

Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils

VANC

34 San Fernando Valley Neighborhood Councils
Established March 03, 2003 by Jill Banks Barad-Hopkins

Thursday, JUNE 12, 2025 6:30-9:00p.m.

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 www.VANC34.org

Council Member Adrin Nazarian Council District 2

Committees-

Arts, Parks, Libraries, & Community Enrichment

Economic Development & Jobs

Energy & Environment

Planning & Land Use Management

Ad Hoc committee for LA Recovery

Reminder: VANC meetings are to discuss various topics so that you can educate your NC for further discussion and possible action.

Reminder: VANC agenda is posted at www.VANC34.ORG
Zoom attendees, please identify your NC along with your first name

AGENDA

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Linda Gravani, chair
 - VANC34.chair@gmail.com
2. Certified Candidates
3. The riots of the past several days is a very bad look for the WORLD CUP and 2028 Olympics.
4. SB79 UPDATE
5. Guest Speaker **Adrin Nazarian**
6. Charter Reform

The Commission will have the authority to **review the entire Charter** and also specifically consider changes recommended by the Council. Among the subjects suggested for review are improving the delivery of City services, revising the City's contracting process, revising the City's budgeting process, establishing a consistent procedure for filling vacancies in elected offices, defining the rules for censure and suspension of elected officers, and **exploring an increase in the number of Council districts.** The Commission's

recommendations will be submitted to the City Council in early 2026 for possible inclusion on the November 2026 ballot. (see hot topics #1)

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- Four appointed by the Mayor
- Two appointed by the Council President
- Two appointed by the Council President Pro Tempore
- Five appointed by the initial eight members through an application Process

7. **BONC Commissioners** -

- a) Charter Reform <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BLzK2km2hWSYI-fBMF32Vmf2MiQclJdc/view> (see hot topic #2)

South Valley – Len Shaffer, commissionerlenshaffer@gmail.com

Canoga Park, Encino, Greater Toluca Lake, Greater Valley Glen, Lake Balboa, NoHo, North Hollywood North East, North Hollywood West, Reseda, Sherman Oaks, Studio City, Tarzana, Valley Village, Van Nuys, West Hills, Winnetka, Woodland Hills-Warner Center

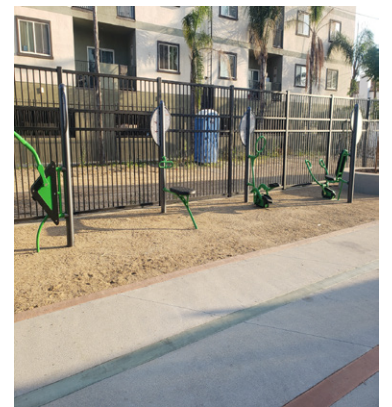
North Valley - Keren Waters, keren.waters@lacity.org

Arleta, Chatsworth, Foothill Trails District, Granada Hills North, Granada Hills South, Mission Hills, North Hills East, North Hills West, Northridge East, Northridge South, Northridge West, Pacoima, Panorama City, Porter Ranch, Sun Valley Area, Sunland-Tujunga, Sylmar

8. **DONE – Gibson Nyambura, GM**

- Need direct contacts for NCs to use for Mayor, CMs, GMs, etc.

8. **Keswick Pocket Park -Jennifer Clark North Hollywood Northeast– Is this the best we can do?**



9. **Measure “G” and Los Angeles County Governance** – The details need to be worked out so please complete the survey <https://www.research.net/r/LAGovernance25>

10. **City Clerk-**

City funding deadlines

- A. 20JUN2025-final date to make bank card purchases
- B. NC 2025-2026 budget

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11. Budget Advocates – update: www.budgetadvocates.org Budget Day 21JUN2025 –
Registration is NOW available

12. Items from the floor:

13. NC Anniversaries: **CONGRATULATIONS:**

1. Canoga Park – 23 Years

14. **THANK YOU** for all **you do** for your communities and the city of Los Angeles and I
appreciate your participation in VANC!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
VANC VIRTUAL Meeting **Thursday July 10, 2025**

*PlanCheck 10AM 2nd Saturday of the month, details www.plancheckncla.com
Educate yourself on City Planning and Land Use issues

*LADWP MOU 1ST Saturday of the month, details at:
<https://www.ladwpnews.com/dwp-nc-mou-and-advocacy-committee-meetings/>



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Hot Topics

#1 Los Angeles Charter Reform:

Justin Ramirez, appointed by Council President Marqueece Harris-Dawson and Mayor Bass to serve as **Executive Director**, brings years of experience working in Long Beach local government. Most recently, he served in the Biden-Harris Administration as the Associate Director of Public Engagement for the U.S. Department of Transportation. He holds a Juris Doctorate from Whittier College.

Max Podemski, appointed by Mayor Bass to serve as **Deputy Director**, is an urban planner with years of experience in development and implementation of City public policy and projects related to land use, climate, sustainability, infrastructure and transportation.

Robert Lewis, appointed by Mayor Bass to serve as a Commissioner, is an experienced leader in the philanthropic space, known for bridging across sectors to achieve shared outcomes in Los Angeles. With approximately three decades of professional experience in the nonprofit and philanthropic sectors, Mr. Lewis has worked to bring resources to under-resourced communities as a grant maker and through innovative lending practices ensuring new economic opportunities are coming to historically disadvantaged areas within the city.

Raymond Meza, appointed by Mayor Bass to serve as a Commissioner, is Deputy Chief of Staff for SEIU Local 721 where he has strengthened and improved organizational processes and practices for hiring, onboarding and supporting union employees. Mr. Meza brings decades of experience engaging with the community and considering stakeholders' input to deliver for union members and the public-at-large.

Melinda Murray, appointed by Mayor Bass to serve as a Commissioner, is a Deputy District Attorney for Los Angeles County, dedicating her career to protecting some of the most vulnerable victims in the region. Ms. Murray served on the LA City Ethics Commission from 2015 to 2022, where she led the development and implementation of the Ethics Commission's revision of the City of Los Angeles Municipal Lobbying Ordinance and the Matching Funds Program.

Christina Sanchez, appointed by Mayor Bass to serve as Commissioner, is a leader with decades of experience in communicating complex public policy, engaging with multilingual audiences and effectively bridging the public and private sectors. She serves as Vice President of Public Affairs at AltaMed Health Services where she leads the organization's strategic communications, media relations and has built strong relationships with L.A.'s business community. Ms. Sanchez is a lifelong resident of the San Fernando Valley.

Martin Schlageter, appointed by Council President Marqueece Harris-Dawson as Commissioner, has spent his career delivering essential City services for Angelenos while working to build a greener, more sustainable future. Mr. Schlageter brings years of experience working in City departments and will lend his knowledge of City processes to the Commission's efforts. He currently oversees strategic partnership engagement for Metropolitan Water District.

Mona Field, appointed by then Council President Paul Krekorian as Commissioner, is a respected academic and lifelong teacher, teaching English as a second language, sociology and political science. A public servant, Ms. Field was elected four times by the voters of the Los Angeles Community College District to serve as a member of the Governing Board of the nation's largest community college district. A past President of the Board of the League of Women Voters of Greater Los Angeles, she is committed to engaging all Angelenos in local government and civic processes.

Ted Stein, appointed by then Council President Paul Krekorian as Commissioner, is a dedicated civic leader who has served on a number of City citizen commissions and blue ribbon commissions. He has worked for Mayors Villaraigosa, Hahn, Riordan and Bradley. Mr. Stein brings extensive firsthand experience from within City elected offices, managing departments and serving on commissions, including on the Harbor, Planning and Airport Commissions.

President Pro Tempore Bob Blumenfield will make an appointment to replace a previous commissioner who had resigned.

All appointments are subject to confirmation by the City Council. The Commission will begin their work by reviewing applications to select the five other Commissioners.

#2 Charter Reform – Requesting NC Board Member Past or Present

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BLzK2km2hWSYI-fBMF32Vmf2MiQcIJdc/view>

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners ("Board"), which met on June 3rd and approved this letter in support. I am writing to respectfully urge the Charter Reform Commission ("Commission") to consider appointing a current or former Neighborhood Council Board Member to fill the next vacancy on the Commission.

Neighborhood Council Board Members bring valuable grassroots experience and a deep understanding of local community needs. Including this perspective on the Commission would ensure that charter reform efforts remain closely aligned with the voices of the communities they serve.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to the City of Los Angeles.