

Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE LANCC GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, May 3, 2014 -- 10 a.m.

LANCC Officers

Terrence Gomes, Chair
Fred Mariscal, Vice-Chair
Connie Acosta, Secretary
Glenn Bailey, Treasurer

MEETING LOCATION:

Hollywood Constituent Center
6501 Fountain Avenue
Hollywood, CA 90028

A. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

1. Terrence Gomes, Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
2. Chair’s Report: Terrence Gomes
3. Introductions: LANCC Representatives and guests introduced themselves.

In attendance were 46	P. Darrieo, R. Waller, N. Royal, M. Barth, G. Aggas, M. O’Gara, B. Ringuette, C. J. McAleece, T. Yenmyan, M. Savage, J. Humphreville, O. Smith, P. Nichols, R. Regalado, S. Swan, R. Martinez, E. V. Lim, C. Acosta, P. Gohel, D. Selesnick, L. Vincent, J. Childers, H. Keifer, J. Barbosa, D. Rockello, C. Hart, B. A. Teran, B. Peppermuller, P.B. Hearst, T. Wilkinson, N.K. Arazi, I. Spiegel, J. Hopp, R. Guevara, C. Cleghorn, J. Yvanek-Garb, S. Twining, G. Liu, K. Drapa, Len Schaffer, J. Wong, S. Wong, J. Prang, F. Mariscal, G. Liu S. Box, Caroline.
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B. Presentations

1. Actor-Activist from Toronto, Canada --- David Meslin

Having surfed the DONES’s Website, David commented about his appreciation for the 25-member staff supporting the L.A. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment in contrast to “the zero staff fostering the NCs in Toronto.”

Since David would be visiting with Steve Box et al the NC’s elections being held today in South L.A., he shared a few statistics from his home town, “Elections take place every 4 years in Toronto with a voting turnout of 60% for the federal and provincial elections and for municipal the turnout is 50% or under.”

David discussed his project, “the 4th wall.” This metaphor is used in theatre to describe the virtual barrier that exists between an audience and the stage. David explained that an actor breaks through “the 4th wall” when he/she interacts with his audience, an acknowledgment of sharing the same room and same reality. He finds that “this metaphor is a good analogy for politics because many people think that politics happens over there [in City Hall], and they [the community] have no role to play besides being passive spectators.” “So, How do we break “the 4th wall” politically? How do you remove the barriers between City Hall and the community, and create a culture

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of participation where people know that their voice matters,” he asked.

David is collecting stories from communities across North America that are trying different experiments to help people find their voice. He is looking for NCs that are reaching out and beyond the usual stakeholders, reaching to involve under represented or immigrant communities, tenants, and youth. “I want to hear both good or bad stories, anything that you have,” he said.

Contact David via Cindy at (818) 429-6699; he will be available until Thursday.

2. The Los Angeles 2020 Commission: Final Report, *A Time for Action*—April 2014 Austin Beutner, Co-Chair

The 2020 Commission was composed of 12 volunteers. Not an advocacy group. Had no budget. Professionals who had experience and some perspective in labor, served in government, people who knew what is going on in Los Angeles.

Austin provided a synopsis of the April 2014 Final Report which contains recommendations to enhance transparency and accountability in City Hall, and “to put Los Angeles on a path toward fiscal stability and renew job creation in the region,” as Austin stated.

Austin shared some facts gathered by others, which implications were reviewed by the 2020 Commission.

- L.A. has the highest population living in poverty in the nation.
- 28% of the population have jobs but are earning less than the poverty line.
- In the last 2 decades, L.A. has lost jobs not gained jobs. In the last decade, Detroit created more jobs than Los Angeles.
- “Traffic is worst in the nation despite of the billions that we’ve invested, MTA and ... it will get no better,”
- In performance, L. A. schools are the worst in the nation. Less than two-thirds of the students graduate from High School, and of those who graduate, less than one-third of them meet the qualifications to enroll in the Cal State or UC system.
- We have more unemployed people in L.A. than the population of Detroit.

The 2020 Commission combined the volumes of the ports of L.A. and Long Beach; they found that in the last decade both ports combined went from handling less than a third of the nation’s traffic, handling a bit more than a quarter. Together, they lost 5 points of the nation’s cargo share, accounting for 60,000 jobs worth \$100 million in tax revenue.

FIRST-Recommendation: Combine the L.A. and Long Beach Ports with 50/50 equal partnership; have them stop competing with each other, and work together to bring lost jobs back to Los Angeles.

Second Recommendation— concerns the L.A. City’s Budget

To bring transparency and accountability to the budget so taxpayers can see the choices being made with public funds.

“City Hall has adopted an IOU system called, the Banking of Overtime,” Austin said. A police officer completes his overtime work today and is issued an IOU, which is then filed at city hall; According to the city Budget’s office the transaction is balanced. This fiscal liability exceeds \$10 million, which will come out of future city services.

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- Banked overtime for LAPD officers, for example, postponement of payment for work already performed to some future date that will result in the forcing of cuts to other city services in the future.

For the rest of the recommendations view the LA 2020 Commission Report of April 2014, **A Time of Action** go to: <http://www.la2020reports.org/reports/A-Time-For-Action.pdf>

To view the LA2020 Commission Report of January 2014, A Time For Truth go to: <http://www.la2020reports.org/reports/A-Time-For-Truth.pdf>

2. Candidate for Los Angeles County Assessor --Jeffrey Prang

Background

- Jeffrey is currently a West Hollywood Councilmember, and has served 4 times as mayor; He has been working in the Assessors Office for the last 2 years, adopting policies and programs with additional checks and balances to ensure the office runs within the public trust.
- Is a professional government administrator, and served as City Manager for the City of Pico Rivera; he worked for the Sheriffs Department for 9 years. In the 1990s, he was Director of LA City Public Information, and worked for John Chung, Board of Equalization.

Jeffrey has knowledge of Assessor's Office in terms of revenue

- "The largest government agency that assesses property tax in the nation; it has a \$150 Million year Budget," Jeffrey stated.
- "Is responsible for establishing the value for almost 2.5 million taxable parcels per year in the county. [Yielding] an assessment roll (value of the county) of \$1.3 Trillion; is the largest source of revenue for our education, city and county governments. "How well the assessor does his job will depend [result] on how successful other city, county, and education agencies are [will do]," Jeffrey said.

Challenge

- The biggest task facing the assessor's office is replacing the assessor's computer system; "To replace this system with 21st century, modern and efficient technology, will cost about \$100 Million and probably 45 years to execute," Jeffrey said.

Jeffrey stated that he's the only Candidate who has experience as a senior government administrator and knows how the agency works. Mayor Eric Garcetti, Zev Yaroslavsky, and Henry Waxman have endorsed Jeffrey for County Assessor.

Candidate for Los Angeles County Assessor

--John Wong,

Background:

- John currently works for the LA County Assessment Appeals Board.
- Has worked for the Appeals Board for 18 years and has been chairman for 5 years.
- Launched the Twin Dragon Almond Cookie in 1972, taking his company from earning \$40,000 a year to over \$3 Million in two years.
- Started a frozen Mexican food company, taking it from zero sales to \$16 Million in four years.

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- Has been a Real Estate Broker for 40 years.
- Knows what it is to work in the private and public sectors.

Plan

- Has formulated a team of retired senior deputy assessors to return to work in the County Assessor’s Office for an additional 10% of their retirement payment. “I have gained their trust,” John said.
- “There are 1,300 personnel in the County Assessors Office and they need to accept my leadership for it to run in harmony; I know I can achieve that. I manage by consensus,” he said.
- Plans to implement an efficient and effective computer system using Windows within a year in office.

“I’m the only candidate who is a Real Estate Broker. I want to be an assessor; I’m not using this office as a ‘stepping stone’ to a higher office,” John said, “ I’ve been endorsed by 20 to 30 Mayors in the County of Los Angeles.”

Consulting Contracted by the Department of Healthcare Services
--Eva Morgendi, Outreach and Educational Consultant

This is different from Cover California.

Changes will affect people enrolled in Medicare and MediCal or individuals who have only MediCal;
Option: People who have MediCare and MediCal will have an option to combine these medical plans under Cal-Medi-Connect and choose a health plan for that.

Mandatory: If a person has only MediCal or does not choose Cal-Medi-Connect, they need to choose a management health plan for their MediCal.

- 400,000 people in Los Angeles will be affected.
- Individuals younger than 21 will **not** be affected

“People who are enrolled in these different programs will have better coordinated services,” Eva stated. Your questions will be answered, send all questions to: info@calduals.org

www.calduals.org

Legislative

Motion 1

The Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition (LANCC) moves that the Los Angeles City Council instruct the Department of Transportation (DOT) to provide Neighborhood Councils (NCs) with advance notice on any major change in transportation infrastructure matters including plans, policy and/or roadway changes impacting the stakeholders within the boundaries of NCs for a public hearing.

Larry Wilkinson moved the motion	Punman Gohel seconded.
The hand-vote count was 21-yeyes, 0-nays, and 0-abstentions.	Motion passed.

C. REPORTS

1) **EMPOWERLA/FUNDING PROGRAM**--- Grayce Liu, General Manager of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE)

- **NC Checking System** --- A council file was submitted last week, if the Union Bank contract is approved in June, the checking system will open on July 1st. Then, NC-Treasurers will need to meet DONE's training and paperwork requirements for participation.
- \$2.1 million of NC funds have currently not been spent. Please use your funds.
- An Equity Report will be coming out this month requesting for statistics of socioeconomics, translation needs, etc. of NCs.
- A proposal will be made to set up a fund of NC's unspent monies for outreach and capacity building to assist NCs with grants.
- P-Card cut off day is Jun 13, 2014.
- Demand Warrant and NPG Deadline is May 15, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.
- Congress of Council has about \$40,000 in their fund. CAP is \$100,000. Any excess will be rejected.
- Next year NCs will be asked to identify in their performance metrics; how many community impact statements were filed; how many requests for action have NCs submitted to council members or city departments in order to meet NC's mission statements.

2) **UPDATE ON ELECTIONS** ---Steven Box

The NC elections are up 35% in voter turnout from the last NC Elections. ¼ of city's NCs are experiencing a historic high turnout. 500-571 people have volunteered at the Voting Polls.

Claudia is the Outreach and Communications Coordinator for DONE. She is a former vice-chair/secretary of the Silver Lake NC. Claudia is asking for great stories about NCs participation in the elections. Send stories to Claudia@empowerLA.org

3) **BUDGET ADVOCATES (BAs) REPORT**—Joanne Yvanex, Budget Advocates Co-Chair

Budget Advocates will be presenting their fiscal recommendations, White Pages to the City Council Budget and Finance Committee on Monday, May 5, 2014 between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers. On that day, there will be 10 departments presenting to the City's BFC, and the BAs will be the last to present.

- 3) Joanne Invited NC board members to go out to City Hall and support the Budget Advocate input; "It's a good idea to be there supporting the NC system as a unified body," Joanne said.
- 4) NCs need to appoint or re-appoint budget Reps in the month of June; because, their terms will begin July 1; and some time in July, "Budget Day" will take place.

D. Updates

1) **BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS**- Len Shaffer

New Posting Policy is in the process of taking effect. To view agendas, refer to the Commission on the Empowerla.org website.

The new Posting Policy is as follows:

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1. One Brown-Act compliant posting at a physical location,
2. One Brown Act compliant posting must be on the NC Website.
3. At least 72 hours in advance, send a copy of your agenda to DONE for posting on ENS.

* If NC doesn't have a website, NC is to send agenda to DONE for ENS posting; posting can be sent 5 days ahead of time to make sure agenda will be posted in compliance with the Brown Act.

** If both, an NC doesn't have a website and NC's name is not on DONE's Website, NC needs to post at 5 to 7 public locations according to NC's Bylaws and be in compliance with the Brown Act.

If an NC violates Posting Policy 3 times in a fiscal year, NC will undergo training. One additional posting infraction will result in getting funds frozen.

The next Board of Neighborhood Commissioners meeting will be on Monday, May 19, 2014 at 1:00 PM --10th floor room 1050-- 200 North Spring Street.

For Question regarding New Posting Policy, go to Commission at: Empowerla.org

2) LADWP- Tony Wilkinson

Rate-fare Advocates hear discussions on maintenance at DWP but the dept. hasn't provided them with any statistics on how much maintenance is being done. The former Chief Financial Officer was brought back by Marci Edwards to create some bench marks for DWP's operations. "They'll have items that we can watch from month to month," Tony said. "Rate-fare Advocates are doing a great job!"

The Next LANCC Meeting date is June 2014 at 10 AM.

G. ADJOURNMENT: 1:45 p. m.