

Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition

MINUTES OF THE LANCC GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, January 3, 2015 -- 10 a.m.

LANCC Officers

Terrence Gomes, Chair
Fred Mariscal, Vice-Chair
Connie Acosta, Secretary
Glenn Bailey, Treasurer

MEETING LOCATION:

Hollywood Constituent Center
6501 Fountain Avenue
Hollywood, CA 90028

A. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

1. Terrance Gomes called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.
2. LANCC membership introductions.
3. The LANCC Representatives in attendance were, per the sign-in sheet of December 6, 2014:

37 -LANCC members present.	T. Gomes, F. Mariscal, C. Acosta, T. Wilkinson, C. Cleghorn, L. Shaffer, F. Wada, S. Twining, R. Waller, M. Savage, G. Aggas, L. J. Grant, J. Handal, J. Liberman. P Nicholas, D. Uebersax, A. Job, L. Horowitz, M. O’Gara, M. Peters, L. Gutierrez, L. Amsden, J. Green, T. Dietlin, B. Dening, A. Jhun, M. Isler, I. Spiegel, H. Keifer, L. Horowitz, G. Wilson, D. Wiseman, L. Taylor, P. Darrigo, R. Guevarra. L. Vincent, B. Peppermuller.
2-- Presenter	Rafer Johnson, Homeless Advocate; Paul Darrigo, RACO; Grayce Lui, GM DONE.

B. PRESENTATIONS

1. Olympic Medalist on the status of homeless Vets in Los Angeles --- Rafer Johnson

“If you’re not working to succeed you are preparing to fail,” Rafer Johnson said.

Rafer said, “There are over 20,000 homeless Veterans in Los Angeles while having the largest VA property in the nation that is being unused for those men and women who have served this country. In my mind this this is an emergency. To have this situation continue in the same way it has over the years; it’s something that we need to change and get this done [corrected] right away.

Rafer detailed that in 1975, there were 50,000 Vietnamese men and women displaced with the fall of Saigon; and, with the help of the [US] Marines and local citizens, in less than a week, provided over 1,000 tents at Camp Pendleton for these families. “We should do the same thing today for our Veterans who have given their lives and served our country. What we need to know is that it’s an emergency and move forward,” he said. We need to return the favor to those [Veterans] who have protected us over the years, and have made it possible, and continue to make it possible for us to enjoy the lives that we live today in this nation.”

“My wife and I are here to join with you in this emergency so we can do what needs to be done for those who have protected us, our children, and our families over the years,” Rafer concluded.

LEGISLATIVE

BACKGROUND

Terrance: In September 2014, this coalition [LANCC] started the dialogue with the L.A. City Council to have them support the actions of some of the Veterans at the West Los Angeles facility, and give the homeless Veterans access to the resources donated to them.

Both the electives and the Mayor did nothing until last month when the electives responded ---to ask the Mayor to take care of the Veteran homelessness in 2015.

Without a present collaborative plan from both the City [of L.A.] and the federal government to move this proposal forward, nothing will happen, said Jay Handal. Mr. Handal has written a Motion, a continuation of the September Motion to initiate a Plan.

“We should be able to finish this conversation by March of 2015,” Terrance asserted.

Jay Handal: The West-Los Angeles campus of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) covers 399 acres of land in which there’re approx. 200 acres of unutilized, underutilized, or miss-utilized land. The VA is illegally leasing as affirmed by a federal appeals court ruling see *LA TIMES* of 12/15/14: [Court halts amphitheater construction on West L.A. veterans campus](#), or <http://touch.latimes.com/#section/-1/article/p2p-82297307/>

In addition, in the *LA TIMES*, Editorial section of 7/16/14: <http://touch.latimes.com/#section/-1/article/p2p-80816395/>, Mayor Garcetti pledges to end veteran homelessness in 2015, yet there is No discussion of a Plan to accomplish this task.

“We taught them how to kill and brought them home to die; we have nothing to help them with when they come back.” Jay said. “The Mayor has said he wants to end Homelessness in 2015, but he’s not mentioning the utilization of the 200 acres of the VA Land available. It’s a sin to keep the Vets on the outside of a 1.5 Million dollar gate and told not to come into a property that was deeded for them in 1888, as an old soldiers home.”

“Los Angeles has the largest homeless Veteran population in the Nation. Paradoxically, L.A. also has the largest V A Veterans’ Home property in the Nation.”

“We’re asking today in our motion, for the Mayor to go sit with the VA and work out a plan for immediate emergency housing on the VA property. The VA has its own infrastructure on the property: A police force, an exiting hospital and supportive services. This proposal doesn’t affect the City Budget negatively, and certainly will help human beings get off the street and be treated like human beings,” Jay said.

Jay continued, “We’re talking about immediate housing and long-term housing. Supportive housing not warehouse housing. We need to get them off the street and into a warm and safe environment.”

Jay stated that Four years ago, he met with Congressman Henry Waxman, Mark Rosenbaum, Senator Diane Feinstein, Supervisor Yaraslavsky, and the Veterans Administration; The Elective met to simply request of the VA to open their gates and allow the Veterans living in their cars and trucks to park overnight in the VA property to be in a safe environment.

Minutes of the LANCC General Meeting of January 3, 2015.

NEXT WEEK, WILL BE THE FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VA SAYING YES WE CAN DO IT. WE NEED TO FIND OUT HOW? YET THEY HAVEN'T OPENED THE VA GATEs FOR THE HOMELESS LIVING IN VEHICALS.

LANCC Letter to L.A. City Council:

Jay Handal moved the motion as written.	Randy Waller seconded.
The Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition (LANCC) recognizes that Los Angeles to be in a "state of emergency" for homeless Veterans and hereby requests that the Los Angeles City Council direct the City of Los Angeles with all of its resources and the Veterans Administration to unify and open a large-scale Crisis Humanitarian Relief Project on this land to immediately house and care for the thousands upon thousands of disabled and homeless Veterans in the City of Los Angeles.	36-In favor, 0-opposition, 1-abstention
	Motion adopted as written.

2. Reserve Animal Control Officers (RACO) program ----Paul Darrigo

"There are 4 million people, 4 million animals, in the City of Los Angeles and we don't have a Reserve Animal control Officer Program. Is there a need for it? Absolutely!" Paul said. "We have one Officer at night serving the whole City."

Paul's Background:

- Holds a BS in Technical Management, Associate in Marketing, Apple Certified: formerly in the Apple workforce as a filmmaker.
- Has volunteered in the RACO Program since 2006, has been working on revitalizing the Program since 2009.
- Represents 26 Neighborhood Councils of 1 Million residents in Los Angeles; NCs have contributed \$30,000. Fund has not been used for its intended purpose.

Paul showed the LANCC a video that captured the survival hardships of abandoned dogs of all ages running rampant in the streets of South Central Los Angeles: Dogs dodging traffic, eating trash, and drinking water from street gutters. Paul's film illustrates the need for the RACO program for the protection and care of domestic animals in the City of Los Angeles.

Paul stated that he's working to get the program back. His contact information is fedguy2@pacbell.net

For information on RACO Volunteer animal services go to any of the three sites listed below:

<http://empowerla.org/recruiting-now-for-the-february-raco-program/>

<http://www.laanimalservices.com/about-us-2/careers/>

http://bestfriends.org/News-And-Features/News/LAAS-Reserve-Animal-Control-Officer-Program-Wants-YOU!

3. **The State of the Department** -----Grayce Liu, GM Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE)

- Some NCs are up to six months behind in their Monthly Expenditure Reports (MERS). DONE is sending letters to NCs not in compliance. “ We’re trying to get everyone caught up by the end of February. Terrance and Jay will go out to assist NCs not in compliance,” Grayce said.
- “I need to get temporary staff to get caught up with MERS; fees will be charged. If you have any ideas on how this should be played out, let me know,” Liu said.

“ I will ask the Commission to extend the deadline of the Code of Conduct until March.”

- “Our office is being filled with temporary staff. It’s the way the city is set up [City procedures]. I’m writing grants. Emergency hiring positions are good for a year: A way to create a position is by bypassing the civil service hiring [protocol]. However, there’s a committee that needs to appoint them [workers]. City tends not to be supportive of these positions.
- We have vendors for the 2016 for the online NC Elections.

C. LEGISLATIVE taken from the LANCC Agenda of January 3, 2015

Complete the sidewalk survey. Your voice matters! Survey to improve the quality of life.

EmpowerLA.org/sidewalk-repair-priorities-and-funding-options

The Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners as a part of community outreach regarding the impending use and deployment of Body Worn Video cameras by our officers is interested in your opinions and comments.

Please take a few minutes and respond to the following questions.

1. When should officers turn the camera on and under what circumstances should they turn them off?
2. Are there instances or locations where you believe recordings should not take Place?
3. How should the LAPD protect the privacy of those individuals who are recorded on video?
4. Do you believe officers should be able to view the video prior to writing the necessary reports?
5. Do you believe that Department supervisors should regularly review the video captured to ascertain opportunities for improved training?
6. Any other comments you would like to provide and questions you believe the Police Commission should ask the LAPD as the development of the policy is reviewed.

Please submit your comments by Friday, January 16, 2015.

The Los Angeles Police Department is also conducting a separate survey on its lapdonline.org website. If you would like to participate in that survey, please click on the link below.

Link to the Survey "Your Thoughts on LAPD use of Body Worn Video"
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LAPDBodyWornVideo>

E. UPDATES

1. Board of Neighborhood Commissioners- Len Shaffer

- Code of Conduct—Len will talk to Darren Martinez and do an amendment with an alternative for board members who refuse to sign Code of Conduct document.

2. BONC --- Lydia Grant LydiaJeanGrant@Gmail.com

- Lydia has volunteered to host a town hall meeting to assist Grayce Liu with the issues of staff hiring for DONE; Our Meeting is scheduled for next week with Grayce Liu and the BAs.

3. Budget Advocates --- Jay handal sgrest@aol.com

- In a couple of weeks, the BAs will have a meeting with the Chamber of Commerce to discuss Charter Reform.
- Best White Papers this year.
- In accordance with the Brown Act, the Budget Advocates minutes are due 5 to 10 days after the meeting. Agendas are issued 72 hours before the meeting.
- Budget Advocates Meetings are held the first Monday (in City Hall) and 3rd Saturday (West LA Civic Center) of the month.

F. ANNOUNCEMENT ---

The 2015 LANCC Election Committee prepared the following. If you have any questions, send your emails to: lancelection@gmail.com

The annual LANCC Elections are coming up. You are invited to run for office on the LANCC executive board. LANCC officers have a variety of tasks including arranging meeting speakers, setting meeting agendas, meeting with City leaders and staff.

This is a great opportunity to step up and participate on a Citywide level. Below is a list of the current officers and the "Call for Candidates" with more details and instructions on how to apply and run for office.

*The Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition is intended to **enhance** the ability of Neighborhood Councils, as well as their clout and influence, giving a larger voice on issues affecting more than one neighborhood. The Coalition is **not** intended to usurp or interfere with the role of an individual Neighborhood Council in their own neighborhood.*

Current 2014 LANCC Officers

Chair: Terrence Gomes, South Robertson Neighborhoods Council (SORO)
Vice-Chair: Fred Mariscal, Greater Wilshire
Secretary: Connie Acosta, Greater Echo Park Elysian
Treasurer: Glenn Bailey, Encino

**All seats are up for election. See below for more details. Thank you!
Visit the LANCC website at: <http://www.lancc.org/>
for Bylaws and More Details about LANCC**

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All interested candidates must submit their name, the board seat they are running for and a maximum 250 word candidate statement. Upon receipt and verification of Neighborhood Council (NC) representative status by the LANCC Election Committee, you are a candidate. Submit, via e-mail only to lancelection@gmail.com no later than **January 20, 2015**. No phone calls or late submissions will be accepted. Candidate's names, position running for and statements will be compiled by the LANCC Election Committee and sent out to the LANCC e-mail list no later than **January 28, 2015**. This same candidate list will also be posted to the LANCC web site. Call for Candidates announcement will be made at the January 3, 2015 LANCC meeting to be held at the Hollywood Constituent Center.

Candidates may run for more than one position. Only verified NC representatives may run for office. The Time Commitment as a LANCC board member is dependent on the position, how much you choose to put into it and the monthly meeting held on the first Saturday of each month 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Candidates may campaign for the office they are seeking at any time after they have submitted their candidate statement to the LANCC Election Committee and they have an acknowledged receipt.

Election Day is Saturday, February 7, 2015. - Location to be announced.

Every candidate will appear on the ballot under the position they are seeking. Candidates will be

introduced only on Election day. Candidate statements will be printed and available on election day. Candidates will have one minute to speak.

Voting on Election Day

Bylaws Section 3, Item 3 states: The only requirement for voting at a LANCC meeting by a delegate is a communication from the President/Chair of the NC board, to the LANCC Chair or other officer who may be designated for stakeholder that will represent his/her NC.

All neighborhood councils participating are eligible to vote. Only one vote per council. It is important for each council to know who their LANCC NC representative is before Election day. On Election day all voters will be asked to, sign in on the sign in sheet, and "affirm" that they represent their neighborhood council before the
Ballots will be available with all candidates' names.

Candidate must have a majority vote to win. If there is no majority, there will be a runoff of the two candidates with the most votes. Majority vote of the delegates present at the election wins. that purpose, stating the name of the NC Upon completion of the voting on February 7, 2015 the newly elected officers will immediately take their positions on the LANCC board and continue the meeting agenda for the day.

Robert Guevara -- announced

“Council members need to be more active and support the police with cams (audio recorders).”

G. ADJOURNMENT: 12:15 p. m.