

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS

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MINUTES

BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2014 – 6:00 P.M.

**PECK PARK RECREATION CENTER
MEETING ROOM
560 NORTH WESTERN AVENUE
SAN PEDRO, CA 90732**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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

ABSENT

Olivia Rubio

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT

Leyla Campos, Senior Project Coordinator
Taneda Larios, Neighborhood Empowerment Analyst
Janet Lindo, Executive Administrative Assistant

CITY ATTORNEY REPRESENTATIVE

Carmen Hawkins, 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 6:15 p.m. Commission roll was called by Janet Lindo. Commissioner Shaffer arrived at 6:26 p.m. Commissioner Lipmen arrived at 6:32 p.m.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meetings of November 6, 2014, and November 10, 2014, and the Regular Meeting of November 17, 2014. (Click on the link to view a copy of the document.) (3 minutes)

http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/11-06-14_draft_SPECIAL-MEETING-MINUTES1.pdf

http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/11-10-14_draft_SPECIAL-MEETING-MINUTES.pdf

http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/11-17-14_draft_REGULAR-MEETING-MINUTES.pdf

ACTION: Commissioner Atkinson moved approval of the Minutes of the Special Meetings of November 6, 2014, and November 10, 2014, and the Regular Meeting of November 17, 2014, as written. Commissioner Medina seconded the Motion.

VOTE:

Ayes 4 (Atkinson, Grant, Mack, Medina)

Nays 0

Abstention 0

Absent 3 (Lipmen, Rubio, Shaffer)

TOTAL 7

Motion Carries X

Fails

4. Verbal updates from representatives of the Mayor and Los Angeles City Council. (10 minutes)

ACTION: No representative present.

5. Discussion by the Commission on Best Practices on leadership within the Neighborhood Council system including possible guest speaker, Captain III, Gerald Woodyard, Los Angeles Police Department. (10 minutes)

ACTION: Captain Woodyard not present.

Public comment received from:

James P. Allen, President, Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council, directly to the point of Captain Woodyard's absence tonight, it is perfectly obvious to everyone who watches the news that there is still, not only in Los Angeles, but across our country a great deal of mistrust between the police authorities and the civilian population. That being said Captain Woodyard is probably one of the better officers that we've had in the Los Angeles Harbor area.

Ray Regalado, Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission, I could never fill the shoes of Captain Woodyard. I would like to say that I have had a very long relationship to Captain Woodyard. I had the opportunity to work with Captain Woodyard for quite a

few years prior to him becoming Captain down here, in the Harbor area through my work that I did with the LA County Human Relations Commission. We have partnered with the LAPD in the various demonstrations that have occurred within that community and what has grown from that is a level of trust and a level of dependency that they know that there is that ability to count on individuals so that they know that if there is a job that needs to be done they can count on people.

6. 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.

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

Leyla Campos, Senior Project Coordinator gave the General Manager's Report (See attached Monthly Expenditure Report updated December 2, 2014.)

- **78 Community Impact Statements received to date.**
- **1,503 agendas have come in through NC Support, have been reviewed by staff and posted to ENS.**
- **Bylaws moratorium has been lifted. We have about 11 applications that we are reviewing.**
- **We've done approximately 17 board retreats.**
- **1 group is in Exhaustive Efforts currently. They are working well to meet all the benchmarks that the Department asked of them. I can foresee that we are going to release them from Exhaustive Efforts fairly soon.**
- **This Friday we are having another visit from Indonesia.**
- **Councilmembers Englander and Krekorian are submitting a Council File regarding the event process (CF No. 14-1624).**
- **Funding – I have copies of the Monthly Expenditure Report (MER).**
- **Prior to Grayce's departure today we talked about enlisting the help of the C4C with the MERs.**

8. 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 a report from the Ad Hoc Committee (Members: Commissioners Lydia Grant-Chair, Victor Medina, and Joy Atkinson). (30 minutes)

ACTION: None.

Public comment received from:

Bob Gelfand, initially Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council, we had our first meeting in February in the year 2002. I think it was probably the first Neighborhood Council board meeting that every occurred and suddenly a couple of months ago we're getting feedback from the Department on how our agendas are written. So somehow we managed to go twelve years and do just fine agendas and you guys are spending staff time on doing that on 95 Neighborhood Councils soon to be 96 every month. Are you really doing that? I'm perfectly fine with the Department saying we need a certain minimal of staffing. It ought to at least be used efficiently and it shouldn't be used to get in the way of Neighborhood Councils who have been functional for a very long time.

Terrence Gomes, Co-Chair, Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates, I do want to address your question, Sir, though, about how Neighborhood Councils, specifically the Harbor area, can get involved in the process, have some Budget Advocates. Because you don't have two voices on the Budget Advocates you're not able to get much services because part of it is driven by the Budget Advocates, what they received from the budget reps which are on each Neighborhood Council from the community. It's a step by step process and the fact that the Harbor area wants to wait all the way until HANC meets in January is not only ineffective but you're missing the boat because we're already preparing our white paper. So if you want wanna get on board and be able to help support not only the Department but also the City and direct services to your area get some Budget Advocates that's how it works.

Laurie Jacobs, Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council, Vice President, Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council, it's a two way street and a couple of issues have come up in our Council in that a month or two months ago all of a sudden we can't use our card to make some of our payments and we've reported it and reported it and that hasn't been fixed which might be why some of our budgets aren't complete yet is because we can't and we haven't paid a couple of bills that are due. When it comes to like the issue with the movie in the park you know the rules changed when we went to checking accounts. I think if we knew some of the rules were going to change we would not have ask for checking accounts.

Rosalie Preston, Recording Secretary, Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council, I just wanted to reiterate how important having proper and permanent staff in the Department is to the Neighborhood Councils. I've been on our board almost eight years and I have seen the difference it makes between having the former staff properly staffing the Department both in funding and in the outreach staff and at the current time with all of the vacancies it puts a tremendous stress on us the Neighborhood Council people who are volunteers and we need that staff support.

Ray Regalado, is there an ideal number that NEAs feel that they should be representing as far as Neighborhood Councils? What is it that is going to be expected of Neighborhood Councils in this presentation? You say you're considering a organizing model, can you talk a little bit about what that model is looking at or what do you mean by organizing model? I totally support the notion that we need more NEAs.

9. Discussion with various Harbor 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: This agenda item was taken out of order before agenda item number 7. Neighborhood Council representatives reported on best practices.

10. Discussion and possible action to increase participation at City Hall meetings by allowing callers to call in to the Commission meeting via City telephone. (10 minutes)

ACTION: Commissioner Shaffer moved that this agenda item be tabled to the next meeting. Commissioner Atkinson seconded the motion.

VOTE:

Ayes	<u>6</u>	(Atkinson, Grant, Lipmen, Mack, Medina, Shaffer)
Nays	<u>0</u>	
Abstention	<u>0</u>	
Absent	<u>1</u>	(Rubio)
TOTAL	<u>7</u>	

Motion Carries X
Fails _____

11. Discussion and possible action scheduling a board retreat. (10 minutes).

ACTION: This item continued to next agenda.

12. 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.

13. 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:

Olive Reed, Harbor City Neighborhood Council, Past President of Harbor City Neighborhood Council, now a board member at-large, my issue is again with DONE and the P-card and also we had no one who was willing to be treasurer or the second signature so my son stepped in to be the treasurer and I was going to be the second

signature and the reason our budgets are not done is we have been told that that's not ethically correct. I've been involved with the Neighborhood Council since 2007 he's been involved with the Council for eleven years and all of a sudden we're told that we can't be doing this because we're family and we live in the same household. What utter nonsense.

14. Adjourn

ACTION: Commissioner Atkinson moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:34 p.m. Commissioner Shaffer seconded the motion.

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