



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 Board must enter the meeting via the above Zoom link or dial (669) 900-6833 and enter 886911933143 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 an 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 member of the public 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 through the use of 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 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 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

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Virtual Meeting Minutes

**A WHIP Committee Meeting Was Held:
Wednesday, March 20, 2024, @ 7:00 pm**

Zoom Meeting Online or By Telephone

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86911933143>

Or Dial (669) 900-6833 to Join the Meeting

Then Enter This Webinar ID: **86911933143** and Press #

1. Call to Order @ 7:11 pm

2. Establish Quorum:

Roll Call — Peter Haber (A), Heath Kline (P), August Steurer (P), Julie Waltrip (P), Aaron Williams (P).

Public Guest: Jamie York from Reseda NC.

3. Comments from the Public regarding Issues NOT on the Agenda but within the Committee's purview for later action. (NONE)

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:

Approved Minutes for Feb 11, 2024

Yes: Kline, Steurer, Waltrip, Williams;

Absent: Haber

Approved Minutes for Feb 29, 2024

Yes: Kline, Steurer, Waltrip;

Abstain: Williams;

Absent: Haber

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

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

Continued Committee discussion of a response per the request of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment regarding its report as submitted to the City Council in CF 23-1027. This session is for WHIP discussion on drafting responses for amending Article XI Sections 900, 901, and 902. Additional sections are to be considered at a later time.

Committee members made comments about the Charter requiring participation of stakeholders and what the

Department of Neighborhood Empowerment does not do or make it difficult for Neighborhood Councils. Discussion included budgets, the Brown Act affecting NCs, and the need for much improved cooperation between NCs and other parts of the city governance, especially the discourtesy of replying to NCs. Cochair Kline instructed members to write 500 words on each Section 900 through 902. No formal action was taken; the Item was continued.

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

Item No (B) -2023-7058-CA; Discussion with possible action 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 in order to expand access to affordable housing near transit, jobs, along corridors, and in higher opportunity areas.

Cochair Steurer presented web pages from City Planning to introduce what is being considered. Members expressed the need to hold a public event to inform the community and get responses. No formal action was taken. The item was continued. Kline expressed a desire to invite members of Sherman Oaks, NC, to speak about their Vision Plan for their Community.

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 (C): Discussion regarding the previous Board Approved CIS on increasing funding for Neighborhood Councils.

The WHIP committee recommends that the WHWCNC Board adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, when Neighborhood Councils [NCs] started, the Mayor's Los Angeles City Budget for 2003-2004 was 5.14 billion dollars. The last adopted the City of LA Budget for 2022-2023 is 11.8 billion dollars, which is 2.3 times as much, representing a 130% increase in the City Budget over 19 years; and,

WHEREAS, in the 2003-2004 City Budget, Neighborhood Councils were allocated 50 thousand dollars and were allowed to roll over unused funds for two years; and,

WHEREAS, a 2023 allocation of budget dollars, equivalent to 2003-2004, would be 81.3 thousand dollars per NC. That is 1.63 times as much as in 2003-2004. Consequently, if past City Budget actions were fair to keep up with inflation, NC's should have seen a 63% increase in budget, which is, by comparison, less than half of the 130% the City Budget increase over the same period; and,

WHEREAS, for 2022-2023, the Neighborhood Councils have only a budget of \$32,000, with a maximum rollover of \$10,000 from the previous year. This amount represents a 36% decrease from the starting budget 19 years ago. However, this represents a 60% decrease in equivalent-dollar buying power after inflation; and,

WHEREAS, per the City Charter, the purpose of Neighborhood Councils is to engage the community to participate in City Government so that City agencies function better to serve the community. Achieving that purpose requires communicating with stakeholders bidirectionally in multiple ways, using more forms of media than when the Neighborhood Councils started; and,

WHEREAS, the cost of conducting in-person events/meetings has increased over time with inflation. In addition, the cost for NCs to meet in ADA-compliant facilities has limited the choices and has increased the direct cost of renting the facilities, plus many of the ADA-compliant facilities do not provide free parking, A/V equipment or tables and chairs, requiring the NCs to incur additional costs; and,

WHEREAS, the costs of implementing the various means of Neighborhood Council communications have increased because of the skills and technical services needed, training, media platforms used, needed equipment, and support services increase in cost/rates with inflation; and,

WHEREAS, to reach stakeholders today, printed media and postal mailing are still the best way to reach the maximum number of stakeholders. Counting on stakeholders to find neighborhood councils on social media or websites is impractical, particularly for seniors and community members who lack internet service. Printed media are complementary means leading to electronic communications; and,

WHEREAS, after expansive growth in our Neighborhood Council over two decades, 37 thousand addresses increased to 42,000. Postage for mailing newsletters rose from 20¢ to 55¢ each. Printing costs increased by about 40% and addressing the mail costs an additional 10¢. When a newsletter now costs about a dollar each (or \$42,000) to print and mail, on a \$32,000 budget, it is impossible to mail even one newsletter per year compared to when in the past it was possible to do multiple times annually; and,

WHEREAS, due to budget constraints that prevent NC's from undertaking larger and longer-term projects as they had in the past, many Neighborhood Councils like ours, with the knowledge and skill capacity to undertake significant outreach projects and community serving events, are now impaired from achieving our true purpose. Therefore, it compels us to spend our funds on less costly but less effective toward our Charter purpose Neighborhood Purposes Grants [NPGs] rather than lose what funding we have.

WHEREAS, there are multiple elements of budget inequity for diverse neighborhood councils, such as 10x population variation from less than 10,000 to over 110,000 along with extreme variation in capacity, public resources, and support; and,

WHEREAS, there is a personal financial holdings disclosure Form 700 from the California Fair Political Practices Commission. For the City of Los Angeles, members of Boards and Commissions that spend over \$70,000 annually must complete this form. This threshold has not increased with inflation since the beginning of Neighborhood Councils; and,

THEREFORE, the Board of the Woodland Hills – Warner Center Neighborhood Council resolves to formally request that Mayor Karen Bass take steps to restore budget parity for Neighborhood Councils by increasing Neighborhood Council budgets up to \$69,999 as part of the City Budget and acting to 1) allow unlimited rollover of funds on a first-in-first-out basis and 2) initiate efforts for increasing the threshold for waiving the filing of Form 700 to accommodate NC members, who are only unpaid volunteers with no contracting authority.

FURTHERMORE, to restore budget parity with the initial years of NC budgets, consideration must be given to allocating base budgets of \$32,000 plus \$1 per resident, based on census counts, up to the maximum allowed.

FURTHERMORE, conduct a study on forces/reasons favoring NPG expenditures and what could be the negative impacts of establishing limitations on NPGs along with consideration of providing additional supplemental budgets to Neighborhood Councils based on variable circumstances such as underserved stakeholders and additional costs of facilities and communications. Furthermore, research whether larger well-functioning NCs like the WHWCNC break up to restore necessary per capita Stakeholder spending resources absent population and inflation-adjusted budget restorations.

FURTHERMORE, we request Council Member Bob Blumenfield, as Chair of the City Council's Budget, Finance, and Innovation Committee, to advocate and work collaboratively with Mayor Karen Bass and other members of the City Council in this regard.

WHIP Vote on 3-1-2023. 3 Ayes: Kline, Steurer, Williams. 2 Nay: Campbell, Waltrip.

No formal action taken. The Item was continued to allow new motion.. Committee members expressed support for issuing an updated simplified motion for the next meeting. Members mentioned the need for hybrid meeting equipment and the costs of renting ADA compliant facilities

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

Including but not limited to: a) Continuing Crisis at City animal shelters, b) Purported Ethics violations by City Council President Kerkorian, c) City Attorney threatening prior restraint lawsuit against member of the press (see attached from Reseda NC).

Jamie York updated the committee on the Kerkorian Ethics issue and the City Attorney issue of suing to get back photos released by the Los Angeles Police Department in error.

6. Adjourned Meeting @ 9:45 pm