

About the CC Members of WRAC

WRAC's 14 member councils include three respected community councils – two formed before the neighborhood council system began and one formed before a neighborhood council existed in its area. All of the three community councils are legitimate, independent California non-profit organizations. Each holds regular public board meetings, serves as a forum for the discussion of community issues, and advocates to government on issues where there is broad community agreement. All are well known to and respected by stakeholders and City Councilmembers.

Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC) was formed 50 years ago, in 1973; it is one of the oldest volunteer organizations of its type in the City. PPCC served as a model for the neighborhood council system. Its board is the most broad-based in Pacific Palisades, a community of about 25,000 residents. PPCC's board includes Area Representatives who are elected by residents of all residential neighborhoods of the Palisades; an At-large Representative who is elected by all residents, business operators and property owners; and representatives appointed by the important community organizations, including non-profits, schools and established business, recreational, cultural, environmental and service groups. In past election cycles, PPCC's open, public election of representatives resulted in total vote numbers that surpassed almost all other NCs in Los Angeles.

Brentwood Community Council (BCC) was founded 25 years ago, in 1998. It is the most broad-based community organization in Brentwood, representing approximately 35,000 community stakeholders, including homeowner associations, multi-family residential dwellers, business organizations, schools, religious groups, volunteer service groups, public safety and environmental organizations.

Westwood Community Council (WCC) was formed 14 years ago, in 2009 – one year before certification of Westwood Neighborhood Council. WCC is similarly broad-based; it provides a forum for Westwood stakeholders and includes representatives of businesses, property owners, renters, non-profits, religious institutions, service organizations, students and seniors. Three persons representing Westwood interests "at large" are also on the WCC board.

In 2014, the City Council officially recognized PPCC and BCC as independent community councils and conferred on them the same status as neighborhood councils in regard to land use matters.

All of the community councils in WRAC remain uncertified *by choice*. Their boards have determined that remaining autonomous and independent from the City best serves the interests of their stakeholders. For example, due to the community's location and topography, PPCC is often called upon to work with and/or advocate directly to state, county and other city (Santa Monica, Malibu) officials over issues involving PCH, the coast, the beach and the Santa Monica Mountains. Similarly, BCC and WCC may also engage with federal and county agencies involving West LA VA and 405 Freeway matters. In contrast, certified neighborhood councils, as official arms of the City, are not permitted to engage in advocacy with non-City government agencies.

It should also be noted that elected WRAC officers – including the current WRAC Vice-Chair, a former WRAC Chair and former Secretary – are either current or past chairs/presidents and board members of community councils (PPCC and BCC), and remain actively involved in WRAC.

All three community councils participated in the formation of WRAC, which exists as an organization to advance the common goals and interests of all Westside stakeholders and WRAC member councils, whenever possible.

Chris Spitz
WRAC Vice-Chair, PPCC rep. to WRAC
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