

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS

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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

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2014 – 1:00 P.M.

**CITY HALL, 10TH FLOOR CONFERENCE CENTER
ROOM 1050, 200 NORTH SPRING STREET
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT

Grayce Liu, General Manager
Leyla Campos, Senior Project Coordinator
Janet Lindo, Executive Administrative Assistant

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 1:04 p.m. Commission roll was called by Janet Lindo. Commissioner Atkinson arrived at 1:13 pm.

3. Verbal updates from City Administrative Officer, Miguel Santana. (20 minutes)

ACTION: This agenda item was taken out of order, after agenda item no. 9. City Administrative Officer, Miguel Santana, gave verbal updates on the City's budget.

Public comment received from:

Pete Nicholas, stakeholder Rampart Village, one of the underlying realities that the CAO just tangentially mentioned is that the people themselves get to decide how much they're gonna tax themselves and how much city services they want. The reality is that the restriction on adequately funding a number of things from sidewalk to police to Neighborhood Councils is the amount of taxes for the general good that people are willing to pay. The reality is taxes buys us civilization.

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 three minutes. (15 minutes)

No public comments were received.

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

There were no updates to the General Manager's Report since the November 6, 2014, Special Meeting.

6. Discussion regarding the limited staff and resources currently faced by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment ("Department") and possible suggestions that the City may implement to assist the Department, including but not limited to hiring additional Department staff. The Commission may take possible action on this item, including but not limited to conveying its written recommendation to the City, delegating the authority of the Commission to specific Commissioners to speak with certain identified City Officials on behalf of the Commission, and/or the establishment of an ad hoc committee to further evaluate this matter and report to the Commission at a later date. (30 minutes)

ACTION: General Manager, Grayce Liu, provided an updated report to the Commission regarding the Department's budget and staffing (see attachment). Commission President Mack created an Ad Hoc Committee to further evaluate the staffing challenges in the Department. The Ad Hoc Committee members are: Commissioners Lydia Grant, Chair, Joy Atkinson, and Victor Medina.

Public comment received from:

Glenn Bailey – Even though I haven't been at all the meetings, I have been listening in. So the item heard before Council was Council File 14-0600-S142. It was on the agenda in

two different places number 24 and also number 31. Number 31 did not have a public hearing so when they go to that for public hearing they did an amending motion of 31a which you will find on the Council File and that was adopted along with item 24 which was reconsidered cause they had originally postponed it to Friday. They approved them both with 12 ayes, no opposition which means that the ordinance was adopted. It's been sent to the Mayor and he has til November 24 to sign the Ordinance and this is for the increase of the 50 exempt positions.

7. Commission Committee Reports. (30 minutes)
 1. Ad Hoc Committee re Outreach (Members: Atkinson-Chair, Mack, and Rubio)
 2. Ad Hoc Committee re ability of the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners to implement citywide policies (Members: Shaffer-Chair, Grant, and Medina)
 3. Ad Hoc Committee re Leadership Development for Neighborhood Councils (Members: Rubio-Chair, Medina, and Shaffer)
 4. Ad Hoc Committee re Website development (Members: Grant and Lipmen)

ACTION: None.

Public comment received from:

Pete Nicholas – I just think schematically we should divide best practices that come out of outreach from those mandatory items to be on the website. I think the first thing that needs to be developed is those items which are mandatory for those Neighborhood Councils that have a website.

8. 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.

ACTION: None.

9. 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:

Glenn Bailey – At Thursday's Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils there was some push back by some, a minority of Neighborhood Council folks regarding the posting policy notification and the process and also the code of conduct content and notification and so we got into a dialogue of how can this be when this Commission had multiple town halls forum before you approved it and it was publicized in multiple

manners including the EmpowerLA newsletter, the field staff referenced to it. It even came up at the various Alliances. I know LAANC multiple times. There's a lot of things you get as a Neighborhood Council board member. These important policies are competing with all of that. I just don't think we can overdo that communication. We want to figure out as part of the whole outreach picture how we can make sure that Neighborhood Councils boards and the board members get important information and pay attention to it so that they can engage in the process this Commission affords them to do and the Department for that matter.

Lonella Enix, Chair, Empowerment Southwest, in September we attended your meeting and Margaret actually spoke in regards to an issue SLAANC wanted us to bring up in terms of SLAANC being able to have a website where they could provide information from those meetings for people that didn't have the ability to attend. It's actually an opportunity for us to outreach to other Neighborhood Councils who are not participating right now. Providing video of people that'll come and speak at SLAANC but won't come to our individual Neighborhood Councils. That road block is how to pay for it. We brought up last time possibly having the ability to create an account within DONE that all of us could put money into. Those of us that want to participate in sharing the cost in developing and keeping it going.

Pete Nicholas – It's a great disappointment to me that we are months and months behind the City Attorney's deadline from the City Council to develop and publish the disciplinary procedures and it doesn't seem to be important to anybody. We don't seem to be making any progress and we don't seem to be getting any reports on remedying the City Attorney's failure to do that.

Margaret Peters – ECSWANDC, I'm here to invite you to our Sidewalk Summit this Saturday, November 22 at Puente Learning Center at Century and Western in South LA from 9-12.

10. Adjourn

ACTION: Commissioner Medina moved that the meeting be adjourned at 4:00 p.m. Commissioner Atkinson seconded the motion.

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