

# Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition: A Coalition of Councils

## Minutes from Meeting of Saturday May 4, 2024

### 1. Meeting called to order at 10:04

Announcement was made about a proposed bill - AB 817- under consideration in Sacramento to authorize advisory boards across the state to meet by teleconferencing.

### 2. Motions from the Working Group for LANCC:

- (a) LANCC encourages every Neighborhood Council to add to their agenda an open discussion on what they would like to see for the future of the NC system including what the priorities should be for the new GM, how DONE should act in support of Neighborhood Councils, and their commitment to citizen participation in the City's government. Additional discussion should address possible changes to the City Charter to improve support for and the independence of Neighborhood Councils and their ability to effectively and successfully lobby the City Council on behalf of their stakeholders. Moved by Miran Kalaydjian with Liz Amsden seconding.

Discussion

**Approved** with 20 for, no-one opposed, and 2 abstentions

- (b) LANCC suggests using the attached [Declaration Of Neighborhood Council Rights](#) as part of the basis for discussion and, if the NC has not previously submitted a comment on the Declaration, to add that to their agenda as well. Moved by Miran Kalaydjian with Bob Gelfand seconding.

Discussion

**Approved** with 20 for, no-one opposed, and 2 abstentions

Note: In connection with this item, NCs may wish to note that maintaining independence as set forth in the Declaration ensures they have the ability to attract community participation, to advocate for issues of concern specific to their stakeholders with City entities free from undue influence or control by City officials, employees, and others, call on City Hall to not limit the authority and continue to be responsive to each Neighborhood's priorities, and any other aspects of relevance to their NC and stakeholders.

- (c) Discussion and possible action to create a letter from LANCC to the GM of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment to immediately advise all Neighborhood Councils in writing of their remedies when they can no longer achieve quorum to perform their business, as specifically provided for in BONC's 2010 loss of Quorum policy. Moved by Miran Kalaydjian with David Rockello seconding. Minor word crafting by Glenn Bailey/Bob Gelfand accepted.

Discussion, including the need to have all such rules documented in writing

**Approved** with 22 for, no-one opposed, and no abstentions

- (d) Discussion and possible action to create a letter from LANCC to all City Councilmembers in reference to CF 15-0389-S2, copying the Mayor's office, DONE, and the City Attorney that Community Councils and similar entities wishing to enjoy Neighborhood Council privileges should not be accorded such benefits unless and until they are certified as a Neighborhood Council subject to all applicable obligations. Moved by Ellen Evan with Glenn Bailey seconding.

Discussion

**Approved** with 22 for, no-one opposed, and 1 abstention

- (e) Discussion and possible action to request all Neighborhood Councils immediately contact their Councilmembers and to submit individual public comments to Council File 24-0465 that, pursuant to Article V, Section 508 to act on appointments by the Mayor, and in respect of the rights granted to the Neighborhood Councils under the City Charter, that the confirmation of Carmen Chang as the next DONE General Manager be deferred for up to the 45-day window to allow her a minimum of 30 days to meet with Neighborhood Councils and other interested parties to discuss issues of importance to the NCs and the NC system. Moved by Miran Kalaydjian with Bob Gelfand seconding.

Discussion including that the City Council may not allow any further discussion/comment since Carmen Chang's appointment was approved by the Neighborhoods Committee.

**Approved** with 18 for, 1 opposed, and 3 abstentions (including Commissioner Len Shaffer)

Note to individuals submitting comments: Click on red "NEW" button, up center, at:

<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=24-0465>

Brief discussion about requesting that the Mayor's office provide a list of Neighborhood Council people who were involved in the search and selection of the new General Manager for DONE. Mihran Kalaydjian has been in contact with Jared Rivera in the Mayor's office and will give a report at the next LANCC meeting.

Request made for someone who is interested in the work of the Working Group to take brief notes at meetings and help Mihran with drafting motions, letters and agendas. People should contact Mihran Kalaydjian [lanccWG4CC@gmail.com](mailto:lanccWG4CC@gmail.com) and/or [LizAmsden@hotmail.com](mailto:LizAmsden@hotmail.com).

### 3. Update from Budget Advocates:

- (a) presented White Paper to the Budget & Finance Committee at the beginning of the budget hearings
- (b) the Mayor's budget removed funding both for the Congress of Neighborhoods and for Budget Day
- (c) Controller Kenneth Mejia held two informative Town Halls on the budget, but neither was recorded, the slides should be made available
- (d) Budget Day will be held at City Hall on June 15, 2024; Glenn to look into streaming the Plenary Session and allowing remote participation by Zoom for the regional meetings
- (e) NCs can use the new Congress-Budget Advocacy Contribution Form at <https://clerk.lacity.gov/clerk-divisions/nc-funding-program/documents> to help fund the event

4. Update from DONE: None; no-one present.
5. Update from BONC:
  - (a) Commissioner Doug Epperhart advised people to be proactive and contact BONC, DONE, City Council with their concerns when they arise rather than relying on others for outreach
  - (b) Commissioner Len Shaffer was unavailable for the first meeting of the BONC committee addressing censure issues but, at the next one, will bring up that NCs are more concerned about the removal policy
  - (c) people can contact BONC with concerns or make general public comment at meetings; their meetings have a Zoom element that allows for comments to be submitted remotely
  - (d) since there is no provision for replacing the President, BONC will operate without one until the election comes up in July
  - (e) BONC needs to request DONE itemize its report more broadly to allow for specific issues addressed by the GM to be addressed by the commissioners and attendees
6. Congress of Neighborhoods: Discussion, and a request for funding; see items 3 (b) and (e) above.
7. Update from any NC regional alliances / Announcements:
  - (a) VANC has invited Carol Parks, GM of the Emergency Management Department to their next meeting to address fiscal and other concerns of the EMD
  - (b) the City expected about two thousand comments on the draft Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, but received over five thousand
  - (c) the Neighborhood Council Emergency Preparedness Alliance is trying to invite a noted climatologist, knowledgeable about flooding risks, to one of their upcoming meetings
  - (d) next Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> will be Fire Service Day with most fire stations open to talk to stakeholders
  - (e) Fleet Week events will be in San Pedro over the Memorial Day weekend

The meeting adjourned at 12:38