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MINUTES

WRAC Meeting of the Board of Directors August 18, 2025 – 6:30pm

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Items on the Agenda may be taken in any order at the discretion of the Chair – Attendees who do not identify themselves upon request of the Chair will be removed (see Item 5 below).

1. Welcome/Introductions

- a. **Call to Order and Certification of Quorum** - Chair Greenberg (BABCNC) called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm; roll was called by Host & WRAC Secretary/Treasurer Tyler Laferriere. Quorum was met.

13 Board Members Present

BABCNC Robin Greenberg (WRAC Chair)

PPCC Chris Spitz (WRAC Vice-Chair)

BCC Carolyn Jordan

DRNC Ravi Sankaran

MVCC Andrew Marton

NWNC Connor Webb

PalmsNC Reza Akef

VCC Nico Ruderman

WLASNC Jay Handal

WNC Terri Tippet

WWNC Lisa Chapman

SORONC Jason Plummer covered for Michael Lynn who left at approximately 7:15 PM.

WCC Steve Sann left at approximately 8:03 PM with **12 members remaining thereafter.**

Nonvoting Alternates Present: Barbara Broide (WNC), and Walton Chiu (WLASNC)

Also Present: WRAC Meeting Host/Secretary/Treasurer, Tyler Laferriere-Holloway; Councilwoman Traci Park, Council District 11; Michael Amster, Field Deputy, CD11/Park; Janet Turner, Representative for Congressman Ted Lieu; Sophia Liebman, representative of Senator Ben Allen

- b. **Chair Updates** – WRAC Chair Greenberg gave the following updates;

(1) Next Board meeting: September 15, 2025

(2) Recap of 7-21-25 Breakfast Board meeting w/ Mayor Bass at Belmont

(3) Welcome new WRAC Board reps:

MVCC – Charlene Samiley/new MVCC Chair, Primary; Jennifer Rafeedie, 2nd Alt.

(1st Alt. A. Marton remains)

NCWP – Theresa Torrance, Alternate (Primary P. Gerez remains)

NWNC – 1st Alt. Patrick Babajianian (Primary C. Webb & 2nd Alt. E. Brady remain)

PalmsNC – Reza Akef, Primary; Kay Hartman, Alternate

WCC – John Heidt, 2nd Alt. (Primary Steve Sann & 1st Alt. Sandy Brown remain)

(4) Board opinion sought:

(i) should we hold future in-person Board meetings at Belmont, and if so, how often?

- Member Jordan (BCC) thinks maybe we should hold breakfast meetings quarterly or bi-annually. There was general agreement to try and arrange for periodic breakfast meetings. Steve Sann (WCC) noted that he has spoken to Belmont and they are more than happy to do this on a quarterly basis. He thinks there is a lot of value seeing folks in person.

- Vice-Chair Spitz (PPCC) noted the need to let all the government reps know they would be invited to come to Belmont for an early morning meeting.

- Member Handal (WLASNC) recommended inviting a US Senator and possibly Paul Krekorian to learn what's happening with the Olympics. He noted that we need to prioritize, look at the Senate and state legislative schedules, find out when they are in town, schedule around their recesses and availability; ask who and how do we fit them in?

- Vice-Chair Spitz noted that she has done this in the past and would like some help, particularly for contacting key staffers with Senators, perhaps Janet Turner.

- Member Sann (WCC) concurs with Member Handal, with the need to be strategic and know when they are in town, particularly because of the fact that both of our US Senators are from Southern California, Schiff and Padilla; when not in Washington, their homes are here in SoCal.

- Member Handal volunteered to help with the contact info for these key speakers.

(ii) Does the Board wish to hear from the “Mono Lake Committee,” which advocates for Mono Lake preservation and against DWP exercising water rights in the Mono Basin?

Background: <https://www.monolake.org/>; the committee has now asked to present to WRAC. *Note:* LADWP previously presented to WRAC on Mono Basin water rights; see 2/20/23 mtg. recap:

<https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/WRAC-recap-memo-2-20-23.pdf>, and

<https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/WRAC-Minutes-2-20-23.pdf> (2/20/23 mtg. minutes, item 2(b)).

After discussion, the Board expressed the unanimous opinion that it did not need to hear a presentation from the Mono Lake Committee at this time.

2. Government Reports/Speakers

a. Special Guest: Councilwoman Traci Park, Council District 11

Chair Greenberg gave a warm welcome to Councilwoman Traci Park, who thanked Supervisor Horvath's office and the County for the generous donation to the capital campaign to rebuild the Palisades-Malibu YMCA. She noted that making sure the YMCA is fully restored is an important part of the Palisades recovery. She noted that at the end of December last year, she could not have imagined the way everything would change in an instant. She had just been in the Palisades over the weekend; her world came crashing down around her as it did for thousands of her constituents impacted by the fire. She noted that nothing really prepares you for what it feels like to be in that moment.

Councilwoman Park provided a detailed update on the efforts of her office.

Councilwoman Park then briefly lost connection, during which time attention was turned to report from CD11's Deputy Representative Michael Amster, who answered questions. Member Broide (WNC) asked him 1) for tomorrow's vote on SB79 motion, how many votes are needed for it to pass, noting that it was not heard in committee. Vice-Chair Spitz noted that she had a call with Kevin Brunke, Councilwoman Park's Legislative Deputy. She will get the answer.

Member Broide asked Councilwoman Park (after her connection was returned) about tracking of people removed from encampments in CD11, as to how many were moved and how many did not accept housing. She is interested in longer term tracking of where people go. The Councilwoman said yes, they do track that, and she has continued to ask her team to be very diligent from the outset. She noted that they recognize there is displacement and that not everybody says "yes." Early on, people wanted to go inside, but now not so. Her team does its own internal tracking but LAHSA has more information as to when and where people are placed, how long they stay and where they go afterwards, noting that LAHSA is the gatekeeper of that level of data. She noted that her team goes out with LAHSA, and even shares space with them in her offices. She noted that they have an anecdotal sense of who is going where. They can see how many times they've interacted with a person, where they've been, most recent information about placements, and can see the person back in the streets; if the person goes into another Council District, there is coordination; but her office doesn't have complete visibility, especially if a person is in a vehicle because they move the furthest. She noted that her office strategically places resources, and can see some persons going back and forth. She noted that some persons started in Westchester Park, and with a 41.18 operation, moved to the WP overpass and set up camp under the overpass. Her team went out for weeks and made offers a second time around and, because of all the calls on open flames for all the fires, they had to do another 41.18, and moved the persons now farther south down Lincoln, as setting fires is not allowed under an overpass.

She has eight operations a week for vehicles, noting that most folks tend to stay pretty local. One of the biggest areas people move around in is through transit. Santa Monica was seeing

100 non-destination riders a day with the Red Line or Expo Line; some would get off, turn around and go back to Skid Row; a lot slept in business alcoves or the beach or wander into Venice, with no consequences. Now that they've fixed that station and persons have to be taken in to exit, they see a lot less of that inflow. There are certain porous places; it's the end of the line, before the ocean; so they tend to get a lot of those riders. LAX has daily inflow, people with no funds or plan, and this problem often gets funneled into the Ladera area. If folks refuse the services and move, they tend to stay generally mobile, where they are comfortable. That's what is happening in her Council District because she is down to a population of people who don't want to go. She doesn't have the support, even when an alternative is offered. She worries about the situation and doesn't see much of a response being made. She noted we are a year out from the Grants Pass decision and we still don't have a policy. The Governor recently developed a model ordinance: The Safe Schools and Parks Ordinance, which would provide that persons can't camp anywhere more than three nights. She couldn't get a second to amend her recent 41.18 designation motion.

Vice-Chair Spitz thanked Councilwoman Park, and wanted to take this opportunity because she hasn't been able to see her in person, to let her know that she adores the Councilwoman and believes that her work for the Palisades has been awesome. Spitz was taken with the Councilwoman's comments at the beginning of the meeting that the situation was unimaginable. She lost her home as did another WRAC board member, and Reza Akef (PalmsNC) also lost a home that he was building. They have all had a direct experience. She noted that a neighbor who hiked into the canyon, spent hours getting in, sent pictures to her and their hearts dropped. There was not a single house standing anywhere. She may rebuild but is still reeling from the tragedy. There are many who desperately want to go back but may not be able to. She noted that we really appreciate all that the Councilwoman has done for us. Spitz also noted that there are many people who are still devastated. The Councilwoman acknowledged that many folks are mired in uncertainty. She is pushing to prioritize getting folks home first. She understands the outrage that there is \$100 million available for corporate developers when we can't get funds to victims to find a viable path. CW Park noted that she is here to fight this fight for all her communities in CD11.

Chair Greenberg expressed her great appreciation for the Councilwoman, to which CW Park said that she is here and will always be here for all her NCs *and* CCs in CD11. She asked us to email or text her or email her office with our questions that didn't get answered.

b. Mayor's Office – Konstantin Hatcher, (new) Senior Director of Community Engagement. Not present.

c. Council Reports –

- (1) Cairo Rodriguez, Sr. Field Deputy – Council District 5/Yaroslavsky. Chair Greenberg reported that Cairo emailed us that the LAFD rep would not be here tonight.

- (2) Michael Amster, Field Deputy – Council District 11/Park. Michael noted that he would wait on specific case work or field issues but would defer his wider report to the Councilwoman when she arrived. (Michael did add comments briefly during a break in the Councilwoman’s presentation due to technical issues.)

d. Additional Government Reports –

Janet Turner, District Deputy Director of Outreach for Congressman Ted Lieu, related that many councils ask her if anything gets passed in Congress; she noted that there are bills that get passed every day and are bipartisan. Two bills pertain to technology safety: the "Understanding Cybersecurity of Mobile Networks Act," H.R. 1709 of the 119th Congress, requires the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to examine and report on the cybersecurity of mobile service networks and the vulnerabilities of devices to cyberattacks and surveillance by adversaries. The bill, which passed the House in July 2025, directs the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to submit this report to Congress. H.R. 1770, the Consumer Safety Technology Act, allows federal agencies to study rapidly evolving technologies and their safety, and explores a pilot program to explore the use of Artificial Intelligence in consumer product safety. She noted that Congressman Lieu wrote a letter to the House Committee on Appropriations to oppose the Trump administration's proposal to defund specialized services for the LGBTQ+ community within the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. He also joined a California Delegation letter urging the restoration of Education Department funds for K-12 schools frozen by the present administration.

Sophia Liebman, Representative of State Senator Ben Allen, covers the Palisades, Brentwood, Bel Air and Venice, tag-teaming with co-worker Samantha Gallegos. She reported that the Legislature is back this week, in session discussing Governor Newsom’s plan, including redistricting SB 50 and ACA 8, to put these measures on the ballot for constitutional amendment. She noted that they are in the final stretch for many of their bills, which will be held in appropriations including SB682, which phases out forever chemicals, SB749, which protects mobile homeowners from displacement and SB663 which deals with real property tax exemptions and reassessment, to address property tax issues for people impacted by the fires. They are focused on wildfire recovery. They are working on a number of insurance events and about defensible space to help ensure these homes.

Member Broide asked about Senator Allen’s position on SB 79. She said she’d appreciate it if the Senator could ask Senator Wiener to amend this bill removing cities that have approved and compliant Housing Elements. Sophia responded that Senator Allen has been in close contact with Senator Wiener about his bill; Sen. Allen had previously been a “No Vote Recorded” (NVR) on the bill; he has expressed some of his concerns, but believes we need affordable housing across California. Member Broide said we will give him much

information to oppose it, as it does not limit density. Sophia clarified that she doesn't know how he will vote. Vice-Chair Spitz added that Sen. Allen had advised her council, PPCC, that he was opposed to the bill (an NVR is the equivalent of a No vote). PPCC has been writing extensively on this bill and other density issues because of the vulnerability issues in the Palisades, and noted that PPCC supports the Senator's bill to support the mobile park residents.

Member Sann thanked Sophia for being on the call, and reiterated Member Broide's point that the City of Los Angeles Planning Department has made an immense investment in creating the City's CHP program, which is fully compliant with state mandates to provide affordable housing. He hopes that Senator Allen can convey to Sen. Wiener not to undercut a CHP program that the City has invested in, and to allow the program a chance to do what it is intended to do.

Member Jordan (BCC) mentioned her community's concerns, noting that the Palisades may have the same concerns about Zone Zero and is appreciative that our Assemblyperson Irwin has put in correspondence as to the concerns, but we are still concerned on where this is shaking out. Member Webb (NWNC) expressed concern about an equity issue for SB79 and noted that the WHO recommends no noise levels above 53 dcb.

3. Board Member Updates –

a. Chris Spitz (Vice-Chair) – Updates:

(i) SB 79/advocacy of WRAC position:

Vice-Chair Spitz noted that she has emailed everyone the motion by Councilmembers Lee and Park for tomorrow. She noted that WRAC has been advocating with 10 councils.

(ii) Mayor's statement to WRAC on 7/21 re an "independent audit" of Inside Safe (clarification to HOC: her reference was to an "assessment" in the *Alliance* lawsuit); Vice-Chair Spitz explained that as to the Mayor's statement at the presentation to us at Belmont that there had been an independent audit of Inside Safe: she was referring not to an audit but to an assessment done by a group for Judge Carter in the Alliance case, all parties in that case acknowledged that this wasn't an adequate audit. We will continue to ask for the Mayor to support a Controller's audit because it still hasn't been done. The Mayor is not producing an independent audit on her own.

(iii) our prior PRA request: Gibson, Dunn has billed the City \$1.8 million for 2 weeks of work in that lawsuit: <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-08-08/law-firm-hired-by-the-city-in-homelessness-case-bills-1-8-million>; Vice-Chair Spitz noted that we now know the extent of the outside attorneys' expense.

(iv) Payment of WRAC expenses (Zoom, website, domain name); thank you to the Chair. Vice-Chair Spitz explained that the Chair graciously pays these expenses every year, and we want to

thank her. Spitz doesn't know the total sums; if anyone is interested in helping to defray the cost, please contact the Chair and she'll provide the information. Member Chiu (WLASNC) thanked both Vice-Chair Spitz and Chair Greenberg.

4. Committee Reports – Limited to 5 minutes total.

a. WRAC Transportation & Mobility Committee (MTC) – next mtg. 9/17/25

b. WRAC Homelessness Committee (HOC) – met 7/29/25; next mtg TBD

Member Handal (WLASNC) noted that they'll meet again, though we don't know when.

Member Sankaran (DRNC) noted that Del Rey appointed a new person for the HOC, which he will forward.

c. WRAC Land Use & Planning Committee (LUPC) – inactive; committee chair sought.

5. Public Comment –

Lisa Redmond, a member of VNC, expressed confusion about the status of WRAC motions and about the WRAC process of passing motions. Vice-Chair Spitz explained the process and WRAC's policy and rules in regard to passing motions and adoption of WRAC positions.

Board Member comments (out of order):

Member Broide related that she was listening to the Charter Reform Commission this evening, had some concerns, and noted that it would be very important for councils that are tracking the commission, to work together to see there are some comments that should be submitted to the commission, and as to presentations of special interest. She commented that there is a need for public participation.

Member Handal noted that when it comes to the charter commission, he and Jack Humphreville met with the directors/chairs from budgetary point of view, and can state that they are not even interested in talking about budget issues. He opined that we can all look forward to budget deficits, staff cuts and a crumbling city for the next decade or so.

6. Approval of Minutes

a. Motion (Robin Greenberg) – Approval of July 7 and July 21, 2025, meeting minutes

Moved by Handal; seconded by Greenberg and passed 10-0-2 with the abstentions from Members Jordan (BCC) and Plummer (SORONC).

7. New Business.

a. Motion (PPCC/C. Spitz) – Support CF 25-0848; Expedite After-Action Reports

“_____ NC/CC, a member of the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC), strongly supports Council File 25-0848 (Park / Yaroslavsky), calling for (among other things) 1) a report back on the status of the City's compliance with AB 747, 2) a list and evaluation of evacuation

routes within CD 11, and 3) plans to improve evacuation route infrastructure, signage, traffic control and public education.

“_____ NC/CC further calls the City Council’s attention to the urgent need for infrastructure funding to absorb the cost of implementing a mitigation plan, including by developing new ingress and egress routes, and calls on the City to proactively and constructively engage with FEMA and OES, by (among other things) expediting completion of the After-Action Reports by the Office of Emergency Management and LAFD, so that those engaged in evacuation planning and disaster response will have the benefit of these findings.”

Background information for all motions on Google Drive and website Meetings page, linked above

Moved by Member Spitz, Member Handal seconded, and passed 12-0-0.

8. Old Business

Passed motions – all passed since last WRAC Board meeting, July-August 2025

a. 25.05. Allocation of Revenues from Bus Lane Violation Enforcement Pilot Program – February 2025 (*passed July 2025*). **8** councils adopted: BABCNC, BCC, NCWP, VNC, WLASNC, WNC, WCC, WWNC. *Position letter:*

<https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/WRAC-letter-bus-lane-pilot-program.pdf>

b. 25.07. Amend LAMC 56.15 – No Riding E-Bicycles on Sidewalks – May 2025 (*passed August 2025*). **9** councils adopted: BABCNC, BCC,* DRNC,* NCWP,* PPCC,* VNC,* WLASNC, WNC, WWNC* (**modified versions*). **Position letter pending.**

c. 25.10. Request Mayor to Consent to City Controller’s Audit of Inside Safe – June 2025 (*passed August 2025*). **10** councils adopted: BABCNC, BCC, DRNC, NWNC,* PalmsNC,* PPCC, SORONC,* WLASNC, WNC, WWNC. (**modified versions*). **Position letter pending.**

d. 25.11. Request Mayor and CAO to Disclose Sources of Funding for the Inside Safe Program – June 2025 (*passed August 2025*). **10** councils adopted: BABCNC, BCC, DRNC, NWNC,* PalmsNC,* PPCC, SORONC,* WLASNC, WNC, WWNC. **Position letter pending.**

e. 25.13. Oppose Legislation Mandating Housing Density Without Funding Mechanisms – June 2025 (*passed August 2025*). **8** councils adopted: BABCNC, BCC,* PPCC,* SORONC, WLASNC, WCC, WWNC, WNC (**modified versions*). **Position letter pending.**

g. 25.14. Support the Heavy Rail Underground Subway Mode of Transportation for the Metro Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project – July 2025 (*passed August 2025; DEIR comment deadline Aug. 30, 2025*). **8** councils adopted: PPCC, DRNC, NWNC, SORONC, WLASNC,* WCC,* WWNC,* WNC* (**modified versions*). **Position letter pending.**

Member Jordan mentioned that BCC opposed the WRAC motion on the heavy rail underground transportation model because WRAC opposes Alt 3, which is the alternative that BCC supports. BCC found the alt. with a stop at the Getty and at UCLA to be an important option to keep on the

table. She would also oppose Alt 1, as it will remove the southbound 405 off-ramp at Church Lane, which she noted will wreak more havoc on Westside traffic. Vice-Chair Spitz noted that WRAC will include BCC's opposition in any letter regarding the WRAC position.

Pending motions

h. 25.09. Oppose RFP for IKE Sidewalk Kiosk Project – May 2025 (*passage deadline August 2025*). **7** councils adopted: BCC, PPCC,* VNC, WLASNC, WCC, WNC, WWNC (**modified version*). [*Possible motion to extend deadline.*]

Vice-Chair Spitz noted that Member Akef (PalmsNC) wasn't sure if his NC has passed this motion, and that President Hartman hasn't responded; Member Akef thinks their council actually passed the motion and is awaiting the minutes.

Motion: Vice-Chair Spitz moved to extend this by one month. There was no opposition to extending this for a month. Member Broide noted it is still very much an issue as the matter was sent to the Public Works Committee. Councils that previously submitted a CIS to Council File 2154-S1 should repeat that at Council File 1154-S2.

i. 25.12. Support CF 20-1376-S5 (Park) – June 2025 (*passage deadline Sept. 2025*). **7** councils adopted: BABCNC, BCC, PPCC, SORONC, WLASNC, WNC, and WWNC.

A few final comments by Board members (prior to adjournment):

Member Ruderman asked if the in-person meetings are open to the public, to which Vice-Chair Spitz noted that due to space limitations the breakfast meetings have been limited to Board members and speakers/staff only, but we would add government reps to upcoming meetings; previously two reps from each member NC or CC have been allowed to attend the in-person meetings at Belmont.

Chair Greenberg spoke from the bottom of her heart, for those who went through the fire tragedy, and that we feel for Vice-Chair Spitz and others who are suffering.

Member Marton noted that he knows an attorney who is representing homeowners related to the Palisades fires.

9. Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 PM.

The next meeting will be held on **September 15, 2025 6:30 PM** via Zoom.