

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS

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JOY ATKINSON
LYDIA GRANT
ELI LIPMEN
VICTOR MEDINA
OLIVIA RUBIO

JANET LINDO
Executive Administrative Assistant
TELEPHONE: (213) 978-1551



ERIC GARCETTI
MAYOR



20th FLOOR, CITY HALL
200 NORTH SPRING STREET
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

TELEPHONE: (213) 978-1551
TOLL-FREE: 3-1-1
FAX: (213) 978-1751
E-MAIL: EmpowerLA@lacity.org

GRAYCE LIU
GENERAL MANAGER

www.EmpowerLA.org

MINUTES

BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2014 – 6:00 P.M.

BEACHY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - AUDITORIUM
9757 BEACHY AVENUE
ARLETA, CA 91331

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Karen Mack, President
Leonard Shaffer, Vice President
Lydia Grant
Eli Lipmen
Olivia Rubio
Victor Medina

ABSENT

Joy Atkinson

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT

Joseph Hari, Senior Project Coordinator

CITY ATTORNEY REPRESENTATIVE

Alois Phillips, Deputy City Attorney

1. Introduction (5 minutes)

ACTION: President Mack gave the introduction.

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

ACTION: President Mack called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. Commission roll was called by Joseph Hari. Commissioners Lipmen, and Rubio arrived to the meeting at 6:15.p.m.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 18, 2014. (Click on the link to view a copy of the document.) (3 minutes)

http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/08-18-14_draft_COMMISSION-MINUTES.pdf

ACTION: Commissioner Shaffer moved a correction to the minutes, under Ankur Patel's comments, last line from the bottom of long paragraph, should be Wordpress with two "s." President Mack tabled this agenda item to the next regular meeting.

Public comment received from:

William Kuzmin – expressed concern about the minutes. Did not see in the minutes the text of the motion to amend the Neighborhood Council website posting requirements resolution.

4. Discussion by the Commission on Best Practices on leadership within the Neighborhood Council system including possible guest speaker, Councilmember Nury Martinez. (10 minutes)

ACTION: None.

5. 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 three minutes. (15 minutes)

Public comments received from:

Monica Alexenko - Van Nuys stakeholder, I and two neighbors who live in Van Nuys attended the August 7 meeting. I addressed my concerns over individuals who do not live in Van Nuys and only have one interest penetrating the Van Nuys Neighborhood Council. The President of the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council also identified at that meeting that their board has had individuals secure board seats only to find out that their true concern was not the community, but to increase real estate sales and that these people do not make good board members. I stand firmly on this premise and ask that this Board roll up its collective sleeves and examine the Neighborhood Councils and ensure to the stakeholders that the board members are in fact residents living in their respective Neighborhood Council communities.

Mary Armenteros - North Hills West stakeholder, prior board member. Two questions I have, grievance process, it was going to be put into DONE and you hear about it and then it's kinda like dead. The other issue as far as removing a board member, recall method. The two methods are: to repetition the board and then there has to be a two-third vote and the other process is for certain number and that's decided by the board in the bylaws. I really think there should be some sort of actual recall method.

Glenn Bailey – provided a monthly update on the Early Notification Service.

Joy Bizar - Arleta Residents Association, the south end of Arleta has absolutely no representation on the Arleta Neighborhood Council board. We were working on replacing the historical welcome to Arleta sign in our neighborhood group and the

Arleta Neighborhood Council came in and took that project away from us and to this date nothing has been done.

Pierre Bohamed - Neighborhood Watch (Kesterridge) on Thursday, August 7, I attended your Special Meeting at Walter Reed Middle School and addressed the Board during public comment. I came today before you because Mr. X made comments after we left the meeting last month that was improper and false at its best. We politely listened to his gibberish in the hallway because we wanted to be respectful. Upon reviewing your minutes of that meeting most of my comments were obviously not taken seriously and were left out of the minutes. Again, I say to you that the reason I no longer attend the Van Nuys Council meeting is due partly to the bickering among the board members as well as not having respect for one another. They are rude and disrespectful to the guest speakers, the public speakers and attendees in the audience. Furthermore this board is made up of non-residents of Van Nuys.

Sharon Brewer – I want to comment on the failure of DONE to provide requested CPRA requests when required by law and then they send the wrong documents, only after copying Grayce, the Mayor, and the Controller's office do I get a response. When they're told that it is the wrong document you don't get a response or they'll go and say not document found when in fact I know that there are documents. Funding issues, lack of consistency with information given regarding funding. It depends on who you are talking to on what the answer is. There's a lack of transparency with regards to credit card purchases. Check tracking is not up to date with the checks that have been written.

Judith Daniels - Vice President, Chatsworth Neighborhood Council, posting policy - emailing committee agendas is a terrible burden on stakeholders. Elections – had two problems with our selection, had to print more ballots and crowd control. Elections Chair, former President, no longer a board member, got more ballots printed for \$40 bucks and it is not possible to have him reimbursed for the \$40 bucks he spent getting ballots printed for our selection.

Gary Fordyce - North Hills West Neighborhood Council, I have been removed as a second signatory without cause nor warning. Four meetings following I was removed from the budget and finance committee which to this date had never met. This action apparently due to my efforts to seek clarity or ask questions of the North Hills West NC treasurer. Neither clarity nor answers were given, only a defensive and berating tirade.

Debra - Francisco, there is an inherent problem with NC bylaws as Mary had stated wherein it states that a certain percentage of resident stakeholders example 150 must sign a petition to request an individual board member be removed from the NC. Problem, the completed original petition is forwarded to the NC to request a removal. However the other board members have the vote whether or not to follow through with the removal. The rule should be change to state that the signatures are to be forwarded to DONE who and as the residents stakeholders voted the board member in, DONE should proceed to have that board member removed.

Reuben Garcia - Pacoima Neighborhood Council, I'm here to tell you what we have on our next September agenda. A vote of no confidence for Grayce Liu and the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment which once done we will take it to City Council and

read it into public comment and we will give a copy to the Mayor, to every City Council member, to Grayce Liu herself and to the Commission. DONE has failed us time and time again. They do not help us. They actually make us fail. Last year we lost \$20,000 because they froze our account and they never once tried to help us get out of the situation. They keep the money now and that money should come back to the Neighborhood Councils. They have failed us time and time again.

Anita Goldbaum - stakeholder, former board member of the North Hills West Neighborhood Council. I would like to comment about the Neighborhood Empowerment Advisors or field representatives. I have observed that they become too comfy cozy with the Neighborhood Councils they advise. Irregular situations and set rules are overlooked and there is the effort to smooth issues for the Neighborhood Council. My suggestion is that the field representatives should be moved around throughout all the Neighborhood Council districts.

Mike Gonzales - President, Pacoima Neighborhood Council, speaking against LAUSD, Superintendent John Deasy. Would like him to resign his position as School Superintendent.

Yolanda Gonzalez - past Vice President, Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council, and Venice Neighborhood Council. To continue with this (Teresa Marquez's comments), at the end of the message he declares under the penalty of perjury that the above statements are true, They are not true he has forced himself into a president's position within our Neighborhood Council in Boyle Heights. I even reported it for the record to Darren Martinez that this guy is a felon.

Dianne Hand - Arleta Residents Associate, people are just excluded from the Neighborhood a Council in Arleta unless they live in a specific area and that's just not fair. We all pay taxes the same as you do. We want to help out our community. We really need to have a Neighborhood Council that represents the whole area. The other things are relating to EmpowerLA, we've submitted grievances to them and they are ignored. EmpowerLA is broken.

John Hernandez, member - Arleta Neighborhood Council and Pacoima Neighborhood Council. In regards to the budget last year, the Department unfortunately stalled a lot of the finances and with that said the monies went back into the Department to pay for payroll. There's definitely a conflict of interest whereas the Department is overseeing the funds of Neighborhood Councils. Neighborhood Councils funds were being encumbered and going back to the Department to pay for payroll services. I definitely think the Commission should look at that.

Sergio Ibarra, President - Arleta Neighborhood Council, we envision Arleta to be a community that is involved, clean, safe, family oriented, well-educated, green and diverse. We want to focus on beautification, sidewalk and street repairs, illegal signage of vendors, etc. The main project we're looking to focus on this coming year is the Arleta Gateway project. It was a hot topic for the past two years in Arleta. Our election Chair, Mark Lopez, did an incredible job. We more than increase our voter turnout by 50%.

Tom Johnson - North Hills West Neighborhood Council, many of us Neighborhood Councils work hard to spend our money frugally and we like to try to save as much money as we possibly can for large projects and one of the problems that we're having is that at the end of the year that if we don't spend those funds on some of the large projects because we don't have that money, we lose it. We need your help see if we could go back to the old days where we were able to roll over our money to the next year and it prevents waste at the end of the year. If you could help in two areas, building committee infrastructure building and with the ability to be able to roll over our funds to the next year I would greatly appreciate it.

William Kuzmin - I'm here tonight because of the posting policy in item no. 4 that was revised on August 18. You've got an exception to this rule. You've got this word "may" and then later you say "shall" in the same paragraph. Which is it may or shall? If the resolution is to be incorporated into a Neighborhood Council's bylaws as it stated at the end of the resolution, how is that a law or a rule? It's not. When it says may, it's an option. So either pull it out or fix it so that it's really a rule. Why is it important for the Neighborhood Council and all the committee agendas to be emailed to the stakeholders? You're requiring your Councils to use ENS so today I got my ENS notification for a public safety committee meeting that going to happen tomorrow night. That's no time for me to prepare to go to that meeting. That's not three days.

Kelly Magallanes - Treasurer, Arleta Neighborhood Council, happy to have you in our neighborhood.

Teresa Marquez – Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council, not a member at this time. Our current president of the Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council is Carlos Montes. He does not live in Boyle Heights, but he claim he is a member of CSO, Community Service Organization and because he is setting up his own agendas it's strictly on immigration and driver's license and he ignores all the other motions that are put in.

Pete Nicholas – Rampart Village Neighborhood Council, I'd like to encourage that whenever an agenda item is known, if the attachment is ready that it be attached to the agenda that goes out. It would be good if the specific language were included in the minutes so that it could be seen. I've had a couple of individuals privately on the board and a couple of individuals privately with DONE say that they approve and agree with my oft repeated suggestion from the last five or six meetings that you establish an escrow account into which NCs can in a non-election, selection year put funds so that they can be saved until the following election year to even out the financing situation. At the end of this month we will have completed the first quarter. If this is going to happen somebody on the board, somebody in the Department please get it on the agenda and start to discuss it. The third of fourth quarter will be too late for this year.

Bob Peppermuller – Mid Town North Hollywood Neighborhood Council, we're about to review our bylaws and update them as required, but my question is, is there any changes that would affect the bylaws in general that we need to consider in the next six months just to avoid any conflicts or any changes that we put in and if so where do I find them and what are they? What's in the mill generally to change the bylaws that come down from DONE?

Robert A. Rouge – representing the East San Fernando Valley Nature Parkway, we're on Facebook and also on Instagram and we also have our own website. The reason I'm coming to you tonight is to announce about the East Valley Neighborhood Parkway is a plan of utilizing existing open space that is ready accessible to the public.

Sari Rynew – I'm also speaking on the issue related to the ipad project. We are really concerned about the health and welfare of our public school system that's really our main goal is to have the best public schools for our children and we are very concerned about the expenditure of funds in this area. There is a petition going around and please feel free to share that with everyone and anyone because we are trying to get our voices heard through the Neighborhood Councils.

Maria Scherzer – my comments are regarding the Special Meeting and minutes for the August 7th meeting you had in North Hollywood. I attended that meeting and commented I am a Van Nuys stakeholder and just to remind you I recommended and requested that a best practice for the Van Nuys Neighborhood Council would be decertification and ultimately allow us the Van Nuys community to be a Neighborhood Council free zone.

Margaret Shoemaker – Arleta Residents Association, I stand before you to say I have no Neighborhood Council to represent me. I still live here in Arleta, but the current board is made up of individuals from only the north end of Arleta and they care little about what the stakeholders want from the south portion of Arleta. The board does not include stakeholders that do not live in this immediate area.

Robin Tyler - Executive Committee North Hills West Homeowners Group, the gay community is boycotting Little Caesars pizza.

Richard Tocher – Beautification Committee Chair, Mission Hills Neighborhood Council, I've run into an obstacle in regard to reworking art work project murals in our town where they are protected by law, the artist has the intellectual property rights or you cannot rework them without their permission. The problem that we've run into however is that we don't know who painted this particular mural so we don't know where to start. I think that there needs to be some support for change as far as the rights to getting these murals reworked because what it amounts to is the artist holds the public property as hostage and basically you cannot rework an eyesore in the community.

Robert Yorgason – Chair of California Federation of Teachers, Career Tech Ed Committee. I teach with technology every day. The problem is that the district has not been transparent on how they're gonna pay for this. I would like to make a request that you agendize this item. It would be ideal if you ask for Deasy to resign. Ask for a transparent investigation from a third party and make that request to the City Attorney or State Attorney, well within the rights of the Neighborhood Council.

6. General Manager's Report. (10 minutes)
 1. Briefing on Departmental activities.
 2. Staffing, budget and other operational matters.

ACTION: Joseph Hari, Senior Project Coordinator, gave the General Manager's Report.

- **NC budget – the Department encourages Neighborhood Councils who did not submit their budget to please do so. The deadline was yesterday. The packet that needs to be submitted is budget, strategic plan, outreach survey, self-assessment, and a board count vote showing how folks voted on those four items. We have 44 Neighborhood Councils that have submitted all of the budget items, 15 have submitted incomplete budgets, 36 have not submitted anything yet.**
- **Policy issues – policy tracker is on EmpowerLA weekly newsletter.**
- **This Thursday, September 4 there's going to be funding and ethics training in the West region, in Westchester.**

Public comment received from:

Glenn Bailey - this is CF 11-1018, Regional Complaint Panels, it was adopted by City Council on December 3, 2013, nine months ago tomorrow and that motion specifically instructed that the City Attorney prepare the ordinance with an effective date of July 1, 2014 which is obviously a deadline that has past two months ago. I would say that maybe all the Neighborhood Councils should contact the City Attorney because frankly it looks like they have not met this deadline that was voted on by the full City Council. ENS is important. Agendas are going out 2-3 hours before a meeting, that is acceptable.

Pete Nicholas - Rampart Village Neighborhood Council, my Neighborhood Council whose representatives were appointed for CIS purposes in June have not yet been credentialed, the process isn't complete and I don't know if the problem is with the City Clerk or if it's the liaison policy. I don't know where it is.

7. Discussion and possible action creating procedures for creating a Commission newsletter, including delegation to a Commissioner to create the newsletter and discussion of the types of information that may be listed in the newsletter on the Commission's behalf, e.g., information regarding actions approved by the Commission and upcoming events or meetings. (15 minutes)

ACTION: Commissioner Shaffer moved to adopt a monthly newsletter as proposed with the format as set out in Commissioner Lipmen's first five editions (see below), further that we delegate to Commissioner Lipmen the ability to move forward with the newsletter, further that we approve the proposed format for the first four issues and lastly that we delegate to Commissioner Lipmen the ability to highlight each of the EmpowerLA award winners ordering them at his discretion and that if we go beyond the first five it will have room for all seven.

Email Newsletter Plan

1. **Email 1 (September): Introducing your Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (a short opening from the President about our plan for the year and then bios/contact details for each Commissioner.**
2. **Email 2 (October): Upcoming BONC meetings and locations; hot issues and how to submit comments.**
3. **Email 3 (November): Invite us to your Council (images of Commissioners attending NCs and an ask to "invite us" to speak to your Council).**

4. **Email 4 (December):** Hot button issue on upcoming agenda our draft outreach plan.
5. **Email 5 (January):** NC leader contest (ask NC leaders to submit a short 1 minute video about why they should be the NC leader of the year; videos will be posted and NC members can vote for the best. BONC will give an award to the winner at Congress.)

Commissioner Grant seconded the motion.

VOTE: Ayes –6 (Grant, Lipmen, Mack, Medina, Rubio, and Shaffer)
Nays – 0
Abstention – 0
Absent – 1 (Atkinson)

TOTAL – Ayes 6 **Nays** 0 **Abstention** 0 **Absent** 1 **Motion Carries** X **Fails**

Public comment received by:

Pete Nicholas - I recommend that you designate an editor for this. One of the things you can do is every month in a board meeting you could approve the next agenda item so that you're always up moving forward on to the next thing. I noticed October doesn't specifically say anything about address the concerns that came out of the Congress but I would encourage that the October newsletter specifically address those important things you've only had a few days ago.

8. Recognition and presentation of 10 Year Anniversary Certificate to the Northridge East Neighborhood Council and the Northridge West Neighborhood Council. (10 minutes)

ACTION: Northridge East Neighborhood Council and Northridge West Neighborhood Council were recognized and presented their 10 Year Anniversary Certificate.

9. Discussion with various North Valley area Neighborhood Council representatives who wish to report 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. (Click on the link to view a copy of the document.) (20 minutes)
http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/BEST-PRACTICES-QUESTIONNAIRE_03-19-14.pdf

ACTION: None.

Public comment received from:

Cindy Cleghorn - Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council, we held a land use committee meeting. We have a huge possible proposed development in our area and it's on the edge of the forest, it's very controversial or will be. Outreach is always the number one thing that Neighborhood Councils are challenged with and so we put ourselves out there to get our stakeholders to know. In addition to our agenda we have a flyer, that's a community flyer and what happens with that is the neighbors surrounding the development are able to spread this around and use it to get out the

word. We had over 200 people attend this meeting. We had four presentations take place that night and we were a bit nervous because it was a huge room. Every chair was gone in our room for this meeting. The co-chair of the Land Use Committee started of the meeting with our code of conduct and it really set the tone. Everyone was on their absolute best behavior. Everyone got an opportunity to speak.

Sergio Ibarra - our Election Ad Hoc Committee took a strategy of really working to activate our neighborhood and we really focused on recruiting candidates to run for Neighborhood Council and the reason we did that is because we wanted to have the board reflect a diversity that this community has not just ethnically but also the youth. We really did a great job with recruiting youth to get involved with this Neighborhood Council. Our board is about uniting Arleta.

Robert A, Rouge - Ibarra mentioned earlier about doing a tremendous amount of outreach for the candidate selection process prior to our elections. Over 2,000 flyers were handed out within the Arleta Neighborhood Council boundaries. At least half of that was focused in the southern area so that we did not disenfranchised any particular area and we also had three to four youths from Phoenix House that came down and helped us as well as four of us, some of them were board members, myself included so I can give testimony, I was there. We walked out that community so I am very concerned that some of the people that live in the south made the complaints tonight and not one of them offered to help.

Don Wiggins - Northridge East, one of the big things that we're proud of is working with the other Northridge Neighborhood Councils to develop what we call Northridge vision basically our idea of what the Northridge plan should be. We took the lead and said this is what we think our community plan ought to be for the next thirty years.

10. Discussion and possible action regarding a proposed policy regarding Neighborhood Council Board Member Conduct, which will establish goals for behavior between Neighborhood Council members while conducting business. The Commission will evaluate whether Neighborhood Council board members will be required to sign that they have received a copy of the policy and, in addition, the Commission will evaluate any penalties for failing to sign the policy, including suspension and removal. (Click on the link to view a copy of the document.) (40 minutes)

[Code of Conduct Policy](#)

ACTION: Commissioner Shaffer moved to table this agenda item to the next meeting. Commissioner Grant seconded the motion.

VOTE: Ayes – 6 (Grant, Lipmen, Mack, Medina, Rubio, and Shaffer)
Nays – 0
Abstention – 0
Absent – 1 (Atkinson)

TOTAL – Ayes 6 Nays 0 Abstention 0 Absent 1 Motion Carries X Fails ___

Public comment received from:

Mary Armenteros - the first part is good. We're glad to see that they're going to be, you have to sign this or you're not going to be around much longer. What it doesn't mention is videoing all meetings. Video copy goes to DONE.

Cindy Cleghorn - I support this and look forward to it passing. As Neighborhood Council leaders it's really important for us to be examples for others.

Sharon Brewer - how would this be submitted to DONE? Copy kept with NC notebook with other NC documents, like agendas, minutes, and finances. Also put on NC web page. The other thing is sarcasm, to me it's an intimidation or bullying. So, if there is just some way to deal with that.

Garry Fordyce - a few observations regarding the proposed Code of Conduct: 1st - no. 4, includes slanderous but excludes liable which I believe should be included, 2nd - no. 6, portrays bullying and harassment with identical definitions, 3rd - there are consequences to not signing, but none for subsequent violations. Put some teeth into the code to provide significant consequences against the perpetrator and 4th - we need a third party independent videotaping of all meetings to facilitate truth and consequence.

Anita Goldbaum - we concur with most of the proposed points in your policy and code, but the stumbling block and I am glad to hear that it will be in the second phase and the drawbacks is that there is no written plans or any repercussions for violations when the signed code of conduct and civility is not complied with by a Neighborhood Council board member.

Pete Nicholas - 6th Whereas, line 3, between sexual and gender I would include sexual orientation and on the same line between the word gender and and I would say or gender expression. Lastly, on that third line where it says and, I think the word and should be or.

11. Commission Business - Comment from Commissioners on subject matters within the Board's jurisdiction. (15 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.
 5. Update on 2014 LA Congress of Neighborhoods

ACTION: None.

12. 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 three minutes. (15 minutes)

Public comment received from:

Cindy Cleghorn – Chair, Congress, please register. We’re up to 134 registrations. We expect to maximize our attendance this year. A couple of sessions, Public Works Roundtable, Political Etiquette, Commissioner Grant. Also gonna have the ethics training and finance training with the Department. This year the Congress Committee has worked really well together. You’re gonna see some new things happening. Sunland-Tujunga is having their clean up the weekend after the Congress.

James R. Kallas – I want to talk about something that came up tonight from Margaret Shoemaker, Diane Hand, and Joy Bizar, they submitted a letter and they have a number of charges on that letter, I’d like you to consider that the majority of that is false. Margaret Shoemaker was of one them that put Arleta Neighborhood Council into exhaustive efforts. We went through exhaustive efforts and then we brought it out of exhaustive efforts and for the year that I was president after we brought it out of exhaustive efforts we did a magnificent job. Even the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment said we did a magnificent job. The only way you’re gonna answer this lady is that I’d like the City Attorney to open an investigation into the charges that she’s made. (Note: referenced letter attached to these Minutes.)

William Kuzman – still want to get back to number four on the agenda posting requirements. If a stakeholder has a collection of ties he may choose a red tie or a green tie. It doesn’t say that he has to wear a tie at all to the meeting because of the word may. So to fix this problem, strike the word may, insert shall either and then strike the word either after email and you’ll have fixed your problem. (Note: referenced policy attached to these Minutes.)

Denyse Selesnick – Co-chair, LA Congress Program Committee, two things, we are changing the afternoon session somewhat from what we have done before. We’ve invited the alliances, the only one that I am having trouble with is WRAC. Everybody else has said they’re doing it. After that we’re doing ten big idea questions. We’d like BONC to be able to submit, if you want, one of those questions and that is what one thing would you like Neighborhood Councils to be able do for next year? It’s optional.

13. Adjourn

ACTION: Commissioner Shaffer moved that the meeting be adjourned at 9:21 p.m. Commissioner Grant seconded the motion. Commissioner Medina left the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

**VOTE: Ayes – 5 (Grant, Lipmen, Mack, Rubio, and Shaffer)
Nays – 0
Abstention – 0
Absent – 2 (Atkinson, Medina)**

TOTAL – Ayes 5 Nays 0 Abstention 0 Absent 2 Motion Carries X Fails

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September 2, 2014

To: The Board of Neighborhood Commissioners

Margaret Shuemaker

DATE:	<u>9/2/14</u>
ITEM #	<u>5</u>
SUBMITTED BY:	<u>Margaret Shuemaker</u>

In October 2002, as chair of the formation committee, I stood before the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners to ask that the Arleta Neighborhood Council (ANC) become certified. The commissioners were pleased when I told them we were getting 50 people at our meetings and our numbers were growing. Now, I stand before you to say I have no neighborhood council to represent me. I still live here in Arleta but the current board is made up of individuals from only the north end of Arleta and they care little about what the stakeholders want from the south portion of Arleta. This board does not include stakeholders that do not live in this immediate area and most of the ANC budget is spent on the north end. I, as well as others, have been coming to meetings to give input only to be ignored. The most recent board meeting gave the ANC an opportunity to select between two well qualified stakeholders that would have given the residents south of Branford at least one representative. They chose to add yet another friend and neighbor, further "stacking" the board to ensure the money is spent on their "pet projects."

Over the last several years the biggest accomplishment of the Arleta Neighborhood Council is their success in dividing the community. We accepted that our end of Arleta did not have representation until this ANC took over our efforts to replace the "Welcome To Arleta" sign that was destroyed in a car accident. After working with our council office for over a year and a half, the ANC came in and took over the project canceling a year and a half of our work. We feel it is unfair that our input on the spending of our tax dollars is ignored. We feel it is not right that our tax dollars fund neighborhood councils while we don't have one, except in name only. Five years ago we expressed this to Grayce Liu only to be ignored.

Complaints were filed citing Brown Act violations. They were ignored as well, resulting in more Brown Act and bylaw violations that continue to go ignored. Some of these violations include stakeholders (from the south end of Arleta) being told they had to leave a standing committee meeting during deliberation and decision making on a request from stakeholders (from the south end of Arleta), standing committee meetings were held on the second floor with no elevator, secret meetings were held in garages...and the list goes on.

We would like to leave the Arleta Neighborhood Council and start our own. After all, aren't we entitled to representation? In order to leave and start our own Arleta South Neighborhood Council, I have been told that we would have to get permission from the current ANC. We respectfully request that the Board Of Neighborhood Commissioners create a policy that does not allow the current board the ability to deny us our right to a neighborhood council. After all, if we get 200 signatures as was required to certify the ANC, why should we have to get permission from 17 people, that have been excluding us for years, to start our own neighborhood council?

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Margaret Lomenace". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned at the bottom of the page.

RESOLUTION

Be it resolved that the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners creates the following policy:

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL AGENDA POSTING REQUIREMENTS

WHEREAS, the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners established Working Groups comprised of current and past Neighborhood Council members and Neighborhood Council stakeholders to recommend changes to the Plan for a Citywide System of Neighborhood Councils;

WHEREAS, the Working Groups recognized stakeholders are increasingly using the internet and that it allows Neighborhood Councils to communicate with their stakeholders efficiently and inexpensively;

WHEREAS, the Working Groups recognized that any change in the physical posting policy should be accompanied by increased use of other media for outreach;

WHEREAS, the Working Groups recommended that the posting requirements for Neighborhood Councils be changed to require only one physical Brown Act compliant posting while maintaining the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners other outreach requirements;

WHEREAS, Section 902 (b) Article IX of the new Charter provides that the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners "shall be responsible for policy setting and policy oversight...and the promulgation of rules and regulations but not be responsible for day to-day management".

WHEREAS, this policy supersedes all other posting policies previously adopted by the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners; including the August 3, 2010, Commission Policy on "Neighborhood Council Agenda Posting Requirements" (Policy No. 2010-02), which was also revised at the December 17, 2012, Commission meeting, and the May 6, 2014, Commission Policy on "Neighborhood Council Agenda Posting Requirements" (Policy No. 2014-01), which was also revised at the July 21, 2014, Commission meeting.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED that the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners establishes this policy regarding the posting of agendas for Neighborhood Councils.

POLICY NUMBER: 2014-01.1

Neighborhood Councils are required to post meeting agendas for Board and Committee meetings as follows:

Board of Neighborhood Commissioners
Resolution: Policy No. 2014-01.1 (Revised August 18, 2014)
Neighborhood Council Agenda Posting Requirements

1. Neighborhood Councils shall physically post at least one Brown Act compliant agenda for all Board and Committee meetings.
2. Neighborhood Councils shall post agendas of all Board and Committee meetings on their web site or, on a page made available to them on the EmpowerLA web site. Such postings shall be Brown Act time compliant.
3. Neighborhood Councils shall submit a copy of all regular and special Board and Committee agendas to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (Department) to be posted through the Early Notification System (ENS). The agenda for regular meetings shall be submitted to the Department not less than 72 hours in advance of the meeting and the agenda for special meetings shall be submitted to the Department not less than 24 hours in advance of the meeting. As soon as feasible, the Department will submit the agenda for posting to the ENS system. Accordingly, posting the notices of meetings to the ENS system will not be required to comply with the Brown Act's time limits for posting agendas.
4. Neighborhood Councils that maintain an email list of stakeholders may email either a copy of the agenda for all Board and Committee meetings or an announcement of the meeting with a link to the agenda. Distribution to the email list shall occur at the time meeting information is disseminated to the board or committee members.
5. Neighborhood Councils shall inform the Department of (a) the physical location of their posting site, (b) the address of their web site, if any and (c) confirm with the Department whether they use a stakeholder database to distribute their agendas. Neighborhood Councils shall be required to submit this information on a form approved by the Department.
6. Neighborhood Councils that do not maintain a web site or, a page on the EmpowerLA web site, if available, shall continue to comply with the five (5) to seven (7) physical locations posting requirements imposed during their certification process; one (1) of the posting locations shall be Brown Act compliant; the remaining posting locations shall be within the Neighborhood Council boundaries and shall comply with Brown Act time limits for posting.
7. This Posting Policy does not restrict or prevent a Neighborhood Council from posting any additional notices of its meetings beyond the notices required under this policy in any other locations or within any timeframes determined by the Neighborhood Council in its discretion.

Board of Neighborhood Commissioners
Resolution: Policy No. 2014-01.1 (Revised August 18, 2014)
Neighborhood Council Agenda Posting Requirements

8. These posting requirements shall be appended to and become a part of the bylaws of all current and future Neighborhood Councils and any violation of this policy may become the subject of a grievance.
9. If a Neighborhood Council is notified by the Department prior to any Board or Committee meeting that a confirmed violation of this policy has been reported the Neighborhood Council shall repost in accordance with this Policy. If the scheduled meeting cannot be reposted in compliance with this Policy, the Neighborhood Council shall cancel the meeting and make reasonable efforts to inform its stakeholders. If it becomes necessary to cancel Board or Committee meetings Neighborhood Councils are encouraged to contact the City Attorney for further guidance.
10. If a Neighborhood Council is found to be in violation of this Policy three (3) times within the current fiscal year the Board and any non-Board member committee chairs shall be required to take additional training as may be determined by the Department. If after receiving additional training the Neighborhood Council is again found to be in violation of this policy during the current fiscal year, then exhaustive efforts to remedy this matter, including loss of funding may be taken by the Department pursuant to Article VI section 4 and Article X section 3 of the Plan for a Citywide system of Neighborhood Councils.

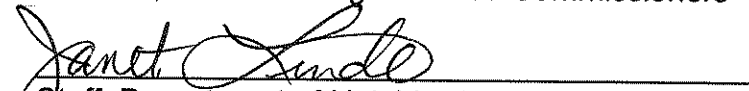
Moved by:


Member, Board of Neighborhood Commissioners

Seconded by:


Member, Board of Neighborhood Commissioners

Witnessed by:


Staff, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment

VOTES:

AYES: 6

NAYS: 0

DATE: 8/18/14