

Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils

VANC

Thursday, MAY 12, 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

What are the hot topics facing Neighborhood Councils?

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. **Certified LA City Candidates** - 2min, no Q&A
3. Urge City Council to **retain telephonic public commenting**. Those stakeholders without vaccination documentation or without a prior 72 hour covid-19 test, or those WITH Covid-19 cannot voice their opinions to city council. (**Hot Topic #1**)
4. **CF20-0990 - BONC passed**, City Council to vote 11MAY2022. See **hot topic #2** for the reasons 93% of NCs CIS were against as stated. Digital Communications Policy
 - A. Request BONC poll members to learn why they voted for/against
 - B. Which other elected officials are required to take mandatory training and what are their consequences if they don't?
5. 2023 election/selection (Glenn-Cindy) also review CF20-0963 **Hot Topic #3**
<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=20-0963>
 - A. Three voting options are under consideration. City clerk states they will only do one option due to their funding
 - i. Vote in person
 - ii. Vote by mail
 - iii. Vote in person AND vote by mail
 - B. 2023 Election Information Worksheet, asking for your voting hours, location, translations etc. which will be sent around June, discuss with your board and take action

- C. NC Outreach option Every Door Direct Mailout (EDDM), is how you can reach your homeowner, apartment dweller and business stakeholders. **See HOT TOPIC #4**
- 6. **DONE:**
 - A. Mandatory trainings are in what languages currently
 - B. NCs need liaison contacts for City Department representatives, when will they be provided
 - C. Challenges of in-person hybrid meetings
 - D. Recent ZOOM.US settings and feature changes
 - E. Outreach Budget
- 7. **Budget Advocates: update on Fiscal Year 2022-2023** Budget www.budgetadvocates.org
- 8. **Update on PROPOSED new Code of Conduct:** (Len Shaffer, BONC Commissioner)
- 9. **VANC's RE-fund the police request** was forward to Mayor Garcetti 5/5/2022
- 10. **Items from the Floor.**
 - A. Sanitation bins

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- ***VANC Meeting Thursday, June 9, 2022: Speaker: Supt. Alberto Carvalho, LAUSD**
- ***PlanCheck 2nd Saturday of the month, details at www.plancheckncla.com**
- Educate yourself on City Planning and Land Use issues.*

HOT TOPICS For MAY 12, 2022



1. LA City Council has resumed in-person meetings, but they are not planning to continue to allow public comment via telephone. The current city council agenda states:

"Members of the public may also attend City Council meetings in-person. Public comment will be taken in-person, only, and not via teleconference. Please note that, pursuant to Mayoral directives, proof of Covid-19 vaccination or proof of a negative Covid-19 test within the prior 72 hours will be required to enter the City Hall building, and indoor masking will be required regardless of vaccination status."

Suggested verbiage in attached letter by Gina K. Thornburg, PhD, Executive Director Coalition for Valley Neighborhoods

2. **Original motion:** https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2020/20-0990_mot_08-11-2020.pdf

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.

3. Council File 20-0963

<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=20-0963>

NC 2021 ELECTIONS REPORT BACKS (CF 20-0963) - While initially the impetus for conducting the 2021 NC Elections via all Vote By Mail, [Council File 20-0963](#) more recently is where the 2021 post-election reports from City Clerk and DONE are filed. The City Clerk report dated October 20, 2021 includes candidate filing, voter registration and Vote By Mail statistics while the DONE report dated January 11, 2022 describes their election outreach efforts and how the \$456,000 allocated to them was spent. As of March 3, 2022 nine NCs have submitted Community Impact Statements -- has your NC considered this matter and

provided its recommendations by filing a CIS? **City Clerk scheduled item for Council on March 9, 2022.**

4. Community outreach possibility: Every Door Direct Mailout (EDDM)

Choose EDDM Retail:

- A. if you want to plan, create the printed pieces, have them printed, bundle and take them to the post office.
- B. EDDM Retail is great if you want to target specific areas of the community you are trying to reach. As few as 200 and up to 5,000 pieces per day, per zip code.
- C. EDDM Retail is great if you want to reach all addresses for residents and businesses in your community, you would just drop at the post office over several days.
- D. No special mailing permit is needed but a box printed on the mailing piece will need to be printed. Quick Reference Sheet here: <https://www.usps.com/business/pdf/quick-reference-guide.pdf>
- E. Pay for Postage online or at the Post Office. Estimate .20 cents per piece to mail plus the cost of printing (example cost for printing only for a 6.25 x 9 postcard, printed color on both sides .16 cents each*)
- F. EDDM has size limits for the printed mailing piece ranging from 6.25" x 9" to 9" x 12" with 6.5 x 9 and 8.5 x 11 being common sizes.

Links for more information: the USPS has an EDDM online tool. This is where you enter your address and then select the carrier routes around that address that you want to reach. The tool calculates the number for each route and the total postage so you can budget the EDDM mailing. It will also provide the facing sheets that go onto the bundles for each carrier route. And... this is also where you can pay for the postage online. The link to the tool is below:

https://www.usps.com/business/every-door-direct-mail.htm?_gl=1*1ugouzj*_ga*MTkwMzgZNTQ4Ni4xNjUxOTgyNzEz*_ga_3NXP3C8S9V*MTY1MjAyOTkyNy4yLjAuMTY1MjAyOTkyNy4w