



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 **834 3011 2073** 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 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 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 3, 2024, @ 7:00 pm**

Zoom Meeting Online or By Telephone

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83430112073>

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

Then Enter This Webinar ID: **834 3011 2073** 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 motion for Board Approval of a CIS seeking increased funding for Neighborhood Councils. Relevant to CF 24-0600 regarding the 2024-2025 City Budget.

Proposed Resolution:

The Woodland Hills Issues and Policies Committee recommends that the Woodland Hills – Warner Center Neighborhood Council Board endorse a resolution calling on Mayor Karen Bass and city officials to urgently address the funding inadequacies facing Neighborhood Councils (NCs).

The WHWCNC Board resolves to highlight for the Mayor and City Council the financial challenges that undermine NCs' ability to engage stakeholders effectively, primarily through digital means. 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 yet to keep pace, severely affecting their operational capacity. Initially allocated \$50,000 with rollover options, NCs now work with a diminished budget of \$32,000 and a \$10,000 maximum rollover. Adjusting for inflation, their funding should exceed \$85,000. Ideally, matching the city's budget growth, NCs would have access to over \$125,000 for 2023-2024.
2. **Digital Engagement and Communication Shifts:** The shift towards digital communication necessitates significant adjustments. The challenges include:
 - **Professional Skills:** Effective digital engagement requires content creation, digital marketing, and data analytics expertise to reach and involve diverse community segments.
 - **Increased Costs:** The financial demands of maintaining a digital presence—covering website upkeep, social media tools, online advertising, and specialist staffing—have escalated.
 - **Multi-Platform Consistency:** Engaging stakeholders today demands a cohesive presence across multiple digital platforms, requiring more resources and coordination.
3. **Overreliance on Neighborhood Purpose Grants (NPGs):** NCs' dependency on NPGs for project funding detracts from their capacity to engage stakeholders directly, primarily online. This focus on NPGs limits the ability to invest in continuous, strategic engagement efforts essential for meaningful governance participation.
4. **Budget Flexibility Enhancements:**
 - **Increase NC Budgets:** Push for increasing NC budgets up to \$69,999 (to comply with Form 700 requirements), facilitating adjustments for inflation and the broader digital engagement needs. Future increases should be considered following adjustments to Form 700 limits.
 - **Unlimited Fund Rollover:** Advocate for a policy that allows unlimited fund rollovers, promoting strategic financial planning for sustained digital engagement initiatives.
 - **Adjust Financial Disclosure Thresholds:** Lobby for changes to the financial disclosure (Form 700) thresholds to better reflect the economic landscape and lower volunteer participation barriers.
5. **Strategic Initiatives:**
 - **Base Budget Plus Per Resident Allocation:** To align funding more equitably with community size and needs, we recommend a base budget of \$25,000 plus an additional \$1 per resident.
 - **Digital Engagement Study:** Commission research to evaluate the impact of digital strategies on community participation, identifying effective practices and investment areas for NC training.

- **Supplemental Budgets for Unique Needs:** Consider additional budgets for NCs facing distinct challenges or serving underserved areas, focusing on boosting digital engagement capabilities.
6. **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 (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.

Brief Summary of Proposed Resolution on Amending Article IX of the City Charter to better serve Neighborhood Councils.

The Woodland Hills Issues and Policies Committee has formulated strategic recommendations for the Woodland Hills - Warner Center Neighborhood Council (WHWCNC) to enhance the effectiveness of Neighborhood Councils in Los Angeles. These recommendations, aimed at the City Council, focus on amplifying community engagement, delineating the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) roles, and increasing the autonomy and resources of Neighborhood Councils.

Key proposals include refining the City Charter to clearly define the responsibilities of DONE and Neighborhood Councils, emphasizing stakeholder engagement, and ensuring Neighborhood Councils have access to essential resources and support. The committee advocates for greater independence for Neighborhood Councils in decision-making and financial management, enabling them to tailor engagement strategies to their community's unique needs.

Further, the recommendations call for DONE to significantly improve training and resources available to Neighborhood Council members, focusing on effective community engagement and communication. Collaborative platforms are suggested to foster knowledge sharing and innovation among Neighborhood Councils.

Support for targeted outreach initiatives is recommended to ensure engagement with underrepresented groups. Additionally, the development of comprehensive feedback mechanisms to enhance the support provided by DONE is crucial. Additionally, increasing the visibility of Neighborhood Councils and strengthening their connections with city departments are essential steps toward empowering Neighborhood Councils to influence city governance more effectively.

Two structural changes are proposed: the creation of an Independent Funding Commission to assess and recommend the financial needs of Neighborhood Councils and ensure they are adequately funded and doubling the number of commissioners on BONC to improve operational efficiency and decision-making.

These recommendations aim to strengthen the Neighborhood Council system and ensure it serves as an effective platform for community participation and governance in 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

Item No (C) -2023-7058-CA; 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.

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:

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 a 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. 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 **April 17th, 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