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Westside Neighborhood Council
Westwood Community Council
Westwood Neighborhood Council

June 17, 2025

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 June 16, 2025, WRAC Board meeting.

Government Reports:

We were pleased to hear from several government representatives, who gave reports on the work of their of their elected officials, including describing bills or motions that they have introduced in their respective legislative bodies: Janet Turner, Deputy District Director for Congressman Ted Lieu; Carlos Penilla, Sr. Field Representative for state Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas; Samantha Gallagos, Field Representative for state Senator Ben Allen; Sherwin Shamoeil, Field Representative for Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur; Zac Gaidzik, Westside/Coastal Field Deputy for Supervisor Lindsey Horvath; Cairo Rodriguez, Field Deputy for Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, and Michael Amster, Field Deputy for Councilwoman Traci Park.

WRAC Meetings & Events:

- -- Upcoming Board meeting: July 21, 2025, in-person at Belmont Senior Living in Westwood (see details below).
- -- *Upcoming committee meetings:* MTC 6/18/25; HOC 7/29/25; LUPC is now inactive (the previous chair Maryam Zar is unable to continue in this position due to other commitments); we will look for a new LUPC chair.
- -- In-person Board meeting: As discussed, we will hold our July 21, 2025, meeting at Belmont Senior Living in Westwood, with Mayor Kaen Bass as our guest speaker. The timing will be as follows: breakfast buffet starts at 7:15am; business meeting starts promptly, with all Member Council reps seated at 7:30am; Mayor Bass arrives at 7:50am and the business meeting pauses; she will speak with us until 9am; the business meeting will continue after the Mayor departs. Seating is limited; attendance will be limited to Member Council reps, the Mayor and her staff.

Please send questions for the Mayor dealing with regional issues as soon as possible; please also send the names of reps (up to 2) who will attend on behalf of your council no later than July 7. We thank Steve Sann, as always, for making the arrangements, and Belmont for graciously serving as our meeting host.

Member Updates: Vice-Chair Chris Spitz reported that on June 12th, the City Attorney responded to WRAC's CPRA request (https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/WRAC-CPRA-Request5-30-25.pdf; note that the CAO had earlier responded that his office had no such documents; the same request was then sent to the C.A.) The C.A. produced the May 2025 **retainer agreement** for Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher to represent the City in the federal *Alliance* lawsuit, and stated that City had not yet been invoiced. Chris has separately sent the retainer agreement to the WRAC Board. The agreement states that Gibson attorneys' discounted hourly rates are \$1,295, with a total fee cap of \$900,000.

New & Pending Motions:

- -- New Motions: The Board passed four new motions for recommendation to Member Councils:
 - a. Request Mayor to Consent to Controller's Audit of Inside Safe https://westsidecouncils.com/motion/request-mayor-to-consent-to-city-controllers-audit-of-inside-safe/
 - b. Request Mayor and CAO to Disclose the Sources of funding for the Inside Safe Program https://westsidecouncils.com/motion/request-mayor-and-cao-to-disclose-sources-of-funding-for-the-inside-safe-program/

c. Support CF 20-1376-S5 (Park)

https://westsidecouncils.com/motion/support-cf-20-1376-s5-park/

d. Oppose Legislation Mandating Housing Density without Funding Mechanisms

https://westsidecouncils.com/motion/oppose-legislation-mandating-housing-density-without-funding-mechanisms/

Please consider taking up these new motions at your earliest opportunity.

-- Pending Motions: The deadlines for the two oldest pending motions (agenda items 8a & b, pending since September 2024) were not extended and the motions will automatically fall off the website at the end of June. The deadline for the motion in agenda item 8c (Allocation of Revenues from Bus Lane Violation Enforcement Pilot Program) was extended one month, to the end of July; this motion is only one vote shy of becoming a WRAC adopted position. Please consider agendizing this motion at an upcoming board meeting.

See details about the remaining pending motions (agenda items 8d-g) 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, some of which need only 1 or 2 votes to become WRAC adopted positions; notably, the motion to Oppose SB 79 (Wiener)/Support CF 25-0002-S19 (agenda item 8d) is also only one vote shy of becoming a WRAC adopted position. 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.\(^1\)

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.

Last but not least: we bid a fond farewell to those Member Council reps who will be leaving us as of July.

See you at our special in-person Board meeting at Belmont on **July 21, 2025.** Don't forget to get us the **names** of your reps who will be attending, as well as any **regional questions** you wish to ask.

Best regards – and Happy 4th of July!

Robin and Chris

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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.