

Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition

MINUTES OF THE LANCC GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, September 6, 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. Terrence Gomes: "Many people ask me what are you doing? Where are you going? By coming to meetings, by coming together and taking these messages back to your communities we're able to make a stronger Los Angeles that is safe with a quality of life."
3. LANCC Representatives present per sign-in sheet of August 2, 2014.

40 -LANCC members present.	D. Dwiggings, C. Cleghorn, D. Rockello, D. Selesnick, T. Wilkinson, L. Schafer, F. Wada, F. Mariscal, G. Bailey, H. Keifer, J. Humphreville, J. Handal, P. Gohel, R. Guevara, L. Jean Grant, S. Twining, C. Acosta, R. Waller, T. Gomes, V. Keesan, J. Yvanek-Garb, O. Smith, A. Torrez, E. Morales, S. Ramsawack, J. Ackerman, S. Gold, M. Olaecher, E. Pollock, J. D'Antonio, B. Shears, B. Hirsh, D. Tool, A. Corlin, M. Forte, J. Handal, L. Schaffer, G. Bailey, J. Martin, B. Ringuette, B. Peppermuller.
9--Presenters present.	Chief Charlie Beck, Mary Nemick, Ron Galperin, Robert Rosebrock, Jack Humphreville, Liz Amsden, and Grayce Liu.

B. PRESENTATIONS

1. Plan for the next 5 years --- Chief Charlie Beck, Los Angeles Police Department

- Was a former Senior Lead Officer of the Hollywood Division, 20 years ago; has been serving the police Department for 40 years.

"This department has had significant challenges. Most of them have been related to budget," Chief Beck said.

Two of the main budget impacts that the department faced and that have been resolved are:

1. "Restoring the pay differential for our police officers. The contract was negotiated with the Police Union. We had a recruitment and a retention problem due to salary."
"Thanks to Mayor Garcetii and Chief Administrator Officer Miguel Santana, we'll be able to restore the pay level starting this coming Monday. We'll revert to the former pay level."
The prior salary was \$47,000 and will increase to \$56 or \$57,000, that's much more in par

with what other local agencies are paying.

2. "For the past 4 years during the recession in order to trim our budget, we quit paying overtime." If an officer worked for an hour over time, the city assigned him credit (compensatory time off) for 1.5 hours off at a later day. The Department accumulated over the span of four years a total debt of about \$117 million. Once the city's finances became stabled starting July 1, 2014 with the help of our City Council and CAO, we have started to pay overtime with cash."

Workforce

Presently, we have about 10,000 police officers. "The normal police retirement cycle is 350 to 400 a year, and to maintain that workforce number, we need to run about 400 to 500 cadets into the academy. Then based on the retiree numbers, we are able to supply the demand."

Community Programs

Chief Beck wants to see in his department an increase of officers being assigned into communities that have the biggest impact with gangs and violent crimes, not just to suppress crime but to prevent it. The police community programs and partnerships are personnel intense, requiring a constant police presence. "Presently, we have good models that are on going in parts of Los Angeles at four biggest housing developments such as Jordan Downs, Ramona Gardens... We have ten officers that are assigned solely there, at each one of those sites. Crime has turned around because of the structure that's been added to the community. Jordan Downs has progressed to such a degree that it hasn't had a murder in three years," Chief Beck said. "We're striving to move those models to other communities."

Officers use the model for building a partnership with the community; it includes sports, children getting to school, making sure that the schools feel safe, that community groups are able to impact their neighborhoods and work with other city departments to make sure everyone is doing their job.

Constitutional policing

Constitutional policing is the notion that the police does not only enforce the laws of the state (Penal Code), but more importantly protects the rights of the individual such as constitutional rights: the right to assemble, freedom of the press, etc. "When we look at an enforcement issue we look at it and deal at it from both sides," Chief Beck stated.

2. City's Bureau of Engineering ---Mary Nemick, Director of Communications

"The Bureau of Engineering is responsible for the planning and construction of the city infrastructure such as libraries, fire department buildings, parks, bridges, and public right-of-ways, etc. We lost the revolving agency, and the LA City's Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA/LA) [A source of funding for affordable housing especially in low income neighborhoods]; that most of you in neighborhood councils had contact with. It's gone," Mary stated.

"We do the designs and constructions of the projects in the city. There are 700 engineers and a small group of architects in the bureau; 60% of the staff is eligible for retirement. We're looking to bring in new people, young people, and get them exited into doing this great work. There's a lot of work to be done."

There are constructions going on in all neighborhoods all over the city. People want information on construction projects. Who's the project manager? When will it start? When will it end? How much money is it costing us?

RESOURCE TOOL

Search the following city webpage for contact numbers of construction project managers: eng.lacity.org

Uniform Project Reporting System (UPRS) is laid out by neighborhood council areas and city areas. "It will provide you with the names of the project managers and direct phone numbers to their desks," Mary said.

Also, contact Mary if you have any questions regarding a city project, or would like information on how to provide input in the design phase of a project: Mary.Nemick@lacity.org

3. Control Panel LA ---Ron Galperin, Los Angeles City Controller, 14 months into office.

- Former Neighborhood Council Board Member and Budget Advocate.

"I'll share the challenges and opportunities that we face in the city," Ron said.

Mr. Galperin described the controller's office:

We take care of the day-to-day activities of the office: Payroll for the whole city (with 24 employees), audits, write financial statements of the city (that must pass the standards of Wall Street), distribute checks for goods and services, write checks that go out to vendors. I use a nonpolitical approach; our office operates as a department to produce for all of our various stakeholders not just for the elected, but also for the vendors who do business with the city. We have the General Fund, Reserve Fund, and 900 Special Funds. "You won't hear about payroll unless we screw something up. So my job is make sure you don't hear anything about it," Ron said.

"We're moving forward to benchmarking, innovation and Transparency: Modernization, Management, and Metrics. I'll call it my three M's," Ron said. We need to modernize our technology and all of our processes. What I wanted to do that was out of the box was to open up the finances of the city to show where our money is coming from and where is it going.

"We have a control panel: <https://controllerdata.lacity.org> (We acquired it for less than a \$100,000 in a couple of months). It's the City's first open data site that allows the public to explore how the City spends taxpayers' money with an in-depth look into the City's financial books. You can search by department. We'll be coming out with a 2.0 Version with infra-graphics," Ron said. "To make it super sophisticated and super easy is a little bit of a battle," Ron said. "To be efficient you need to make decisions based on data, if you're making decisions with no data or bad data, that's not the way to go about it."

Metrics

What do you want to measure? How are you measuring it? What do those measurements necessarily mean? Everyone is talking about performance-based budget. Make sure you know what performance you want to measure because you'll be working to achieve that for better and occasionally for worse. What are the resulting leading indicators and what do they mean? An indicator in and of itself may not mean anything significant. Some are interesting...

"We will be doing a lot of audits and applying the same concepts using the best leading practices. Audits are interested in compliance. Compliance is necessary but sometimes compliance doesn't necessarily get you to the improvement of something. In the case of the Foreclosure Ordinance if you have more compliance you'll get lousier results," said Galperin.

We just completed an audit on the Bureau of Street Services.

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Thinking on exploring the Asphalt plant (1947) to save money long terms.

For more information visit: <https://controllerdata.lacity.org>

4. Helping Veterans that are Homeless to get the Services they Need ---Robert Rosebrock, Vietnam Veteran and advocate for veterans, "Nationwide, our veterans are not being taken care of".

According to Rosebrock, Los Angeles is the Capital of homeless veterans with estimates falling between 8,000 and 20,000. Meanwhile, the West L A Veterans Administration who oversees 12 acres of land, donated in the 1800s by two families exclusively to house and care for disabled and homeless veterans, is mismanaging the land.

Rosebrock stated that two-thirds of that VA land, surrounded by L.A. City Districts 5 and 11, is underutilized or not utilized. Presently, there is a Federal Judgment against the misuse of VA land. A portion of the land is being leased to outside entities such as UCLA, for a baseball diamond. 12 acres is leased to the city of Los Angeles for a public park that includes a dog park. Moreover, the VA land has locked gates at the location of Federal and Wilshire Boulevard while the disabled homeless veterans struggle to find a place to sleeping out in the streets everyday.

Executive Director McDonald sent out a directive that there'd be veterans' meetings across the nation on September 29, 2014 for veterans to stand up and voice their needs. The meeting that will be held at the West L.A. VA is providing 200 seats. "There is no doubt that we have to work from the bottom up. We have so many disabled veterans who need supportive and permanent housing near the VA Hospital designated for them, and for them not to live across the city where they must strain by traveling miles to get there to receive health-care," said Rosebrock.

VA Motion to Take Back to Neighborhood Councils

The Los Angeles Neighborhood Coalition (LANCC) moves to demand that the Los Angeles City Council pass a motion supporting the ACLU lawsuit and Federal Court decision upholding plaintiffs complaint that the Veterans Administration violated the Administrative Procedures Act which states that any leases must be with health-care providers and related entities for the sharing of health-care resources. The Disputed Agreements do not share space that is related to the provision of health-care and are unauthorized by law and therefore void. The LAANC Motion hereby demands the City Council to direct the Veterans Administration to use this land exclusively for permanent supportive housing and healthcare for our Veterans.

Moved Jay Handal	Seconded by Don Dwiggin
Vote Count [37 yeas, 0-nays, 0-abstentions]	Motion Passed

5. Sidewalk Repair Program --- Chair Jack Humphreville of L.A. Broken Sidewalks Committee

There have been two meetings at City Hall, one by the Budget and Finance Committee and the other by the Public Works Committee; lastly on August 26, 2014, City Council held a meeting to discuss the City Sidewalks Repair.

Krekorian has requested for NCs to submit Community Impact Statements by October 1, 2014. "I have drafted a CIS that we can pass to our NCs," Jack stated.

- The Bureau of Street Services claims 40% of City sidewalks are in need of repair and will a cost \$1.5 Billion.

- 12% of City sidewalks are in need of repair according to Krekorian and Street Services.
- Taking a closer look, only 5.5% of the sidewalks are tree damaged.
- There could be regular cracks or tree damaged side

What's the status of our sidewalks and who will pay for them?

Krekorian said there are three voluntary ways to pay for them: 50/50 plan; How do you determine the cost? A low interest revolving door fund; Forming assessment districts; Create Revenue Streams (increase sales or property taxes);

Community Impact Statement

The _____ Neighborhood Council supports a “fix and release” plan for the repair of our tree damaged-sidewalks. The City will issue bonds to finance the repair. There will be no new taxes. The city may develop alternative plans (50/50 programs, loan fund, Assessment Districts) that rely on the voluntary participation by property owner, and the City may retain independent contractors and managers. The City will assess the status of the sidewalks and prioritize the necessary repairs. The City will establish a well-funded, Independent Oversight Committee to ensure transparency throughout the process.

Moved Jon Martin	Seconded Tony Wilkinson
Vote Count [19 yeas, 7 nays, 3 abstentions]	Motion Passed

6. Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) --- Liz Amsden

Liz Amsden requested that LANCC and its member neighborhood councils endorse the Los Angeles City Council CF 14-0002-S4 for the city to oppose the Fast Track process, “but specifically in connection with the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Trade deals are necessary but the process being used is placing the City in a non-competitive position and will put our city at risk financially. It not just an agreement, involves every part of our life: our health, safety, and environment. Tribunals are not answerable to any court in the U.S.”

Send a copy of your NC approved motion to andy.shrader@lacity.org in Paul Koretz office.

Liz Amsden is available to visit NC board meetings upon request to clarify or provide insight on topics related to the Fast Track Trans-Pacific Partnership. She can be reached at: lizamsden@hotmail.com

Liz has provided the following readings:

<http://www.citizenstrade.org/ctc/trade-policies/fast-tracktrade-promotion-authority-tpa/>
<http://www.citizenstrade.org/ctc/trade-policies/tpa-potential-trade-policy-problems/>

C. REPORTS

1. Budget Advocates (BAs)—Jay Handal, Chair

We have all 36 Budget Advocates positions filled. We still have NCs who have not reported representatives. Our webpage is up and running. We're meeting today. Twitter has been made live; you'll be getting a full report right after our meeting today.

2. Empowerla/Funding Program-- Grayce Liu

- Each month we update your checking accounts to \$4,000.

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- We've seen web designers vary their fees from NC to NC. "Contact me when you hear that something is not right," Garyce said.
- The City process will continue to be open until October 12 to get venders of web domains on City vender list as long as they satisfy the requirements.
- "Web masters need to follow the rules because they are liable for trespassing when answering emails that are not addressed to them. These are frequent complaints raised by NC board members" Lidia Grant announced.
- Since NCs are advisory councils, we're looking to see NCs file 200 CISs as a whole this year.

2. 2014 L.A. Congress of Neighborhoods --Cindy Cleghorn and Denyse Selesnick

The Neighborhood Councils of the City of Los Angeles present: **KEYS TO SUCCESS**

The event is free; it includes breakfast and lunch, workshops, networking and more.

Date: Saturday, September 20, 2014

Time: 7:45 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Location: City Hall – 200 N. Spring St., Los Angeles

For more info call 213-978-1481

To volunteer contact Cindy Cleghorn, Chair of Congress Planning Group: 818-429-6699 or e-mail: cindycleghorn@me.com

There'll be an action session, "Big Ideas" How to take the Neighborhood Councils to the next level.

D. UPDATES

1. Board of Neighborhood Commissioners- Len Schaffer

We're working on what should be on the NC Web Pages. We're working on a city's "council remote phone" for you. Then you don't need to come downtown and still participate during the public comment period.

If neighborhood councils are not posting their general meetings to ncsupport@LAcity.org, committee or board chairs might receive a letter saying not to hold a particular meeting.

Glenn Bailey from NC support announced that in order to find out how many committee and board meetings are being held throughout the City, NCs need to post their committee and board agendas to ncsupport@LAcity.org We want to have 100% compliance by the NC Congress.

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Honoring Those Who Served
9th Annual Northeast Veterans Day Parade.
Sponsor. Volunteer. Participate.

Date: **Sunday, November 9, 2014**
Time: **1:00 PM**
For more information visit
www.NFLNELAVetsParade.com
or email us at information@NELAVetsParade.com

E. ADJOURNMENT: 1:13 p. m.

