



MINUTES

WRAC Meeting of the Board of Directors MAY 15, 2023 – 6:30pm

Webinar link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87275111207>
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Items on the Agenda may be taken in any order at the discretion of the Chair

1. Welcome/Introductions

- a. **Call to Order and Certification of Quorum** Chair Greenberg (BABCNC) called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM, and welcomed everyone.
Secretary/Treasurer Laferriere-Holloway called the roll with **12 Present:** Robin Greenberg (WRAC Chair) (BABCNC), Chris Spitz (WRAC Vice-Chair) (PPCC), Tyler Laferriere-Holloway (WRAC Secretary & Treasurer) (MVCC), Carolyn Jordan (BCC), Ravi Sankaran (DRNC), Andrew Lewis (NWNC; partial attendance), Steve Sann (WCC), Lisa Chapman (WWNC), Paula Gerez (NCWP), Matthew Wait (PalmsNC), Michael Lynn (SORONC), Jane Wishon (WNC).
Nonvoting Alternates Present: Barbara Broide (WNC) and Nickie Miner (BABCNC), Andrew Marton (MVCC), and Debra Huston (NCWP).
Also Present: Veronica de la Cruz, WLA Division Neighborhood Prosecutor, from the Office of the Los Angeles City Attorney.
- b. **Chair Updates** – Chair Greenberg related the upcoming roundtables, thanking Vice Chair Spitz (PPCC) and Member Sann (WCC) for what they do for the roundtables.
 - (1) **WRAC Board Member Roundtables** –
Upcoming:
May 22 – County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath
June 5 – City Attorney Hydee Feldstein Soto
June 26 – Mayor Karen Bass
Date TBD – Congressman Ted Lieu
 - (2) **Board Meeting Guest Speakers/Presentations** – Chair Greenberg related the upcoming guest speakers:
Upcoming (Dates TBD):
Congressmembers Brad Sherman & Sydney Kamlager-Dove; State Senators Ben Allen & Lola Smallwood-Cuevas; Supervisor Holly Mitchell

2. Government Reports/Speakers

a. Assemblymember Tina McKinnor (AD 61) cancelled as she was not able to be present.

b. LAPD Capt. III Michael Applegate – Pacific Division Commanding Officer: Chair Greenberg introduced Captain Applegate, who thanked her and provided some background, noting he has been at Pacific Division almost a year and a half, since January of last year; he was Patrol Commanding Officer, and a couple of months ago transitioned to Captain Steve Embrich's office, who was promoted out to the Valley as a Commander. Captain Applegate related that he accepted the honor, switched offices and has taken over the area as Commanding Officer here. He noted that they have a wonderful team and he is honored to be in this position.

The Captain provided an overview of the Pacific Area, noting that he is familiar with many of us from our C-PAB or joining in at our Neighborhood Councils. Pacific Division borders the City of Santa Monica, and LAPD's WLA Division, along the 10 Freeway, and borders LAPD's Wilshire Division in the Palms area. Down the 405 the division also has a large border with Culver City, with Inglewood as well as El Segundo. He noted that within their division, while the Marina is patrolled by LA County Sheriffs, they are neighbors with the Sheriffs and also patrol that area. Pacific Division also includes LAX, which has its own department there. He noted that all the crimes that happen at the airport are counted towards Pacific Division, e.g., baggage claim thefts, different things that happen at the airport, in parking structures on airport property, etc., as the airport technically falls within Pacific Division.

He noted that Pacific Division has lots of neighbors, including on the beach other city agencies, such as Rec & Parks and the Dept. of Sanitation. They work with County Beaches and Harbors at Venice Beach and Dockweiler Beach, with the life guards, and with CD11 and CD5, and they have their outreach operations, partnering with several outreach organizations, notably in Venice, St. Joseph's Center and the Circle Team, a part of "Urban Alchemy."

He described once or twice a week getting together with Rec & Parks and St. Joseph's for overnight beach cleanups. He noted that Venice Beach is a City Park, with a 12:00 midnight curfew on the sand and a 2:00 am curfew when people have to leave the boardwalk. When they leave, this gives Rec & Parks and St. Joseph's an opportunity to go through; St. Joseph's does the outreach, to find out who they can get housed, as well as with Rec and Parks to make sure the beach stays clean.

He described having about 250 sworn police officers at Pacific Division and about 12 civilians. He has a new partner, Captain Kristin Kolenda, who oversees patrol operations as he used to do. He noted that across the department, they have continued to shrink as a department. At the height in 2019 they were just over 10,000+ sworn; now down to 9100. During civil unrest in 2020, there was a hiring freeze lasting six months for the department. After that, though the department started hiring and running police academies, they have been challenged to continue to hire due to attrition. They are losing 400 to 500 sworn personnel every year. That's the number the department needs to hire for every year just to keep up. Because of that, they have not been able to hire as many as they need to keep up, so department numbers continue to shrink. He noted that he tells people that the civilians working in the division are like gold. The civilians get so much done behind the scenes;

they serve as admin/clerical staff, detention officers and property officers, dealing with evidence of property, and they are invaluable.

Capt. Applegate noted that Pacific Division has 15 reserve officers who may work a regular 9-5 job M-F and on their free time come to work as Police officers. They've gone through the same exact training/standards as full-time police officers, all on a completely voluntary basis. He feels that they are true heroes. He noted that Pacific Division has about 100 volunteers, who help with the Community Relations Officers, and the division has some SLOs, on the detective side as well as youth programs, e.g., Cadets and Junior Cadets, 35 & 35 respectively. That's a glance of some of the folks at Pacific Division who work to serve the community, and he is honored to work with them.

As to crime, year to date at Pacific Division, it is completely even when compared to 2022 year to date. **Part I Crime** is a standard metric used to talk about crime across different agencies and jurisdictions, a term that can be used as a comparison across different cities. Part I Crime is made up of **Violent Crime**, of which the division tracks four types: homicide, rape, robbery and aggravated assault; the latter involves some sort of weapon or a more significant injury. The other portion of Part I Crime is **Property Crime**, which is made up of four types: burglary, motor vehicle theft, motor vehicle break-ins/thefts, and general thefts. The division also investigates other serious crimes, e.g., kidnapping, that hardly ever happen here but are not part of Part I crime metrics. On property crime side, the division investigates crimes like vandalisms, but which are not included in the Part I Crime metric.

He noted that **Violent Crime** in the division overall is down about 18% year to date, compared to last year to date. **Property Crime** is up is about 2% year to date. The division has many more property crimes than violent crimes; about 7 property crimes for every 1 violent crime, which when combined come out to roughly even. He highlighted that on the crime side, Violent Crime in Venice is down significantly year to date. He noted that the Mayor's "Inside Safe" program housed 100 people recently, which probably had a significant influence on some of the reduction in crime in that area.

As to our neighborhoods, with regard to burglaries, the Captain noted that Pacific Division was able to work with other agencies around the Southland and there was a significant arrest made related to a burglary crew; there has been a significant reduction in crew-related burglaries since that arrest was made. These are burglaries that are organized, and typically involve targeting jewelry, cash, high-end designer purses; they are not opportunistic but are planned out.

The floor was opened to Q&A, following which Chair Greenberg thanked and welcomed Capt. Applegate back. The Captain noted that if members have suggestions or want to be a volunteer or want to reach out, please do. Vice Chair, Chris Spitz (PPCC), thanked him as well.

c. **Mayor's Office** – representative to be appointed

d. Council Reports –

(1) Fernando Morales, Deputy Chief of Staff – Council District 5/Yaroslavsky

Fernando noted that it has been a budget-heavy last couple of weeks, and that City Council will be voting on the Mayor's budget this week. He highlighted that on the agenda for Wednesday is a vote on the Bulgari Hotel motion that the Councilwoman put forth, noting that some WRAC members have had concern about this project in a high fire hazard severity zone. He noted that CD5 partnered with the Mayor's office on the Inside Safe program, bringing into homes roughly 36 people from the San Vicente area encampment. He noted that CD 5 is hoping for a future partnership in the District.

About revising the Housing Task Force, the Councilwoman has been looking for any way to bring affordable and interim housing solutions within CD 5 communities. He noted that this requires all of us getting together. If there is anything that members have been talking to their field deputy about, he'll contact them.

Questions were asked and answered. He explained that the field deputy for complaints in Mar Vista is Vanessa Saldana vanessa.saldana@lacity.org; copy email to Deputy District Director George Hakopiants george.hakopiants@lacity.org and to himself fernando.morales@lacity.org. He noted that CD5 has a homelessness team. Fernando welcomed everyone to feel free to reach out to him at (323) 866-1828. Chair Greenberg thanked him.

(2) Michael Amster, Field Deputy – Council District 11/Park was not present.

e. Additional Government Reports – At the discretion of the Chair (possible reports from representatives of Congress members Ted Lieu, Brad Sherman & Sydney Kamlager-Dove; State Senators Ben Allen & Lola Smallwood-Cuevas; Assemblymembers Isaac Bryan, Jacqui Irwin, Rick Chavez Zbur & Tina McKinnor; County Supervisors Lindsey Horvath & Holly Mitchell; Council Districts 4 and 10; City Attorney's office; LAPD; LADWP)

Janet Turner, Office of Congressman Ted Lieu: janet.turner@mail.house.gov

Janet gave a brief update including but not limited to note that Sunday May 28th at the Barrington Post Office get your *new* passports, expedited in 7-9 weeks or regular in 14-16 weeks. Their office can help on a last-minute basis but she warned us if there is a huge influx of these kind of demands for last-minute appointments, they'll pick and choose; though they often can get you in within 24 hours. She noted that the Congressman was happy to put through 15 requests for project funding for this year; she doesn't know if they'll be chosen & funded. One request for LA is for \$4.8 million to renovate the public restrooms at Venice Beach; another request is for \$2.2 million to enhance safety for pedestrians along Lincoln Boulevard, and other requests are to renovate interim and affordable housing, one for The People Concern, another for the Pico Neighborhood

Community of Santa Monica, and one in WLA as well. She looks forward to seeing us at our various meetings.

Sherwin Shamoeil, Office of Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur:

Sherwin.Shamoeil@asm.ca.gov 310-450-0041. Sherwin gave a brief update, noting that the Assemblymember has 11 legislative bills, working through the appropriations process. He related that he'd be present at the Pick Pico event Sunday.

Zachary Gaidzik, Office of LA County Supervisor Lindsay Horvath

ZGaidzik@bos.lacounty.gov

Zachary provided a detailed update, including but not limited to the fact that the LA County budgetary process has started. They are gearing up for a Pride Month with a June 17th community event. Reach out to him for a detailed report.

Veronica de la Cruz Neighborhood Prosecutor, veronica.delacruz-robles@lacity.org

Veronica acknowledged the [Partyhouse Handbook](#) that she collaborated on with the BABCNC Ad Hoc Committee. She noted that the Neighborhood Prosecutors' goal is to continue to assist but will have to do so following new directives. Member Sann (WCC) provided a link to a community petition protesting La City Attorney Hydee Feldstein Soto's plan to eliminate or change the Neighborhood Prosecutor program:

https://www.change.org/p/stop-la-city-attorney-from-dismantling-popular-neighborhood-program?recruiter=50593743&recruited_by_id=9dfd7b00-9efc-0130-b37b-3c764e0501cb&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=copylink&utm_campaign=petiiton_dashboard Veronica asked that members let the City know how they feel about this.

Chair Greenberg noted that Veronica came to every single meeting with a positive attitude and positive advice and we thank her so much. Vice Chair Spitz also thanked Veronica for her participation at PPCC meetings and her invaluable assistance over the years.

3. Board Member Updates –

- See the Party House Handbook by BABCNC Ad Hoc Committee on Home Sharing and Party House Ordinances: tiny.cc/PartyHouseHandbook
- Sunday is **Pick Pico 2023 Street Fair** @ Pico & Overland from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

4. Committee Reports –

WRAC Transportation & Mobility Committee: Selena Inouye (chair) was not present. Next meeting is on Wednesday May 17th
WRAC Land Use & Planning Committee: Maryam Zar (chair) could not attend.
WRAC Homelessness Committee: Jay Handal (chair) was not present.

5. Public Comment – There was no public comment on topics not on the agenda.

6. **Approval of Minutes**

Motion (Robin Greenberg) – Approval of April 2023 meeting minutes

Moved by Chair Greenberg (BABCNC), **seconded** by Member Wishon (WNC); there was no discussion and the minutes were **approved**.

7. **New Business**

a. **Motion (Ravi Sankaran/DRNC)** – Support for Director’s Determination re Murphy Drill Site:

“Whereas, the City of Los Angeles has a history of discriminatory and disparate treatment in its oil drilling environmental compliance requirements whereby some communities are afforded greater protections from pollution and noise from oil drilling operations while other communities are not;

“Whereas, the Murphy Drill site location in West Adams is an example of a community that has been exposed to toxic fumes and noise pollution that could be partially abated through facility enclosure and electrification of workover rigs and power supply, as has been done in wealthier communities, but have not been;

“Whereas, on February 28, 2023, the City’s Planning Department issued a Letter of Determination on Case No. ZA-1959-15227-O-PA6 requiring additional and modified conditions for the continued operation of the Murphy Oil Drill Site “to increase the protection of and to preserve the health, safety and general welfare of the residents and stakeholders of the neighborhood”;

“Whereas, on March 13, 2023, E & B Natural Resources the operator of the Murphy Drill site filed an appeal to the City’s Letter of Determination;

“Therefore, the [WRAC member] calls on the City of Los Angeles to uphold its February 28 Letter of Determination.”

Member Sankaran (DRNC) **moved** and introduced this motion about the Murphy Drill Site in South Central LA. He noted that the Planning Department has been in battle with the oil company for better protections for the nearby community, and that DRNC wrote a letter urging them to uphold a letter of determination. He noted that though this doesn’t affect us directly, he wanted other councils to do the same. The hearing is now set for June 20th. He noted that he now thinks he should have asked individual councils to do this rather than WRAC and that there is no harm in passing it and getting other councils to pass it. The motion was **seconded** by Member Wishon (WNC).

Member Sann (WCC) agreed that the best approach is to *not* make this a WRAC policy letter but encourage everyone on this call to put this on their council agendas. Member Wishon (WNC) thinks this does touch each of our NCs and would leave the motion as presented.

The motion **passed** as written with 7 yeases, 2 noes from Member Lynn (SORONC) and Member Sann (WCC), and 2 abstentions from Member Jordan and Vice Chair Spitz (PPCC), (*Member Lewis was not responding, and was marked absent.*)

b. Motion (WRAC LUPC) – Minimize Light Pollution:

“The _____ NC/CC requests that the City implement the Five Principles of Responsible Outdoor Lighting that minimize light pollution by following these guidelines (adopted by the Illuminating Engineering Society and the International Dark-Sky Association):

- All light should have a clear purpose.
- Light should be directed only where needed.
- Light should be no brighter than necessary.
- Light should be used only when it is useful.
- Use warmer color lights where possible.

“The City shall enact/codify these principles through its departments and agencies for City facilities and properties such as buildings, parking lots and parks, the streetlight system, the airport and port, and for private development.

“Community Plans and Specific Plans shall also enact similar dark sky practices, and include Limitations on bright lights, light trespass and illumination of building facades.”

Dr. Travis Longcore (BABCNC President) introduced this item, noting it is about light pollution. The motion was brought in WRAC LUPC by Jay Ross. Dr. Longcore suggested we start with the principle around lighting, and ask the City to take a stand to protect the night-time environment from the harms to human health and to wildlife, and to address our inability to see the stars at all in the City of LA. We should request that City Councilmembers adopt a principled statement about what responsible outdoor light at night is, and propose that the City adopt the statement that has now been adopted by the Illuminating Engineering Society, the national professional association of all lighting engineers, and the International Dark-Sky Association about light; and so ask the City to adopt and codify these Principles of Responsible Outdoor Lighting (as noted in the motion) to avoid adverse effects from the blue end of the spectrum. Having blue light at night is worse for the daily rhythms that we all have, and he noted that community plans and specific plans can enact similar practices, particularly in high resource areas where we have special biological resources such as the hillsides and beaches.

Dr. Longcore explained why this motion is written as a general request, and noted that we don't yet have a sponsor in City Council for this proposal, but he hopes this will eventually occur. The goal is to create a venue to articulate this concern and a way to go forward that is consistent with other cities nationwide that are moving forward with light pollution regulations (e.g., Pittsburgh, Salt Lake City) to achieve responsible outdoor lighting and as a way to save energy. Questions were asked and answered. Dr. Longcore recommended getting the motion on record because this is an important issue, and noted that we should be leading on this as a community.

The motion was **moved** by Vice Chair Spitz (PPCC), and **seconded** by Member Wishon (WNC), who stated that she wanted to revise some of the language. Vice Chair Spitz then **withdrew the motion.**

b. Revised Motion (WRAC LUPC) – Minimize Light Pollution:

The _____ NC/CC requests that the City Council open a Council File such that:

1. The City implements the Five Principles of Responsible Outdoor Lighting that minimize light

pollution by following these guidelines (adopted by the Illuminating Engineering Society and the International Dark-Sky Association):

- All light should have a clear purpose.
- Light should be directed only where needed.
- Light should be no brighter than necessary.
- Light should be used only when it is useful.
- Use warmer color lights where possible.

2. The City enacts/codifies these principles through its departments and agencies for City facilities and properties such as buildings, parking lots and parks, the streetlight system, the airport and port, and for private development.

3. Community Plans and Specific Plans also enact similar dark sky practices and include limitations on bright lights, light trespass, and illumination of building facades.

Moved by Member Wishon and **seconded** by Vice Chair Spitz. Dr. Longcore agreed that the next step is to take it to City Councilmembers. He would use the Salt Lake City piece in background materials.

The motion **passed** by 9 yeases from Chair Greenberg, Vice Chair Spitz, Sankaran, Laferriere, Gerez, Wait, Lynn, Wishon, Chapman; 1 no from Member Jordan and 0 abstentions. (Members Lewis & Sann were no longer present.)

8. Old Business

a. 23.01. Request re RSO Housing Replacements – February 20, 2023 (passage deadline May 2023); 4 councils adopted: BABCNC, WLASNC,* WNC, WWNC* (**modified version*). (See motion below; passage deadline was extended by two months until the July meeting.)

b. 23.02. Request for Audit of STAP Program – February 20, 2023 (passage deadline May 2023); 7 councils adopted: BABCNC, BCC, NCWP, PPCC, WCC, WNC, WWNC. Chair Greenberg noted that **DRNC has passed which makes it 8** (*i.e., motion has passed in WRAC*)

c. 23.03. Community Plan Update Requests – March 20, 2023 (passage deadline June 2023); 4 councils adopted: BABCNC, BCC, WWNC, WNC. (It was noted by Member Laferriere that Mar Vista will take this up and the PLUM committee will take up RSO, and by Vice Chair Spitz that PPCC may take up this but she doesn't know about RSO.)

Motion to extend a & c above to July was **moved** by Member Lynn and Vice Chair Spitz. There were no objections or abstentions, and the motion **passed**.

9. **Adjourn** – Prior to adjournment, Member Broide (WNC) provided details of upcoming opportunities in June to talk about the political process, to make the process fair and more responsive, to discuss changes to the city's charter to make the redistricting process more independent.

Next meeting will be held on **July 17, 2023** at 6:30 pm. **The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.**