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MINUTES

WRAC Meeting of the Board of Directors

April 19th 2021 – 6:30pm-9pm

Webinar link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82822543324>
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1. Welcome/Introductions

- a. The WRAC Board conducted its regular monthly meeting by on-line video and audio on April 19, 2021. Chair Matt Wersinger called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. He agrees with Mayor Garcetti who gave his State of the City address today, and said this City can do great things.
- b. **Representatives present:** Matt Wersinger (DRNC), Christina Spitz (PPCC), Robin Greenberg (BABCNC), Ira Koslow (VNC), Jane Wishon (WNC), Lisa Chapman (WWNC), Andrew Lewis (NWWNC), Paula Gerez (NCWP), Steve Sann (WCC), Larry Watts (BCC), Stacy Shure (MVCC) and Olga Lexell (SORONC)
- c. **Nonvoting Alternates present:** Nicole Miner (BABCNC); Barbara Broide (WNC); Michelle Bisnoff (BCC)
- d. **Also present:** Kay Hartman (WRAC LUPC Co-Chair), Nancy Matson (WRAC MTC Co-Chair) CD5 Councilmember Paul Koretz, CD5's Debbie Dyner Harris, David Skolnik & Jay Greenstein; Janet Turner Representing Congressman Ted Lieu, Fipe Leilua from LA City Planning, Neighborhood Prosecutor Veronica de la Cruz, Steve Twining & Robert Schlesinger.
- e. **Chair Updates --** None
- f. **Upcoming Guests –**
 - i. **May –** LAPD Chief Michel Moore
 - ii. **TBD –** LA Council President Nury Martinez, State Redistricting Commissioners, County Supervisor Holly Mitchell

2. Government Report -

- a. **Council District 5 Councilmember (CM) Paul Koretz** was welcomed. He introduced himself and members of his staff: Debbie Dyner Harris, District Director, Jay Greenstein, Chief Field & Transportation Deputy, and Daniel Skolnick, Senior Planner. His update included the following:
 - **Traffic Safety:** - His district has seen terrible tragedies on his streets, e.g., Olympic & Overland, where Monique Muñoz was killed, raising the issue of speeding and street takeovers which have been more frequent during the pandemic with fewer cars on the street.
 - They are forced to increase speed limits to implement radar enforcement because of State law.
 - This year AB 43 by Laura Friedman will give us the opportunity to change the State law and engage in radar enforcement without increasing our speed limits. In the meantime, we have to increase speed limit on Olympic to 40 mph and give LAPD the ability to enforce speeding

violations; then hopefully later can roll these back when the legislature makes these changes. He'll introduce a resolution next week in support of the State bill.

- CM Koretz noted that he has been working with DOT to put several measures in place to help curtail speeding, including speed feedback signs, dedicated left turn arrows, rest at red at intersections before turning green. The speed feedback signs help people who are law abiding and may not be paying careful attention to realize that they may be 5-10 mph above speed limit. The rest at red will cause a red light to stop them, rather than just be able to hit a bunch of green lights, especially at night when traffic is nonexistent.

- He is most proud of push to DOT to expedite protected left turn at Olympic & Overland, originally to be put in place by a contractor in 2022. He hopes it will help prevent further accidents like the one at Olympic and Overland. He hopes that when traffic increases, we'll see less speeding, racing and intersection takeovers, but need to take actions to make that happen.

- Homelessness: CM Koretz noted that aside from the pandemic, homelessness is the greatest issue facing the city. More people are living outside. Around a billion dollars will be allocated to various programs relating to homelessness.

- Within CD5, they are continually searching for sites to help relocate people from encampments to shelter, partly because of the lawsuit before Judge Carter. He supports using small motels throughout the district & needs more housing. He was among the first to push for a more cost effective installation of tiny home villages, from \$130,000/unit. His message was heard and costs are now closer to the \$30,000 range.

- CM Koretz related that his focus for the last few years has been on homeless prevention as much as building because we are good at getting homeless people off the streets. We get 207 homeless off the streets daily in LA; however, we have 227 new people on the streets every day. The problem is getting worse. He has been pushing for several years to address this by 1) trying to get the State to alter the Ellis Act so developers can't just buy and flip a property, and kick out lower income tenants to build luxury units. The legislation currently being considered requires the property owner to own the property at least five (5) years before ellising the tenants, which would be a significant help. 2) Several years ago he proposed a program that is finally getting adequately funded; the Mayor said he supports it but will be putting budget behind it for eviction protection. CM Koretz was trying to get \$10,000,000 for it, didn't reach it, the program never really got started; however, this year the Mayor is allocating \$30,000,000 for this purpose, and the program should hopefully help keep a lot of people in their homes.

Rental Assistance Program: The city's rental protection program is underway, which helps keep people from being displaced. The Councilmember supported this and supplemented the original grants with some of his office's discretionary funds. With the homeless problem, they are facing a difficult path forward but have the attention of the state and federal government, and with everyone pitching in, they will hopefully come up with additional solutions.

Bridge Housing: CM Koretz noted that in his district, there is a lack of publicly-owned available property, high property values and the fact that our CAO has turned down most of the properties that we have found. We had proposed 60 locations, and only a handful has been used and not rejected by the CAO. They have one bridge site for 18 families at the former Grand Motel which was a site for prostitution and drug dealing. It has been totally cleaned up and working out well.

HHH Projects: He has two HHH projects underway, not yet breaking ground, but close: one at La Brea and Willoughby and the other at Santa Monica and Mayfield = 99 units. They just got a former nursing facility on Melrose which when renovated will provide 60 beds. The project on Santa Monica involves modular construction, making it one of the most cost-effective HHH projects. The units instead of \$700,000 will be in the \$300,000-something range. He hopes this will be a model for the City.

He is putting together a motion to direct the City to look at the 60 locations that have been rejected and feels that otherwise CD5 will never be able to do our share as we should and are legally required to do by the judge's orders.

Homelessness Working Group: CM Koretz noted that he is putting together a homelessness working group made up of community leaders from NCs and other neighborhood groups to look for ways to address this crisis, to include a small number of folks from CD5.

Development Issues: CM Koretz related that LA, like many other cities, needs affordable housing and has its share of market rate housing. He noted that SB9 and SB10 focus on producing market rate units which doesn't help with very low and moderate workforce housing. These are bills by Scott Wiener, who is trying to create more market rate and not address affordable housing. Weiner believes single family housing is "immoral" and has tried to eliminate single family only neighborhoods. CM Koretz stated that he has been on the other side of that issue, that we defeated SB50, and barely defeated SB1120, which passed around midnight but they didn't have time to transmit it to the Senate. He explained that was partly because a lot of folks were focused on other issues, e.g., equity, COVID, budget and homeless issues. They started to focus late in the game. He was calling and texting legislators until midnight. He thinks that this time we are getting a jump on it, but we still have to be aware of the problem of these two bills:

SB9 would require localities to provide by right approval of housing developments containing two residential units and allow for dividing a lot into two equal parts as a lot split easily for residential use. It would eliminate public hearings by the Planning Dept. and public notice since these projects would only require administrative review, and they'd exempt them from CEQA. SB10 is its ugly sibling which would authorize local government to pass ordinance to zone any single family parcel, up to 10 units of residential density, if located in a transit- or jobs-rich area, which is much of the city of Los Angeles. This would undermine a lot of the city's policies and decimate the city's single family neighborhoods. It would incentivize the construction of market rate luxury housing creating millions of luxury units while requiring virtually no affordable units.

CM Koretz continued that it has the potential to attract high income residents who rarely use public transportation, yet it is based on proximity to public transportation. So rather than a modest number of people taking public transit because you put luxury units there, we should be looking at putting affordable units near transit. Sixty percent of people who take transit make \$20,000 a year. He would suggest we keep a close eye on those two bills. He is introducing motions in opposition. He hopes the city council will again be on record as in opposition to this legislation. He noted it will be a little harder as his closest colleague on bringing these bills was David Ryu, whom we have lost. His replacement Nithya Raman is very much in support of these pieces of legislation. We really need to work the council on these bills.

Transportation: CM Koretz noted that we need to work to improve Westside traffic. One of the things that may get people out of their cars will be transit project between Valley and the Westside, why the San Fernando Valley Transit Corridor along Sepulveda is so crucial for this region. The Councilmember related that he has weighed in with the METRO Board, and is more supportive of the monorail proposal but is very concerned the original proposal that was put out did not include a route to UCLA and Westwood. He understands that there will be an alternate route that will be considered that does this and that is what he will be supportive of.

Q&A began with a question from Chair Wersinger who asked CM Koretz if the Mayor's proposed budget priorities in his state of the city report aligns with his. CM Koretz related that he didn't hear anything he disagreed with. There is a lot of discussion that we need to be fiscally prudent and not start a lot of programs and then we started a ton of new and expensive programs. He hasn't had a chance to analyze the budget but is a little nervous that we did not do enough to restock our reserves and plan for our difficulties fiscally in the next couple of years. There are a lot of things that he liked but he hasn't looked through the budget to see what we don't like. He doesn't know what we did in terms of funding LAPD. While he thinks there are some reforms needed, rather than cutting LAPD, some *reforms* done safely might cost more, e.g., sending social workers to respond to mental health crises. He thinks there is another way to do it, as being done in pilots: They respond with the mental health professional taking the lead and an LAPD is in the background in case something goes wrong. He is not sure which works better, but he has been in a situation a few years ago when a coworker was having a party, the husband took out a gun, told people to clear out, that he would kill his partner and he did. The Councilmember asks, would you send out a police officer, a mental health professional or the two together? He thinks the best approach is to send the mental health professional and at the same time if you want to make sure that someone isn't killed in the process, you probably want an officer.

The Councilmember noted that he is not sure if we're doing it in this budget but there is a lot of discussion about how to do traffic stops. He noted that people are killed at traffic stops for minor violations that are not necessary. At the same time, armed police officer will sometimes go to a vehicle, and someone will pull a gun and shoot him dead on the spot.

CM Koretz related that he is excited that they funded Eviction Defense and gave funding to the Climate Emergency Mobilization Office that he has been trying to get started for a few years. He considers this a serious problem and LA will have to provide the leadership on it for the rest of the country and the rest of the world.

Board Q&A followed beginning with Member Sann who thanked the Councilmember for being here. He noted that we had a very scary situation at Westwood Park, a significant fire where fortunately no one was injured or lost their life; however, Venice, Palms and other areas have not been so lucky and we do not want this to become an Echo Park. Member Sann asked what can we do humanely for the folks living in the park and at the same time return the park to families and kids who are exiled from their own park for more than a year now due to COVID. Councilmember Koretz related that there are encampments, many dangerous across the city and throughout his district. He noted that they are trying to be a little more proactive and aggressive than the city policy has been. They are going one by one to the encampments that they find to be the most dangerous, pushing hard to find housing for folks in the encampments, and pushing them hard to take the housing. He noted that it is not an ideal situation; they waited on their most dangerous encampment, in their view, for more than a year at San Vicente and Wilshire. There was a fire in an abandoned building next door to that. They had a murder by what appeared to be a mentally ill homeless man, who was living in his car. They are not sure if it was connected to the encampment. It was dangerous. Rather than have an Echo Park situation, they quietly pushed harder and harder, to get colleagues to provide some housing in their districts, and were able to do that. They have cleared two encampments to place people into housing.

The Councilmember noted that the next most dangerous one is Westwood Rec, bigger and more difficult. They are trying quietly and subtly to find locations for the residents of that park. So far, one of the positive things is that they've done this quietly and subtly to not attract attention of folks trying to prevent them from going into shelters. There is only so much they can do because there is only so much housing, and are focusing on the most dangerous encampments in the district. Before they can succeed there seems to be a fire in every one of them, validating the fact that they are somewhat dangerous to themselves and others in the community.

Member Bisnoff thanked Councilmember for being here tonight. She re: 1) CAO Rich Llewelyn controls the city surplus and wonders if the Councilmember would bring a full scale motion requiring the CAO to release all the properties in sum and allow developers who promise to build 100% affordable housing to have no cost site control; let the developers decide what they can build versus Rich. She noted that last year the CAO only released four sites on the long list of surplus property, which was disappointing. 2) Member Bisnoff noted that the Industrial Element has not been touched since 2009; since then, we have built hundreds of millions of transit. Why can't we open that area for mixed-use commercial? The Councilmember noted that this strikes him as a logical question and he will have Daniel help him research this.

As far as releasing properties, CM Koretz noted that CM Bonin and he have asked to revisit the 60 properties. He cannot understand the example in CD11; he has pushed, especially along Sepulveda near the Federal Building, one owned by DWP, a mostly underutilized lot for DWP parking and a few other things, which they could find another location for. He believes we could build a very substantial HHH Project, and he would be willing to have 15-20 stories there. There is also nearby a Sanitation Yard, which is more utilized but they could put it somewhere else and build some substantial property there for the homeless. The one in CD 11 seems unjustifiable. Maybe he and Mike will do a motion for a more significant release of city-owned properties.

Member Bisnoff noted that the lot she was referring to is a lot that they tried to obtain site control in the district where Huizar was councilmember. She noted that it is difficult to get the CAO to pay attention to you, to get site visits, and have them look at a property. She feels that it shouldn't be so hard to build affordable housing. The Councilmember asked if anyone has spoken with Kevin De Leon about that, to which Member Bisnoff said yes. She noted that it seems insane that the councilmembers can't get the CAO to release the properties, and that this should be a citywide solution: Let go of the properties now. CM Koretz discussed cost issues of building anything in CD5: You either say build where it is cheap or if you want everyone to participate, you have to pay more because we don't have many lots. He noted as to the couple that we have, e.g., abandoned supermarkets, there are developers who are working on a project for years and they won't suddenly turn it over to us. There are very few opportunities in our district. He agrees with Member Bisnoff that they need to be more open to deal with this.

Member Lewis thanked the Councilmember for 1) writing the letter and urging Metro for a stop at the UCLA campus for the Sepulveda Pass Line, and for 2) not having a heavy-handed approach for the homeless folks at Westwood Park. Member Lewis noted that we are pretty unified in Westwood for the Sepulveda Pass line stop at UCLA and asked what can we do to make that a reality? What would help them in that decision? In this case, it seems that all parts of Westwood supports having this stop. CM Koretz noted that it would be a giant miss to build a project like this and not connect it to the ultimate destinations. If we are fortunate enough, that we can build this in time for the Olympics, it would be absurd to have it go by without stopping at UCLA. He noted that we are still relatively early in the process and it would be very helpful to have different groups relate to all of the board members and Executive Board Director of METRO and let them know what you think. He has done so, which he thinks they have noticed. He hopes everyone can pitch in.

Member Chapman thanked the Councilmember for being here tonight. About Westwood Park, she noted that last week we had Officer Ojeda who gave a report on the homeless situation at the park, the same day as the big fire there. She found out that St. Joseph's has case workers working at the park, which we weren't aware of, and there is a new group starting there, who will be hiring case workers to work Westwood Park. She asked, if there are people from St. Joseph's doing case work, offering housing and services, why do we not get a report on their progress; we don't get a report from their office or from anyone. She believes all NCs should get that report.

Member Chapman noted that Officer Ojeda said that they were going to be moving people from Westwood Park. She doesn't think people should be overnight camping there but doesn't think they should be removed unless offered housing services. Councilmember Koretz responded that everyone will be offered and encouraged to accept them. That has been going on for some degree for a lengthy period of time. His office's approach has been to push them more and he has had some success in that and hopes that they have it there too.

Councilmember Koretz related that he is not familiar with St. Josephs' process; however, thinks you'll know something is succeeding when you see more of them moving out of the park. He recommends finding out who is working in the park, who is paying their salaries, whether the city or not. He will kick in \$450,000 to PATH to do more outreach, finding of housing and providing vouchers whenever they can to get people off the streets. He acknowledged that there is a lack of coordination in this park and elsewhere.

Member Chapman related that, per Jasmine, St. Josephs is the assigned group working at Westwood Park; however, she has never seen them there. She noted that there is another group, Michael Stevenson's group, name not recalled, who have raised a ton of money from homeowner groups and neighborhood councils to help hire outreach workers for Westwood Park. Member Chapman will send the Councilmember the information. CM Koretz noted that we do not want several groups overlapping; so, if these groups are doing a good job, PATH may go elsewhere or supplement them. Member Chapman is concerned that there is no communication between the groups, and would like to have someone oversee and coordinate. She noted that even LAPD may not know if they've been offered services. The Councilmember related that he doesn't believe LAPD would act on their own.

Debbie Dyer Harris responded to Member Chapman's concern, noting that she is right; there is not great information sharing among the agencies. She explained that St. Josephs works in SPA 5 (*Service Planning Area 5 from the LA County Dept. of Public Health*) which the park is in and that we have another service provider in the eastern part of the district. She noted LAHSA is not great at sharing information and that Councilmember Koretz is forming a taskforce to find out where things are lacking and where we could be more effective. Ms. Dyer Harris is curious about the person taking funds from NCs. Member Chapman will send her the information.

Member Wishon thanked the Councilmember. She asked, since he'll be moving on to other elected office after the redistricting, does he have advice for those of us who will be participating in the redistricting process? She asked about moving the district to the Valley or south? CM Koretz responded that his opinion is that it is better for the Valley to have a couple of additional representatives. Some think he can't represent Encino, because he doesn't live there, but he is and enjoys doing so. Some in the Valley think all the districts in the Valley should be Valley only. He noted that if you think representing both the Valley and the Westside is more effective, point it out. His preference is for CD5 to keep Encino, and wouldn't mind adding Sherman Oaks.

Member Shure pointed out that the Councilmember already brought up one location that would be wonderful for homeless, supportive services, and regarding Westside Village, within CD5, we have no open space but we have a 4.68 acre parcel that wants to be developed by a developer that our community doesn't want. She noted that her community would prefer that the city donate that parcel. She noted that the developer hasn't invested any money since he bought it 40 years ago; it could be used for construction for supportive services, lots of units for affordable housing and other services and still leave room for two acres of open space. It is in the perfect location near where we have unhoused people residing under freeway overpasses and in parks. It is in the local area, a perfect location. She asked, what would we have to do to convince this developer to sell to the city this parcel which is so perfect? It could provide 400-500 units, training center, services and open space. It is so well situated, near the Sepulveda Transit Corridor. Her community is overwhelmingly supportive of this.

Member Shure continued that she believes Daniel Skolnick has asked the developer if we can use the parking lot for safe parking for two years, and would like that. CM Koretz related that it appears that the developer is not open to the Safe Parking, which will tick off the community who will be opposed to his project. Member Shure stated that over 85% voted yes that they would like that site for safe parking. The Councilmember said he would make another run on this but doesn't think the owner would voluntarily sell. CM Koretz has tried but got legal advice that eminent domain would not be possible there. He continues to push for that. He knows of a motel on Ventura Boulevard that would be perfect for housing the homeless. He would love to eminent domain it from an unwilling property owner but hasn't gotten anywhere. He'll continue to push for the eminent domain side but doesn't think it is a likely route. Member Shure stated that she is taking this for a public vote, as the developer has done nothing but further inflame this community. She noted that we want the homeless on this side to get housing on this side, and would do anything to support him in this regard. CM Koretz related that he doesn't disagree, it would be wonderful but is not optimistic. He is willing to push the eminent domain side for the broader issue, and would have to convince his City Attorney and colleagues but has not succeeded so far. Chair Wersinger thanked him for his time and welcomed him to return, to which Councilmember Koretz expressed that he would be happy to do so and appreciates the opportunity. He thanked us for all the work we do.

- b. **Mayor Eric Garcetti** – Brad Fingard was not present.
- c. **Council District 11** – Vishesh Anand was not present.
- d. **Additional Government Reports** – Fipe Leilua noted that 1) On March 23rd City Planning published the 2020 Annual Report. https://planning.lacity.org/odocument/98030feb-8406-419f-8118-ec071a8cfb96/202009_AnnualReport2020.pdf 2) On March 25th the City Planning Commission approved the department's Processes & Procedures Ordinance. It will consolidate administrative provisions of the zoning code to one centralized location. 3) For the Westside Community Plan, they're still working on the summary of the comments and will send an e-blast soon. In June, the Westside Community Plan will come to WRAC to provide an update.
- Chair Wersinger noted that Janet Turner will come back next month to give report.

3. Board Member Updates:

- Member Koslow (VNC): Venice & Mar Vista councils met and had a very successful joint meeting.

- Member Broide (WNC):

1) On the Metro Board agenda for the 22nd, there is an item, "Transportation Communication Network," which mentioned installing digital billboard on METRO land in a joint MOU between the City of Los Angeles & METRO. She noted that it is a wolf in sheep's clothing. She urged logging into the board meeting, send written communications up until 5:00pm the day before the meeting. We have members of our City Council on the board and the Mayor chairs it.

2) UC Davis held a program on Friday all day celebrating CEQA at 50; it was an interesting presentation with many speakers including a Supreme Court justice. Great info on CEQA at the UC Davis Center.

3) Point of Information. The WLA homeless organization was brought about from Westside NC, and is completely grassroots. They are working hard to raise money, target to hire two social work outreach people, estimated at \$250,000/year to operate the program and are halfway there. They are negotiating to start without the full year's budget. Member Broide noted that Paul Koretz's office made a modest contribution to that effort.

4) The LA Times settlement as a result of Downtown Alliance required half of the housing be placed outside of Skid Row. She is interested how that is being reviewed and discussed at City Council. She gets questions like can the city establish rules for the streets other than about ADA sidewalk blocking?

- Secretary Greenberg (BABCNC) noted that LA City Planning just announced that the draft Ridgeline Ordinance has been released. BABCNC Board Member Don Loze has spent his life on this and we are happy for him. It protects our ridgelines from builders building. 2) We are in the process of our NC elections, which we hear from other councils are not going smoothly. Robin would love to hear how the other NCs here are doing with the elections process.

- Member Shure (MVCC) announced 1) that the Westside Village Community has officially voted to convert their HOA to a Civic Community Council. They are formulating bylaws and will hold elections soon and will ask to be written out of the Mar Vista Community Council. They will be considered a sustainable community. 2) She noted that Policies and Procedures Amendment working group from different NCs in the city are analyzing the document and are coming out with a proposed CIS. She noted that it is not a good document, it raises a lot of serious concern, particularly, the moving of authority for NCs to weigh in on land use matters. She will provide more info on a proposal for NCs.

4. **Committee Reports – WRAC Mobility & Transportation:** Co-Chair Nancy Matson related that they were able to get to two items. Jay Greenstein came, and there was a discussion about collision, speeds, and related incidents. This didn't result in recommendations, but raised the issue. They had visitors from the STAP program from StreetsLA with a long and productive program. No action was taken on it.

- **Land Use:** Co-Chair Kay Hartman related that there were three major topics of discussion: 1) passed a motion about ghost kitchens, on our agenda; 2) discussed a motion about specific plans and decided it needed more work; 3) discussed AB387 would create social housing based on model in use in Vienna; too early for action.

5. **Public Comment** – Lisa Redmond from Venice Catholic Workers asked us to oppose motion item #a, because we need any kind of safe camping and tiny houses. She noted that all council districts are looking for locations for more safe parking, safe camping and for tiny homes, and unfortunately, in CD11 a lot of our open parking lots tend to be beaches and beach parking lots and public spaces. She feels that we all need to compromise and take care of it. She is asking us to oppose #b. She opposes #c because it is criminalizing to say we are looking for drugs around homeless camps, implying unhoused people are bad people. She thinks that is unfair and unconstitutional.

6. **Approval of Minutes** —

a. **Motion (Matt Wersinger)** – Approval of March 2021 meeting minutes; **moved** by Chair Wersinger; **seconded** by Vice Chair Spitz; **11 Yes; 0 no; 1 abstention**: Ira; **passed**.

7. **New Business**

a. **Motion (WRAC Homeless / Jay Handal)** – In reference to Council File 21-0350, the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC) strongly advises the members of the Los Angeles City Council and the Mayor that WRAC opposes using the beaches, beach parking lots, and public parks* for housing of the unhoused.

* The parks are subject to approval of the stakeholders and neighborhood councils in the area of the parks. Member Sann **moved**, Member Chapman **seconded**. Extensive discussion was held. **Amendment** Add after the last sentence, “*work to provide alternative sites within their boundaries*” **moved** by Chair Wersinger; **seconded** by Member Chapman. Extensive discussion was held. Member Sann would have it say “*good faith effort*”; Member Chapman would say “*identify*” rather than provide. Vice Chair Spitz suggested “*shall work in good faith to identify*” which Chair Wersinger agreed with Member Shure would say “*neighborhood or community council areas.*” **Vote on Amendment: 11 yes; 0 no; 1 abstention**: Vice Chair Spitz

No other amendments. Extensive discussion was held on the motion as amended with some comments as follows:

Member Koslow noted that you can’t get on our beaches any more. All the people from Echo Park who didn’t go to hotels, are in Venice now. We used to have half access unavailable, now we can’t get on the beach because the tents are covering the whole beach. He is voting for this. The City of LA no longer has Venice Beach as a place for people to go.

Vice Chair Spitz (PPCC) noted that this does not affect merely Pacific Palisades. This affects the entire City of LA, the entire county, and the entire region. Millions of people from the entire region visit these beaches every year, they are a tourist draw; the jewel of the city; they are the backyard of the city. They are not used by Palisadians to the same extent; they are used by everyone. The parking lots are full; used by people of low income to get out of the heat. They are used by everyone, by people inland. She is getting letters that she never have seen before to her council, with people from all over are expressing the opinion that the beaches should not be used for this purpose. The beaches are state owned. They are not city owned or county owned. They are run by the County Beaches and Harbors but are State owned. Public access to the beaches is a core mandate of the Coastal Act. The Coastal Commission has denied permission in other cases involving beach parking lots. She doesn’t know what our County Supervisors think about

this but yesterday Sheila Kuehl, who represents the area where Will Rogers is, sent an email blast saying she wants to increase coastal access, to allow handicapped to have better access and the sand. This will decrease access to the beach. It is not a city-owned property. We have learned that under the MOU and the quarterly reports on the MOU that the City is supposed to be proposing city-owned land, not state-owned land. Right now there has been no submission of anything from the county that they would agree to this and certainly not the State. It is not a Palisades-specific issue or Playa Del Rey issue. Both of those beaches are state owned, and governed by the Coastal Act. This should not stand. She has personally gone out scouring our hills and our canyons and vacant lots to try to find some replacements; there are none. We will not be shamed into providing land which we do not have to take away the beaches. We are taking a position against this and a lot of people agree with us.

Member Gerez has heard overwhelmingly from her community that they don't want this; not that they don't want to help the homeless. The locations being proposed are not the right locations. There have been several other locations brought up to our CM but Playa del Rey has already lost over 400 free or affordable parking places due to the road diet imposed upon us. They then made an agreement the county would give reduced parking for the first 300 cars that go into the beach parking lot that we have still. They can no longer do that due to budget restraints. So, if we are talking about taking over another 400 places where people come from all around the country and locally to visit our beaches, there won't be access. On top of that they are talking about taking more of it for camping. It's not fair to us, to CD11, LA and beyond our County. Many people utilize beaches as their backyards. It's just not right.

Member Broide noted that LA as we all know is a park-poor city and the beaches are our playground; people rely on, take the bus and train to get to the beaches. It is critical that they remain available for everyone to play to get away from the hot summers. We are coming to the hot season and we have a tremendous need for park land and this is our open space. It is a coastal commission issue as well. She thinks it is important we all act to protect the beach.

Member Lewis asked is the proposal for housing to be on the beach or the boardwalk and how close to the beach are we talking? Chair Wersinger referred to the motion and related that the motion calls for an evaluation of these sites, it is not the final motion. It calls for:

- A temporary site for single-occupancy tiny homes or safe camping at the county-owned parking lot at Will Rogers State Beach, 17000 CA-1 in Pacific Palisades MAR 3 1 2021
- A temporary site for single-occupancy tiny homes, safe camping or safe parking site at the county-owned Parking Lot #3 at Dockweiler Beach, 11999 Vista Del Mar in Playa del Rey.
- A temporary site specifically for RV safe parking located at the county-owned RV park at Dockweiler Beach, 12001 Vista Del Mar, Playa Del Rey, CA 90293.
- A temporary site for single-occupancy tiny homes or safe camping site at the county-owned parking lot at Fisherman's Village in Marina del Rey, 13755 Fiji Way

Chair Wersinger noted the motion does not call for anything at all in Venice Beach. Member Lewis noted that this makes sense, that people are dying on our streets for not being housed.

Member Sann noted that these are things our community relies on daily. Taking it away from tens of thousands of people who use it for the fewer number is a bad idea. Taking away parking for the beach is taking away from all of us. There are thousands of locations that are available.

Member Sann noted that there is a 350-acre parcel, almost the size of UCLA campus, where temporarily short-term some of this housing could be located.

Member Lexell piggy backed off of what Member Lewis said, noting that it is a tiny portion of one parking lot. Most working class people take the bus or train to the beach because we can't afford the parking at the beach. SORONC voted to support the motion from CM Bonin. She appreciates the amendment.

Member Bisnoff related that the Brentwood Community Council strongly supports the Pacific Palisades Community Council and their motion. They would add that Will Rogers has been a fire risk in the past, and multiple fires have been caused by homeless individuals; she could visualize that occurring again by adding homeless to that area as well as to areas that restrict public access. There is no indication that they're alleviating homelessness in CD11 with those. There is no way to determine if we are actually treating the issue from our own community.

Member Miner related that people from all over LA and LA County from the inland typically take the families to the beach in the summer in the hot weather and it is always a big deal to make sure the sand is clean, to make sure no hazards for children to step on. What do people think in the County if there are homeless encampments on the beach? Also, with concern about tourism, if people can't go to the beach comfortably and they're surrounded by Skid Row at the Beach, where is the vacation for them to come to LA? If they can't come to the beach coming to LA on vacation, that's half the reason for coming to LA. The people who want services and want to get out of homelessness, it is wonderful to be able to help them, but not all of them want help. We have the residue of those who don't want live anywhere but on the streets. She doesn't think we need bleeding heart motions when we allow people to ruin the things LA is famous for and used by the entire population.

Motion As Amended: (WRAC Homeless / Jay Handal) – In reference to Council File 21-0350, the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC) strongly advises the members of the Los Angeles City Council and the Mayor that WRAC opposes using the beaches, beach parking lots, and public parks* for housing of the unhoused. Neighborhood or Community Councils where these sites are listed in the Council motion shall work in good faith to identify alternative sites within their boundaries. * The parks are subject to approval of the stakeholders and neighborhood council in the area of the parks.

10 yes; 2 no; Chair Wersinger & Member Lewis; **0 abstain; passed as amended.**

- b. Motion (WRAC Homeless / Jay Handal)** – The Westside Regional Alliance of Councils calls on the Los Angeles City Council and Mayor Eric Garcetti to immediately direct the Los Angeles City Bureau of Sanitation (“LA Sanitation”) to undertake site clean-ups, trash collection, and sanitizing of all homeless encampments located in the neighborhoods represented by the WRAC on the Westside of Los Angeles, in order to abate, correct, and remove hazardous, unsafe, unhealthy, and unsanitary conditions at all homeless encampments forthwith.

Moved by Member Sann (WCC), **seconded** by Member Koslow (VNC); discussion was held, primarily about cleanups versus sweeps.

Amendment: To add “*LA San be directed to sites as directed by the residents of the impacted encampments*” as **moved** by Member Lexell; **seconded** by Member Chapman. Discussion on the amendment was held, with Members Bisnoff, Broide and Sann in opposition, Member Bisnoff opined that it is superfluous given that CF #21-0031 which comes before Council tomorrow, (the CARE+ motion) already enacts voluntary LASAN cleanups. Member Broide noted need to address that there are dangerous situations and sometimes the homeless are unable to understand that; we need to take action for them and us to keep our streets safe. Member Sann thinks it should be either at the request of residents of the encampments or neighbors who live around it. Discussion was held as to language of cleanups vs. sweeps.

Vote on the Amendment: **2 Yes:** Member Lexell (SORONC) & Member Chapman (WWNC); **7 No:** Member Shure (MVCC), Member Wishon (WNC), Vice Chair Chris Spitz (PPCC), Member Gerez (NCWP), Member Sann (WCC), Secretary Greenberg (BABCNC), Member Watts (BCC); **1 Abstention:** Chair Wersinger (DRNC). **Amendment failed.**

Following further discussion, a vote was taken to bring this motion to our councils:

7 Yes: Member Koslow (VNC), Vice Chair Chris Spitz (PPCC), Member Shure (MVCC), Member Sann (WCC), Member Gerez (NCWP), Secretary Greenberg (BABCNC), Member Watts (BCC); **5 No:** Member Lexell (SORONC), Chair Matt Wersinger (DRNC), Member Chapman (WWNC), Member Wishon (WNC), Member Lewis (NWWNC); **0 abstentions.**
Passed. This will go to councils,

- c. **Motion (WRAC Homeless / Jay Handal)** – The Westside Regional Alliance of Councils calls on the Los Angeles City Council and Mayor Eric Garcetti to direct the Los Angeles Police Department and other relevant law enforcement agencies to enforce all existing, enforceable laws prohibiting the sale, distribution and use of illegal drugs, human trafficking, and other serious crimes taking place in or near homeless encampments on the Westside of Los Angeles. **Moved** by Member Sann (WCC) **seconded** by Member Gerez (NCWP).

Amendments: To remove “*taking place in or near homeless encampments*” **moved** by Member Lexell (SORONC) who noted that we want all crimes to be enforced anywhere on the Westside; **seconded** by Chair Wersinger.

Discussion was held wherein Member Bisnoff (BCC) noted lack of regular enforcement by LAPD and Sheriff Department of felony and high level misdemeanors; her community would like to reestablish enforcement, e.g., putting more emphasis on areas with increased burglaries. She noted that part of the issue is that repeat offenders living in encampments are using that to continue their activities. Repeat offenders are subject to enforcement in ways that the LAPD and Sheriff Departments do not actively enforce. She feels it would be helpful to have them sent to highly successful mandatory housing diversion programs and not to jail. She would like to see more enforcement around these encampments.

Member Koslow (VNC) noted that Councilmember Bonin has specifically prohibited various agencies from enforcing the law because of COVID, e.g., cooking in tents, that they tried to get stopped. They burned their encampment and the building down next to them. Not all homeless people are starting fires. They had bikes, give out drugs not insulin and pull away. They refuse to deal with that problem. These are just two examples. They should enforce the law everywhere but are not enforcing at the order of CM Bonin.

Member Shure (MVCC) offered an amendment that would also pertain to provisions of this amendment; noting that as a general policy, we shouldn't have anything in here or support anything that criminalizes addiction, which Chair noted we will come back to.

Member Sann (WCC) would not support this amendment because while we don't want people using highly addictive drugs, the big difference of people using in the public is that it puts other innocent members of the public at risk, e.g., stepping on needles or contaminated materials, and noted we have not focused on the human trafficking.

Member Sann noted, as to the human trafficking aspect, that he knows an individual on the board of the Westside NC, who experienced homelessness in Hawaii, who is now a successful guy, who related had observed human trafficking, prostitution, and homeless women being used and abused. Member Sann noted that he had asked for the language specifically about human trafficking and reiterated that there is a distinction of what you do on private versus public. As to the presence of needles for diabetes versus opioids, he noted that the police bring Narcan at all times to stop people from overdosing. Member Miner agreed with Member Sann, and noted the scarcity of enforcement in every aspect of the city and the need to address public safety as the huge problem that it is.

Vote on the Amendment To remove words “*taking place in or near homeless encampments.*”
4 Yes: Member Lewis (NWWNC), Member Lexell (SORONC), Chair Wersinger (DRNC), Member Chapman (WWNC). **6 No:** Member Wishon (WNC), Member Gerez (NCWP), Member Sann (WCC), Member Watts (BCC), Secretary Greenberg (BABCNC) & Vice Chair Spitz (PPCC)
Amendment **failed**.

Amendment: Remove words “*and use.*” **Moved** by Member Shure (MVCC); **seconded** by Member Lexell (SORONC); **6 Yes:** Member Shure (MVCC), Member Wishon (WNC), Vice Chair Spitz (PPCC), Member Lexell (SORONC), Chair Wersinger (DRNC) & Member Chapman (WWNC) **5 No:** Member Sann (WCC), Member Gerez (NCWP), Member Koslow (VNC), Secretary Greenberg (BABCNC) & Member Watts (BCC); **1 Abstention:** Member Lewis (NWWNC) **Amendment passed.**

Member Wishon related that she is not a fan of telling the police what they should do and asked if we want to direct law enforcement agencies to prioritize all existing... otherwise we are saying we think they are not enforcing these things.

Amendment: “To prioritize enforcement of” **moved** by Member Wishon; **seconded** by Member Shure. Her motion is to prioritize, to move it to the top of the list. Steve supports that. Member Gerez doesn’t want some things to be enforced but wants all to be enforced.

Member Koslow doesn’t want to pick on the homeless only & thinks “prioritize” is the wrong word.

Voting on amendment of prioritizing enforcement:

1 yes: Member Wishon (WNC); **5 No:** Member Gerez (NCWP), Member Lexell (SORONC), Member Koslow (VNC), Member Watts (BCC) & Secretary Greenberg (BABCNC)

4 abstentions: Chair Wersinger (DRNC), Member Sann (WCC), Member Chapman (WWNC) & Vice Chair Spitz (PPCC), **Amendment motion fails.**

Further discussion was held, with Member Lexell noting that most of the homeless are black, and experience a higher rate of police brutality, and that this motion is asking for increased enforcement by police on population mostly black. Member Bisnoff noted that the number one cause of deaths is drugs. Member Chapman noted that this is about enforcement where it is in plain sight, in and out of encampments. Member Broide noted that residents are filming drug transactions at night with vans that pull up. Pushers are not looking to be helpful to the homeless; they are hooking and engaging them on criminal activities; a vicious cycle.

Vote on the Motion as Amended (WRAC Homeless / Jay Handal) – The Westside Regional Alliance of Councils calls on the Los Angeles City Council and Mayor Eric Garcetti to direct the Los Angeles Police Department and other relevant law enforcement agencies to enforce all existing, enforceable laws prohibiting the sale, and distribution of illegal drugs, human trafficking, and other serious crimes taking place in or near homeless encampments on the Westside of Los Angeles.

8 yes: Vice Chair Spitz (PPCC), Member Wishon (WNC), Member Koslow (VNC), Chair Wersinger (DRNC), Member Sann (WCC), Member Watts (BCC), Member Chapman, (WWNC), Secretary Greenberg (BABCNC); **2 No:** Member Lexell (SORONC) & Member Lewis (NWWNC);

2 Abstentions: Member Shure (MVCC) & Member Gerez (NCWP), **Passed.** Will go to councils.

- d. **Motion (WRAC Homeless / Jay Handal)** - The Westside Regional Alliance of Councils calls on the Los Angeles City Council and Mayor Eric Garcetti to direct the Los Angeles Police Department and other relevant law enforcement agencies to enforce all existing, enforceable laws prohibiting the blockage of the public right of way on the Westside of Los Angeles, including all applicable provisions of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA).

Moved by Member Sann (WCC); **seconded** by Member Koslow (VNC)

Amendment: After the words Los Angeles Police Department, add, *and the Department of Public Works' Bureau of Engineering Street Services Division, as well as the ~~Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors~~ to direct the Sheriff's Department, and the Department of Veterans Affairs to direct the Veterans Affairs Police Department then the language continues, and other relevant agencies.*

Moved by Member Sann (WCC); **seconded** by Vice Chair Spitz (PPCC).

Member Sann gave background on his amendment, noting that this is to address the very troubling and fatal situation East side walk of San Vicente Blvd., north of Wilshire is unincorporated County land; has never been part of the City of LA. As a result the City, the Council, and LAPD have no jurisdiction over that east sidewalk, now called Veterans Row, with the large row of tent encampments which completely cover the sidewalk. Without the language, calling on the Board of Supervisors to direct the Sheriff's Department, we would be failing our friends in Brentwood and not able to address the blockage. This blockage in Brentwood is notorious and resulted in a vehicular homicide, where a homeless individual lost his life because of the encampment lack of enforcement. Member Koslow provided a point of information that NCs are not allowed to ask anything from other than City agencies. He is for this but doesn't know if we can vote on this that says Supervisors, etc. Per the Chair, WRAC and the community councils can do so. Member Wishon of WNC noted that we may want to leave it as it is as the Board of Supervisors doesn't have oversight over the Sheriff's. Otherwise, we direct the Sheriffs. Chair Wersinger removed the County Supervisor line from the amendment.

Member Bisnoff noted that one problematic issue is the Veteran's Affairs Department Police doesn't patrol outside the boundaries of the VA. We can keep it in; it will make no difference one way or the other, It's really the Sheriff's has the jurisdiction. What concerns their community is that it is not the only place where we have a supervisor that has asked the Sheriff's Department to refrain the type of enforcement we just passed in the other motion. They have said we are not going to enforce the Federal law. We believe this will probably be changing soon with the Federal case and settlement. The Chair noted that the motion calls for enforcement from agencies wherever the problem exists.

Vote on the Amendment: **7 Yes:** Vice Chair Spitz (PPCC), Member Shure (MVCC), Member Wishon (WNC), Member Sann (WCC), Secretary Greenberg (BABCNC), Member Chapman (WWNC) & Member Watts (BCC). **1 No:** Member Lexell (SORONC); **3 abstentions:** Chair Wersinger (DRNC), Member Lewis (NWWNC) and Member Koslow (VNC) **Amendment passed.** Further discussion was held. Member Lexell thinks violence across encampments is common regardless of ADA compliance and that this is a vague notion that doesn't include all possible violations of the ADA. It was noted that this is a chronic problem in Del Rey. Some members do not believe LAPD is the right agency for this. People move their tents back. The homeless services do a better job of this. They are not going to arrest their way out of this problem. It was noted that smaller tents are legal because they leave clearance. Member Bisnoff noted that the County is the ultimate agency; it is a question of getting the Sheriff's Dept. and other county agencies to enforce. **Motion As Amended (WRAC Homeless / Jay Handal)** - The Westside Regional Alliance of Councils calls on the Los Angeles City Council and Mayor Eric Garcetti to direct the Los Angeles Police Department and the Department of Public Works' Bureau of Engineering Street Services Division, as well as the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, and the Department of Veterans Affairs to direct the Veterans Affairs Police Department and other relevant law enforcement agencies to enforce all existing, enforceable laws prohibiting the blockage of the public right of way on the Westside of Los Angeles, including all applicable provisions of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA).

Vote on the Motion as Amended: 6 yes: Vice Chair Spitz (PPCC), Member Gerez (NCWP), Member Sann (WCC), Member Watts (BCC), Secretary Greenberg (BABCNC); Ira Koslow (VNC), **5 No:** Member Wishon (WNC), Chair Wersinger (DRNC), Member Lewis (NWWNC), Member Lexell (SORONC), Member Chapman (WWNC); **1 abstention:** Member Shure (MVCC), **passed.**

- e. **Motion (WRAC Homeless / Jay Handal)** - The Westside Regional Alliance of Councils calls for additional funding and resources, from all available sources, in order to implement more Safe Parking Programs and to support existing, reputable safe parking programs, including those operated by organizations such as Safe Parking LA, throughout the Westside of Los Angeles. Steve **moved;** Lisa **seconded;** Brief discussion was held, with Member Chapman noting that she had spoken with Joslyn and to the Director of Safe Parking; they supply security guard, bathroom and sanitary services as well as case workers to help people get into housing. They have a security guard for all the hours of safe parking. Member Gerez noted that this needs real enforcement. **11 Yes:** Chris, Stacy, Ira, Jane, Matt, Steve, Andrew, Olga, Robin, Lisa, Larry; **0 No; 1 Abstention:** Paula; **passed as written**
- f. **Motion (WRAC LUPC / Barbara Broide)** – Motion concerning ghost kitchen zoning. **Table to next month.** Barbara will send in report or background information.
- g. **Motion (Del Rey NC / Matt Wersinger)** – **Matt Tabled.**

Whereas Los Angeles is one of the only places in the United States where oil drilling occurs right in the middle of a densely-populated urban metropolis. Over 620,000 Angelenos live within a mile of an active oil well;

Whereas the City of Los Angeles contains over 1,000 active oil wells and 80% are located within 2,500 feet of a sensitive land use, impacting residents, students, and workers, including wells in close proximity to the Del Rey community with facilities in Playa del Rey and Baldwin Hills; Whereas neighborhood drilling threatens the health and safety of those living along the fence line of these oil wells;

Whereas oil and gas extraction sites routinely use and emit as byproducts toxic chemicals that are known carcinogens, endocrine disruptors, and are harmful to multiple organ systems. These include but are not limited to formaldehyde, hydrochloric acid, hydrofluoric acid, naphthalene, xylene, benzene and volatile organic compounds;

Whereas the primary health risk factor associated with oil and gas development within urban areas is proximity to active sites, because any toxic emission will be at its highest and most dangerous concentration at the source of pollution;

Whereas the closer you live, work, and play to an active oil well, the more severely your health and safety are threatened. Whereas living next door to neighborhood drilling means chronic headaches and migraines, frequent nosebleeds, exacerbated asthma and other respiratory illness, reproductive harm and an increased risk of cancer;

Whereas the transport, onsite storage and use of toxic and flammable chemicals in industrial facilities in close proximity to homes and other sensitive land uses also raises the risk of catastrophic accidents;

Whereas neighborhood drilling is incompatible with public health and has no place near sensitive land uses such as homes, schools, churches or daycare facilities; and studies show that a buffer of at least 2,500 feet between active oil wells and these sensitive land uses is necessary to protect community health from oil extraction;

Whereas the City of Los Angeles is a leader at the forefront of enacting policies to protect the environment and address global climate change, including the Sustainability City Plan requiring dramatic reductions in GHG emissions with an 80% GHG reduction target by 2050;

Whereas the City of Los Angeles has a duty to protect the health and safety of its residents and can use its power over land use and oil operations to protect those residents in this instance;

The Del Rey Neighborhood Council resolves to call on the City of Los Angeles, and the Los Angeles City Council specifically to establish a human health and safety buffer that prohibits oil drilling within 2,500 feet of sensitive land uses including homes, schools, early childhood centers, senior centers, hospitals and medical clinics, parks, etc.

The Del Rey Neighborhood Council resolves to submit a Community Impact Statement to Council File 17-0447 and to communicate support to our City Council member expressing support for this position.

8. Old Business

- a. 21-03 Support SB 15 / Constitutional Amendment 2 / support for affordable housing** – February 15, 2021 (*passage deadline May 2021*); 6 councils adopted: BCC, *MVCC, NCWPDR, PNC, PPCC, WLASNC, WNC, WWNC (*modified version). **[MAJORITY PASSAGE]**

- b. 21-04 Opposition to Cost Recovery Model of Land Use Appeal Fees** – March 15, 2021 (*passage deadline June 2021*); 8 councils adopted: BABCNC, BCC, *DRNC, *MVCC, *NCWPDR, PPCC, WNC, WWNC (*modified version). **[MAJORITY PASSAGE]**

- 9. Adjourn:** On closing it was noted that we would like to have Controller Galperin this year. The meeting adjourned at 9pm
Next meeting will be held on May 17th 2021 at 6pm.