

**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 DiBiase, Secretaria, al 818-639-9444 o por correo electrónico [www.whcouncil.org](http://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 **86911933143** 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*

*[h.kline@whcouncil.org](mailto:h.kline@whcouncil.org)*

**Virtual Meeting Agenda**

**A WHIP Committee Meeting Will be 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****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) – 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 considered at a later time.

**Section 900 Purpose.**

To promote more citizen participation in government and make government more responsive to local needs, a citywide system of neighborhood councils, and a Department of Neighborhood Empowerment is created. Neighborhood councils shall include representatives of the many diverse interests in communities and shall have an advisory role on issues of concern to the neighborhood.

**Section 901 Department of Neighborhood Empowerment.**

The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment shall have the duties and responsibilities set forth in this Article and elsewhere in the Charter to implement and oversee the ordinances and regulations creating the system of neighborhood councils enacted pursuant to Section 905. Duties and responsibilities shall include:

- (a) prepare a plan for the creation of a system of neighborhood councils to ensure that every part of the City is within the boundary of a neighborhood council, and has an opportunity to form a neighborhood council (Plan);
- (b) assist neighborhoods in preparing petitions for recognition or certification, identifying boundaries that do not divide communities, and organizing themselves, in accordance with the Plan;
- (c) arrange Congress of Neighborhood meetings if requested to do so by recognized neighborhood councils;
- (d) assist neighborhood councils with the election or selection of their officers;
- (e) arrange training for neighborhood councils' officers and staff;
- (f) assist neighborhood councils to share resources, including offices, equipment, and other forms of support for them to communicate with constituents, other neighborhood councils and with government officials; and
- (g) perform other duties as provided by ordinance.

**Section 902 Board of Neighborhood Commissioners.**

- (a) There shall be a board of seven commissioners to be known as the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (board). Commissioners shall be appointed by the Mayor, and shall be from diverse geographic areas, as further specified by ordinance. Appointment and removal of commissioners shall otherwise be in accordance with Section 502.
- (b) The board shall be responsible for policy setting and policy oversight, including the approval of contracts and leases and the promulgation of rules and regulations, but shall not be responsible for day-to-day management.
- (c) The board shall operate in accordance with Sections 503 through 508 and 510 of the Charter.

Reference (DONE Reply): [https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2023/23-1027\\_rpt\\_DONE\\_01-22-24.pdf](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.

Reference City Planning PDF: [https://planning.lacity.gov/odocument/a38fe378-2c4b-4260-807e-af66a053a95b/FD\\_CHIP\\_Fact\\_Sheet.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. **Roll Call Vote**

#### **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).

## 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](https://ethics.lacity.org/lobbying). For assistance, please get in touch with the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or [ethics.commission@lacity.org](mailto:ethics.commission@lacity.org)

Meeting dates for the 2023-2024 year: The Committee holds meetings generally on the first and third Wednesday of every month at 7:00 pm. Check the NC website calendar for a complete committee and board meetings list. 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 **April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024**. Please visit the calendar page at [whcouncil.org](http://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](mailto:d.weiss@whcouncil.org) or the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at (213) 978-1551 [EmpowerLa@LACity.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.whcouncil.org)