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

November 19, 2024

To: WRAC Member Council Board representatives
From: WRAC Chair Robin Greenberg and Vice-Chair Chris Spitz

In case you missed it, here's an update on the November 18, 2024, WRAC Board meeting.

Government Reports:

We welcomed our guest speaker Jared Rivera, Deputy Mayor of Community Engagement (accompanied by West Area Representatives Marian Ensley and Kenneth G. Miller), who shared information about his background in the labor movement and in government, and his current role with the Mayor's office (which includes oversight of DONE). He updated us on some of the Mayor's initiatives and answered several questions from Board members. He emphasized the Mayor's launch of a Citywide *beautification campaign*, in which entire areas, such as corridors where encampments have been cleared under the Inside Safe program, will be fully cleaned by City workers/LA Sanitation, with NC and CC volunteer involvement and participation welcomed. He also invited and encouraged our Member Councils to register for upcoming listening sessions with Mayor Bass; for more information about the initiatives and to register for listening sessions, contact jared.rivera@lacity.org. We thank Deputy Mayor Rivera for graciously attending our meeting and speaking with us.

We were also pleased to have updates from several government representatives, who reported on a wide range of topics and answered questions. We heard from: **Cairo Rodriguez**, Field Deputy for CD 5 (Yaroslavsky); **Sherwin Shamoeil**, Field Representative for Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur; **Anthony Avila**, Field Representative for Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin; **Zac Gaidzik**, West Area/Coastal Deputy for Supervisor Horvath; and new LADWP Community Liaison **Dawn Cotterell**. **Carlos Penilla** – the brand new (as of November 18!) Field Representative for Sen. Lola Smallwood-Cuevas – also attended and introduced himself. Thanks as always to our government reps for keeping us updated.

NC Funding Group Representatives: We thank Kay Hartman, Palms NC President, Nico Ruderman, Venice NC Communications Officer, and Jay Handal, West LA-Sawtelle NC Treasurer, for volunteering to serve as WRAC/Westside representatives to the new NC Funding Group.

WRAC Meetings & Events:

-- **Upcoming Board meeting:** January 20, 2025; our December meeting has been cancelled per Board consensus.

-- **Upcoming committee meetings:** MTC 11/20/24; LUPC 1/13/24; HOC 1/28/24

-- **Possible in-person Board meetings:** The Board expressed interest in holding *occasional* in-person Board meetings in 2025 (likely in the morning; dates TBD). While WRAC will continue to hold Board meetings regularly via Zoom, we'll also research in-person venues for potential availability from time to time; Steve Sann has graciously offered to reach out to Belmont Village Senior Living in Westwood as a possibility. Stay tuned!

New & Pending Motions:

-- **New Motions:** The Board considered no new motions.

-- **Pending Motions:** The passage deadlines for four pending motions were extended to January 2025; as of today, seven

motions remain pending through January. See details about the motions at: <https://westsidecouncils.com/pending-motions/> (click on the “Read More” button for each motion). WRAC Member Councils are encouraged to take up these still pending motions at the earliest opportunity. 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.¹

Adopted Positions:

Please let us know by November 22 if you have considered and voted to oppose either of the following motions, which have now been adopted by a majority of Member Councils (position letters pending): *Support CW Park Letter re Encampments on State Land*, and *Request Cap on Waivers for EDI & Affordability Housing Streamlining Projects* (see <https://westsidecouncils.com/adopted-positions/>).

We also emphasize that WRAC is of course a *cooperative coalition* which seeks, whenever possible, to advocate for our Member Councils’ common / regional interests and concerns, as reflected in motions that a majority or more of WRAC Board representatives have voted to recommend for possible consideration by our Member Councils – and may eventually become adopted WRAC positions.

See you at our next Board meeting on **January 20, 2025**. *Happy Thanksgiving, enjoy the rest of November and December, and Happy Holidays to all!*

Best regards,

Robin and Chris

¹ Even if a given motion is not passed by a majority of Member Councils and thus does not become an adopted WRAC position, those Member Councils that have passed the motion are free to submit (and should submit) CIS and/or position letters on their own behalf. Collectively, positions expressed by several Member Councils, even if short of a majority in WRAC, are meaningful and may have a positive impact.