

# Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition

## DRAFT MINUTES OF THE LANCC GENERAL MEETING Saturday, June 7, 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

***Items 1 and 2 were  
revised upon  
request on July 4.***

### A. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

1. Terrence Gomes, Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
2. Chair's Report: Terrence Gomes
  - Dennis Gleason, spokesperson for City Council Bustiano, stated that the future and direction of SOS-LA is very much in the air; a possibility that the SOS-LA Measure might not be placed on the November Ballot.
  - \$3 Billion Road Bond that would be put on the ballot ...
  - I asked Kevin James to come and answer: How is the city going to handle Time Card Fraud and employees not working. He could not attend because he's out at another event with the Mayor.
  - **Town Hall Meeting on July 1, 2014** at 6 p.m. in the Mar Vista area; Location is to be determined. Meeting is a more expanded version of what Commissioner Mack will be discussing today.
3. Introductions: LANCC Representatives and guests introduced themselves.

LANCC Membership -- 47	B. Ross-Blumer, B. Ratner, D. Baron, G. Wilson, J. Bruce, S. Ramsawack, C. Anyadike, T. Butka, R. Waller, N. Royal, M. O'Gara, C. J. Mc Aleece, T. Yenmyan, J. Humphreville, P. Nichols, C. Acosta, P. Gohel, L. Vincent, H. Keifer, J. Barbosa, D. Rockello, B. Peppermuller, T. Wilkinson, R. Guevara, C. Cleghorn, J. Yvanek-Garb, T. Adams, D. Uebersax, N. Royal, T. Gomes, A. Terran, M. Owen, A. Cabrera, R. Martinez, C. Jimenez, M. Benedict, M. Olaechea, C. Lindenblatt, E. Morales, J. Dyrector, L. Demmers, D. Kozek, V. Keegan, J. Medina, I. Spiegel, O. Smith, E. Sanjurjo,
Presenters	Claire Fox, Melanie Winter, Jessica Sanchez, Steven Vincent, and C. Fuentes
Update Reports from Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE)	Grayce Liu, General Manager; Darren Martinez, City Attorney; Karen Mack and Lydia Grant, BONC Commissioners.

## B. Presentations

1. **Water LA** is a partnership to capture, conserve, and reuse water in Los Angeles.  
--- Melanie Winter and Jessica Sanchez

For additional information contact: [winters@theriverproject.org](mailto:winters@theriverproject.org)  
[Jessica@TheRiverProject.org](mailto:Jessica@TheRiverProject.org) or [Carlo.Fuentes@ladwp.com](mailto:Carlo.Fuentes@ladwp.com)

"Every year billions of gallons of water are wasted in Los Angeles: flushed into the ocean with pollution and trash." Additionally, more than 60% of the city of L.A. is developed, urban, and residential land; the average residential usage of water is 89 gallons per person per day. In comparison to other countries with the same climate, environment, [population?], and quality of living as Spain, Australia, and Israel they are using 30 to 50 gallons per person per day, Melanie discussed.

As a consequence, "**Water LA** is a platform for collaboration between non-profit, the public, and private groups to provide publicly accessible strategies to capture, conserve, and reuse water." This pilot hands-on program or collaborative work projects take volunteers from a Neighborhood to participate; Presently, there are 25 homeowners who live in Panorama City and 12 in Studio City who have participated in landscape transformation as well as assisted the city with resource management. "Participants in a neighborhood learn how to design, size and implement strategies by participating in hands-on installations at one another's homes. Everyone learns while doing, everyone helps each other out with their projects."

Landscape transformation includes six key strategies to capture, conserve, and reuse water on your property:

- **Site Assessment Process** –Creating a map of your property and it's relevant features gives you a better idea how much water your property throws away in a rainstorm. The process also helps you discover water that can be reused or conserved both indoors and outdoors.
- **Rain Tanks and Cisterns** –are containers that can capture rainwater, runoff from rooftops for later use as the irrigation of landscape.
- **Rain Grading and Rain Gardens** ---In grading for rainwater capture, basins and berms (low and high areas) are used to guide water in the landscape. "A rain garden is area graded to capture rainwater runoff and landscaped with native or other climate-appropriate plants." WaterLA.org
- **Parkway Retrofits** – Parkway is the strip of land between the curb and the sidewalk. Parkway Retrofitting can be a resource to capture, conserve, and reuse water runoff from sidewalks, driveways, and roads.
- **Permeable Surfaces** ---breaking up the driveways or patios so water can be captured reduces the amount of rainwater that leaves the property.
- **Grey-water Systems** --- Laundry-to-landscape systems do not require a permit; systems for

tub/shower do.

- **Infiltration Trenches** --- are designed to create void spaces for capturing rainwater that runs down concrete patios and driveways; the water runs into the trench and soaks down into the ground.

Ms. Jessica Sanchez from the River Project is available to make full presentations to Neighborhood Councils: [Jessica@TheRiverProject.org](mailto:Jessica@TheRiverProject.org)

## 2. **Overview of the Energy Efficiency and Water Efficiency/Conservation Programs from LADWP**—Carlo Fuentes

Mr. Fuentes discussed the following programs:

1. Low Income Refrigerator Exchange Program (LIREP)
2. Refrigerator Turn in Recycling (RETIRE)
3. Home Energy Improvement Program (HEIP)
4. Consumer Rebate Program (CRP)
5. Water Rebate Program – Residential
6. Landscaping Incentive Program (LIP)
7. Small Business Direct Install (SBDI)
8. Commercial Lighting Efficiency Offer (CLEO)
9. Advanced Homes and title 24
10. Information sources including [www.ladwp.com](http://www.ladwp.com) and 800/DIAL DWP (800-342-5397).

**For further information or concerns regarding any of the above programs contact:**  
[Carlo.Fuentes@ladwp.com](mailto:Carlo.Fuentes@ladwp.com)

## 3. **Street Vendors** – Claire Fox, Policy Director for LA Food Policy Council-- a nonprofit that the City of Los Angeles created to address food policy issues.

The L.A. City Council introduced the Street Vendors Motion in November 2013, moved by Council Member Huizar, seconded by Council Members Price and Bustiano. “Now is a good time to weigh in on this motion. It was extended for a period of 90 days,” announced Claire. A copy of this motion was emailed and handed out to the LANCC membership.

“L.A. Food Policy Council is part of a coalition of 50 organizations that want to see some sort of permit system

in place. Street vending is a controversial issue that is not going away,” Fox said. “Scholars estimate that in the City of L.A there are about 10,000 street vendors who engage in selling food and merchandize. L.A. County Department of Public Health assesses the number to be 20,000.”

Claire stated that these vendors are made up of low income, entrepreneurs who couldn't find work in the formal economy, and decided to start selling on the street. The ten largest cities in the nation all have regulations except for L.A. “Lets regulate the street vending with a permit in place,” Claire affirmed.

Is the food being prepared in a county sanitary facility? All of the details would be made clear in the regulations. The vendors would start at the County Department of Public Health, make sure their carts are certified, take classes for the required permits from food handling to paying for a business tax. In addition, they would need to partner with a business for restroom facility use near vending cart station.

LA Food Policy Council supports the regulating of street vending for several reasons:

- Bring business opportunities for low-income people who are transitioning from homelessness or being emancipated from foster care.
- Provide the access of fresh fruits and vegetables into communities that don't have healthy food options.
- Existing groups of vendors want to get regulated; they want to play by the rules.
- The police support this legislation because they will be able to identify the permitted from the non-permitted vendors.

Fox is available to go out to Neighborhood Councils to make full presentations. [cfox@goodfoodla.org](mailto:cfox@goodfoodla.org)

Comments and concerns from the membership:

- **Membership 1:** “I'm in favor on this because we can include the underground economy and make it part of the greater economy and charge sales tax. For those 10 million people who are here and can't get legal jobs --to prevent crime--- allow them to be street vendors. Street vending would be a social valve for people who can't get a job working for a real company.”
- **Membership 2:** Presently the Alvarado Street sidewalk between sixth and seventh is impassable because of all those people set up on the sidewalk.
- **Claire:** Eventually the saturation of vendors in certain areas would thin out. That would be regulated. In some sidewalks there would be no vending allowed because the sidewalk might not be wide enough. The regulation would articulate how much pedestrian right away needs to be allowed.
- **Membership 3:** How would this initiative help the small businesses that are already struggling to survive and pay their sales taxes?
- **Claire:** “800 small business have sign-in on this” They see it as opportunity for their own businesses to create a presence; the see it as a business expansion. They want clear regulations in place and enforcement.

- **Membership 4:** A board member whose NC area covers the intersection of Slausen Blvd. and Vermont Avenue stated that she didn't want illegal vending in her neighborhood. "I can't support people doing business on the sidewalks and all of the dumping that goes along with it. We have enough annoyance with the Marijuana dispensaries and other illegal activities that go on in our community," she said.

#### 4. BONC Policy (Draft): Training for Neighborhood Council (NC) members

---Karen Mack and Lydia Grant, BONC Commissioners, and Darren Martinez City Attorney

For Code of Civility click link below:

[http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/Commisison\\_Code-of-Civility\\_signed\\_01-27-14.pdf](http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/Commisison_Code-of-Civility_signed_01-27-14.pdf)

Due to the many grievances on file in the department concerning the improper conduct of NC members, such as 'Bullying', name-calling, sexual harassment etc., "the city council and city attorney's office are pushing us to create a policy around this issue," Commissioner Mack said. "This city is so large and geographically diffused with so many different kinds of communities that we need people on the ground to support the leadership process, but what that requires are people to act like leaders."

"The training would be one hour," Commissioner Lydia said. "We're here to start the conversation to create a system that we can all function under. Our job is to listen to you and get some input, and then make a policy based on what we heard. Lets do it our selves so we don't get mandated [by the city]."

Mack added, "Our job is to listen to you and make a policy that is responsive. We're trying to respond so that everybody is part of the solution."

Darren Martinez, City Attorney stressed that the Policy DRAFT is still open to any number of solutions. "We want to get input and feed back on these issues." He discussed the following:

- What happens after training fails?
- Identifying what is "bullying"? Darren stated that the City and Commission want to come up with objective standards. How do you protect the people who are involved? "Shouldn't it be a matter of respect? If a board member asks you to please stop doing something to him/her, shouldn't you comply? If the person says stop yelling at me; shouldn't you stop? Stop sending me emails! Stop touching me! Shouldn't you stop? So, bullying is directed at the conduct that the person is doing; it's not directed at the person's utterance. "It's the physically intimidating conduct that bullying can arise to," Martinez said.
- Martinez stated that the Commission, Department, and his office have evaluated the concerns and think it should be handled at the department level. Do you want the NC Board meetings to be taken up with this time period and the procedures for handling the situations that arise? What if the situation escalates into litigation do you want to be involved or would you want the city to handle it administratively? "They'll have the standards in place to resolve the issue," Martinez said.
- Martinez stated he wants to hear from the community and the NCs on how the 'bullying' issue can be

best addressed.

**SUMMARY** --The excerpts below were taken from Policy Number 2014-02.

NC member fails to complete training

- NCs shall take training as determined by DONE “including but not limited to sexual discrimination, ‘bullying’, or other inappropriate behavior and ADA.”
- If NC member fails to complete required training within 60 days of being seated, NC member shall not take part in any action by the Board, but will count as part of quorum.
- NC chair or designee shall inform any NC member --not having completed required training within 60 days of being seated—he/she has 30 additional days to complete training or will be removed from Board. Notice may be by US mail or email; the fact of the notice will be entered into the minutes.

NC member completed required training but exhibits behavior contrary to rules

- Then any three board members may place a motion on the agenda to publicly censure the NC member. “A motion to censure shall be approved by a majority of the board members present and voting.”
- If after a motion to censure has been approved and NC member continues to behave in a manner contrary to rules and directions, any three board members may place a motion on the agenda to remove him/her from the Board.
- For details on the motion for consideration and the vote ratio for removal of NC members, refer to Page two, Paragraph six, sub-numbers one through five of Policy Number 2014-02.
- These training requirements, censure, and the removal procedures of a board member shall become part of the NCs bylaws; “any violation of this policy may become the subject of a grievance.”
- Each NC’s bylaws shall include a code of civility as follows:” For the code of Civility refer to:

[http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Training-Policy\\_Proposed\\_Draft\\_6-3-14.pdf](http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Training-Policy_Proposed_Draft_6-3-14.pdf)

**5. BONC Policy Draft: Prohibition Against Bullying and Harassment between Neighborhood Council Board Members ---Karen Mack & Lydia Grant, BONC Commissioners**

This Policy applies to the conduct of NC Board Members with Board Members.

The excerpts below were taken from the Policy Draft 05152014.

BONC identifies types of “‘bullying’ or ‘harassment’ to the possible inclusion of gestures, written, verbal, graphic, or physical act (including electronically transmitted acts—i.e., cyber-bullying, through the use of internet, cell phone, personal digital assistant (pda), computer, or wireless handheld device, currently in use or later) that is reasonably perceived as being dehumanizing, intimidating, hostile, threatening, or

otherwise likely to evoke fear or physical harm or emotional distress;" (P. 1, paragraph 5)

**Notice of Reporting of Prohibited Conduct:** If the Board Member continues to engage in bullying or harassing behavior, after being told that his/her behavior is unwelcome, this conduct is referred to as "prohibited conduct".

"Examples of 'prohibited conduct' include but are not limited to:

1. Standing or remaining within 3 feet of a Board Member after having been asked to step back.
2. Speaking in a raised voice or yelling at a Board Member after being asked to lower the voice.
3. Posting false information about a Board Member online.
4. Sending communications or telephoning a Board Member after being asked to stop.

Board Members who are bullied or harassed may file a complaint with DONE with in 30 days of the event. The complaint must state what prohibited conduct occurred and evidence that the prohibited conduct remains ongoing." (P. 3, Section 2)

#### **Remedies imposed by DONE**

Depending on the severity and numbers of complaints filed, the Department is authorized to impose a series of graduated consequences against the Board Member who continues to engage in prohibited conduct against another Board Member. The stretch of consequences may be from receiving a note from the City Attorney's Office to cease his/her prohibited conduct to expulsion from the Neighborhood Council. (PP. 3-4, Section 3)

<http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Draft-Bullying-and-Harassment-Policy-051514.pdf>

#### **5. The Los Angeles Parking Freedom Initiative ---- Steven Vincent, Financial Analyst**

Web site: <http://www.ParkingLosAngeles.org>

For more details and background on the above proposals, see:

<http://www.ParkingLosAngeles.org/reform>

<http://www.ParkingLosAngeles.org/parkingreform>

Contact: [LAParkingFreedom@gmail.com](mailto:LAParkingFreedom@gmail.com) or (657) 464-7275

L.A. Parking Freedom Initiative has been engaging in ongoing outreach and research since November 2013 with the goal of identifying and understanding the problems and solutions to the parking issues facing our city. The L.A. Parking Freedom Initiative is putting forward its parking system reform plan for the city, to be presented on June 12<sup>th</sup> at the first meeting of the Mayor's "Working Group on Parking Reform."

Some of the essential components of the new parking system include:

- **Establishment of a new Los Angeles Parking Services Administration**  
Charged with a clearly defined public mission. Its field service officers would be neighborhood based and tasked with not only writing citations but also with educating, informing and assisting motorists in parking correctly and safely, facilitating the flow of traffic and monitoring for parking and traffic issues.

- **Revision of the parking fine schedule**  
Distinguishing between violations of regulations that represent a public hazard and those that are incidental in nature, with a cap on fines for incidental violations at the median hourly wage for the city of Los Angeles.
- **Secure and expand the Special Parking Revenue Fund (SPRF).**  
End the diversion of SPR Fund to the City's general fund, include parking fine revenue in the SPRF and establish the fund as a strategic transportation infrastructure investment fund that generates positive cash flow for the city.
- **Establish a decentralized, locally based input and review process**

"Kevin James stated that if you appeal the parking citation (ticketed when parking on the street after the street-sweeper has completed its run); it should get overturned," Steven Vincent responded to a NC Member's complaint.

### Motion 1

David Uebersax moved, and Jennifer Barbosa seconded the L.A. Parking Freedom motion to go to the neighborhood councils for discussion and/or possible action on the establishment of a new Los Angeles Parking Services Administration, revision of the parking fine schedule, secure and expand the Special Parking Revenue Fund, and the establish a decentralized locally based input and review process

18-yeyes, 0-nays, and 0-abstentions.
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The L.A. Parking Freedom Motion passed.
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## C. REPORTS

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

**NC Checking System** --- City council approved the NC Checking System with Union Bank on Tuesday; can't open the checking account until the contract is signed, hopefully by Monday.

- NC-Treasurers will need to meet DONE's training and paperwork requirements for participation.
- P-cards will be closed on June 13. DONE cannot get the p-cards extended due to the city's billing cycle.
- On July 1<sup>st</sup> NCs will have access to checking account with \$3,000 to meet expenses.

**New Posting Policy** --The new posting policy is in place. If NCs want to keep more than 1 posting locations, they need to indicate that in their Bylaws and attach the new policy to NC's Bylaws.

[http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Neighborhood-Council-Agenda-Posting-Requirements\\_Policy-2014-01\\_Adopted-05-06-141.pdf](http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Neighborhood-Council-Agenda-Posting-Requirements_Policy-2014-01_Adopted-05-06-141.pdf)

- NCs have from July 1 through April 2015 to submit their amended Bylaws.

Draft Minutes of the LANCC General Meeting of June 7, 2014.

- **How to access the NC voting surveys that were collected?** – City Clerk has made a spread sheet on voter collected information; after 90 days that information will be destroyed. DONE will be sending the spreadsheet out to NCs. If you want a hard copy of the election folders of voter info for your NC, contact the City clerk.

Technology User Experience is on Thursday evening June 19 at the Encino Community Center.

**Announcements:**

To post Neighborhood Council agendas on DONE's webpage, send agendas via email to [ncsupport@lacity.org](mailto:ncsupport@lacity.org)

**G. ADJOURNMENT:** 1:45 p. m.