

Valley Alliance of
Neighborhood Councils
VANC

Thursday, April 14, 2022 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Via zoom: Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/98759241651>

Note: VANC is an independent Alliance and is not required to follow the Brown Act. We are able to prevent individuals from participating in VANC meetings if they are disruptive, or sufficiently unrelated to VANC business.

Note: To be added to the email list, send your information to VANC@empowerla.org



State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tony Thurmond: Vision for education in California, challenges in California and LA. Can the State help?

REMINDER: VANC meetings are to educate you on various topics so that you can bring back to your NC for discussion/vote

Zoom attendees, please identify your NC along with your first name

AGENDA

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Jill Banks Barad-Hopkins, Founder and Chair
2. **Remembering Mike O'Gara** long time Sun Valley Area NC Board Member and VANC Executive Board member.
3. **Superintendent Tony Thurmond:** Education issues in California
4. **Certified LA City Candidates** - 2min, no Q/A
5. **DONE Mandatory Training CF20-0990** Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Training/Anti-Bias Training/Los Angeles Neighborhood Council see Attached HOT Topics #1 Judi Daniels
6. **DONE Digital Communications Policy:** **OMG, BONC PASSED** the Policy. A surprise reconsideration was added to the BONC 3/21/22 agenda which required a new vote. Previously 27 NCs voiced opinions. 15 were against, 5 against unless amended, 5 for if amended, 1 for, 1 n/a. 57% were AGAINST (93% didn't like it the way it was passed) and **still it passed**. Listen to BONC meeting on April 5, 2022 starting at 1:47:48 Glenn Bailey/Commissioner Len Shaffer See hot topic #2

7. **NC In-Person meetings:** Discussion on the various problems arising due to holding in person meetings. I.E. Expiration of city zoom accounts & transition to NC funding. Covid19 restrictions, what are they, Social Distancing, VAX/UNVAX, ADA compliance - Tony Wilkinson,
8. **UPDATE on PROPOSED new Code of Conduct:** (Len Shaffer, BONC Commissioner) [draft Code of Conduct Policy](#).
9. **UPDATE on Councilwoman Rodriguez CF20-0963, Glenn Bailey**
10. **Items from the Floor.**
 - Budget Day Saturday June 18, 2022 9:30am - details to follow
 - Dog/Cat Bill of Rights CF22-0002-S54 see hot topics #3
 - Required ethics training - SEE HOT TOPIC #4
 - Which LA City attorney currently monitors BONC meetings?
 - Why doesn't BONC provide a summary of what was discussed during their meetings and what was decided etc vs who spoke?
 - LAUSD Board Member Scott Schmerelson responded regarding the homeless student count. Pia Escudero, Director of Health and Human Services for LAUSD Cell is 213-200-8726
 - Congress of Neighborhoods September 24, 2022 via zoom, details to follow

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

***VANC Meeting Thursday, May 12, 2022: Speaker: TBD**

***PlanCheck 2nd Saturday of the month, details at www.plancheckncla.com
*Educate yourself on City Planning and Land Use issues.***

HOT TOPICS For April 14, 2022



1. Report back from DONE and the Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department to the City Council Arts, Parks, Health, Education and Neighborhoods Committee

CF 20-0990

<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=20-0990>

REQUIRED TRAINING for NC BOARD MEMBERS – CF20-0990 -- This report back is primarily related to ABLE training -- often referred to as diversity training -- and lists seven specific areas of concern that the

general manager of DONE wants the committee to consider. The central theme is how to force board members to complete this training, including allowing the GM to change the bylaws of all NCs to achieve this goal. **The GM would have unilateral authority** to make all rules and regulations related to this training. Past communications from the department included suspending -- and even removing -- community-elected board members for not complying with training and not allowing the affected individuals to explain or defend why they did not comply that's due process.)

Item number 3 in the report would **give the GM authority over "current and future** required trainings" for NCs without limits on the topics of any such training. That means future training on any topic could be mandated by the GM without input from anyone else, especially the NCs.

Items 4 through 6 allow the department to not only change bylaws but also "shall take precedence over any inconsistent language in the Neighborhood Council's bylaws." That means they don't even have to look at the entire bylaws document to determine where there might be inconsistencies, thus potentially leaving bylaws with incorrect information that is not updated and with no way to fix wording until the next "window of opportunity" to update bylaws opens.

Item 7 asks that the department ask itself and city clerk for a list of the current training and recommendations on which ones **"should also be made mandatory by ordinance."** In the lengthy summary of the report, there are multiple references to how to force board members and committee members to take the diversity training *as well as* Part 2, which is gender expression and gender identity training. The summary concludes that, "it is clear that achieving full compliance with City Council training or other City Council action or directives requires **providing the department with authority to carry out City Council courses action.**" The latter phrasing apparently relates to the 7 items mentioned above from the report.

City employees who are required to take the same training get paid for every minute they spend on these tasks. Although Neighborhood Council members are unpaid "volunteers," the burden is already turning potential candidates away from serving. **Adding more requirements is adding more hurdles and more time to the desire to "make my community better."** All these city departments and the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners should **report back to the NC board members to explain how this helps to improve our communities and our city.**

FYI: you are biased no matter how you answer the ABLE training questions

2. DONE/BONC's DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS POLICY <http://tiny.cc/digitalcommspolicy>

9 pages of mandated additional WORK for NCs. DONE should provide staff or FUNDS if approved by BONC. IF your NC already voiced an opinion (or you now have one) send a copy to Arts, Parks, Health, Education and Neighborhoods (APHEN) committee Chair John Lee at councilmemberlee@lacity.org and BONC Commission@empowerla.org before 3/21/2022.

3. AB 1881, Dog and Cat Bill of Rights

A motion to support this bill has been introduced in the Los Angeles City Council by Councilmember Bob Blumenfield and seconded by CM Paul Koretz. The Council File is 22-0002-S54.

AB 1881, a bill currently pending in the California Assembly entitled the Dog and Cat Bill of Rights, provides that dogs and cats have the following rights:

To be free from exploitation, cruelty, neglect, and abuse.

To a life of comfort, free of fear and anxiety.

To daily mental stimulation and appropriate exercise.

To nutritious food, sanitary water, and shelter in an appropriate and safe environment.

To preventive and therapeutic health care.

To be properly identified through tags, microchips, or other humane means.

To be spayed and neutered to prevent unwanted litters.

4. Something to ponder. This was taken from Los Angeles City Ethics Training... **Did you miss it?:**

City officials are NOT allowed to accept gifts for various reasons **EXCEPT no limits from UNIONS**. Why are Unions meetings/discussions held BEHIND CLOSED DOORS?

Also on the list of **exceptions are Travel and meals from a 501c3, an educational institution, or government agency**. I'm just wondering which are the favored entities for our elected officials, in light of the Federal Investigations.