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MINUTES

WRAC Meeting of the Board of Directors

September 20th 2021 – 6:00pm

Webinar link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85804559642>
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1. Welcome/Introductions

The WRAC Board conducted its regular monthly meeting by on-line video and audio on September 20, 2021. Chair Matt Wersinger called the meeting to order at 6:02pm and welcomed all in attendance.

- a. **Representatives present:** Matt Wersinger (WRAC Chair) (DRNC), Christina Spitz (WRAC Vice-Chair) (PPCC), Robin Greenberg (WRAC Secretary) (BABCNC), Kathryn Wheeler (MVCC), Steve Sann (WCC), Jane Wishon (WNC), Andrew Lewis (NWWNC), James Murez (VNC), Jay Handal (WLASNC); Lisa Chapman (WWNC), Michael Lynn (SORONC), Paula Gerez (NCWP), Michelle Bisnoff (BCC), and, Member Randell Erving (PNC) who had to leave following Ron Galperin's talk.
- b. **Nonvoting Alternates present:** Barbara Broide (WNC) & Nickie Miner (BABCNC)
- c. **Also Present:** Mark Fuentes with Ron Galperin, LA City Controller
- d. **Chair Updates:** Chair Wersinger noted that of the three motions that passed, he sent some letters with one more to send and additionally sent a letter regarding the housing element.
- e. **Upcoming Guests –**
 - i. **October – DONE** General Manager Raquel Beltran: Let Chair Wersinger know your questions in advance.
 - ii. **November (TBC) –** LA County District Attorney George Gascon

2. Government Reports -

- a. **LA City Controller – Ron Galperin:** Controller Galperin noted that working with NCs and the community is difficult and rewarding, especially during COVID, to keep people engaged. He gave a brief summary about where the city stands fiscally and the COVID response, reports and resources. He reported having brought this office into a new era, as to use of technology & data, first in the nation (see new dashboard inside LA City Finances). All of the information is in one place, from Special Funds, including all sorts of details of where we are compared to the budget at any given time; you can look at cash balances, reserve balances. Right now we are at a high from the American Rescue Plan (ARP); some of those monies are being parked as we figure out how they will be spent; looking at debt capacity, breakdown by department, and more. It is meant to revolutionize how department managers, City Council, the CAO, and each of us are

able to use this as a tool to run the city in a much better way. We also have the virtual checkbook of the city, where you can see elements of the budget... and it details where the money is going, e.g., where things were promised by elected officials or departments.

<https://controllerdata.lacity.org/stories/s/City-Finances/s482-ftsm>

Controller Galperin related that there is another new feature on how the ARP is impacting LA. The ARP is going to be giving us 1.2 billion dollars over the course of a little over a year. We have received half of that, the other half will come next May or June. He has been suggesting that the City be thoughtful about how we spend it... this is once in a generation money, we want to use it wisely, seek to create a greater equity in Los Angeles but also be careful not to create programs that we cannot continue afterwards. ... You can also see the billion dollars that the budget calls for in the city for homelessness, three hundred million for racial justice and economic justice... we have the breakdowns of that. He noted that they created a COVID-19 info and resource hub, and have lots of information with hundreds of resources, city, county, federal and state, nonprofit, legal assistance to freelance, artists, small business persons, etc. They launched a food map, the first ever throughout the state of California, pretty much all of them in the City of Los Angeles, and they created a financial first aid kit.

He continued that some recent reports issued include something about 311 service, about the app, mapping requests by neighborhood, a map around illegal dumping, a scourge everywhere in the city, an embarrassment, an international embarrassment. They mapped what and where it is being dumped, how quickly cleaned up or not, some is from commercial and industrial users, some from contractors, and his department concluded that the initial fines are so low it almost pays to do it illegally. He noted that we need to find ways to dump legally, and find ways to make it easier to dump legally. We need more cameras to spot it as it happens, catch people after it happens and hopefully prevent people from doing it if they know they are being watched. Council is taking up a number of these recommendations. He noted that they need cooperation from CalTrans. Where things are dumped at the entrances and exits of freeways, these are not the jurisdiction of the City of LA but are the jurisdiction of CalTrans who has failed to step up to the plate, and he is pushing for them to do so.

He noted that we have a report on LAFD overtime and created the first ever equity index in LA, which maps every neighborhood and measures and provides a grade for your neighborhood, based on the number of owners versus renters, education levels, toxics, air quality, rent burden and more, which is meant to be a guidepost to where we need to be investing funds in LA.

He continued that they keep updating the list of city properties, the first to have mapped every property owned by the City, County & Federal government, State, LAUSD & Metro. They are completing a report about looking at how some of those properties can be used for either interim or eventually long-term housing for people experiencing homelessness, and housing period, which we need so much more of. Another recent report is on protecting your privacy, looking at what we are doing with the data collected by the City, making sure to use it well and that it is not

abused. Since 2020, we have 850,000 hours of police body camera gathered, millions of license plate scans done automatically, nearly 12,000 surveillance cameras, drone deployments and massive 40-gigabites real-time traffic data. One fundamental question is how we make sure that these are used for good and not get abused.

The Controller noted that there is a lot of work on issue of homelessness, which he thinks is the fundamental and existential crisis faced in WLA. He noted that three to four people a day are dying on the streets of LA, who are experiencing homelessness. He opined that this is not about money but about political will and how we spend that money, explaining that the City has budgeted about a billion dollars for homelessness this coming year, as part of the budget. LAHSA has a budget of 888 million dollars for this year. If you divide that up by the people in the continuum of care, that is about \$16,000 per person. He noted that the County has a budget in the billions when it comes to what is being spent on homeless, and questioned what we are getting for that money. He noted that this is a worsening problem, partly from COVID and partly from the decisions we are making. He believes in permanent supportive housing but noted it is taking three to six years to build, an average of \$550,000 a door; up to \$750,000 a door. If that is your cost, you'll never have enough money to get enough people into housing. How do you find more interim solutions..., how you utilize publically-owned properties coupled with services to get people off sidewalks? As long as they are on the sidewalks, it is really difficult to provide people with the care that they need. He noted that this has also created a more service-resistant population, a public health crisis and a public safety crisis. He thinks if we take more of the money and use it for more immediate purposes, e.g., provide housing vouchers to provide shed homes, safe parking and safe tending areas... though there are problems with each of those, they are better than the disaster that we have going out on the streets and the humanitarian travesty in terms of the homelessness crisis that we have. He noted that a lot of reports and recommendations that he has made, and a lot of research looking at LAHSA has been done with recommendations of what they think is going wrong there and ways to fix that, though it is not one fix or an easy fix, there are a lot ways to immediately improve things. He is looking at how to use the resources to do the most amount of good, to save the most amount of people, to create a legacy and a better City and County for the next generations.

Chair Wersinger (DRNC) asked if there are tangible solutions regarding the pension time bomb this year, and five, 10 years down the road. Controller Galperin gave many comments, some including that we've made promises to those who have served our city; there are protections that solidify the commitment we made. There have been attempts at pension reform for people going forward only. People are living longer and sometimes retiring earlier from public service and we need to find ways to bring in and use the revenues we have in the best possible way. He asked how to restructure the way we bring in and spend monies and how to maximize revenues, noting that the markets have done well in the last two years, so we are bringing in returns that exceed investment expectations but know the vicissitudes of the markets, and thankfully have a diverse portfolio but will have years when you reach and other years you don't meet those targets. We have to find a way to meet these pension obligations and noted that we're not doing much hiring.

Chair Wersinger asked about the way to roll out vaccinating workers, e.g., LAPD, City staff, to which the Controller responded that he is a big believer in vaccinations; statistics are clear as to those hospitalized and mortality rates related to those who have not gotten vaccinations. He commented that we need to look at why there is resistance to vaccinations, as the environment is politicized, we are living in a divided time and need to find ways to bridge that. He thinks when you are in the business like Police & Fire, being in very close contact with a lot of people a lot of time, in the interest of public safety and of those serving and the people they are serving, we should find ways to encourage them to get vaccinated. He thinks there is a need for some sort of a mandate, though we need to find a way to deal with the issues people have.

Chair Wersinger opened the floor to the board, with some comments noted as follows:

Member Bisnoff (BCC) asked how long Prop HHH projects are in process, to which the Controller noted that they do an audit every year, and are now doing a much broader audit... It is now five years since HHH passed with 1.2 billion dollars in bonds for up to 10,000 permanent supportive housing units. He thinks that after five years we have pathetic results, and has recommended looking at clawing back, though the money has not been distributed yet. He noted that if you have a project growing out of control in terms of cost, he doesn't want to stop something from being built, but if far from being built, look at how we can reallocate it for what we need now, including but not limited to interim housing solutions and clinical spaces for people experiencing significant mental illness, a 24-hour a day environment in which they may involuntarily go or sometimes we may need to commit them to, for their own best interest and to save their lives. He noted that Council is not jumping on these in part because of requirements, and very few developers want to touch it. Many of these deals require state bonds or tax credits, different agencies, and may take several years. He advocates the state delegating authority for us to make those decisions rather than spreading it out for three years at three tables, which is slow going. He feels that more pressure needs to be brought onto the City Council.

Member Gerez (NCWP) asked if he had a chance to finalize his list of city-owned property for homeless, to which he noted that an order was issued in one of the cases related to Judge Carter in which a stay was obtained; he spoke to him. He welcomed being told to put that list together and noted that they mapped the properties a long time ago but need to determine if appropriate. They're almost done updating that list, have sent auditors to do site inspections, and will come up with their own list for interim or other housing or safe parking or safe tenting.

Member Broide (WNC) asked what can be done for homeless mentally ill individuals, citing an example of an individual in her neighborhood who set a gas station on fire. She noted that mental health help is also needed for people who are not homeless but who have episodes with family members who are mentally ill with nowhere to go. The Controller responded that we desperately need to redefine what "Grave Disability" is; we are not helping people to die on the street. There are some people who are not in a position to make the best choice. We can offer them help and if they refuse it we are allowing them to die on the street; he thinks it is immoral.

Member Broide noted that no one talks about the city costs when employees do contract COVID, e.g., Disability and Workers' Comp. She noted a recent Rand study looking at the impact of wage agreements on HHH projects, showing the impact on the size of projects, e.g., if they go above 49 units they have to have labor agreements...

Member Broide, noted as to billboards and signage, Public Works is moving forward on the new street furniture program and that the Sidewalk and Transit Amenities Program (STAP) was released without public input. She does not know where the money will come from, and would like to feel more confident that given their failure to negotiate the contract over the last 20 years... that there is some measure of oversight that can be introduced into this process. She noted that we are also worried about digital gathering of data, as these shelters are proposed to gather data from every person and car that passes.

Controller Galperin responded that he has done an audit looking at the program a number of years ago, about it not meeting its financial expectations for various reasons, in part because their projections were based on having a certain number of locations, certain high value locations, likely on the Westside, and problems for them getting approvals for those occasions. He noted that there were other things related to magazine racks, advertising in relation to public bathrooms and urinals that went south, and the technology is hanging; add to that the crisis of homelessness. He noted that bus ridership is declining, which makes some bus advertisements less desirable for certain advertisers if it can be damaged easily, and rather than seating people waiting for the bus, it turns into a sleeping location for some people. He noted that it is a mess. He will continue to try to look into this and work out the best deal. The technology is changing so quickly, what a billboard is may totally change, citing a billboard by Sony on contact lenses that can add augmented reality at what you look at. It is a new world and contracts should anticipate that.

Chair Wersinger asked if within the eight years in this position there have been big picture takeaways that would guide him in his future endeavors. The Controller related that he learns lessons every day, he realizes that a lot of decisions are made for political reasons ... and we have to use the massive amount of information available to make much better decisions. Looking at LAHSA, they had 700 contracts in place with different service providers but are not tracking well at how those service providers are performing – if that money is being used well or not. There is a lot more we can do with the resources we have on every level. He noted that LA is not the most governable of cities, with a relatively weak mayoralty, Council Districts that do not work well with the County of LA, and thinks there needs to be a much better way for those entities to collaborate or we will have a real problem moving forward in the future. We have to find ways to make public service more attractive to people & attract the best and the brightest... He noted that the County's budget is 3-1/2 times the size of the City, 36-1/2 billion dollars. In the City we have the NC system, with ways for certain kind of input, people who participate in hearings, but almost zero of that with County government. Chair Wersinger & the Board thanked him for coming, noting that we appreciate his time and wished him the best. The Controller in kind thanked us for our service.

Lastly, asked about his children, Controller Galperin noted the importance that as many kids as possible are provided with the tools they need, as the next generation will be leading the world, and that we need to ask what we are doing to make sure that we create the best environment for them to do that in.

(Member Rendell (PNC) had to leave at this point.)

- b. **Mayor's Office TBD:** Chair Wersinger noted that they have not replaced Brad Fingard and he is still available for emergencies.
- c. **Council Reports:** Chair Wersinger related that Debbie Dyner Harris is leaving Councilmember Paul Koretz's office, sad news, and no one here from Councilmember Bonin's office.

Chair Wersinger introduced Michelle Persoff, Field Rep in California's 54th Assembly District for Assembly member Isaac Bryan, whose region covers from UCLA to Culver City and to Crenshaw and a little bit of Inglewood; covers a lot of people with varying needs and priorities.

Updates: The session ended for the year and the member is back in the district. Priority is meeting with everybody, especially organizations, and seeing constituents' priorities. She related that the Assembly member supported County Supervisors Mitchell, Gruel and Hahn's motions at the LA County Board meeting on oil wells, and the Assembly member was involved in Senator Stern's bill on CalGEM, which manages oil wells in the state. Assembly members' AB 1043, an affording housing bill was sent to the Governor to be signed. He is proud of SB2 passing, Senator Bradford's bill on decertification of police officers who are bad actors, and that they have joined 46 other states. She noted that we now have the lowest COVID rate in the country. California is doing really well but we are not backing down; we have done five vac events and have more coming.

- d. **Additional Government Reports** – At the discretion of the Chair

3. Board Member Updates -

- **Member Sann (WCC)** related that there is a meeting of the LA City Redistricting Commission now. Multiple iterations of draft maps are being made available today. He sent this information out to a few folks, and noted that it will be impactful for CD11 and CD5. It appears the commission is heeding a recommendation by folks in Bel Air and Westwood. He noted that it appears they will be using Mulholland as a dividing line, where the Valley portion will not be part of CD5 in the future. Much of CD11 looks largely intact. Chair Wersinger confirmed that information.

- **Member Lewis (NWWNC)** thanked Chair Wersinger for sending the letter to Metro. Chair Wersinger related that the he had a long talk with the new outreach person, Karen Swift, at Metro.

4. Committee Reports

– **Selena Inouye, WRAC Transportation Committee**, thanked those who supported the E.V. charging motion and the motion for a stop at UCLA on the Sepulveda Corridor Project. She noted that they have one outstanding motion without eight votes on work from home/telecommuting and hopes it can be extended. She knows the NC Sustainability Alliance was supporting this about a year ago, and it is a

way to decrease traffic now by encouraging more people to work from home. She noted that they moved their September meeting which conflicted with Yom Kippur and will meet the last Wednesday 7:00pm, which will be posted on the website. Chair Wersinger expressed his appreciation for all Selena is doing. He noted that there was no Land Use meeting this month.

- **Steve Sann** (WCC), related that the BABCNC passed a motion at their Traffic Committee and will bring it to their full board meeting Wednesday and that we still hope for unanimity on this, and he hopes that the three or so other councils who have not yet adopted it will agendaize it and that it would be wonderful if Chair Wersinger could issue a subsequent letter showing true regional support from all 14 councils. Chair Wersinger noted that this will go through a lot of steps, including an EIR and CEQA. Member Sann noted that this motion is not choosing the mode, e.g., monorail or any other, nor about the other issues as to connecting with the Purple Line.

- **Barbara Broide** gave an update on a land use matter, noting that tomorrow evening & Wednesday mid-day there will be presentations by Planning on the revised Housing Element Draft, with comments due on 09/22nd @ 5:00pm. She noted that we have written Councilmember Koretz's office and she wrote to Matt Glesne asking for an extension because they just released the revised draft, which is 100 pages longer than the original draft. She asked that those in agreement with this seek the Planning office and your CMs office for an extension. It is going to CPC on 10/14; and the State deadline is the 15th. She wonders if the City has asked the State for an extension from the 15th.

5. Public Comment –

M.B. Blakey noted her support the motion agenda item #7(d) on this evening's agenda.

Lisa Redmond noted, regarding item #7.c, with the immediate steps to prevent the further destruction of the sensitive environmental habitat at the Ballona Creek, she knows that this comes down to RVs, she thinks it is a broad statement to say let's stop the destruction. She thinks it needs to be spelled out further about how we are going to help. She thinks we need to demand safe parking lots for RVs, demand housing – much like the 41.18 motion as well in item #7.b. She also wanted to speak on #7.d, the illegal vigilante cleanups. She noted that Mr. Galperin's use of the word "scourge" which she thinks is a perfect fitting word here. She thinks it is reprehensible for neighborhood associations and groups to hire private security groups to come and illegally remove encampments. Yes, nobody wants to see an encampment. ... but removing people illegally not only causes further trauma to the residents of the encampments and then causes further disagreement towards services and housing but also it removes people from caseworkers, never to be found again and it never solves anything. All it does is create further trauma and kick the can down the road to another neighborhood.

Selena Inouye reminded us that the Congress of Neighborhoods is happening Saturday 09/25th on Zoom. They have a full schedule with 30 workshops, opening & closing ceremony, keynote speakers, a lunch and learn session and virtual exhibitor tables. Go to <https://www.neighborhoodcongress.la/> Selena Inouye thanked the NCs here that have sponsored this year's congress and let us know that she and Kay Hartman are members of the Congress Planning Committee. She hopes you will join us.

Andrew P., an unhoused advocate from Mar Vista wanted to speak on item 7.b, the vigilante sweeps. He feels that the thuggishness of private interests – the use of intimidation and fear especially on the most vulnerable populations – is despicable. He noted that when the people are displaced with no record on why they moved, it makes it harder to get them the help they need, and, as to cleaning up trash and litter, it often left to blow around.

Ndindi Kitonga an advocate of unhoused in Vista Del Rey Westside areas, spoke on item 7.d., noting that homelessness is not just about having a home, it is also about relationships; so when we have these sweeps by private systems, our outreach is adversely affected. We can't find the people that we support, people on a path towards something can't meet their caseworkers, mental health support they need, and this shuffles people around. The chaos in itself doesn't serve anyone including housed people of course.

6. Approval of Minutes —

- a. **Motion (Matt Wersinger)** – Approval of July 2021 meeting minutes:
Moved by Chair Wersinger (DRNC), **seconded** Member Handal (WLASNC); correction given by Member Broide: At the top of page 3, the number of homeless housed should say 288 (not 288,000); **passed** with 2 abstentions from Members Wheeler (MVCC) & Bisnoff (BCC).

7. New Business

- a. **Motion (WRAC HOC / Jay Handal & Chris Spitz)** [____ NC/CC] supports the proposed resolution in Council File 21-0929 (Buscaino/Koretz) for the City Council to prohibit sitting, lying, sleeping, or storing, using, maintaining, or placing personal property, in or upon any street, sidewalk, or other public rights-of-way within a radius of 500 feet from all schools listed in Attachment A to the Council File; and further, upon adoption of the resolution, for the City Council to direct the Department of Transportation to post signs giving notice of the restrictions in the radius specified.

[____ NC/CC] also requests that the definition of "radius" be clarified to specify a radius of 500 feet from the exterior boundary lines of the schools listed in Attachment A to the Council File.

Moved by Handal/Spitz. Detailed discussion was held including but not limited to whether we are excluding private schools in the list. Vice Chair Spitz noted this is coming from Councilmember Buscaino, who is asking to pass a resolution designating these sites. The Councilmember proposes that since we know all the addresses, verified, of all the public schools in the city, we have this list and have them designated as sensitive sites on this motion. Her own council has written a separate letter asking for the private schools and the public schools, listing all the addresses. Each NC can do that. Member Handal noted that 7.b. encourages councils to identify other schools, churches, synagogues, daycare, etc., and Councilmembers to file motions. Chair Wersinger noted that this is very specific for the Buscaino motion. Member Lewis asked if UCLA, a public school, is included, to which Member Handal and Vice Chair Spitz noted that this is only about LAUSD schools. Further comments included question by Member Wheeler of what the cost would be to post signage, and from Member Sann that this is an equity question, that all communities should have safe passage to and from school, as a baseline. He supports this motion. Further questions were asked and answered as to the process.

Member Lewis noted discussion from his NC that a sizable chunk of unhoused folks in LA are kids and students who go to school, hidden, swept away from being considered as part of the homeless population. UCLA students brought up need to consider that they need to be close to their school as well. He noted that there is a sizable unhoused student population in LAUSD and that displacing them further from where they go to school daily could have a negative impact on them. Member Bisnoff noted that part of this ordinance is for the city and county to provide the type of outreach services for a specific location and provide them what they need, e.g., prior to the sidewalk being cleared. Part of the motion is to get them to accept services and engage with service providers, which many homeless do not do now and that enacting this ordinance may house more people who are service resistant. She doesn't envision UCLA students in tents near the school. **Passed** with Member Lewis opposed. This goes out to councils.

- b. **Motion (WRAC HOC / Jay Handal)** [____ NC/CC] urges Councilmembers Bonin, Koretz, Raman and Ridley-Thomas (Councilmembers representing WRAC Member-Councils) to consult as soon as possible with their respective WRAC Member-Councils for input as to the designation of sites within their districts for enforcement pursuant to LAMC Sec. 41.18(c)(1)-(4) and 41.18(d), including: 1) schools, day care centers, public parks and public libraries, as defined in LAMC Sec. 105.01 ("sensitive uses"; 41.18(c)(1)); 2) overpasses, underpasses, freeway ramps, tunnels, bridges, pedestrian bridges, subways, washes spreading grounds and active railways, when public health, safety or welfare is served by the prohibition (41.18(c)(2)); 3) designated facilities opened after January 1, 2018 that provide shelter, safe sleeping or safe parking to homeless persons or that serve as homeless services navigation centers (41.18(c)(3)); 4) any locations in public rights-of-way for which there is documentation of a "particular and ongoing threat to public health or safety" (41.18(c)(4)). No enforcement action shall be taken unless the individuals have been offered shelter and have refused the offer.

[____ NC/CC] further requests that 1) Councilmembers bring resolutions in Council pursuant to LAMC Sec. 41.18(c)(1)-(4) and 41.18(d) as soon as any sites meeting the requirements of such sub-sections are identified to them by their respective WRAC Member-Councils; and 2) the distance of the radius prohibition set forth in such resolutions shall be as requested by the relevant WRAC Member-Councils, consistent with the distance set forth in such sub-sections

Member Handal introduced this item, noting it is not about sweeping; it is about identifying where the help is needed getting the council offices to get service providers, LAHSA, etc.

Moved by Handal/Spitz. Discussion was held, with Member Murez supporting this as being in the right direction; noting Venice is working on such a list based on the motion by City Council. He noted that we have to remind the city that there is a NC system, they are supposed to be notifying us before they take action; we are supposed to have ample time to respond to them. Member Handal agreed, noting that the sole purpose of NCs according to the charter is to advise their local councilmembers on issues in our neighborhood.

Passed with Member Lewis (NWWNC) abstaining. This goes out to councils.

- c. **Motion (Venice NC / Jim Murez)** [____ NC/CC] requests that the City of Los Angeles take immediate steps to prevent the further destruction of a sensitive environmental habitat, the Ballona Wetlands Preserve. Accumulated trash and hazardous waste from RV and tent encampments represent an immediate health hazard to our ocean, marine life, the animals who live in the wetlands and to the many Los Angelenos who use the nearby beaches and ocean for recreation. Further degradation of the last remaining marine wetland in Los Angeles must stop and the area must be cleaned up immediately so it can once again be available for the general public to use for school field trips, bird watching, and nature walks etc. that do not degrade the wetland or contaminate the nearby lagoon, ocean and beaches.

Chair Wersinger has learned that this was not passed by the Venice Neighborhood Council. Per Member Murez, this is outside the region of Venice, it belongs to Del Rey or Playa Del Rey; it is regional, a wetland, and an environmental catastrophe. The sooner something can happen the better. Member Gerez will have a motion on this in October. **This was not put on the table.**

- d. **Motion (Matt Wersinger / Jay Handal)** Whereas it is clear throughout Los Angeles that solutions must be found urgently to address the proliferation of encampments on our streets; and it is likewise abundantly clear that patience has run thin for many stakeholders;

Whereas this boiling over of frustration has led to vigilante behavior and threats against unhoused residents is increasing; and in fact illegal cleanups have been reported in Venice and Del Rey;

Whereas these illegal cleanups have been conducted without any regard to human life or property, and led by callous threats of violence against those most vulnerable; remove all personal property in addition to items that may be deemed trash; and no housing or other services have been connected to these, resulting in dislocation of people within the west side at great cost to ongoing outreach efforts and the mental health of the individuals affected, and therefore produce no long term and permanent solutions;

Therefore despite the mounting frustration of law abiding stakeholders, the [____ NC/CC] condemns in the strongest possible way all vigilante acts and cleanups by private citizens and calls on LAPD, the City Attorney, and all other relevant City and County agencies to do everything in their power to investigate those that have occurred, bring to justice those responsible, and stop future acts.

Chair Wersinger introduced this, noting that there is a right and wrong way to proceed with cleaning up the streets.

Moved by Wersinger/Handal: Chair Wersinger noted that this comes from something that he witnessed first-hand eight days ago here in Del Rey at Glencoe. He related that we have been doing outreach for three and four months, working with neighbors and engaging with homeless people living there. We were getting services out there, also working with St. Josephs and some veterans' organizations to find pathways off the streets while pushing for the city to get in there with some CARE cleanups.

Chair Wersinger related an incident that began Friday night when an individual threatened the homeless living in tents on the street with violence, and said if you are not gone in the morning, you're going to get hurt. The next morning, whomever threatened them brought hauler trucks and took everything on the street and put it in trash trucks, privately done, and hauled it away. He noted that because this didn't come with services for housing, this didn't help. One person moved a block away. Another individual and his friends moved into the wetlands, which we are trying to keep people from. The people were so despondent, they didn't file a police report and were pushed from services and work we were doing to engage with them. People lost medicines and personal belongings. He learned this is being done by a private individual. There is a reason to believe that this has happened at other sites. The problem is, though LAPD and the Mayor's office and Bonin's office are concerned, without a police report there is technically no crime and no way to investigate. Chair Wersinger is concerned that people will feel it is okay and will continue to do this in other areas, noting that this isn't the solution.

Member Handal was happy to co-sponsor this, noting that he has the same issue in his area, but more important, the past two motions talk about getting people off the street, it is important that the elected officials know that anyone who breaks the law and does something to an unhoused person, needs to pay the penalty. There is a lot that goes on but we are not the police. He wanted this motion to come forward because it is important for elected officials to see that it is important for them to get out and do things for the unhoused but people are doing things and should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. Chair Wersinger noted that he hasn't talked to anyone who thinks this is okay; it is cowardly and inhumane.

Member Gerez noted that this is not a rampant issue; people are taking the time to venture into our park to see what they can do and why the government officials are not doing their job. She sees compassion. She hasn't seen that vigilantism in her area; if anything, she sees more crime of homeless on homeless more than should be tolerated.

Member Lewis doesn't think this needs more vetting, nor is this being overstated; it is clearly stated what you are trying to say; he thinks vigilantism does happen. It's not always reported on but happens across the city. He thinks that this will send a message. Passing this sends a signal that we are here to ideally help people to end up in housing. He thinks it is great and thanked Chair Wersinger for bringing it forth. He concluded that these are our fellow human beings and we should make clear that hurting people and putting them at risk in any way is unacceptable.

Member Chapman is against all vigilante behavior; however, she objects to emotionally-charged rhetoric and the language, thinks it needs to be written differently and go back to committee, to be re-honed. It is an important motion but this reads a little emotional to her, especially regarding the frustration of stakeholders and the word "vigilante."

New Motion: Send it back to committee moved by Members Wheeler/Gerez. Discussion was held. Vice Chair Spitz recommended that the committee looks at the facts, where and what is the extent of this issue, noting that we are charged at looking at regional issues and this problem is not happening in the Palisades. She noted that they deal with the homeless every single day and don't do these things but if it happens in one place it shouldn't be happening. Member Bisnoff concurred with Vice Chair Spitz, that this motion should go back to committee, and would like to know where else this is allegedly happening in the city. She has heard of few examples.

Member Murez related that he contacted someone in Venice who is not aware of vigilantism happening there. He thinks the committee needs to look at what is a crime these days; LAPD considers the public right of way to be public domain. If something is sitting there on the street, it is public domain. It will be difficult to word that in a way that directly addresses the problem described. Member Sann recommends a little wordsmithing and noted that in Westwood they are spending over \$100,000 a year on outreach, and are leading with compassion.

Member Wheeler related that she has worked with homeless; this motion pits person against person and the real problem is the failure of our leadership. She noted that Controller Galperin said a billion dollars has been provided for the homeless and homelessness is only increasing. This motion should be geared to our City Council; send it back to committee ... put it to the City Council that they be accountable to the situation they have created and do something about it. She doesn't see the vigilante issue in her area, but we have to get to the cause of it. Chair Wersinger noted that this is a specific narrow motion regarding something that is happening. Member Wishon has seen it in SORO and thinks it should go back to committee.
Motion to send to committee: Passed with Members Wersinger & Lewis opposing.

- e. **Motion (Del Rey NC / Matt Wersinger)** – Whereas, the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners has before it consideration of proposed amendments to the Code of Conduct Policy applicable to Neighborhood Council Board and Committee Members;

Whereas, the existing Code of Conduct applicable to Neighborhood Councils should be amended to create a greater enforcement mechanism; and

Whereas, the proposed amendments to the Code of Conduct submitted by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (“DONE”) to the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (“BONC”) grant too much discretion to DONE in determining guilt and imposing penalties.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that:

BONC is advised against approving the proposed amendments to the Code of Conduct in their current form;

The [____ NC/CC] requests that the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, in consultation with an ad hoc group of Neighborhood Council members, revise the proposed amendments to ensure they afford Board and Committee members adequate due process rather than granting the Department sole discretion to immediately suspend a Member based on an alleged violation of applicable rules;

Any amendments to the Code of Conduct must take into account varying degrees of conduct when considering suspension and appropriate penalties, if warranted;

The Code of Conduct shall require that the minimum correction necessary to address any issue be used;

The Workplace Equity Policy shall be incorporated into the proposed amendments to the Code of Conduct only if formally adopted by the City prior to the Neighborhood Council City Department Review process, and in the alternative, the Code of Conduct shall incorporate the City's Workplace Violence Policy and Guidelines.

Chair Wersinger introduced this LANCC motion in opposition to the General Manager being able to unilaterally suspend board members without cause, investigation or right of appeal.

Moved by Wersinger/Handal. Discussion was held, including mention by Member Bisnoff that she is surprised that the Councilmember has not responded to this. Member Handal is concerned that the GM can suspend and unilaterally remove you with no cause, and that there is zero due process. Member Gerez is appalled and noted that it will be on her next agenda. Vice Chair Spitz noted on behalf of the oldest council in the city, formed in 1973, not a NC by choice, she is in solidarity with the NCs and will try to put this on their agenda, especially that a bureaucrat can overthrow an election of someone who was elected to the board; that is outrageous.

Member Chapman will abstain from this because they passed a much more detailed motion, unanimously after much discussion and will be using their own motion. She will send their motion to Chair Wersinger who will send it to everybody. Chair Wersinger will share it on the link on the agenda. Member Broide opined we should also be on the offense, for NCs to be able to introduce council motions, we need to be able to do our job. Member Wishon noted that it would require a charter amendment, which we cannot do. Member Broide noted that we have to educate and reach out to the other alliances, use whatever tools we have to make real the charge that we have. Chair Wersinger suggested forming an ad-hoc committee to look at the NC system, with Members Wheeler, Murez, Lynn, and Broide interested. Member Sann noted, as the third independent council that they stand with us all. Member Handal noted that former BONC Commissioner Doug Eberhart has a working committee for the last two months, with a citywide group of people who have gotten together to look at reforming BONC, reforming the GM position, making suggestions on issues NCs feel need to be addressed. He suggested Chair Wersinger contact him. **Passed** with **2 abstentions** by Members Wheeler & Chapman.

8. Old Business

Motion (Chris Spitz) – Board ratifies administrative extension of passage dates to September for motions (a) – (h) (these motions technically expired in August but were extended administratively for website purposes, pending board ratification of the extension). *Passage dates of all motions may be extended further by the board.* **Moved** by Spitz/Handal; **Unanimous**:

- a. **21-06 Enforcement of Crimes In or Near Homeless Encampments** – April 19, 2021 (*passage deadline September 2021*); 7 councils adopted: BABCNC, BCC, PPCC, VNC,* WLASNC, WNC, WWNC (**modified version*)

- b. **21-07 Abate and Correct Unsafe and Unhealthy Conditions In Homeless Encampments** – April 19, 2021 (*passage deadline September 2021*); 6 councils adopted: BABCNC, BCC, PPCC,* WLASNC, WNC, WWNC* (**modified version*)
- c. **21-09 Enforce Laws Prohibiting Blockage of Public Right of Way** – April 19, 2021 (*passage deadline September 2021*); 7 councils adopted: BABCNC, BCC, MVCC,* PPCC, WLASNC, WNC,* WWNC (**modified version*)
- d. **21-10 Facilitate Greater Use of 5150 Holds and Conservatorship** – May 17, 2021 (*passage deadline September 2021*); 8 councils adopted: BABCNC, BCC, NCWP, PPCC, VNC, WLASNC, WNC, WWNC – *passed by majority of member councils*
- e. **21-11 City Attorney Opinion re Financial Interest of Developer** – May 17, 2021 (*passage deadline September 2021*); 4 councils adopted: BABCNC, WLASNC, WNC, WWNC
- f. **21-12 Clarification regarding Cloud/Ghost Kitchens** – May 17, 2021 (*passage deadline September 2021*); 7 councils adopted: BABCNC, BCC, PPCC, VNC, WLASNC,* WNC, WWNC (**modified version*)
- g. **21-13 Improved Signage & Enforcement EV Charging Stations** – May 17, 2021 (*passage deadline September 2021*); 8 councils adopted: BABCNC, BCC,* DRNC, NWWNC, PPCC, WLASNC, WNC, WWNC (**modified version*) – *passed by majority of member councils*
- h. **21-14 Support 20-0584 & 20-0498 – Incentives to Work from Home** – May 17, 2021 (*passage deadline September 2021*); 6 councils adopted: BABCNC, DRNC,* MVCC,* VNC,* WLASNC,* WNC (**modified version*)
- i. **21-16 Oppose Misuse of Specific Plan Process** – June 21, 2021 (*passage deadline September 2021*); 5 councils adopted: BABCNC, NCWP, WLASNC,* WNC, WWNC (**modified version*)
- j. **21-17 Support for ACA 7** – June 21, 2021 (*passage deadline September 2021*); 6 councils adopted: BABCNC, NCWP, PPCC, WLASNC, WNC, WWNC
- k. **21-18 Support for Station on UCLA Campus for Metro’s STC Project** – July 19, 2021 (*passage deadline October 2021*); 10 councils adopted: BCC, DRNC, NCWP, NWWNC, PPCC, Palms NC, WCC, WLASNC, WNC,* WWNC (**modified version*) – *passed by majority of member councils*

Member Wheeler noted that they will be bringing the UCLA one this Wednesday. Vice Chair Spitz explained that this expires in October and that the first three have been on there the longest. Member Wheeler noted that in April, her board was heavily involved in the election and other things. They have 12 new people and 3 incumbents. She asked is it okay if she sent it to her different committee chairs, to bring it back to WRAC, to which Chair Wersinger explained that she can always take it up. The issue here is whether we extend these for ratification; the standing rules give a specific period of time. She can add to it, submit a CIS, etc.

Vice Chair noted that when these expire they go off the website. They can’t stay on unless they are extended. They are in the administrative part but don’t show on the website. Per Chair Wersinger, if they are not passed within a certain time they are done; however, they have a mechanism to extend. She noted that Wheeler’s council has already passed c.

Member Handal noted that we should give a, b, c and f another month, noting that it looked like SORO hasn't voted on any motion anywhere. He thinks there would be a few councils whom we could contact and try to get them on the agenda, let them pass or fail. Give it a shot for a month.

Vice Chair Spitz related that she is the only one "whipping" these. She won't be doing it again. She doesn't object to extending it if people want to do it. Chair Wersinger noted that those all have 7 votes.

Member Broide urged councils who haven't taken a position on f to consider f. Vice Chair Spitz reiterated that those who are the movers/sponsors should be reaching out to the councils to get them to pass this.

Member Gerez will have a, b & c on her next agenda. Murez noted that they haven't had a homeless committee for three months and on the issues of the homeless items, they will be taking positions in October but won't be able to get to him until they day after their board meeting.

Member Handal's Motion: Extend a, b, c & f: **passed.**

Member Wheeler's Motion: Extend e, i & j: **passed.**

Chair Wersinger noted that the only one that goes off is "h" as it is now done. "H" is not being extended; we have had six CISs on that.

- 9. Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 pm. Submit your questions to Chair Wersinger to send to Raquel Beltran.

Next meeting will be held on October 18th 2021 at 6pm.