leamer, the author of the attached UCLA paper, Mitch Englander and he had discussed the possibility of a Bond Measure Proposal for L.A. Streets several times over the past year. City Council Motion (CF #13-1300-S1), below, was proposed, in haste, in just the last week or two so that it could be submitted for the May 2013 Elections.

The proposal, below, has been co-authored by seven of the 15 Council Members and, therefore, is almost certain to “pass.”

   1. Mitchell Englander
   2. Joe Buscaino
   3. Paul Krekorian
   4. Tom LaBonge
   5. Paul Koretz
   6. Herb Wesson
   7. Jose Huizar

Dr. Leamer’s paper follows the CF document. It is not a study but the point-of-view of these UCLA Anderson School of Management faculty members. This proposal has already passed through the Rules & etc. Committee and will be considered by the full Council on Wednesday, January 9, 2013.

a. Jack Humphreville noted that it is one a many City Council actions designed to raise more revenue from already over-taxed, under-convinced and “exhausted” voters. It is financed by a parcel tax (tentatively to be about $120 for a home valued at $350,000).

b. Daniel Wiseman pointed out that this is a resurrection of Bill Robertson's FY2006 Proposal for a 5 year, $285 million fund for sidewalks repair. Today’s proposal applies to our City’s Streets and he wondered whether or not the sidewalks were part of the proposal as well.

c. Steve Twining spoke for seniors (and others on a fixed or low income) who will be impacted more severely that some other groups. Even if funded by a parcel tax, renters living in those residences will see increased rental rates.
MOTION

"LOS ANGELES EMERGENCY LOCAL STREET SAFETY AND TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENT MEASURE"

More than 8,700 lane miles of streets in the City need rehabilitation. Funding a program of this magnitude would require an additional $300 million annually for the next 10 years. Due to budgetary constraints and other competing needs, this level of funding for street rehabilitation is infeasible. At the rate the City is currently able to tackle this situation it would take 60 years to finish rehabilitating all 8,700 lane miles, barring any additional lane miles falling into critical disrepair. A General Obligation Bond, approved by the voters, is the only option to secure sufficient funding to accomplish this work within a realistic, 10-year timeframe. At the conclusion of the proposed Bond program all failed, and nearly failed, streets would be rehabilitated and the City could reasonably maintain the entire public street system in good condition through available sources of funding.

A recent report issued by the UCLA Anderson School of Management (attached) states that great cities must be committed to the future by investing in infrastructure needed for continued dynamic growth. Rehabilitating public streets is a critical factor in maintaining and enhancing property values. With interest rates at their lowest in 40 years, now is the time to lock in these low rates for a Street Repair and Safety Bond, especially with the added economic benefit of job training and creation of new private sector jobs. The UCLA Anderson report concludes that although there are numerous forward-thinking initiatives underway in Los Angeles for mass transit, the port, education and urban development, all may be for naught as the most obvious sign of a City’s ascendancy or decline is experienced while traveling from one place to another via automobile.

Well maintained streets not only enhance property values, but improve the quality of life of our citizens and businesses. A report issued by TRIP a national transportation research group states that vehicle owners driving in Los Angeles on average incur $750 per vehicle in additional wear and tear due to the poor condition of streets. Poorly maintained roadway conditions slow down rescue ambulances, fire apparatus and police vehicles, increasing response times to emergencies which can be the critical difference between life and death.

WE THEREFORE MOVE that the City Attorney BE REQUESTED to prepare the necessary Resolutions to place a 20-year $3 billion Street Repair and Safety General Obligation Bond Program on the May 21, 2013 General Municipal Election Ballot with all work to be performed in 10 years.

WE FURTHER MOVE that the CAO and CLA BE INSTRUCTED to report, with the assistance of the Bureau of Street Services to Council with an analysis of this proposal.

CO-PRESENTED BY:
MITCHELL ENGLANDER
Councilmember, 12th District
JOE BUSCAINO
Councilmember, 15th District

SECONDED BY:
PAUL KREKorian

JAN 04 2013
TO: The Government of the City of Los Angeles

FROM: Professor Edward Leamer, Director of the UCLA Anderson Forecast
       Adjunct Professor Jerry Nickelsburg, Senior Economist, The UCLA Anderson Forecast

RE: Financing Citywide Street Improvements

DA: December 17, 2012

Los Angeles is a great city powered by its dynamic culture, knowledge networks, international communities, vibrant commerce, superb educational institutions, and active innovators. But great cities will only stay that way through a process of constant reinvestment in the future. Absent the infrastructure to support continued dynamic growth, great cities give way to other locales that are more committed to the future.

We think that municipal governments should conduct their business in a way explicitly designed to maintain and to increase property values, because high property values are the best symptom of quality governance. We take it as given that property values are enhanced by quality schools and by public safety. But whatever the category, spending is excessive if it is carried to the point that the extra dollars spent more than offset the extra benefits.

With property values as the goal, there is good borrowing and bad borrowing. Good borrowing allows a community to acquire assets that support the kind of revenue-generating growth that makes a loan self-supporting. Good borrowing allows a community to acquire assets that enhance property values by an amount greater than the loan, thus increasing net worth. Bad borrowing occurs when loans are used to pay current operating expense in order to push inevitable spending cuts and tax increases into the future, when they may be even less palatable.

When borrowing costs are low, more projects exceed the threshold at which their benefits exceed their costs. As can be seen in the figure at the right, municipal borrowing rates are at the lowest rate in 40 years in nominal terms. These low rates are not likely to continue indefinitely. Now is the time to lock in these
low rates. Now is the time to use borrowing to fund wisely chosen projects.

An obvious choice is the proposed street repair bond of the City of Los Angeles. This would be good borrowing, not bad. In addition to the damage that is done to vehicles, the poor quality of the streets of the city sends a subtle, but clear message to our citizens, potential businesses and our visitors: Los Angeles is a city of the past and not of the future. The City of Los Angeles cannot afford to send this signal.

The low cost of borrowing is not the only reason to do infrastructure investment now rather than later. Construction costs are being held down by the low volume of construction activity. Like low interest rates, this is not likely to last forever. An infrastructure project which stretches far into the future will run into the latter stages of the economic expansion and will suffer concomitant cost increases as the City competes for construction resources. Furthermore, the City can use the opportunity to train local labor in the infrastructure construction skills, many of which differ from those used in residential construction. If this workforce development is done wisely, it can create a long term employment and income benefit for the City as infrastructure repair and replacement will be a growth sector in California in the coming decades.

We have to decide if we are a city in ascendancy or a city in decline. A city in decline will have crumbling infrastructure, blighted neighborhoods, fiscal stress, and an inward looking government. A city in ascendancy will have a plan for improving infrastructure, schools, civic life, and commerce and it will have an outward looking government.

In Los Angeles initiatives are underway in mass transit, the ports, education, and urban development. But all of this might be for naught as the most obvious sign of ascendancy or decline is experienced while traveling from one place to another via automobile. As the cost is now relatively low, and the need relatively high, this is the time to move the conditions of the roads of Los Angeles from a signal of decline to one of vibrancy and optimism about the future.
d. Ivan Speigel raised the issue of prior notice and “...on a timely basis.” He said this was another example of problems in the Water Shed / NC Response Motion (CF #10-1797-S7) which LANCC’s considered, opposed last June. He drafted language for a position by LANCC. Mr. Speigel’s language was discussed and several amendments proposed and passed. The final language was put into a MOTION as follows:

Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition
Resolution on Proposed $3 Billion Street Repair Bond Measure
Council File 13-1300-S1

Whereas, the City Council believes that the Neighborhood Councils do not inform their stakeholders about Council initiatives;

Whereas, the City Council requests better participation in city issues by Neighborhood Councils;

Whereas, Councilmember Parks held hearings at the Education and Neighborhoods Committee regarding Neighborhood Council participation in city issues;

Whereas, yet again, the City Council, without any warning or advance notice, introduced a motion on January 4, 2013 to place a three billion dollar bond measure on the May ballot, thereby again silencing their stakeholders’ voice in this matter;

Whereas, LANCC has already adopted and transmitted a position to the City Council asking for 60 days time for Neighborhood Councils to be able to weigh in on issues;

Therefore: Be it resolved that this body motions and approves that the Executive Committee immediately transmit LANCC’s opposition to the City Council action precluding the Neighborhood Councils from weighing in on the ballot measure.

Furthermore, the LANCC demands that a City Council decision on this item be postponed for 60 days until the 95 certified Neighborhood Councils have an opportunity to hold a Brown Act compliant meeting and report back to the Councilmembers with their stakeholders’ views.

After adjustments for several amendments, the above MOTION was PASSED by a Unanimous Vote (29 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstains).

10. **RAPID RESPONSE TOPIC: SALES TAX Ballot Measure**

Recent City Council actions have resulted in placement of a Bond Measure on the March 2013 election proposing a one-half cent increase in the Sales Tax in order to reduce the City’s recurring Structural Deficit (estimated at $ 216 million for FY2013-2014). Council believes that this would generate another $ 200 million, next year.

a. Jack Humphreville has written the OPPOSITION ARGUMENT…which will appear with the ballot materials. He claims it was a back-room deal, hastily put together by Harvey Englander (a major property owner) and Council President Herb Wesson. Jack sees this measure as just
another burdensome expense for everyone and not business friendly. He believes that it may drive business away. The $200M it may produce may help decrease the first year’s Structural Deficit but it does not solve the City’s relentlessly increasing Budget Deficits. All reforms implemented by the City, to date, have been insufficient and ineffective to achieve that end.

This is Jack’s proposed Opposition Argument:

==================================================================
Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition
Resolution in Opposition to the Increase in Our Sales Tax to 9.5%
January 5, 2013
Whereas the City Council has placed Measure A on the March ballot;
Whereas Measure A, if approved by a majority of the voters, would permanently increase the City’s sales tax by a half a cent to 9.5%, one of the highest rates in the nation;
Whereas the City Council placed Measure A on the ballot without adequate hearings and without seeking input from the charter authorized Neighborhood Councils and other citizens;
Whereas the regressive sales tax has a disproportionate impact on lower income families;
Whereas the increase in the sales tax will drive businesses, jobs, and consumers away from Los Angeles and will confirm the City’s business unfriendly reputation;
Whereas the proposed sales tax increase has no sunset clause and will therefore be a permanent tax even if the economy improves;
Whereas the increase in the sales tax will generate $200 million compared to the $300 million increase in labor costs next year;
Whereas the City has not engaged in real budget and pension reform as personnel expenses are projected to increase by over $750 million over the next four years, including a 50% increase in required pension contributions to $1.3 billion;
Whereas the City will have granted a wage increase of 35% to its current employees from 2005 to the end of the current contract;
Therefore, the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition resolves that the increase in the City’s sales tax to 9.5% is not in best interests of the citizens of Los Angeles at this time and urges a NO vote on Measure A.
==================================================================
Jack continued: Furthermore, LANCC urges City Hall to engage in meaningful pension and budget reform where the City develops and adheres to a Five Year Financial Plan, approves two year balanced budgets based on Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, and over the next 10 to 15 years, repairs and maintains our streets, sidewalks, and the rest of the City’s infrastructure and fully funds its pension plans.
b. Daniel Wiseman spoke of the City’s need for funds and the poor ways it uses the money it has. He said that these issues are being considered by the NC Budget Advocates. They are collecting data and developing concepts which will be prepared for formal (face-to-face) presentations to the Mayor and City Council and made public in their annual White Paper. He invited all to participate in the NCBA13 activities. (This brief statement was made in lieu of a formal item, the NCBA REPORT, on today’s agenda.)

c. Glenn Bailey wondered whether or not NCs can take a “political advocacy” position on a ballot issue like this. Grayce Liu responded that this questions may need City Attorney approval. Len Shaffer pointed out that each of us can always take an individual’s position.

d. This item will be reviewed, with a report schedule for next month’s LANCC Meeting by an Ad Hoc Committee composed of Jack Humphreville, Daniel Wiseman, Steve Twining, Sid Gold, Alisa Smith, Glenn Bailey, Carolyn Caravan and David Uebersax.

Acceptance of the language of this “Opposition Position” (above) was approved by a “straw vote” - Ayes 21, Nays 3 and one “present.”

11. **RAPID RESPONSE TOPIC: QUESTIONS for every L.A. City Council and Mayoral CANDIDATES**

This topic has been part of the Public Comment and Discussion sessions of many meetings. It is now presented in more “formal” form. Chairman Bob Gelfand has suggested a number of questions:

#1: What is your view on requesting NC input on Board and Commission Appointments?
#2: What is your view on requesting NC input on General Managers Appointments?
#3: What is your view (specifically) on requesting BONC Commissioner Appointments?
#4: What is your view and suggestions to adequately fund and stabilize NC Allocations?
#5: What is your view on the City Clerk’s involvement in NC Elections?
#6: What is your view on allowing authorized and specifically directed NC Representatives to FORMALLY present to the City Council, Council Committees and Departmental Meetings the views (passed at Meetings) of their NCs?

A **MOTION was MSP** to recommend this list to the NCs and their Stakeholders with any additional questions which they craft.

12. **RAPID RESPONSE TOPIC: STORM WATER MANAGEMENT/PARCEL TAX**

Ballot Measure – aka CLEAN WATER, CLEAN BEACHES MEASURE – presented by Russ Brydon (L.A. County Flood Control District) at the DWP Meeting, today.

The handout, below, glorifies the expected results of this proposal.

The Daily News said (January 6, 2013): that the Proposal would “…impose parcel taxes on L.A. County property owners to raise about $275 million a year so the county can afford to meet rising standards for Storm Water cleanup. Whether or not the cleanup is necessary and the taxes are justifiable, the way the question has so far been put to property owners is an oily mess, the wrong way to get an accurate reading of public opinion. Most people became aware of the proposed tax
when they were mailed a notice of next week’s meeting about it. The notice calls it a “fee,” but that’s semantics. Some recipients complain the notice looked like junk mail. Those who opened the envelope and read the whole three-page letter learned this was step one in the county Board of Supervisors' bid for approval for the tax.

Step one: The county is asking property owners who oppose the tax to register their disapproval by mailing back a tear-off "Protest Form" or by coming to the public hearing on Jan. 15.

Step two: Assuming a majority of the county’s more than 2 million property owners do not express disapproval, the proposal is likely to be implemented by the County Board of Supervisors … and our Sewer Fees will be raised.”

In other words, people who don't want to accept the added parcel tax measure must actively protest and over half of the County’s 2+ million property owners must all make the same action to avert the Board of Supervisors from submitting this Ballot Measure. This will be frustrating to the property owners who try to resist passage.

These unprecedented and difficult methods may prompt a negative response from the public.
Los Angeles County
clean water, clean beaches measure

Five Reasons Why the Clean Water, Clean Beaches Measure Matters to Business

A Cost-Effective Route to Reliably Meet Growing Demand:
The bulk of LA County’s water supply depends on costly, limited imported water from Northern California and the Colorado River. Captured storm water can be used to increase local drinking water supplies, helping to meet growing demand independently and cost-effectively.

Real Projects, Funded Regionally for Long Term Solutions:
This measure is an investment that the county’s residents, local governments and businesses can make together, much as we have for transportation, to implement real projects that directly address the problem and could work to allay further regulation.

Dedicated Funding to Head Off Costly Fines and Legal Action:
Regulations laid out by the Federal Clean Water Act and implemented locally by the Regional Water Quality Control Board mandates significant, unfunded requirements to water quality development, and upgrades to drainage and flood control infrastructure. Substantial fines and even lawsuits may result if these improvements are not made, and this measure can provide a dedicated funding source to tackle these very issues.

All Revenues Kept Local to Stimulate Local Jobs:
100% of all funds will be spent locally, and a recent study by the Economic Roundtable in Los Angeles projects thousands of jobs created in engineering, construction, landscaping and environmental clean-up. It also found that every $1 invested in storm water stimulates $2 in economic activity.

All Spending Subject to Audit and Citizen Oversight:
An Oversight Committee of property owners includes citizens and scientists to review all expenditures; subject to independent annual audits. Also, by law, the fee could not be increased in the future without voter approval.

www.LACountyCleanWater.org
a. Jack Humphreville offered the OPPOSITION POSITION... claiming it was a back-room deal, between prominent citizens and Herb Wesson ... put through City Council ←→ Wesson’s Rules Committee. He said it is not business friendly & may drive business away. $200M does not solve the City’s Budget Deficit. This measure will cost property owners at least $800 million over 5 years. Budget Reforms, to date, have been insufficient and ineffective. The Parcel Tax may become permanent. The “mail-in” process is difficult to understand.

b. Len Shaffer spoke of the difficulties in this “mail in ballot” and concern that the Board of Supervisors may move forward unless there is a 50% plus one (over 2 million) opposing responses BEFORE January 15th, when the Board will make its decision.

c. Tony Wilkinson pointed out that City sewers are NOT STORMWATER CONDUITS.

d. Carolyn Casavan (a professional environmental consultant) spoke of the various ways to be taxed for this activity (General Fund, Bond Issue, Parcel Tax, etc.) and of the various parties-at-interest on this issue; including Heal the Bay and the L.A. River supporters.

e. A MOTION: was drafted, “The participants at the January 5, 2013 LANCC Meeting oppose the Los Angeles County Storm Water (aka “Clean Water, Clean Beaches”) Ballot Measure and its associated parcel tax as currently proposed.” The MOTION was MSP. The vote was: 21 Ayes, 0 Nays, 6 Abstain.

13. **TOPIC: Preparations for next year’s NC CONGRESS**

A **MOTION** was MSP to assign Cindy Cleghorn and her associates to “…FORMALLY REQUEST that we hold a NC CONGRESS in FY2013-2014” and to move forward with plans for that Congress.

The date might be the fourth Saturday in September 2013. The NCBAs should be informed so as to coordinate this date with the Mayor’s Budget Day.

14. **PREPARATIONS for NEXT MEETING**

a. There will be preparations by our newly elected officers and (probably) a Preparatory Meeting with them and others, later this month.

b. **POSSIBLE TOPICS:**
   - New Policies and Practices for LANCC
   - Final (Approved) City Budget …. LANCC RESPONSE … NCBA RESPONSE

c. **POSSIBLE SPEAKERS:** Mayoral Candidates?
   City Council Candidates?
15. **ADJOURNMENT** @ 1:02 p.m.

   a. **NEXT MEETING:** February 2, 2013 @ 10:00 a.m.

   **LOCATION:** Hollywood Constituent Center
   6501 Fountain Avenue
   (Fountain & Wilcox, West of Cahuenga
   Hollywood, CA 90028