



Special Meeting AGENDA
Woodland Hills-Warner Center Neighborhood Council
FULL BOARD MEETING

**Wednesday, October 12, 2022, 7:00 pm or as soon
as possible thereafter during a recess of the
regular meeting**

VIRTUAL MEETING BY TELECONFERENCE

Zoom Meeting Online or By Telephone

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/96493712127>

Dial (1 669 900 6833) to Join the Meeting

Then Enter This Webinar ID: 964 9371 2127 and Press #

VIRTUAL MEETING TELECONFERENCING and PHONE NUMBER FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

In conformity with the September 16, 2021 Enactment of California Assembly Bill 361 (Rivas) and due to concerns over COVID-19, the Woodland Hills-Warner Center Neighborhood Council meeting will be conducted entirely telephonically with a call-in option or internet based service option.

Every person wishing to address the Neighborhood Council must either **dial 1 669 900 6833** or go online via Zoom and enter **Webinar ID # 964 9371 2127** and then press # to join the meeting. Instructions on how to sign up for public comment will be given to listeners at the start of the meeting. When calling-in telephonically, the public is requested to dial *9, when prompted by the presiding officer, to address the Board on any agenda item before the Board takes an action on an item. Zoom users should use the "raise hand" feature.

AB 361 Updates: Public comment cannot be required to be submitted in advance of the meeting, only real-time public comment is required. If there are any broadcasting interruptions that prevent the public from observing or hearing the meeting, the meeting must be recessed or adjourned. If members of the public are unable to provide public comment or be heard due to issues within the Neighborhood Council's control, the meeting must be recessed or adjourned.

Any messaging or virtual background is in the control of the individual board member in their personal capacity and does not reflect any formal position of the Neighborhood Council or the City of Los Angeles.

PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS** – The public may address the Board on any agenda item before the Board takes an action on an item. Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. ***Public comment is limited to (1) minute per speaker.

***PUBLIC INPUT ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA** - Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda *that are within the Board's jurisdiction* will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Board is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future Board meeting.

General Public Comment is limited to (1) minute per speaker and 5 minutes total unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the board.

Special AGENDA

Call to Order

Roll Call

Item No. (1) General Public Comment, by the Public, on Non-Agenda Items: *General Public Comment is limited to (1) minute per speaker and 5 minutes total.*

Special Item

Item No. (2) WHIP Chair, Heath Kline

(22-099) Woodland Hills – Warner Center CIS regarding Call for City Council Action Publicized Behavior of Councilmembers Martinez, deLeon, and Cedillo

Council Discussion & Possible Action:

(15 minutes)

Relevant Council Files

[Council File 21-1472](#)

November 2022 Ballot / Ballot Measure / City Charter Amendment / Independent Redistricting Commission

[Council File 19-1470](#)

Office of Racial Equity / Establish / City Policy / Programs

Proposed Community Impact Statement for Submittal to City Council Members:

In order to reestablish trust in city governance, the Woodland Hills-Warner Center Neighborhood Council [WHWCNC] calls on Councilmembers Martinez, de León, and Cedillo to immediately resign from the Los Angeles City Council.

As widely reported first by the [LA Times](#) and [Knock LA](#), then other local and national media, all three councilmembers engaged in an abhorrent conversation that disparaged and disrespected Councilmember Mike Bonin and his family, other City Councilmembers, the Black community, the redistricting process, and Angelenos of all backgrounds.

It is not enough for these three councilmembers to take ownership of their inexcusable actions and make apologies. They can no longer be trusted by most citizens in Los Angeles, especially their fellow members of the City Council and they must immediately resign. Trust is a foundation of an effective team. Apparently, there is a lack of honest teamwork from corrupted leadership. The trust has been broken severely as the offensive language was not momentary but continued for more than an hour against many groups.

Their resignations will not begin to repair the loss of trust and the damaged reputation that has been brought down on our City of Los Angeles. While it is just the first step in showing true accountability and remorse, the City's Leadership needs to show it can be trusted to serve the citizens without bias and tribal wars. The people of Los Angeles cannot begin to feel respected while these three Councilmembers remain in office. Los Angeles needs fresh leaders that serve the people equally and not serve their personal self-serving greed.

Trust in Leadership must be reestablished.

In the event these three councilmembers fail to see the urgency of the need for their resignations, the remaining City Councilmembers have a duty to act and reestablish the body's reputation and the trust of citizens. The City

Council must quickly agendize a censure of Councilmembers Martinez, de León, and Cedillo if they fail to resign. Failure to do this will cause us to speculate that this behavior is more prevalent and tolerated. This behavior makes a mockery of the Council's work to establish an Office of Equity/Racial Equity.

Neighborhood Councils expect a unanimous vote on these censures. Anything less is tantamount to an endorsement of tribal wars, no transparency in government, anti-black racism, violence against children, gerrymandering, and power brokering in backroom deals in violation of the Brown Act. What happened is plain corruption by elected officials who act like a gang in secret.

The current situation is not merely a matter of some errant words spoken in frustration and taken out of context. The length of the crude repulsive behavior in such a casual manner leads us to believe it is casual commonplace everyday communication.

Redistricting is a failed process.

Portions of the already released recording are evidence of an intentional violation of the law during the redistricting process. Specifically, Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act requires that redistricting changes can be proven not to have a discriminatory purpose or effect. In the recording released and commented on by the LA Times, we see clear evidence of an overt discriminatory intent in redistricting proposals that were subsequently adopted. We see that the redistricting process is not independent. The admission of overt manipulation opens the city to liability and makes the need for a truly independent redistricting commission an urgent priority.

This incident is evidence of inherent flaws in the redistricting process and City governance which require fixing. As part of this, we believe that the City Council desperately needs an expansion to reduce powerplays and provide better equality in representation. We are the most underrepresented City Council in the entire nation, with a constituent-to-representative ratio of 260,000 to 1. This concentration of power in too few hands drives the irrefutable favor brokering and horse trading now seen on display. Angelenos desperately need a diverse, representative government, not those who cling to racism in justification for their policymaking.

This incident is not a trivial matter to be excused.

There were multiple examples of discrimination on display that day. Councilmember de León compared an adopted Black child to a luxury handbag. Councilmember Martinez disparaged the Indigenous Oaxacan community in Koreatown, saying "I see a lot of little, short, dark people," employing stereotypes long used against Oaxacans in Mexico and in the United States. "I was like, I don't know where these people are from, I don't know what village they came [from], how they got here," Martinez said, before adding "Tan feos" - (They're so ugly). Councilmember Martinez called Councilmember Bonin's son a "changito - (little monkey)" and expressed that "this kid needs a beat down" regarding his excitement at participating in an MLK Day parade. Throughout the released recordings, a deep vein of anti-Black racism pervades all aspects of the discussion on redistricting.

There was abuse of leadership power regarding Council District 10.

Neighborhood Councils call attention once again to the unusual circumstances in Council District 10. The choice by Council President, Nury Martinez, to appoint Herb Wesson was for tribal and personal gain. He was clearly barred from holding the seat by the City charter, exposed the City to liability and disenfranchised the residents of Council District 10 - all in pursuit of her own political power.

When community members and Councilmembers called out the swift appointment of Heather Hutt as a backroom deal or at the very least puzzling, President Martinez deceptively accused them of not wanting to see a Black woman in power. We can see now that this appointment resulted from power brokering, whose purpose was to benefit President Martinez, not the stakeholders of Council District 10. That President Martinez would wield identity politics to create divisive chaos in Council District 10 to hide her backroom deals is fiducially, morally, and ethically reprehensible. This is not the leadership that Angelenos deserve and the representation her CD-6 constituents deserve.

There is contempt of the Brown Act.

The WHWCNC Neighborhood Council also believes that many of these conversations may also be evidence of violations of the Brown Act. Both redistricting and the Council District 10 appointment were matters that were agendized in Council. Still, it's clear these decisions were being made prior to open and observable Council meetings. Given the media reporting, including the release of the offensive recordings, where there is over an hour of disgusting rhetoric, (including directing the F-bomb at our own CD-3 Councilmember Blumenfield), Neighborhood Councils, therefore, wonder what other topics may have been discussed not only that day but in any other secret meetings.

There is Hypocrisy in LA City Council Leadership.

The behavior evidenced by Nury Martinez, Kevin de León, and Gil Cedillo would never be tolerated at the Neighborhood Council level by the City's leadership and yet it appears to be common in their ranks. Neighborhood Council members must adhere to a Code of Conduct and take Anti Bias training as part of our service.

We believe the City Councilmembers should lead with their behavior rather than becoming a national mockery. The rules around our decorum and training are clear. Equally clear is the double standard that exists for members of the City Council. Were Neighborhood Council members to behave similarly, we would face censure, removal, and dismissal by our own board, the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, and the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners. Indeed, elected NC board members have been removed from Neighborhood Councils for far less egregious violations than what we are sickened to have heard from these disgraced city and union leaders.

There is contempt for participation of the public.

Council President Martinez has also limited public comment at City Hall in a way that has never been seen before and would never be tolerated by Neighborhood Councils, the City Attorney, or the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment. She frequently takes the bare minimum of comment allowable under the Brown Act, even when an issue is contentious or important. Her dismissive and contemptuous attitude towards the public has radiated into the Council during her tenure as President, creating an environment where casual racism is accepted without question, and systematic racism can flourish. An example of this is when a Black man disrupted the August 10th, 2022, City Council meeting by merely shouting. Councilmember Buscaino flippantly threatened to call DCFS on the man to remove his infant son.

This contempt for public comment also affects Neighborhood Councils. In a Community Impact Statement Townhall earlier this year, Councilmember Martinez promised the Neighborhood Council system a continuation of telephonic comment so that we could share our community impact statements. However, this promise was never fulfilled, and when in-person comment returned, there was no notice or consideration for Neighborhood Council volunteers. We believe this choice speaks deeply to CM Martinez's contempt for the public, as evidenced by her shocking statements. Where are the Councilmembers advocating for listening to Neighborhood Councils and the public in general?

It's time to end endemic corruption and remove those who do not serve the public.

To Councilmembers Martinez, de León, and Cedillo, you must resign from all offices immediately so the city can reestablish honest government that has the trust of the voters.

We call on Councilmembers Krekorian, Blumenfield, Raman, Koretz, Rodriquez, Harris-Dawson, Hutt, Bonin, Lee, O'Farrell, and Buscaino to immediately agendize a censure motion for Councilpersons Martinez, de León, and Cedillo.

Secondly, we ask each of you to call for the resignation forcefully and publicly of these three individuals, who have hurt your families, broken your hearts, and bring shame to your elected body and all residents of Los Angeles.

Lastly, we ask you to work with average citizens and not power groups, to fix the redistricting process in a fair and unbiased manner, free of opportunity for manipulation.

Roll Call Vote

Distribution: LA City Council Members, Mayor, City Attorney, District Attorney – Public Integrity Unit, LA Times, LA Daily News, Warner Center News

Announcements:

The next Regular Board meeting will be held on November 9, 2022, by teleconference. Please visit the calendar page at whcouncil.org for the complete details and to confirm the date and time.

Meeting dates for 2021 -2022 year: Full Board meeting are held the second Wednesday of every month at 6:30pm. Check the NC website calendar for a complete list of committee and board meetings. Meeting dates and times are subject to change. Check the NC calendar for updated meeting schedules.

Due to COVID 19 ALL in person meetings have been moved to virtual teleconference.

HOWEVER, please check the www.whcouncil.org website calendar page for any changes that may occur.

Adjournment of Meeting:

*THE AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT - As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices and other auxiliary aids and/or services, may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least (3) business days (72 hours) prior to the meeting you wish to attend by contacting Joyce Fletcher, at (818-340-6554 or email j.fletcher@whcouncil.org or the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at (213) 978-1551 EmpowerLa@LACity.org

*PUBLIC ACCESS OF RECORDS – In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board in advance of a meeting may be viewed at our website: www.whcouncil.org or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like

a copy of any record, if available, related to an item on the agenda, please contact Joyce Fletcher at (818) 340-6554 or email j.fletcher@whcouncil.org

*PUBLIC POSTING OF AGENDAS – agendas are posted for public review as follows:

- www.whcouncil.org and go to the website Calendar page and click on the date – Board meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. Check the calendar for any change of meeting date

and/or time.

- You can also receive our agendas via email by subscribing to L.A. City's Early Notification System at <https://www.lacity.org/subscriptions>

- **A copy of this agenda is also physically posted on the outside of the window of the West Valley Warner Center Chamber located at 6100 Topanga Canyon Blvd, Ste 2330, Woodland Hills, CA 91367. The Chamber is located at the Promenade Mall outside the east entrance of the mall and to the left of Ruth Chris Restaurant. The Chamber office is accessed from Owensmouth Street. Parking is free.**

*RECONSIDERATION AND GRIEVANCE PROCESS - For information on the WHWCNC process for board

action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy, or any other procedural matters related

to this Council, please consult the WHWCNC Bylaws. The Bylaws are available at our website at www.whcouncil.org

SERVICIOS DE TRADUCCIÓN - Si requiere servicios de traducción, favor de avisar al Concejo Vecinal 3 días de trabajo (72 horas) antes del evento. Por favor contacte a Joyce Fletcher de la Mesa Directiva, al j.fletcher@whcouncil.org o por correo electrónico avisar al Concejo Vecinal.

Notice to Paid Representatives - If you are compensated to monitor, attend, or speak at this meeting, City law may require you to register as a lobbyist and report your activity. See Los Angeles Municipal Code §§ 48.01 et seq. More information is available at ethics.lacity.org/lobbying. For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or ethics.commission@lacity.org

