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Venice Neighborhood Council
West LA-Sawtelle Neighborhood Council
Westside Neighborhood Council
Westwood Community Council
Westwood Neighborhood Council

AGENDA

WRAC Meeting of the Board of Directors

May 17th 2021 – 6:00pm

Webinar link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85804559642>
Or Dial 888 475 4499 (Toll Free) Webinar ID 858 0455 9642

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Items on the Agenda may be taken in any order at the discretion of the Chair

1. **Welcome/Introductions**
 - a. **Chair Updates**
 - b. **Upcoming Guests –**
 - i. **June – State Redistricting Commissioner Ahmad; LA City Redistricting Commissioner Prichard**
 - ii. **TBD – LA Council President Nury Martinez, LA County Supervisor Holly Mitchell, LA City Controller Ron Galperin, Mayor Eric Garcetti**
2. **Government Report -**
 - a. **LAPD – Chief Michel Moore (moderated discussion with the Board)**
 - b. **Mayor Eric Garcetti – Brad Fingard**
 - c. **Council Reports TBD**
 - d. **Additional Government Reports – At the discretion of the Chair**
3. **Board Member Updates - Limited to 5 minutes total**
4. **Committee Reports – Limited to 5 minutes total**
5. **Public Comment – Non-member attendees are allowed 1 minute for comment on any agenda items; comment time may be amended by the Chair**
6. **Approval of Minutes —**
 - a. **Motion (Matt Wersinger) – Approval of April 2021 meeting minutes**
7. **New Business**

a. **Motion (WRAC Homeless / Jay Handal)** –Severely mentally ill persons in Los Angeles, who are unable to avail themselves of current public services, are dying on our streets. WRAC demands the City of Los Angeles collaborate with the County of Los Angeles to fully utilize the Lanterman-Petrus-Short Act, including section 5150 and fast-track conservatorships of these individuals, to enable life-saving care. Further, we ask that the city add to its legislative program a demand that the State Legislature provide funds to the county to create as many fully-staffed psychiatric beds as necessary to properly house and treat these individuals.

b. **Motion (WRAC LUPC / Barbara Broide)** - WHEREAS businesses referred to as “cloud kitchens” or “ghost kitchens” represent a fairly new form of commerce and land use concept, and,
WHEREAS this new business model has the potential to create significant impacts on neighboring business and residential communities, and
WHEREAS the City of Los Angeles has not established a specific zoning classification for such businesses, thus creating potential inconsistencies, uncertainty and lack of transparency for applicants, City staff, and those seeking to review these proposed projects, and
WHEREAS the absence of clear classification for cloud/ghost kitchens can result in some being treated as commercial and/or retail uses, while others may be grouped as light manufacturing, and WHEREAS none of these classifications accurately captures the true nature of these operations, and
WHEREAS cloud kitchen/ghost kitchens are being established in many areas across the City of Los Angeles,
Therefore, be it moved that the Westside Neighborhood Council requests that the City, represented by our Council District, PLUM, the City Council, in coordination with the Departments of Planning and Building and Safety:

- define what constitutes a Cloud/ghost kitchen, including possible different categories of such operations based upon numbers of kitchens and/or square footage involved,
- identify criteria for the evaluation of their applications for buildout and permitting, including a process to evaluate potential impacts on their surroundings (noise, odor, traffic and requirements pertaining to factors
- assess needed infrastructure (adequacy of electric service to area), parking and/or loading zones,

WRAC believes that providing this needed clarification will remove uncertainties as and contribute to the establishment of successful enterprises by creating the structure needed to guide the city’s review and decision-making process.

c. **Motion (WRAC LUPC / Jay Handal)** - WRAC requests that the City Council direct City Attorney Mike Feuer to provide a legal opinion as to whether or not the City Planning department and commissions have the legal right under State and City laws and ordinances to consider the financial interests of the developer when considering entitlements.

- d. **Motion (WRAC Transportation)** – WRAC requests that the city of Los Angeles improves signage in electric vehicle charging locations to discourage non-charging vehicles (both ICE and EVs) from parking there. It further requests that the city issue a warning ticket and subsequent fine to any vehicle owners who repeatedly park in these spots illegally once adequate signage is installed.
- e. **Motion (WRAC Transportation)** –WRAC supports motions (City Council File: 20-0584 and 20-0498) introduced by Councilmember David Ryu/Koretz and O’Farrell/Martinez to create incentives for employees of businesses and for government officials and employees to work from home.

While remote work is not a panacea for the climate crisis, making the practice more widespread and available in Los Angeles could help to reduce commuter traffic, which would have the benefit of reducing vehicle air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. Teleworking is just one of many tools in our toolbox that we must utilize to fight the climate crisis and create sustainable air quality improvements to our region.

By improving air quality, we also create healthier Angelenos. Air pollution is linked to a host of health problems and makes people more vulnerable to COVID-19. A recent UCLA study found that approximately 14,000 premature deaths could be avoided annually if California decreases greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050. Underserved communities who suffer the most from air pollution would see disproportionately higher level of benefits from cleaner air, the study also found.

WRAC actively supports the City studying these issues further and exploring their timely implementation in the City of Los Angeles.

- f. **Motion (WRAC Transportation)** - WRAC supports Councilmember Paul Koretz’s motion to ban parked vehicle idling. It is necessary to address the issues of poor air quality in Los Angeles due to the increasing concerns over the climate emergency.

Car idling puts 3 million tons of CO2 into California’s atmosphere annually. At least one-third of greenhouse gas emissions in Los Angeles is from the transportation sector.

The Los Angeles region has received an on-going annual failing grade from the American Lung Association’s “State of the Air” report. Los Angeles is considered the most ozone-polluted metropolitan area in the United States.

Air pollution poses significant dangers to public health, including risk of premature death, reproductive and developmental harm, cardiovascular disease, lung cancer, and asthma. Over 250,000 children and 1.1 million adults in the Los Angeles metropolitan area reportedly have asthma, with low-income communities of color particularly at risk.

Sensitive locations all over Los Angeles, such as schools, hospitals and senior centers, as well as emissions choked areas such as garages, parking lots and travel hubs are most at risk. Distracted Idling is increasing as we sit in our cars to charge and talk on phones, as ride-hailing and delivery services leave parked vehicles engines running.

Idling is a zero MPG activity which creates 3 million tons of unnecessary CO2 and other pollutants in CA annually. It is counterproductive to be concerned about car MPG standards and completely ignore this zero MPG behavior.

At least 7 states, and many cities, have already implemented a parked vehicle idling ban. For example, NYC has had one of the strongest all-vehicle parking idling laws for decades. We are in support of adopting the best practices from these states and cities.

There are exemptions for extreme temperatures, the health and the well-being of passengers, safety or emergency vehicles and commercial vehicles. This will not hurt low-income or homeless people, it will not be enforced in any way if the health or wellness of vehicle occupants are at stake, it will not interfere with necessary emergency and safety vehicle functions, and it will not interfere with commercial vehicle functions that require a parked idling engine.

Research has consistently found that it's less polluting and more fuel efficient to turn off a modern, fuel-injected vehicle than let it idle for more than 10 seconds long. Limiting needless vehicle idling to one minute or less will protect everyone.

This motion would raise consciousness to turn off parked idling vehicles. WRAC calls on LA City Council to support Koretz's parked vehicle idling ban and post "Clean Air Zone - No Idling Allowed" signs in sensitive areas.

We need an effective ordinance coupled with a good educational campaign by LADOT. We ask that before any final City Council action, this motion be amended to set context sensitive time limits for idling. And when this proposed ordinance gets implemented, we ask for clearly defined criteria be established for enforcement.

8. Old Business

- a. **21-05 Oppose Use of Beaches, Beach Parking Lots & Public Parks to House the Unhoused** April 19, 2021 (*passage deadline July 2021*); 8 councils adopted: BABCNC, BCC,* MVCC,* NCWP,* PPCC,* WLASNC, WNC, WWNC (**modified version*). [MAJORITY PASSAGE]
- b. **21-06 Enforcement of Crimes In or Near Homeless Encampments** – April 19, 2021 (*passage deadline July 2021*); 6 councils adopted: BABCNC, BCC, PPCC, WLASNC, WNC, WWNC.
- c. **21-07 Abate and Correct Unsafe and Unhealthy Conditions In Homeless Encampments** – April 19, 2021 (*passage deadline July 2021*); 6 councils adopted: BABCNC, BCC, PPCC,* WLASNC, WNC, WWNC* (**modified version*).
- d. **21-08 Increase Funding to Support Additional Safe Parking Program** – April 19, 2021 (*passage deadline July 2021*); 7 councils adopted: BABCNC, BCC, DRNC, PPCC, WLASNC, WNC,* WWNC* (**modified version*).
- e. **21-09 Enforce Laws Prohibiting Blockage of Public Right of Way** – April 19, 2021 (*passage deadline July 2021*); 6 councils adopted: BABCNC, BCC, PPCC, WLASNC, WNC,* WWNC (**modified version*).

9. Adjourn

Next meeting will be held on June 21st 2021 at 6pm.