

CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
CALIFORNIA

BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD  
COMMISSIONERS

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TELEPHONE: (213) 485-1360



ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA  
MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF  
NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

334-B EAST SECOND STREET  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

TELEPHONE: (213) 485-1360  
TOLL-FREE: 3-1-1  
FAX: (213) 485-4608  
E-MAIL: [dome@lacity.org](mailto:dome@lacity.org)

BONGHWAN (BH) KIM, MPA  
GENERAL MANAGER

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## BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS

### REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2011 – 6:00 P.M.

### NEW HORIZONS

15725 PARTHENIA STREET

NORTH HILLS, CA 91343

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The public is requested to fill out a “**Speaker Card**” to address the Board on any agenda item before the Board takes an action on an item. Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Board’s jurisdiction will be heard during the Public Forum period. Public comment is limited to 15 minutes maximum. No individual speaker will be allowed more than 2 minutes, unless presiding officer of the Board decides differently. The agenda is posted for public review in Main Street Lobby of City Hall East at 200 North Main Street and at 334-B East Second Street, Los Angeles. As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and upon request will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities. Report(s) related to an agenda item will be available for review at [www.EmpowerLA.org](http://www.EmpowerLA.org). Sign language interpreters, assisted listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least 3 business days (72-hours) prior to the meeting by contacting the Commission Executive Assistant at (213) 485-1360 OR toll-free at 3-1-1.

*SI REQUIERE SERVICIOS DE TRADUCCION, FAVOR DE NOTIFICAR A LA OFICINA 3 días de trabajo (72 horas) ANTES DEL EVENTO. SI NECESITA ASISTENCIA CON ESTA NOTIFICACION, POR FAVOR LLAME A NUESTRA OFICINA AL (213) 485-1360.*

1. Introduction (5 minutes)
2. Call to Order and Commissioner roll call. (1 minute)
3. Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of January 11, 2011. (3 minutes)

BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2011  
PAGE 2 of 3

4. General Public Comments - Comments from the public on non-agenda items within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction. This agenda item will last a total of 15 minutes and no individual speaker will be allowed more than two minutes. (15 minutes)
  5. Verbal update from a representative of the Office of the Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Neighborhood and Community Services. (10 minutes)
  6. General Manager's Report (10 minutes)
    1. Briefing on Departmental activities
    2. Staffing, budget and other operational matters
  7. Verbal reports from the 2010 and 2011 Ad Hoc Policy Committees, with discussion regarding possible subject areas for consideration by the Commission in 2011. (30 minutes)
  8. Discussion and possible action by the Commission establishing a policy to address compliance with the State law's requirement that Neighborhood Council board members take an ethics course (see Government Code § 53235), including a recommendation that Neighborhood Councils amend their bylaws to include a provision that would prohibit board members from voting if they fail to take the required ethics training within 90 days of taking office. (20 minutes)
  9. Discussion with North Hills West Neighborhood Council and various North Valley area Neighborhood Council representatives who wish to report concerns, operations, and best practices. Neighborhood Council representatives should complete their questionnaire in advance of the meeting. This matter will last a maximum of 20 minutes and the time will be divided among those representatives wishing to speak. (20 minutes)
  10. Commission Business - Comments from Commissioners on subject matters within the Board's jurisdiction. (20 minutes)
    1. Comment on Commissioners' own activities/brief announcements.
    2. Brief response to statements made or questions posed by persons exercising their general public comment rights/ask staff questions for clarification.
    3. Introduce new issues for consideration by the Commission at its next meeting and direct staff to place on the agenda.
    4. Ask staff to research issues and report back to the Commission at a future time.
  11. General Public Comments - Comments from the public on non-agenda items within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction. This agenda item will last a total of 15 minutes and no individual speaker will be allowed more than two minutes. (15 minutes)
  12. Adjourn
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**Future Meetings, Future Board of Neighborhood Commissioner Meetings  
(INFORMATION ONLY)**

*(Please note: The items listed below are tentative and maybe subject to change. You are encouraged to visit the City's website at [www.lacity.org](http://www.lacity.org) and subscribe to the Commission's agendas through the Early Notification System.)*

- Regular meeting on Monday, February 21, 2011, **CANCELED**.
- Regular meeting on Tuesday, March 1, 2011, at 6:00 p.m., at Beethoven Elementary School-Auditorium, 3711 Beethoven Street, Los Angeles, CA 90066.
- Regular meeting on Monday, March 21, 2011, at 11:30 a.m., at the City Hall, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Center, Room 1060, 200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.
- Regular meeting on Tuesday, April 5, 2011, at 6:00 p.m., in the Central Area, in the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council area.

**FINALIZATION OF BOARD ACTION:**

Per City Charter Section 245, the Board's determination shall become final at the expiration of the next five meeting days of the Council during which the City Council has convened in regular session, unless the City Council acts within that timeframe by a two-thirds vote to bring the action before them or to waive review of the action.

**EXHAUSTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES:**

If you challenge these agenda items in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing or in written correspondence on these matters delivered to this agency at or prior to the public hearing. California Code of Civil Procedure Section 1094.6 governs the time in which a party may seek judicial review of this determination. Under that provision, a petitioner may seek judicial review of any decision of the City pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure Section 1094.5 only if the petition for Writ of Mandate pursuant to that section is filed no later than the 90th day following the date on which the City's decision became final.

**RECONSIDERATION:**

The Commission may make a **MOTION TO RECONSIDER** and alter its action taken on any item listed on this agenda at any time during this meeting, or make a **MOTION TO RECONSIDER** at its next regular meeting as indicated below:

If the Commission moves and approves a Motion for Reconsideration at the *initial* meeting wherein an action was taken, then the underlying item may be reconsidered at that time.

If the Commission moves and approves a Motion for Reconsideration at *the next regular meeting* then consideration of the item may *only* occur at this regularly scheduled meeting if the item for consideration has been placed on that meeting's agenda. If the underlying item for reconsideration has not been placed on the agenda for that next regular meeting, then it shall be considered at a subsequent meeting pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown Act.

**PUBLIC ACCESS OF RECORDS**

"In compliance with Government Code Section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners in advance of their meetings, may be viewed at the office of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, located at 334-B East Second Street, Los Angeles, California 90012, by clicking on the Department's website at <http://www.EmpowerLA.org> or at the Commission meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact Janet Lindo, Executive Administrative Assistant, at (213) 847-7084 or via e-mail: [janet.lindo@lacity.org](mailto:janet.lindo@lacity.org)."

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MINUTES

BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS

SPECIAL MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2011 – 6:00 P.M.

SATICOY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – AUDITORIUM  
7850 ETHEL AVENUE  
NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CA 91605

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Albert Abrams, President  
Daniel Gatica, Vice President  
Esther Cepeda-Hatch  
Linda Lucks  
Karen Mack

ABSENT

Carlene Davis  
John Kim

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT

Jeff Brill, Senior Management Analyst II  
Leyla Campos, Senior Project Coordinator  
Amelia Herrera-Robles, Neighborhood Empowerment Analyst  
Melvin Cañas, Neighborhood Empowerment Analyst  
Janet Lindo, Executive Administrative Assistant

CITY ATTORNEY REPRESENTATIVE

Darren Martinez, Deputy City Attorney  
Rita Hernandez-Venegas, Deputy City Attorney  
Carmen Hawkins, Deputy City Attorney

1. Introduction (5 minutes)

**ACTION:** President Abrams gave the introduction.

2. Call to Order and Commissioner roll call. (1 minute)

**ACTION:** President Abrams called the meeting to order at 6:23 p.m. Quorum was established at 6:38 p.m. Commissioner roll call by Executive Administrative Assistant, Janet Lindo.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 7, 2010. (3 minutes)

**ACTION: Commissioner Lucks moved that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 7, 2010, be approved as written. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Cepeda-Hatch. Vote: Ayes - 4, Nays - 0. Motion passes unanimously.**

4. General Public Comments - Comments from the public on non-agenda items within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction. This agenda item will last a total of 15 minutes and no individual speaker will be allowed more than two minutes. (15 minutes)

**ACTION:** Public Comments were received by:

Glenn Bailey – Wants wave files of Commission meetings uploaded to the Department's website and concern about compliance with Commission policies.

Rina Fernandez – Concerns regarding crime and parking issues.

J. Gallardo – Problems with property.

Richard Hopp - Public Records Act Request letter.

Amanda Hernandez – Concerns about street potholes and graffiti.

Leighton Merritt – Concerned about speed limit on Willard Street, picking of trash cans on trash day, asking for an increase in police patrol due to crime.

Ron Schillaci – Wants to be more informed about Neighborhood Council agendas and business.

5. Verbal update from a representative of the Office of the Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Neighborhood and Community Services. (10 minutes)

**ACTION:** Angelica Ayala, Representative for the Office of Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, provided information regarding:

- LA River Day of Service - tentative for March or April. If anybody or any group is interested in doing some type of project, please contact Ms. Ayala in the Mayor's Office. The Mayor's Office is welcoming any suggestion or any projects. There is some funding available.
- Citizenship Workshop – a free citizenship workshop will be held on Saturday, February 19, 2011, at Panorama High School. The workshop is to inform individuals about the process for becoming a citizen. There will be attorneys and other individuals available to provide free services.
- African American Heritage Month - a children's poster and creative writing competition is underway.

6. Discussion and verbal update from a representative of Councilmember Paul Krekorian, Chair of Education and Neighborhoods Committee, Council District 2, regarding the recently released report, "Perspectives on Neighborhood Empowerment – Summary Report of Community Input from Town Hall Meetings". [http://done.lacity.org/dnn/Portals/0/documents/LEARN/About\\_the\\_commission/Agenda\\_Item\\_No.\\_6\\_Perspectives\\_on\\_Neighborhood\\_Empowerment\\_Report.pdf](http://done.lacity.org/dnn/Portals/0/documents/LEARN/About_the_commission/Agenda_Item_No._6_Perspectives_on_Neighborhood_Empowerment_Report.pdf). (10 minutes)

**ACTION:** Areen Ibranossian, Deputy Chief of Staff to Councilmember Paul Krekorian, CD 2, gave the Commissioners a quick overview of the recently released report, "Perspectives on Neighborhood Empowerment – Summary Report of Community Input from Town Hall Meetings".

**Question:** President Albert Abrams

The Report is missing the discussion on potential restructuring of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment. What is the process and status?

**Overview/Response:** Areen Ibranossian

Approximately one year ago the Mayor's Office proposed consolidating the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment with the Community Development Department. That idea met with significant opposition, not just from Neighborhood Councils, stakeholders and board members, but from the community as a whole.

The commitment that Councilman Krekorian made in spearheading the rejection of that proposal was to reach out to the community and solicit input and feedback on: 1) What is not working, with not just the Department, but the Neighborhood Council movement as a whole, 2) What is working, so that we could build upon what is working and have a better more efficient system given our limited budget constraints.

To accomplish that goal, Councilman Krekorian set out on a very lengthy and time consuming process of reaching out to Neighborhood Councils. He went to many regional meetings like the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils, Northeast Alliance, Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Regional Alliance, as well as holding two town hall events that were five hours in length each that consisted of breakout sessions covering four topics:

- Funding Program
- Neighborhood Council Elections
- Roll of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment
- Training requirements

In each one of these breakout sessions participants were asked a series of questions to solicit feedback on those topics. Each session lasted about 45 minutes. The report that you are referring to, that our office released last month, is a culmination of that effort of going to meetings, listening to stakeholders, as well as the town hall forums that were held.

There have been a lot of questions on what was included in the report and what was not. We made a very conscious decision to not give any weight or judgment to any of the ideas expressed. The reason for that, we felt that it was not our job to determine what ideas were good or what ideas were bad. What ideas were relevant and what ideas were not. We wanted to present a report that demonstrated what the community and stakeholders felt. That decision

does come with consequences because there is not a lot of reference to say this idea maybe has more support amongst members as oppose to something else. However, we felt that we could overcome that by doing more outreach, coming to meetings like this and answering any questions that we may have.

To Commissioner Abrams' specific question as to some of the aspects that were left out of the report, during these town hall forums numerous groups and individuals made presentations on their own ideas to solve some of the problems. Some of these presentations were lengthy; some of them were very short. To include them in, when you looked at it on paper, it was very easy to see which ideas had meat on the bones and which did not. It became a little problematic for us because it almost seemed like we were favoring one idea over another. So we made a conscious decision to exclude those ideas from the report overall to avoid any criticism of favoritism.

**Question:** President Albert Abrams

Can you speak to this one particular idea which is to create regionality to the Department rather than it being focus at City Hall, because that one involves this Commission in a very significant way. We just want to know where is your thinking. Is it going to be nine months from now, a year from now, when will your proposal be coming?

**Response:** Areen Ibranossian

Councilman Krekorian has publicly stated his support for a regional system. The next steps over the next month, along with the numerous ideas heard at these town halls and various meetings, will be to take the contents of the report that was put out about a month ago, put it into a survey format, put it online, print it out, distribute it, and distribute the link so that everybody knows. The community will be asked to not just comment, but to rate every single idea presented in that report along with the other ideas presented at the town hall forums. This will provide the context that was spoken about earlier. Once that is finished, in roughly a month, we will go through that process. We will take a look at the most highly rated ideas and start looking at what the cost will be to implement those ideas and how much planning it would take.

I have a feeling that the regional concept will probably garner a significant amount of support, as will some of the other ideas that have been thrown out there. It is too early to say what Councilman Krekorian's own proposal is because he is still weighing out all the options that have been presented. We are still in the feedback phase at this point. I would be reluctant to give specifics.

Commissioner Linda Lucks - Commission Representative for the Westside. Would like to set up a meeting with Councilman Krekorian, to meet with the Westside representatives, there are 11 Neighborhood Councils and Community Councils that are City certified and there are two others that are ad hoc, but are very influential on the Westside. The Westside Regional Alliance of Councils is pretty new so they have not been as vocal yet as some of the others.

**Question:** Commissioner Mack

Is the idea to finalize the results of the process during this budget cycle or the next?

**Response:** Areen Ibranossian

The budget is probably the most fundamental component of any reform we undertake. The goal is to have something on the table to discuss in Committee by March, which would be before the budget is released. We are in constant negotiations and contact with the Mayor's Office and the City Administrative Office on potential budgetary solutions. It is very difficult to do any type of reform under these constraints, but we are trying to be very innovative and look at all the options on the table. The goal is to have something on the table before your Commission and before Educations and Neighborhoods Committee by March so that we have through the budget to come to resolution and then the remaining months of the fiscal year will be for planning and implementation of whatever reforms we all agree on.

Public comment: None

7. General Manager's Report (5 minutes)

1. Briefing on Departmental activities
2. Staffing, budget and other operational matters

**ACTION:** None. The General Manager was absent. Jeff Brill, Senior Management Analyst II, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, responded to the below issues for staff to research and report back to the Commission at the next meeting:

Commissioner Lucks

1. Report of Neighborhood Councils behind on their monthly financial report.
2. Report of Neighborhood Councils following the recently adopted Agenda Posting Policy.
3. Neighborhood Council Ethics training not reflected accurately on the Department's website.

Commissioner Abrams

Focus on updating the Neighborhood Councils board members database.

8. **PUBLIC HEARING** and determination regarding the Application for Neighborhood Council Certification submitted by North Hollywood West Neighborhood Council (File No. 10-111). (120 minutes)

**ACTION:** **Commissioner Lucks moved that the Commission ADOPT** the findings of the Department contained in the Findings Report, dated January 11, 2011, and the Evaluation of Certification Application ("Report") prepared by the Department's Field Operations Division, dated January 11, 2011. In adopting the Department's recommendation and findings, the Board made the following determinations:

1. **ADOPT** the findings contained herein in the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment's Evaluation of the Certification Application report dated January 11, 2011, for the North Hollywood West Neighborhood Council.
2. **FIND** that the boundaries meet the criteria set forth in the Plan and Administrative Code, including that the boundaries contain a minimum population size of 20,000 stakeholders, the boundaries follow historic and contemporary community and neighborhood borders, and that the area is geographically compact and contiguous as follows:

- NORTH: Roscoe Boulevard
- SOUTH: Vanowen Street
- EAST: Whitsett Avenue, including the Whitsett Sports Complex, Valley Plaza Park, and Valley Plaza Library
- WEST: Tujunga Wash

3. **FIND** that a permissible boundary overlap exists with North Hollywood Northeast Neighborhood Council under Article III (2)(ii) of the Plan where the southeastern boundary of North Hollywood West includes the Valley Plaza Park, Valley Plaza Library and Whitsett Sports Complex and these sites are considered libraries, parks, landmarks or facilities with historical significance that are allowed to overlap under the Plan.
4. **FIND** the applicant has complied with Article III of the Plan for a Citywide System of Neighborhood Councils and section 22.810. (b) of the Administrative Code.
5. **FIND** that though the applicant has satisfied the outreach criteria including the collection of four hundred eighty nine (489) original unique signatures as set forth in the Plan, there should be additional efforts to continue ongoing outreach.
6. **FIND** that the applicant has submitted proposed bylaws that satisfy the governing structure requirement set forth in the Plan.
7. **FIND** that based on the reports presented by the Department to the Board and any additional evidence presented during the public hearing that the Applicant satisfies the criteria set forth in the Plan and Ordinance.
8. **CERTIFY** the applicant as a Los Angeles City Neighborhood Council, thereby approving the application.

In adopting the Department's recommendation and findings, the Board found that the Applicant's boundary description, outreach efforts, submission of by-laws, its system of financial accountability, statement of ethics compliance and contact information complied with the requirements of the Plan and Administrative Code for the reasons set forth in the Department's report and recommendation.

By this determination, the Commission hereby conveys the status of ***Certified Neighborhood Council to the North Hollywood West Neighborhood Council.***

**The motion was seconded by Vice President Gatica.**

**Vote: Ayes: President Abrams, Vice President Gatica, Commissioners Cepeda-Hatch, Lucks, and Mack.**

**Nays: None**

**Motion carries.**

Public Comments were received from the following in favor of the certification of North Hollywood West Neighborhood Council:

Agnes Ambrosino, Susan Arlin, Ramon Canales, Jim Crawford, Marie Crawford, Mshak Ghazarian (CD 2) read letter submitted by Councilmember Krekorian, David Hechter, Greg Howie, Cliff Jacobs, Dale Kaufman, Sandy Kaufman, Lorraine Matza, Eric Menjirar, Frank Miceli, Ernie Moscoso, Marcos Sancez (Office of Felipe Fuentes), Michele Wong

Richard Hopp – For the formation – Commission committed Brown Act Violation.

9. Discussion and possible adoption of an amendment to the Commission's Rules of Order, Rule No. 3, which will list the dates, times, and places for the Commission's 2011 public meetings. (10 minutes)

**ACTION: Commissioner Cepeda-Hatch moved for the Commission to adopt the amendment to the Commission's Rules of Order, Rule No. 3, which will list the dates, times, and places for the Commission's 2011 public meetings.**

**The motion was seconded by Vice President Gatica.**

**Vote: Ayes - 5, Nays – 0**

**Motion passes unanimously.**

10. Commission Business - Comments from Commissioners on subject matters within the Board's jurisdiction. (20 minutes)
  1. Comment on Commissioners' own activities/brief announcements.
  2. Brief response to statements made or questions posed by persons exercising their general public comment rights/ask staff questions for clarification.
  3. Introduce new issues for consideration by the Commission at its next meeting and direct staff to place on the agenda.
  4. Ask staff to research issues and report back to the Commission at a future time.

**ACTION:** Comments were received from Vice President Gatica.

11. General Public Comments - Comments from the public on non-agenda items within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction. This agenda item will last a total of 15 minutes and no individual speaker will be allowed more than two minutes. (15 minutes)

**ACTION:** None.

12. Adjourn

**ACTION:** Commissioner Gatica moved that the meeting be adjourned at 9:15 p.m. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Cepeda-Hatch.

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