

# Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils

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VANC

Established March 3, 2003, by Jill Banks Barad-Hopkins

**Thursday, July 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](mailto:VANC@empowerla.org)

## Trevor Richmond, LAFD Deputy Chief

**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

- Welcome and Introductions:** Jill Banks Barad-Hopkins, Founder and Chair
- Deputy Chief LAFD Trevor Richmond: follow-up concerns from meeting of June 9, 2022**
- Planning Department updates, community meetings:** Seeking input on land use concepts for Ventura-Cahuenga Corridor. Virtual office hours July 18-19. <https://planning.lacity.org/plans-policies/community-plan-update/southeast-valley-community-plan-update#office-hours>
- LADWP Water Report: New Restrictions:** Ben Wong, Supervisor, Strategic Planning Group
- Budget Advocates update on Budget Day and Budget Advocate elections-** Glenn Bailey
- Budget Advocates OPPOSE CF11-1020-S3.** You and your NC should voice your opinions (See hot topics # 3, Alliances are being included in the discussion)
- Ayelet Feiman** joined the City Attorney's General Counsel Neighborhood Council Advice Division (NCAD) assigned to the Valley NCs. [ayelet.feiman@lacity.org](mailto:ayelet.feiman@lacity.org) 213-978-8132
- NC possible conflict of interest procedure according to DONE.** You and your NC should voice your opinions. (See hot topics #4)
- Urge City Council to retain telephonic public commenting.** You and your NC should voice your opinions (see Hot Topics #5)
- Metro: North SFV Corridor Transit Project:** Glenn Bailey (Hot topic #1)
- Municipal Lobbying Ordinance, CF 22-0560:** Lobbyists currently do NOT have to identify themselves at NC meetings, why not? (see Hot topics #2)
- Animal Services Update:** Possible motion Jeff Mausner (see Hot topic #7)

13. **DONE UPDATE** by General Manager Beltran or her appointee
14. **BONC UPDATE: New Commissioner: Mayor Garcetti has nominated Jennifer Valdivia as a new BONC Commissioner (see CF22-1200-S43 last day for City Council to act is 8/12/22. Motion sent to John Lee Chair, Arts, Parks, Health, Education and Neighborhood Councils):** Commissioner Len Shaffer, South Valley
15. **Items from the Floor:**
  - A. Corrine Ho - CA SB1336

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- \*VANC Meeting Thursday, August 11, 2022: Speaker: **TBD**
- \*PlanCheck 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month, details at [www.plancheckncla.com](http://www.plancheckncla.com)  
*Educate yourself on City Planning and Land Use issues.*

## HOT TOPICS For July 14, 2022



### 1. VANC HOT TOPIC - North San Fernando Valley Transit Corridor Project

The Metro North San Fernando Valley Transit Corridor Project was initiated in 2017 and subsequently two options for a Bus Rapid Transit line were proposed on Nordhoff Street OR Roscoe Boulevard. Last month Metro held three community meetings to announce a different "network approach" instead. This "BRT Network Improvements" proposes an enhanced bus network that would increase connectivity and provide high-quality bus service and transit infrastructure in North San Fernando Valley communities from Northridge on the west to North Hollywood on the east.

For a project overview, watch the video linked here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j35VTIXnXrY>

If you were unable to attend the Metro community meetings, you can watch the [virtual meeting](#), access [meeting materials](#) and visit the online interactive [StoryMap](#) on the [project website](#), by visiting [metro.net/nsfvbrt](http://metro.net/nsfvbrt). Please share any additional comments via the [online form](#).

Metro anticipates completing the Alternatives Screening Report (ASR) analyzing the new proposed BRT Network Improvements and comparison of the benefits and tradeoffs to the

previously-analyzed BRT alternatives in Fall 2022. The proposed project is anticipated to be on the agenda for Metro Board review and consideration in Fall 2022.

## 2. Hot Topic: Municipal Lobbying Ordinance (MLO)

Previously, when the ethics commission made recommendations on changes to the municipal lobbying ordinance, City Council sat on the file, it expired, and nothing was done. This is a rare opportunity to help push to change some of the structural deficits that make following the influence of money in this City hard.

In addition, the MLO contains updates for neighborhood councils that make it so that **lobbyists have to identify themselves to us when commenting on a topic about which they are paid to lobby**. As some of you are aware, lobbyists have been caught going to neighborhood councils and lying about who they represent. This change is absolutely needed to help prevent this kind of astroturfing.

Two additional changes would be a big help. 1) To lower the 501c3 threshold for reporting lobbying activity to \$250,000. This is in line with the SF ethics commission and IRS standards 2) To require lobbyists to also identify themselves at public comment during City Council and committee.

This is a rare chance to address some of the structural issues in LA politics that make it hard for regular people to have their voice heard, and I fear that unless neighborhood councils make a strong push on this, the City Council will once again refuse to agendize the recommendations from the ethics commission.

Any questions: Contact Jaime York, Reseda NC

## 3. CF11-1020-S3 - would rename the Budget Advocates account to "budget advocacy" with no mention as to where the funds would go.

**UPDATE: GM Beltran has now added that Alliances are non-city entities, therefore, should also not receive city funding.**

Previous Recommended Motion:

The \_\_\_\_\_ Neighborhood Council opposes Council File 11-1020-S3. Neighborhood Councils form alliances when they want to join together to work on something of common interest. We want to be able to contribute specifically to alliances we support. The name of the overall fund is not important. What is important is that every recognized alliance has the ability to raise its own funds and those funds are reserved for its use and its use alone. Our Neighborhood Council wants the ability to direct our funds to a specific alliance and not to a fund that is allocated without our input. We ask the motion be amended to make this clear.

## 4. NC Board Member Recusal due to conflict of interest - June 2022 Monthly Profile

If you are a board member and have a question about a possible conflict of interest on any matter coming before the neighborhood council, you are advised to follow this procedure:

1. First, you should directly contact your assigned NCAD Attorney. If you do not know which NCAD Attorney is assigned to work with your Neighborhood Council, contact your NEA for the information.
2. Once you are provided their contact information, you will directly email the NCAD Attorney about your concern.

Your email should include: Your name and best contact information, the NC you are a board member of, the subject matter coming before the board, the meeting date of when the item will come before the board (if known), and the reasons why you are reaching out about a potential conflict of interest.

The NCAD Attorney will contact you directly about your concern. If you do not receive a response before the meeting, **we highly recommend you move to table the item to a future meeting** to allow you additional time to receive the advice you need.

5. 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.**"*

In conjunction with the announcement of a return to in-person City Council meetings, the City Council announced that its meetings will continue to be accessible online. Since there will continue to be medical requirements for admission to City Hall, this policy of restricting public comment to people who attend in person is discriminatory to those without medical documents or with compromised immune systems. In addition, it discourages comments from those who have limited hours available during the workweek. For a city that takes pride in being an environmental leader, it will create many hours of auto trips downtown for the sole purpose of making a one minute public comment.

At its meeting on May 12, 2022, the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils unanimously adopted the following resolution that urges reinstatement of remote public comment. **Please send to your local NC City Councilmember with the name of your NC.**

**"The \_\_\_\_\_ Neighborhood Council requests that the City Council again allow remote participation in City Council meetings, by telephone or online means, in addition to in-person public comment."**

## **6. Hot Topic - School Police on LAUSD Campuses**

School Police Officers are not allowed on Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) school campuses. On July 15, 2021, the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC) unanimously passed the following resolution:

*The Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC), representing the 34 Neighborhood Councils throughout the San Fernando Valley, views the safety of our children and school staff of utmost importance, and strongly supports the resolution of School Board Members Scott Schmerelson and Dr. George McKenna, Resolution Number 029-20/21, entitled Ensuring Local School Site and Community Control, Authority, Autonomy and Choice Regarding Safe Campuses and the Protection of Our Students and Staff. VANC strongly supports local control by each school site and school community to allow the Los Angeles School Police onto LAUSD school campuses, ensuring safe campuses and the protection of our students and staff.*

The Schmerelson/McKenna Resolution **did not pass at the LAUSD School Board** meeting, so School Police are still not allowed on school campuses. In light of the school shooting in Texas on May 24, 2022 the LAUSD School Board should reconsider stationing of School Police on LAUSD campuses, re-funding the School Police Department, and hiring additional School Police Officers.

#### **7. Hot Topic: Department of Animal Services**

When Proposition F was passed by two-thirds of voters in 2000, residents were told that the Department of Animal Services would operate 8 animal shelters. Voters were told that additional space was needed for animal control officers to "solve problems of stray, abandoned, and dangerous animals" and the new facilities would improve response times. The Prop F voter guide also acknowledged that additional funds would need to be appropriated to staff the two new animal shelters, one of which was Northeast Valley. However, instead of operating the facility as a municipal shelter as contemplated by Prop F, the Animal Services Department leased the facility to Best Friends rescue organization.

Best Friends publicly announced on June 29 that they intended to vacate the Northeast shelter when their contract expires on December 31, 2022 (they began operating the Northeast shelter in January 2012). The Department of Animal Services did not publicly announce their intention to release an RFP for the Northeast Shelter until Friday July 8 when they placed the item on their meeting agenda. This short time frame did not allow the affected neighborhood councils to provide any input regarding whether the Northeast Valley Animal Shelter is operated by the City or by rescue organizations, or the terms under which a rescue organization would operate the facility. Nevertheless, on Tuesday, July 12 the Board of Animal Services Commissioners approved releasing an RFP for rescue organizations to operate the Northeast Valley Animal Shelter.

*I propose the following VANC Resolution regarding this matter:*

*The Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC) represents the 34 Neighborhood Councils throughout the San Fernando Valley, including all of the Neighborhood Councils in the vicinity of the Northeast Valley Animal Shelter. This shelter is a City facility*

*built with Proposition F funds to be a municipal animal shelter, open to the public. It was not meant to be a private facility to house rescue organizations. Nevertheless, the Board of Animal Services Commissioners has issued an RFP (Request for Proposal) to do just that, lease the Northeast Valley Animal Shelter to rescue organizations to operate. The Board of Animal Services Commissioners and Animal Services Department did not provide an opportunity for the affected Neighborhood Councils to provide input into this decision. Therefore, it is RESOLVED that VANC takes the position that the Department of Animals Services and City Council should receive input from the affected Neighborhood Councils before releasing the Request for Proposal for rescue organizations to operate the Northeast Valley Animal Shelter.*