



Committee Members:

Co-Chairperson Heath Kline, 818-312-5601
Co-Chairperson August Steurer,
Peter Haber, Julie Waltrip, and Aaron Williams

Si requiere servicios de traducción, favor de avisar al Concejo Vecinal 3 días de trabajo (72 horas) antes del evento. Por favor contacte Karen DiaBiase, Secretaria, al 818-639-9444 o por correo electrónico www.whcouncil.org para avisar al Concejo Vecinal.

IN CONFORMITY WITH THE OCTOBER 6, 2023 ENACTMENT OF CALIFORNIA SENATE BILL 411 (PORTANTINO) AND LA CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL ON NOVEMBER 1, 2023, THIS WOODLAND HILLS WARNER CENTER NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING WILL BE AVAILABLE VIRTUALLY.

Every person wishing to address the Committee must enter the meeting via the above Zoom link or dial (669) 900-6833 and enter **895 6950 1368**, and then press # to join the meeting. When prompted by the presiding officer to provide public input at the **Meeting of the Woodland Hills – Warner Center Neighborhood Council [WHWCNC] WHIP Committee [WHIP]** meeting, the public will be requested to dial *9 by phone or use the Raise Hand option on Zoom, to address the **WHIP** on any agenda item before the **WHIP takes action** on an item. Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered.

Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the **WHIP's** jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the **WHIP** 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 public member may become the subject of a future **WHWCNC** Board or **WHIP** meeting. Public comment is limited to 2 minutes per speaker unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the **WHIP**.

SB 411 Updates:

In the event of a disruption that prevents the **WHIP** from broadcasting the meeting to members of the public using the call-in option or internet-based service option, or in the event of a disruption within the **WHIP** control that prevents members of the public from offering public comments using the call-in option or internet-based service option, the **WHIP** shall take no further action on items appearing on the meeting agenda until public access to the meeting via the call-in option or internet-based service option is restored. Actions taken on agenda items during a disruption that prevents the **WHIP** from broadcasting the meeting may be challenged pursuant to Section 54960.1.

The **WHIP** shall not require public comments to be submitted in advance of the meeting and shall provide an opportunity for the public to address the **WHIP** and offer comments in real time.

Notwithstanding Section 54953.3, an individual desiring to provide public comment using an internet website, or other online platform, not under the control of the **WHIP**, that requires registration to log in to a teleconference may be required to register as required by the third-party internet website or online platform to participate.

(i) If the **WHIP** provides a timed public comment period for each agenda item shall not close the public comment period for the agenda item, or the opportunity to register, pursuant to subparagraph (D), to provide public comment until that timed public comment period has elapsed.

(ii) If the **WHIP** does not provide a timed public comment period, but takes public comment separately on each agenda item, shall allow a reasonable amount of time per agenda item to allow public members the opportunity to provide public comment, including time for members of the public to register pursuant to subparagraph (D), or otherwise be recognized for the purpose of providing public comment.

(iii) If the **WHIP** provides a timed general public comment period that does not correspond to a specific agenda item, then it shall not close the public comment period or the opportunity to register, pursuant to subparagraph (D), until the timed general public comment period has elapsed.

Contact Person: *Heath Kline, 818-312-5601*
h.kline@whcouncil.org

Virtual Meeting Agenda

**A WHIP Committee Meeting Will be Held:
Wednesday, April 17, 2024, @ 7:00 pm**

Zoom Meeting Online or By Telephone
Please click the link below to join the webinar:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89569501368>

Or Dial **(669) 900-6833** to Join the Meeting
Then Enter This Webinar ID: **895 6 50 1368** and Press #

1. Call to Order

2. Establish Quorum:

Roll Call — Peter Haber, Heath Kline, August Steurer, Julie Waltrip, Aaron Williams

3. Comments from the Public regarding Issues NOT on the Agenda but within the Committee's purview for later action.

All public comments are limited to 2 minutes per speaker unless adjusted by the presiding member of the Committee.

4. Approval of Minutes for past meetings:

Roll Call Votes

5. Agenda Items for Discussion and Possible Action by the Committee:

Item No (A): Neighborhood Council Funding

Discussion and possible action on a previous motion referred to the committee for correction and resubmission for a Board Approval of a CIS seeking increased funding for Neighborhood Councils.

Relevant to CF 24-0600 regarding the 2024-2025 City Budget.

In this Community Impact Statement, The Woodland Hills – Warner Center Neighborhood Council Board seeks the collaboration of Bob Blumenfield, City Council Budget Committee Chair, and Mayor Bass to address the funding challenges Neighborhood Councils (NCs) face in Los Angeles. The CIS, intended for submission to the city's 2024-2025 budget discussions, underscores the disparity between the city's budget growth and the diminishing funding allocated to NCs. Initially provided with \$50,000, NCs now operate with a significantly

reduced budget of \$32,000, which, when adjusted for inflation, falls short by \$53,000 of what is needed to maintain their initial operational fiscal capacity. The CIS calls for immediate budget increases to match inflation-adjusted levels, reinstatement of the 3-year fund rollover policy, a base-plus-per-resident funding model, and additional support for NCs with unique challenges. It highlights the increased costs associated with digital and traditional stakeholder engagement, the necessity for professional digital marketing skills, and the financial strain of maintaining a digital presence across multiple platforms. The motion also points out NCs' dilemma between funding community non-profits through Neighborhood Purpose Grants and fulfilling their primary goals. The CIS seeks support from the City to equip NCs with the necessary resources for effective community engagement in the digital era, emphasizing the critical role of digital communication in involving stakeholders in city governance.

Proposed Resolution:

WHWCNC Community Impact Statement on Neighborhood Council Funding:

The Woodland Hills Issues and Policies Committee recommends that the WHWCNC Board endorse a resolution calling on Mayor Karen Bass and city officials to urgently address the funding inadequacies facing Neighborhood Councils (NCs). This resolution highlights the financial challenges that undermine NCs' ability to engage stakeholders effectively. It advocates for necessary budget reforms to enhance their role in promoting community participation in city governance. The resolution identifies critical issues and offers targeted solutions:

1. **Budgetary and Inflationary Disparities:** Despite a 150% increase in the City of Los Angeles budget from \$5.14 billion in 2003-2004 to over \$13 billion in 2023-2024, NC funding has never kept pace, severely affecting their operational capacity.
 - Initially allocated \$50,000 with rollover options 20+ years ago, NCs now work with a diminished budget of \$32,000, representing a 36% decrease before accounting for inflation.
 - However, when adjusting for inflation, NC funding should exceed \$85,000, representing a current \$53,000 deficiency in funding to be equal to the start.
 - Ideally, if NC's budget matched the city's budget growth, NCs would have access to over \$125,000 for 2024-2025.
 - Over the years, the importance of funding for NCs has diminished by 74%.
2. **Expanded Engagement and Communication Costs:** While traditional means of outreach continue with inflationary costs, the increasing shift to digital communications triggers significant additional costs.

Effective and meaningful stakeholder engagement and outreach cost money. It cannot be done effectively with current funding. Whether the engagement is via more traditional communication like community events, street furniture ads, street banners, and local print media, when you include engaging our stakeholders online via targeted social media ads, email blasts, bulk text messages, text bots, website upkeep, and content creation, the simple fact is that reaching our stakeholders costs money.

Much is required today for an NC to fulfill its duties of stakeholder engagement. Some of the new challenges include:

- **Professional Skills:** Effective digital engagement requires content creation (sometimes paid for), digital marketing services (also paid for), and marketing expertise to reach and involve diverse community segments. It requires teams of diverse skills.
 - **Increased Service and Tools Costs:** A comprehensive functional communication system is often complex. The financial demands of maintaining a digital presence—covering website upkeep, content tools, social media tools, automation tools, emailing service, utilizing online advertising for visibility, and the needs for specialist assistance—have escalated.
 - **Multi-Platform Consistency:** Serving all demographics and community segments requires a presence on various platforms. Engaging stakeholders today demands a coordinated, cohesive presence across multiple digital platforms, such as Facebook, YouTube, and TikTok, plus any new platforms. These all require more resources.
 - **Event/Facility use:** Serving all ages and demographic segments also requires meeting stakeholders with a physical presence. ADA-compliant spaces add costs as they are few and more expensive. Engaging stakeholders today also demands a coordinated, cohesive in-person presence beyond just online platforms, which requires yet even more resources.
3. **Neighborhood Purpose Grants (NPGs):** Reliance on Neighborhood Purpose Grants (NPGs): NCs' use of NPGs as a primary funding source for projects may impact their ability to allocate resources towards direct stakeholder engagement. Balancing the limited returns of NPGs for stakeholder engagement with more substantial investments in ongoing, strategic outreach efforts could help optimize meaningful community participation in governance.
4. **Needed Budget Solutions:**
- **Increase NC Budgets:** Immediately increase NC budgets back to their inflation-adjusted initial level and facilitate future inflation-indexing adjustments.
 - **Return the 3-year Fund Rollover:** Advocate for a policy that allows funding rollovers, promoting strategic financial planning for periodic major community projects such as the Olympics or Community Planning.
 - **Use a Base-Budget-Plus-Per-Resident Allocation:** To align funding more equitably with community size and needs, initiate a base budget of \$30,000 (for example) plus an additional \$1 per resident. Even the smallest NC would not get less than now.
 - **Supplemental Budgets for Unique Needs:** Consider additional budget funding for NCs facing distinct challenges or serving underserved areas.
5. **Collaborative Action Request:** Urge Council Member Bob Blumenfield, Chair of the Budget, Finance, and Innovation Committee, to lead these efforts in partnership with Mayor Karen Bass and other council members. This collaboration is vital for providing NCs with the resources for effective community engagement in the digital era.

This resolution addresses the urgent need for updated funding models that accommodate the evolving dynamics of community engagement, emphasizing the growing importance of digital communication. It aims to equip NCs with the capabilities to involve stakeholders more effectively in city governance.

Furthermore, the Committee recommends advising the Mayor and the City Council of its resolution and filing a Community Impact Statement to File CF 24-0600.

Roll Call Vote

Item No (B) – Amending Los Angeles Charter Article IX

Consideration for an action to request the Board to hold a special meeting to discuss Development of Community Impact Statement suggesting Revisions to Article IX of the Los Angeles City Charter.

Article IX of the Los Angeles City Charter established the Neighborhood Council system as a critical component of the City's governance structure over 20 years ago. The City Council is considering a ballot initiative to amend several Articles of the City Charter. There is the opportunity to propose revisions to Article IX to strengthen this system's effectiveness, inclusivity, and impact by clarifying roles and responsibilities, enhancing support and resources, and promoting greater collaboration between Neighborhood Councils and City government.

Submission of an Article IX Draft Proposing Key Revisions and Justifications

1. Purpose and Mission

- Clarifies the role of Neighborhood Councils as the primary conduit for community engagement and empowerment.
- Emphasizes the importance of diverse and inclusive participation.
- Mandates City officials to recognize and support Neighborhood Councils as partners in governance.
- Justification: Provides a clear, compelling vision for the Neighborhood Council system and institutionalizes its importance within City governance.

2. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE)

- Expands DONE's responsibilities to include training, resources, and support for Neighborhood Councils.
- Emphasizes DONE's role in facilitating collaboration between Neighborhood Councils and City Departments.
- Mandates DONE to provide digital tools, platforms, and training to support Neighborhood Councils.
- Justification: Strengthens DONE's capacity to support and empower Neighborhood Councils, particularly in the digital age.

3. City Departments and Officials

- City Departments must proactively engage with Neighborhood Councils and incorporate their input into decision-making.
- Mandates timely and substantive responses to Neighborhood Council communications and recommendations.
- Obliges the City Council and Mayor to provide adequate funding and resources for the Neighborhood Council system.
- Justification: Institutionalizes a strong, collaborative relationship between Neighborhood Councils and City government.

4. Neighborhood Council Powers and Operations

- Clarifies the scope and purpose of Neighborhood Purpose Grants (NPGs).
- Strengthens the role and responsibilities of the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC).
- Establishes a process for the certification, decertification, and boundary adjustment of Neighborhood Councils.
- Mandates an Early Warning System to identify and address challenges facing Neighborhood Councils.
- Expands the powers of Neighborhood Councils to include monitoring and providing input on City services.
- Justification: Provides a comprehensive framework for the effective and accountable operation of Neighborhood Councils.

5. Funding and Resources

- Establishes an Independent Neighborhood Council Funding Commission to assess and recommend funding levels for the system.
- Mandates a more equitable, needs-based funding model for individual Neighborhood Councils.
- Justification: Ensures adequate, sustainable funding for Neighborhood Councils based on their specific needs and circumstances.

6. System Evaluation and Improvement

- Requires a comprehensive review of the Neighborhood Council system every seven years.
- Mandates a straightforward process for the transition to and implementation of the revised Article IX.
- Justification: Institutionalizes a commitment to continuous improvement and system adaptation over time.

7. Elections and Outreach

- Mandates semi-annual Citywide Neighborhood Council Conferences to promote education, collaboration, and best practices.
- Requires the City Clerk to conduct year-round outreach and education to promote Neighborhood Council elections and participation.
- Justification: Enhances the visibility, accessibility, and participation in the Neighborhood Council system, particularly in underrepresented communities.

The proposed revisions to Article IX represent a comprehensive effort to strengthen the Neighborhood Council system as a vital part of Los Angeles City governance. By clarifying roles, enhancing resources, and promoting collaboration, these amendments aim to empower Neighborhood Councils to serve as effective advocates for their communities and partners in shaping a more inclusive, responsive, and vibrant Los Angeles.

Ref: LA Charter Article IX

https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/los_angeles/latest/laac/0-0-0-3722

Ref: DONE Reply https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2023/23-1027_rpt_DONE_01-22-24.pdf

Roll Call Vote

Item No (C) -Discussion with possible action for calling for an NC Event on the Community Plan or for CIS on City-wide Housing Incentive Program [CHIP] concept:

The Citywide Housing Incentive Program Ordinance will amend the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) to enable streamlined project review procedures and introduce bold new incentives for eligible project types. The aim is to expand access to affordable housing near transit, jobs, along corridors, and in higher-opportunity areas. The Draft Community Plan is now available with possible revisions to be made to comply with the proposed CHIP initiative. Comments are due before the end of summer. Consideration of the proposals will require a time-significant effort if the Board is to provide substantive comment. WHIP is proposing a joint effort of WHIP, PLUM and Board members to develop a response for the Board. Consideration of an action to request the Board to fund and hold an event for this purpose before the end of the Fiscal Year.

Community Plan References:

- [Draft Land Use chapter of the Policy Plan](#)

<https://planning.lacity.gov/plans-policies/community-plan-update/southwest-valley-community-plans-update#draft-plan>

- [Draft interactive Zoning Map](#)

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/7c8569d3b47e468f890455789d055418/page/Draft-Zoning-Map-/>

- [Updated draft General Plan Land Use Designation Map](#)

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/7c8569d3b47e468f890455789d055418/page/Draft-General-Plan-Land-Use-Map/>

City-wide Housing Incentive Program [CHIP] references:

Reference City Planning PDF: https://planning.lacity.gov/odocument/a38fe378-2c4b-4260-807e-af66a053a95b/FD_CHIP_Fact_Sheet.pdf

Reference City Planning Page: <https://planning.lacity.gov/plans-policies/housing-element-rezoning-program#concept-explorer>

Item No (D) - Discussion with possible action on Issues for Future Meetings:

Members and public to suggest future topics of consideration.

6. Adjournment of Meeting

• **Public Input on Agenda Items** – The public may address the Committee on any agenda item before the Committee acts on an item. The Committee will accept comments from the public on agenda items only when the Committee considers the individual item.

• **Public Input on Matters not appearing on the agenda** – During the General Public Comment period, the Committee listens to comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda within the Committee's jurisdiction. * Please note that the Brown Act prevents the Committee from acting on an issue you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a public member may become the subject of a future Committee meeting.

• **Notice to Paid Representatives** - If you receive compensation 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 get in touch with the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or ethics.commission@lacity.org

Meeting dates for the 2023-2024 year: The Committee generally meets on the first and third Wednesdays of every month at 7:00 p.m. 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.

The next Regular Committee Meeting will be held in person on **May 1st, 2024**. Please visit the calendar page at whcouncil.org for the complete details and confirm the location, date, and time.

• **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 based on 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 or services may be provided upon request.

- To ensure the availability of services, please make your request at least (3) business days (72 hours) before the meeting you wish to attend by contacting Dena Weiss by email at d.weiss@whcouncil.org or the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at (213) 978-1551 EmpowerLa@LACity.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, at d.weiss@whcouncil.org o por correo electrónico avisar al Concejo Vecinal.

• **PUBLIC ACCESS OF RECORDS** – In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, the Committee provides non-exempt writings distributed to most of the Committee Members before a meeting on the WHWCNC website: www.whcouncil.org or via the scheduled meeting video presentation. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please get in touch with Dena Weiss by email to d.weiss@whcouncil.org

• **PUBLIC POSTING OF AGENDAS** –

A copy of this agenda is also physically posted outside of Fire Station 84, 21050 Burbank Blvd, Woodland Hills, CA 91367. Attendees must park across Burbank Blvd.

Agendas are also posted for public review at www.whcouncil.org. Go to the Calendar page and click on the date. You can also receive Committee agendas via email by subscribing to LA City's Early Notification System at <https://www.lacity.org/subscriptions>

• **RECONSIDERATION AND GRIEVANCE PROCESS** - For information on the WHWCNC process for board action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy, or other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the WHWCNC Bylaws. The Bylaws are available at our website at www.whcouncil.org