



Westside  
Regional  
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Councils

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Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council  
Brentwood Community Council  
Del Rey Neighborhood Council  
Mar Vista Community Council  
Neighborhood Council of Westchester-Playa  
North Westwood Neighborhood Council  
Pacific Palisades Community Council

Palms Neighborhood Council  
South Robertson Neighborhoods Council  
Venice Neighborhood Council  
West LA-Sawtelle Neighborhood Council  
Westside Neighborhood Council  
Westwood Community Council  
Westwood Neighborhood Council

January 17, 2023

To: WRAC Member Councils (Chairs/Presidents and Board Representatives)  
From: WRAC Chair Robin Greenberg and Vice-Chair Chris Spitz

Happy New Year! In case you missed it, here's an update on our January 16, 2022 WRAC Board meeting.

### **MLK Day:**

Robin remarked on the significance of the day and spoke at length in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King.

### **Government Reports:**

The Board was pleased to welcome and hear from several representatives for new as well as returning elected officials: Jeannette Sanchez, District Director for new Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin ([jeannette.sanchez@asm.ca.gov](mailto:jeannette.sanchez@asm.ca.gov)); Hannah Wenger, Field Representative for new Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur ([hannah.wenger@asm.ca.gov](mailto:hannah.wenger@asm.ca.gov)); and Fernando Morales, Deputy Chief of Staff for new Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky ([fernando.morales@lacity.org](mailto:fernando.morales@lacity.org)). All explained that their respective offices are excited to be learning about the communities they represent; are bringing on new staff; are actively working on constituent issues; and are looking forward to working with WRAC member councils. Ms. Sanchez and Ms. Wenger also indicated that the Assemblymembers invite us to share ideas for legislation.

Jake Ettinger, new Westside representative for Sen. Ben Allen ([jake.ettinger@sen.ca.gov](mailto:jake.ettinger@sen.ca.gov)), also attended and noted that the Senator is excited to be representing District 24 with the new district boundaries. He spoke about this year's \$22 billion budget deficit, the Governor's proposal for dealing with the shortfall and Sen. Allen's priorities, including advocacy for the environment and democracy reform. Mr. Ettinger noted that the Senator is particularly proud of the passage of his bill, SB 54, which requires producers to reduce and eventually eliminate single-use plastic packaging.

We were happy as well to hear from Neighborhood Prosecutor Veronica de la Cruz-Robles (West LA Division), who explained that with the new City Attorney there have been no changes to the Neighborhood Prosecutor program.

### **Future WRAC Meetings and Events:**

We are excited to announce that three **WRAC Roundtable events** with our new CD 5 and CD 11 Councilwomen and District 3 County Supervisor have been confirmed. This will be an opportunity for WRAC Board members to have an intimate, in-depth, conversation with *new officials who represent most member councils*. The Roundtable schedule:

**February 27:** Traci Park, Councilwoman CD 11  
**March 13:** Katy Yaroslavsky, Councilwoman CD 5  
**April 10:** Lindsey Horvath, County Supervisor District 3

We have also invited **Mayor Karen Bass** for a Roundtable in May or June (date TBD) and will be inviting City Attorney **Hydee Feldstein-Soto** in due course.

The Roundtables will each take place on Monday mornings, **9am-10:30am**, at **Belmont Village Senior Living** on Wilshire Blvd. in Westwood. As with past WRAC Roundtables, in order to promote intimate discussion and allow for space limitations, attendance will be limited to the elected official/s, their staff, and two representatives from each WRAC member council (the primary rep and alternate, or other appointee). Stay tuned for more details coming soon.

In addition, we will welcome state and other county elected officials as **guest speakers** at upcoming Monday evening **online Board meetings**:

**February 20** (confirmed): *new* Assemblymember **Jacqui Irwin** (42<sup>nd</sup> District; represents Pacific Palisades, Brentwood, Bel-Air Beverly Crest & a part of Westwood/Westwood Hills)

**March 20** (invited/tentative): *new* Assemblymember **Rick Chavez Zbur** (51<sup>st</sup> District; represents most of Westwood, West LA-Sawtelle and parts of Bel Air-Beverly Crest and the Westside area)

Also invited for possible spring/summer online Board meetings (dates TBD): *new* Sen. Lola Smallwood-Cuevas (28<sup>th</sup> District); Sen. Ben Allen (24<sup>th</sup> District); *new* Asm. Tina McKinnor (61<sup>st</sup> District); Asm. Isaac Bryan (55<sup>th</sup> District); and Supervisor Holly Mitchell (2<sup>nd</sup> District).

**Next Board Meeting: February 20.** As noted, our guest speaker will be Asm. Irwin, who is available and happy to attend on this date (Presidents' Day). Although WRAC has previously held Board meetings on holidays that fell on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month (in 2021 and 2022), Board members briefly discussed whether future meetings falling on holidays should be re-scheduled. The only other upcoming holiday (during 2023) that conflicts with a regular Monday evening Board meeting is June 19 (Juneteenth). We will discuss at the next meeting whether to postpone the June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting to a later date.

#### **WRAC Committees:**

The Board heard reports from WRAC standing Committee Chairs: Maryam Zar (WRAC LUPC), Selena Inouye (WRAC MTC) and Jay Handal (WRAC HOC). Maryam announced that Mary Hruska has resigned as LUPC Co-chair; Maryam will continue on as Chair but is also looking for a replacement Co-chair. The LUPC will meet next on January 23, with a guest speaker and consideration of land use motions. Selena reported that the MTC is meeting this week on January 18 and will continue the discussion of important transportation and mobility matters. Jay announced that the HOC will meet on January 30 to take up pressing issues of homelessness. As always, agendas for all committee meetings are posted on the WRAC website when available.

#### **Pending & Adopted Motions:**

There were no new WRAC-recommended motions. The passage deadline was extended to February for two pending motions: 1) *Support for Speed Limit Reductions* and 2) *Venice Blvd. Improvements Project Concerns/Withhold Support* (the first motion is now **only one vote shy** and the second motion is **two votes shy** of the majority required for adoption as a WRAC position). **Please consider taking up these and other pending motions if you haven't yet done so.** The motions can be found at: <https://westsidecouncils.com/pending-motions/> (click on the "Read More" button for additional background information about each motion). As always, we ask that you let us know if you've passed any of the pending motions.

One motion has been passed by a majority of member Councils and is now an adopted WRAC position: *Oppose IKE (interactive kiosk) program (CF 22-1154)*. **Please let us know by January 27 if you have also passed this motion**, or alternatively, if you have *considered* and *voted to oppose* this motion.

Thank you again for your continuing interest in and engagement with WRAC.