

Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition

MINUTES OF THE LANCC GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, October 18, 2014 -- 10 a.m.

LANCC Officers

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

MEETING LOCATION:

LADWP Headquarters--John Ferraro Building

111 North Hope Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

A. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

1. Fred Mariscal called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., followed by representative introductions.

3. LANCC Representatives present per the sign-in sheet of October 18, 2014:

38 --LANCC members present.	C. Cleghorn, G. Bailey, D. Selesnick, T. Wilkinson, L. Shaffer, F. Wada, F. Mariscal, H. Keifer, J. Humphreville, P. Gohel, L. Amsden, L. Grant, C. Acosta, R. Waller, T. Gomes, K. Savitt, M. Millman, B. Peppermuller, S. Ramsawack, S. Twining, M. Peters, J. Liberman, P. Nicholas, J. Humperville, W. Kuzmin, J. Greene, L. Mack, R. Guevara, G. Wilson, R. Martinez, M. Savage, I. Spiegel, B. Caban, J. Strozdas, C. Malki, A. Corlin, R. Millar, B. Galfan
9 -- Presenters present.	Paul Tanaka, John Morris, Jim McDonnell, Gracey Liu, Michael Millman, Ron Oliver, Dr. Tom Williams, John Stratus, and Cindy Cleghorn.

B. PRESENTATIONS

1. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) Fiscal Update -- - Grayce Liu, General Manager

- Event Liability Coverage

If you're having trouble getting a permit for liability coverage, partner with a city department, nonprofit, or city council member to co-sponsor and assist with that part of the event. If the event is at a private place, it requires a contract and a Permit Liability Review.

- NCs Monthly Expenditure Reports

Grayce said, "Some NCs are asking for more money upfront, the whole quarterly amount; we have to work together. I can't make things easier if I can't go back to the City Council and say look, this is the accountability aspect that you asked for and all NCs are in compliance." For the month of July, there are 30 NCs that have

not submitted their Monthly Expenditure Reports; and for the Month of August, there are 40 non-submittals. Please submit the required paperwork in a timely manner.

- 2016 Elections

New elections will be electronic. By November we will be identifying a vendor for online voting for the next election cycle. We want to reduce the elections activity window from 3 months to one month. The NCs' unspent funds of \$50,000.00 from last fiscal year will be saved for elections and not for departmental use. Working groups will be formed to smooth out the process.

- Websites

126 companies have submitted applications to the Department to be included in the likely list of website designers. They're charging significant amounts of money to different NCs for the same kind of work. There will be equity across the board; same fees will be charged across the city. An NC can't contract with a web designer without the involvement of the department.

- Code of Conduct

"We're looking for an e-signature version to send out the Code of Conduct to all NCs to sign off and return to us by the January 5 deadline," Liu said.

2. Congress Wrap Up and Planning for 2015 – Cindy Cleghorn

Cindy thanked and recognized the following volunteers for their participation in making the NC Congress a success.

- Tony Wilkinson coordinated workshops and was a workshop presenter,
- Glenn Bailey was Cindy's assistant and coordinated workshops,
- Denyse Selesnick coordinated the Action Section and two other workshops,
- Ruben Martinez and Marlene Savage coordinated all the exhibits on the hall,
- Heinrich Keifer was the physical plant coordinator w/placement of chairs/tables,
- Sarah Ramsawack helped coordinate a number of workshops,
- Frank Wada was in charge of equipment,
- Ivan Spiegel coordinated workshops,
- Randy Waller coordinated the full registration section, badges and packets,
- Lydia Grant was Cindy's personal assistant and coordinated two workshops.
- Jay Handal coordinated the outreach unit and phone calls.

Congratulations board members for your work well done!

3. Keep the Barham Ramp --- John Strozdas

CALTRANS is planning to close the Barham Off-Ramp permanently.
Project budget is estimated to cost \$1.6 Billion.

John stated that this is a citywide issue, a principal issue. It involves the Hollywood

Hills, Toluca Lake, Burbank, and the L.A. River. This is not a neighborhood issue, this is a ramp on Freeway 101 that is for city and county daily use; it's a state funded highway. Closing the ramp will impact the city and all who use it on a daily basis.

The Universal Studios expansion approval provides two-southbound, alternative exits on the 101 FRWY, before Barham Blvd. at Lankershim Blvd., or over the pass at Highland Ave.

There's a concerned group of local residents and business owners who want to keep this ramp open when the Universal Studios Expansion materializes in our neighborhood. Closing this exit will drastically affect access to hundreds of homes, businesses, and schools. It will also increase traffic time for thousands of Angelinos who commute through this area of the city. Further, it'll negatively impact the quality of life for those who live and visit the area.

John Strozdas is asking for the support of Neighborhood Councils by going to the website and signing the petition.

Contact: admin@keepTheBarhamRamp.com
John@keepTheBarhamRamp.com

4. John Morris for L.A. County Tax Assessor www.MorrisforAssessor.com

"John Morris has been endorsed by the *Los Angeles Times* newspaper and every newspaper in L.A. County as well as by the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers' Association," read his leaflet.

"The current assessor has been charged with over 40 felony counts of embezzlement and fraud, has cost taxpayers \$100 Million," John said. "I will clean up the Property Tax Assessor's Office, update the assessor's technology, identify, and eliminate fraud to make sure this kind of corruption doesn't happen again."

I will protect Proposition 13. It keeps our taxes low and keeps jobs in California. "I oppose 'the split roll' because our biggest problem in California is jobs. It will increase housing costs."

John said he'll make sure that when there's a Public Acts Request or inquiry, he'll have a Communication's Director to efficiently access the requested documents for the public. In addition, he will implement a new policy that if he, or any other public official, can not serve in their capacity due pending criminal charges, that salary benefits be forfeited. This will be all part of transparency. It will be disclosed on the website or Internet so people can see it," Mr. Morris expressed.

Work and leadership experience:

- Presently, John is a high level manager in the District Attorney's Office,
- Has 14 years of management experience in the District Attorney's Office,

- Has been a criminal prosecutor for the last 24 years,
- Was head of one of the largest Fraud Division's in California,
- Real Estate licensed, with four years of Real Estate Law experience,
- A published author on real estate litigation, and a
- Classroom volunteer and youth coach for 20 seasons.

5. Jim McDonnell for L.A. County Sheriff--
www.mcdonnellforlacountysheriff.com

Jim stated, "I've been endorsed by police departments, labor organizations, chambers of commerce, business organizations, and individuals whose views politically are from the most left to the most right and everything in between."

Jim stated that he joined the Los Angeles Police Department in 1981, worked his way up in the organization to the number-two position under Bradley. Left the LAPD in 2010 to become Police Chief of the Long Beach City Police Department.

Concurrently, Jim was appointed by Supervisor Don Kanabe in 2012 to sit on the Citizens Commission on Jail Violence. And for a year "we studied the sheriffs department. The jails were our major focus, but also the culture throughout the organization," he said. "During that time we heard testimony from inmates, deputies, sheriffs, guards, doctors, chaplains, psychologists, lawyers, nurses, everyone who had a stake in that environment. What I thought I knew about that department was very disappointing. We heard testimony on nepotism, brutality, corruption, and favoritism. It was to me disgusting because we all got painted with that same brush."

"When I looked at what was necessary to make it right and give the public what they deserve --my thought was --- an insider is not the person to fix this. A Fresh set of eyes would be helpful, "

Jim said. "In the sheriffs department, they haven't had an outsider in the history of the department."

Work and leadership experience

- Was involved in the philosophy of Community Policing in collaboration with other agencies. "We'll take that philosophy and integrate it with the Sheriffs Department."
- Was Involved in the turn-around of two police departments --in troubled times-- in the LAPD with a consent decree, and the Long Beach Police Department --some challenging times-- without a consent decree. "And now are both looked at as best practice organizations," said Jim.

6. Paul Tanaka for L.A. County Sheriff 2014 -- www.paultanaka.com

"My track record with the Sheriff's Department and as Mayor of Gardena is proven and clear --reduced crime, safer neighborhoods and fiscal responsibility to the taxpayers," Tanaka.

Work and leadership experience:

- A Certified Public Accountant and is currently serving his third term (16 years)

as Mayor for the City of Gardena.

- Joined the L.A. Sheriff's Department in 1982 and was appointed Undersheriff in 2011. Has worked at, or commanded every single unit in the sheriffs department. Retired after 30 years of distinguished service and has dedicated his life to public safety.
- "Managed the LA Sheriffs Department's budget after the department had overspent by \$25 million in one year. Under Paul's leadership, the department responsibly stayed within budget for the last 11 years," read Paul, handout.
- "As a three-term Mayor of the city of Gardena, brought Gardena's fiscal budget from a \$5.2 million debt to a \$12 million surplus."

6. Bootleg Units --- Michael Millman

Michael stated that the Apartments Association of Greater Los Angeles (AAGLA) has a Speakers Bureau with speakers who are available to discuss the issue of non-conforming units with Neighborhood Councils. For further information contact Michael at (310) 477-1201 or by email: michaellmillman@gmail.com

"I would image, for several dozen years, we've all been aware that throughout the city there are somewhere between 50,000 to 75,000 non-conforming, illegal non-permitted, bootlegged units. They are garage conversions; they're granny flats. Some of them have been built before there was even a [Building] Code in the city," Michael said.

"Four years ago, two children died in Long Beach in a garage conversion, that can't happen! This year there's been 13 fatalities in this city because there's no oversight for these illegal units."

Michael continued, "Thirty months ago, the apartment association got together --they have about 20,000 members, with a coalition of another 4,000 members. We went to City Council. We said, 'this needs to end. We need to adopt an Amnesty Program where these bad players who have illegal units can come into the light --- get a building permit, bring units up to code, make them safe, have them inspected, get a certificate of compliance and be legal.' "

On August 9, the City Council agreed to adopt a resolution to ask the housing department to investigate the number of illegal units and report back.

Michael's description of illegal units:

- It's a garage conversion with no permit.
- An apartment unit or house where the storage, manager's unit, or gymnasium is converted into a rental unit without a permit.
- A granny flat where you put the caregiver to take care of the senior.

Michael provides a description of the Amnesty Program:

- "Go to the building department and get a one-page permit. Give up the rear setbacks, side setbacks, and the parking requirement," said Michael. "Bring it into the light and get a building permit."
- The units presently are all cheap rent; they will roll over into RSO. But if

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- tenants are to move, the rents go to market value.
- There is a cut-off date for the illegal units.

A copy of AAGLA's proposed Amnesty Program was provided as a handout as well as a copy of the City Council's Resolution CF 14-1150.

http://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2014/14-1150_MOT_08-19-14.pdf

7. Flood Management Plan-2015 Update Process --- Dr. Tom Williams

"If you know places that flood, send that to me," informed Dr. Williams.

Impacts: Mulholland Hills, Santa Monica, north of Slausen.

8. Sidewalk Repairs – Ron Oliver, Bureau of Street Services and Public Works

LANCC Sidewalk Survey

"We have prepared a survey which will help us get a better understanding of how we want the City to proceed in its plan to repair our tree damaged sidewalks. PLEASE COMMENT," Terrence Gomes.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BLVP9DD>

Sidewalk Repair Priorities and Funding Options

"The City is discussing a plan to repair our sidewalks. The City estimates that 4,600 miles (40%) of our 10,750 miles of sidewalks need repair at a cost of \$1.5 billion. However, there is conflicting information that indicates that only 5.6% (600 miles) of our sidewalks have been damaged by trees," taken from Agenda of 10/18/14 by Terrance Gomes.

"In 1974, the City assumed the responsibility to maintain tree-damaged sidewalks. This overrode a 1911 State law that charged the property owners with the responsibility of maintaining their sidewalks. Unfortunately, the City failed to maintain the sidewalks because of the lack of funding,"

Councilmember Krekorian is interested in seen what the NCs have to say across the City.

Refer to Council Files [14-0163-S3](#) and [14-0420-S1](#). Submit responses by 10/31/14.

LANCC Elections in January --- Cindy Cleghorn

Appoint or vote for an Elections Committee. Once established, the Elections Committee functions on its own grounds. Anyone who wishes to apply for President, Vice President, Treasurer, or Secretary may do so; however, there is a set of Bylaws for being an officer on the LANCC Board.

C. REPORTS

LADWP -----Tony Wilkinson

Now there are two sources of water policy, the DWP Board of Commissioners and the

Mayor's Office. There are some aspirational items; "reduce imported water by 50%." Some of these items might not be reachable. This is a challenge. The Mayor's Directive needs some public feedback. Also, renewable energy is going to affect our rates. DWP does plan to have outreach in the community on their projections for solar and electric vehicles.

D. UPDATES

1. Board of Neighborhood Commissioners- Len Schaffer

- All of our meetings at city hall are recorded. The commission has no funds of its own.
- Email Janet Lindo if you have comments regarding the Agenda.
- We're making it possible for you to call in and ask questions directly during the meeting. Anybody who calls in will be subject to time restrictions. When the two-minutes are up, caller will be terminated.
- The new Community Impact Statement (CIS) has six options.

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Budget Advocates ---Terrence Gomes

- Some NCs do not have budget representatives. Please make sure your NC has budget representatives, and be sure to schedule a place on the board agendas where they can provide the Councils with a report.
- There are budget representative vacancies. If a board member fails to attend four consecutive meetings, that person is dropped. The following Regions have seat vacancies: Regions 1, 2, 6, 8, have a vacant seat each. While Region 12, the Harbor-Port Area has two vacancies.

2.

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

3. CitywatchLA.com --- Bob Galfan

Cabrillo Beach north of the aquarium...

E. ADJOURNMENT: 1:15 p. m.

Website: www.lancc.org WEB-BLOG (Notices, etc.):

lanccreports.blogspot.com

Send emails (questions, comments): LANCC@EMPOWERLA.ORG

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