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

October 31, 2023

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

In case you missed it, here's an update on our October 30, 2023 WRAC Board meeting.

Guest Speaker:

We were honored to hear from **Capt. III Richard Gabaldon**, Commanding Officer of LAPD West LA Division. The Captain briefed us on his background, reported on the state of crime and the challenges of policing in the largest division in the City, and answered board member questions. The Captain welcomes interaction with community members; feel free to contact him at: 31356@lapd.online. We thank Capt. Gabaldon for engaging with us.

Government Reports:

We were pleased to be introduced to Mayor Bass's *new* West Area Representative, Marian Ensley, who reported on several of the Mayor's recent initiatives, including successful engagement with unhoused individuals and encampment removals on the Westside under the Inside Safe program (*e.g.*, removal of the longstanding huge encampment under the 405 along Venice Blvd. in Mar Vista/CD 11 and a portion of CD 5), as well as a new Mayor's directive to reduce wait times for 3-1-1 requests. Marian can be reached at: marian.ensley@lacity.org.

We also welcomed additional new and returning government representatives, who gave reports and updates on the work of their respective elected officials and agencies: George Hakopiants and Cairo Rodriguez –respectively, District Director and *new* Sr. Field Deputy for CD 5/Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky; Michael Amster, Field Deputy for CD 11/Councilwoman Traci Park; Janet Turner, Deputy District Director for Congressman Ted Lieu; Sherman Shamoiei, Sr. Field Representative for Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur; and Jessie Johnson, LADWP Community Liaison. We thank all the government reps for attending and keeping us updated.

WRAC Meetings, Events & Membership:

-- ***New Board Members:*** Robin welcomed new WRAC Board members: Tanya Leal (PalmsNC board member/primary rep to WRAC); Kay Hartman (PalmsNC President/alt. rep to WRAC); and Jason Plummer (SORONC board member; alt. rep to WRAC).

-- ***Upcoming Board Meetings:*** **November 20, 2023** and **January 22, 2024**. Please note: Per Board consensus, we will *not meet in December*, and our January meeting will take place on Monday, January 22 (since the 3rd Monday in January, January 15, is a holiday, Martin Luther King Jr. Day).

-- ***Upcoming Guest Speakers:*** November 20 – **Senator Ben Allen** (Senate District 24); January 22 – (tentative) **Deputy District Attorney Veronica de la Cruz** (assigned to the City Attorney's new "Community Law Corps"). Mark your calendars!

WRAC Committees: The next WRAC committee meetings in 2023 are as follows: LUPC November 13; MTC November 15; HOC November 28. All are welcome to attend WRAC committee meetings (agendas are posted in advance on the WRAC website).

New, Adopted & Pending Motions:

-- **New Motion:** The Board passed the following motion, recommended jointly by BABCNC / Robin Greenberg and WWNC / Lisa Chapman:

Oppose Upzoning of R1 and Sensitive Multi-Family Residential Neighborhoods:

<https://westsidecouncils.com/motion/oppose-rezoning-of-r1-and-sensitive-multi-family-neighborhoods/>.

The motion is now recommended by the WRAC Board for consideration by member Councils. **Please consider taking up this motion at the earliest opportunity.**

-- **Additional New Actions:** On the recommendation of the WRAC HOC, the Board also authorized the following letter and Public Records Act request to be sent directly to pertinent City officials:

- 1) *Letter to Mayor and City Officials re Removal of Transportation Commission President*
(10/30 agenda item 7a);
- 2) *PRA Request to LAHSA for information on entities operating housing/shelter facilities under Inside Safe*
(10/30 agenda item 7b).

The #1 letter will be sent shortly; the #2 request has been sent (note: LAHSA's response will be due before the next HOC meeting on 11/28).

See also WRAC 10/30 agenda item 3c for links to letters sent and responses received since the September Board meeting.

-- **Pending Motions:** Several additional motions remain pending, with passage deadlines in November 2023 and January 2024. See all pending motions at: <https://westsidecouncils.com/pending-motions/> (click on the "See More" buttons for more details and background for each motion). If you haven't already done so, please also consider agendaing the currently pending motions.

Reminder: Pending motions are *recommended only* – they are not WRAC positions until they are passed by at least a majority (8) of member Councils, who are free to decide whether to take up any pending motions.

See you at our next Board meeting on November 20, 2023 – and **Happy Halloween!**

Best regards,

Robin and Chris