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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

November 21, 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 November 20, 2023 WRAC Board meeting.

Guest Speaker:

It was our honor to welcome State **Senator Ben Allen**, representing Senate District 24 (which includes ten of our member councils in Bel Air-Beverly Crest, Westwood, Brentwood, Pacific Palisades, Venice, West LA-Sawtelle and portions of Mar Vista and Westchester/Playa del Rey).

Senator Allen was first elected in 2014 and is now serving his third and final term in the Senate. He briefed us on his background and service as a Senator, noting his membership on several important committees and caucuses (including chair of the Environmental Quality Committee, co-chair of the Environmental Caucus, chair of the legislature's Joint Committee on the Arts, and member of the Jewish Caucus). He reported on legislation he has authored or supported, including notable bills such as SB 43 (updating the definition of "gravely disabled" for purposes of 5150 holds) and SB 411 (allowing neighborhood councils to conduct virtual meetings), as well as other legislation involving the climate and environment, the State Water Board, energy, fire, coastal resilience, housing and homelessness. He provided insight as to the direction of the Senate – such as the ongoing legislative efforts to address the need for more affordable housing -- and commented as well on budget matters.

The Senator also gave extensive and thoughtful remarks in response to questioning as to whether, in light of recent events, there is anti-Semitism in the Democratic party ("Yes" – he acknowledged that a small group within the party have anti-Semitic views, but noted that the same is true of a small group within the GOP).

We thank Senator Allen for his important work and for engaging with us so fully and candidly.

Government Reports:

We were pleased to have reports and updates from several government representatives: CD 5 Representative **Cairo Rodriguez**; CD 11 Representative **Michael Amster**; Asm. Zbur's Representative **Sherman Shamoie**; and **Deborah Hong**, LADWP Community Liaison. Thanks as always to our government reps for attending and keeping us updated.

WRAC Meetings & Events:

-- **Upcoming Board Meetings: January 22, 2024.** Please note: Per Board consensus, we will not meet in December; our January meeting will take place on Monday, January 22 (since January 15 is MLK Jr. Day).

-- **Upcoming Guest Speakers:** January 22 – **Deputy District Attorney Veronica de la Cruz** (assigned to the City Attorney's new "Community Law Corps"). Mark your calendars!

WRAC Committees: The upcoming WRAC committee meetings in 2023/24 are as follows: HOC November 28, 2023; LUPC January 8, 2024; MTC January 17, 2024. All are welcome to attend WRAC committee meetings (agendas are posted in advance on the WRAC website).

New & Pending Motions (next page):

-- **New Motion:** The Board passed the following motion, as amended at the meeting:

Support CF 21-1469-S2/alternative corrective sidewalk repairs

<https://westsidecouncils.com/motion/support-cf-21-1469-s2-alternative-corrective-sidewalk-repairs/>

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

-- **Pending Motions:** Several additional motions remain pending, with passage deadlines now in January or February 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).

Note: two pending motions have been passed by **seven** member councils to date (*i.e.*, one vote shy of becoming WRAC positions): (a) *Support public park/skateboard facility at WLA Commons*; (b) *Request to transfer Metro/TCN to Transportation Committee & LADOT*. **Only one more vote is needed in each case for these two motions to become adopted WRAC positions.** If you haven’t already done so, please consider placing these and if possible, other currently pending motions, on your upcoming board agendas.

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 January 22, 2024 – **Happy Thanksgiving to all . . . and Happy Holidays!**

Best regards,

Robin and Chris