



MINUTES

WRAC Meeting of the Board of Directors January 26, 2026 – 6:30pm

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1. Welcome/Introductions

- a. **Call to Order and Certification of Quorum** Chair Greenberg (BABCNC) called the meeting to order at 6:39pm. WRAC Secretary/Treasurer Tyler Laferriere-Holloway called the roll. Quorum was met with 9 members present initially.

12 Board Members Present

BABCNC Bel Air-Beverly Crest NC: Robin Greenberg, Chair

PPCC Pacific Palisades Community Council: Chris Spitz, Vice-Chair

BCC Brentwood CC: Carolyn Jordan (*arrived at 7:34pm*)

DRNC Del Rey NC: Ravi Sankaran left at 7:56pm & Quenton Richards continued

MVCC Mar Vista CC: Andrew Marton (*arrived at 7:22pm*)

NCWP NC of Westchester/Playa: Theresa Torrance (*arrived at 6:40pm*)

PalmsNC Palms NC: Reza Akef (left at a time uncertain; was no longer voting)

VNC Venice NC: Nico Ruderman

WCC Westwood Community Council: Steve Sann

WLASNC West LA-Sawtelle NC: Jay Handal left at 7:12pm & Vic Pacheco Vic continued

WNC Westside NC: Terri Tippit

WWNC Westwood NC: Lisa Chapman

Nonvoting Alternates Present:

Nickie Miner (BABCNC) and Barbara Broide (WNC).

Quenton Richards (DRNC) was present and stepped in for Member Sankaran at 7:56 pm.

Also Present:

- Cairo Rodriguez, Sr. Field Deputy – Council District 5/Yaroslavsky
- Michael Amster, Field Deputy – Council District 11/Park
- Sidney Liss, Field Deputy – Council District 4/Raman
- Janet Turner, Deputy District Outreach Rep – 36th District Congressman Ted W. Lieu
- Sophia Liebman, District Rep – 24th Senate District Senator Ben Allen
- Anthony Avila, Field Rep – Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin, AD 42
- Sherwin Shamoeil, Senior Field Rep – Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur, AD 51
- Leah McKenzie, Sr. Public Relations Specialist, LADWP
- WRAC Secretary/Treasurer Tyler Laferriere-Holloway
- Walton Chiu, WLASNC

b. Chair Updates –

(1) Next Board meeting: February 23, 2026 (4th Monday, per prior Board consensus); guest speaker: CW Katy Yaroslavsky

(2) Board approval sought for:

1) WRAC sponsorship of a CD 11 candidates forum (CW Traci Park and Faizah Malik; moderator tentatively Josh Haskell of KABC TV; date & other details TBA) - Discussion was held on a date for the candidates' forum for CD11, beginning with an initially-proposed date of February 22nd which was ruled out following discussion in favor of a later date. Vice-Chair Spitz noted that the venue will be arranged after we confirm the date with Ms. Malik. She would let them know we do *not* have a budget for any of this and noted that we could put together a small committee to prepare questions. Member Sann would prefer to do this with enough time for people to learn about this. He discussed various locations and recommended that the CD11 people have say on the venue. Member Ruderman asked if we could partner with others and suggested March. Member Handal agreed that mid-to-late March is better; however, Vice-Chair Spitz noted that she would be away on the 22nd and 28th or 29th of March but the first two Sundays in March would work.

Motion to put a committee together to meet in the next week to speak to Councilmember Park's campaign people and the opposing candidates' campaign people and come to an acceptable date in mid-March was moved by Member Handal and seconded by Member Ruderman. Member Sann supported this, noting we can co-sponsor, as WRAC has done with many councils and other groups.

(At this point in the meeting, Secretary Laferriere-Holloway noted that Members Akef (PalmsNC) and Torrance (NCWP) were present.)

The motion **passed** 10-0-0, with the 10 yeses from Chair Greenberg, Vice-Chair Spitz, and Members Sankaran, Torrance, Akef, Ruderman, Sann, Handal, Tippit, and Chapman. This *organizing* committee will include Members Handal and Ruderman along with Vice-Chair Spitz, with Members Handal and Ruderman taking joint charge of it. Member Sann noted that he liked Member Ruderman's suggestion to have a publication like Westside Current co-sponsor, and Ruderman said he would work on that.

2) WRAC breakfast meeting with District Attorney Nathan Hochman on 3/16 at Belmont Senior Living in Westwood (Belmont has confirmed availability) - Chair Greenberg thanked Member Sann. Breakfast starting time was discussed and it could begin at 7:30 or as early as 7:00 AM, when we are sure when the DA will be available. The Belmont will be ready, and we will need to accommodate our members and the speaker.

2. Government Reports/Speakers

a. Mayor's Office – Jennifer Hull, Westside Representative was not present.

b. Council Reports –

(1) **Cairo Rodriguez, Sr. Field Deputy – Council District 5/Yaroslavsky** - A detailed report was provided by Cairo, regarding cleanups of encampments and CARE Plus

operations, getting people into housing who would accept services, and a great variety of 14.18 sites where the work is coordinated with LAPD and LASAN. He discussed tree projects, including tree trimming projects and asked us to let our respective field deputies know if we had a location that we would like to see addressed, so that they will coordinate. He related that CD5 is working with “Arts Bridging the Gap” to look for painters to paint a mural at Overland Avenue Elementary School, and with community input, the artist has submitted a draft design. Artist Armani Obert, muralist, will work with CD5 for the timeline and installation. Councilwoman Yaroslavsky is teaming up with the Department of Cultural Affairs and local producers to put on a Persian New Year Nowruz event. This year in Westwood, they’ll pay a special tribute to the cultural heritage Sunday March 22nd at the Westwood Cultural Center.

Member Chapman (WWNC) noted that they found 53 individuals in the 41.18 zone during the homeless count, sleeping overnight in their cars, the majority of those counted were at the Westwood Rec Center Park. She asked if this could be looked at as a lot with services and restrooms. Cairo said he will bring it up with the Councilwoman.

Member Miner (BABCNC) thanked him for the information on the cultural events and asked him to repeat the World Market problem with the encampments on the Santa Monica side. Member Sann (WCC) thanked him for the Nowruz event and thanked him for saying “no” prior street closures on Westwood for that event, which were very disruptive, and that we are now moving it to the Westwood Park.

Member Sann (WCC) noted that another 41.18 area is the Westwood Library, where, at their count on Thursday, they found 13 people sleeping on the library grounds, which has no trespassing posting but have had pathetic enforcement by LAPD because the library is a 41.18 zone, thanks to Katy and Westwood Gardens Park, but you’d never know it because it is not enforced. Member Sann noted that the neighbors would like to have a 41.18 sign posted in front of the library; there are no signs in front of the library and the park; there should be a sign right there. They would appreciate help with 53 at the park, that includes Bad News Bears Field, with 45 at WW park, 5, 6 or 8 at Bad News Bears Field, and 13 at the library; the biggest numbers they’ve seen. Member Sann was greatly saddened to see these numbers Thursday. Cairo will work with the District on this.

[Vic Pacheco noted that Jay Handal left at 7:12pm.]

Member Sann also referenced an ad-hoc Olympics committee meeting this morning, which moved to advance an expediting streamlining ordinance for Olympics projects; and he wanted to flag a deep concern that the billboard industry is wanting to exempt digital billboards from sign districts for the Olympics which could leave us stuck with digital billboards forever, which we cannot let happen. Member Sann understands that Councilwoman Yaroslavsky is aware of this. Cairo will follow up on this with her.

Member Broide (WNC) thanked Member Sann. and those who contacted and entered something in Council file 15-0989-S47. She noted that after the meeting, staff advised Member Broide not to worry, these signs are temporary. She does not believe that, and noted that for those who know, it is a really difficult thing to get a sign down once it is up. She noted that we need to craft language and have protections and fines because once they get posted it is a problem to fight back and ignore the history of the city and signage. The cities' rules were not tight but now they are airtight. The 2002 sign ordinance makes it hard to put the stuff up outside of sign districts. She is worried that once the city creates another exception to the rules that the sign industry will come in and do what they please. Member Broide added that most of the meeting this morning was taken up by reports from the Olympics committee relating to the opportunities for local businesses to participate in the Olympics. She noted that there is a contingency fund in the Olympics budget, a fixed amount and not a percentage. Vice-Chair Spitz recommended that this complicated discussion take place at a different point, e.g., Board Member Reports.

- (2) **Michael Amster, Field Deputy – Council District 11/Park** - Michael provided a report, stressing Councilwoman Park's work for public safety around the community. He noted that she had taken a ride along in the WLA Division, reaffirmed what she already knows that our staffing levels are inadequate and public safety is a major issue that council needs to work on, especially WLA. He noted that they are proud over the last month, being able to activate automatic license plate readers around CD11, from Mulholland to LAX, and all the communities in CD11 in between. The automatic license plate readers gather data for LAPD to utilize and track and investigate and arrest criminal activities. As to the Palisades, Michael noted that the top issue is the rebuilding permits fee waivers. We can expect a vote this week to waive permit fees for residential and commercial rebuilding. He expects this will be approved by the City Council this week. He noted that the Councilwoman will be the most fervent advocate for it. She was also involved in the point-in-time count. She joined the effort at the Venice location. He was at the location at the West Los Angeles Municipal Building, and it was, of course, an important effort. He also noted that they have been working with Caltrans to address the risks of fire along the 90 freeway. With Caltrans, 80% of the brush along the Del Rey 90 Freeway median has been cleared, and Caltrans is committed to addressing the fencing around this median. He noted that more work needs to be done for this area that has been a major point of attention for him and his colleagues, involved in Del Rey, for the Councilwoman. Vice-Chair Spitz asked him to thank the Councilwoman, and he confirmed that this will be taken up this week.

Member Pacheco (WLASNC) asked Michael about the growing encampment on Bundy under the 10 freeway and on the northwest offramp. Vice-Chair Spitz noted that she has seen that encampment growing daily. Michael shared that they are aware and that a WLA CARE Plus may have happened on this day or will be done on Monday and that

Bundy/10 is at the top of their attention. He noted other locations, especially on Wilshire at Bundy, and at Armacost, as well as at Westgate, the latter an upcoming 41.18 location, pending signage. He noted that Wilshire is in dire need of attention or outreach, and that is what he is doing. He assured us that Bundy/10 is, top of mind, and they are getting out there. He was notified today that Westgate Pico is an issue. He thinks that we are at a point where the size of the encampments is completely different than three years ago, though they generate very quickly. They will get service as much as needed in February. Member Pacheco asked if the area of the Bundy/10 has not been designated as 41.18, to which Michael acknowledged that it was but the sign hasn't been put up there yet.

Member Torrance (NCWP) asked about the towing and impounding of RVs. He noted that they are impounding around the district, and honing in on a “vanlord” operations, nuisance RVs associated with established criminal activity, and getting resources out there. They have “CAO operations” throughout; neighbors come together and put together a petition asking for overnight prohibitions of parking of oversized vehicles along the corridor. They advance those petitions via resolutions as quickly as possible, and the councilwoman, in City Hall, has been a forefront advocate in creating regulations for the vanlord industry.

c. Additional Government Reports –

Janet Turner, Deputy District Outreach Rep – 36th District Congressman Ted W. Lieu

Janet provided an update on Congressman Lieu's legislative activities, including his co-sponsorship of bills related to mortgage relief, energy access, and drug cost reduction.

Sophia Liebman, District Rep – 24th Senate District Senator Ben Allen - Sophia discussed the finalization of the bill package, the Senator's new committee assignments, and the high school internship application, <https://sd24.senate.ca.gov/district/internship> as well as a letter of support for a fee waiver for all properties, submitted as public comment at City Council. The deadline to introduce new bills is February 20th.

[Carolyn Jordan arrived at 7:34 pm]

Anthony Avila, Field Rep – Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin, AD 42 - They are still finalizing their bill package, and if you want to connect with them, they are still taking proposals. He is hearing from Palisadians trying to get a meeting with the Assemblymember before the deadline and invited us to reach out to him. He will be in the Palisades at the Recovery Coalition on Wednesday, for their mobile office hours, in lieu of losing their office there on Via De La Paz, to meet with constituents for state-related issues.

Sherwin Shamoeil, Senior Field Rep – Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur, AD 51 –

Sherwin provided updates on Assemblymember Zbur's committees, with the new committee

adding to his other committees being the Education Committee. He introduced bills, including those on public lands and artificial intelligence. He'll have their full package by next meeting.

Sidney Liss, Field Deputy – Council District 4/Raman - Sidney noted that the Councilwoman led a webinar where she presented her goals on continuing to address homelessness, efforts in addressing homelessness, creating new housing, and introducing reforms to Measure ULA. There is a recording on their website. They joined their Point in Time Count volunteers in Hollywood and Studio City. They recently joined with Charles Fleming, author of Secret Stairs, on his walking tour routes for the City of LA, for a hike event, which the Councilwoman enjoys as a way to connect with her constituents.

Leah McKenzie, Sr. Public Relations Specialist, LADWP - Leah mentioned the upcoming January 2026 Palisades newsletter from LADWP. She would encourage subscribing. www.ladwp.com/palisades

3. Board Member Updates –

Member Ruderman, our primary rep for VNC, reported that the president, Brian Averil, has resigned, and there is an application for the new president. He noted that the Vice President, Gary Pearl is currently acting in Brian's place until February election.

Walton Chiu, former WRAC alternate for WLASNC, related that he just wanted to say happy new year and wish everyone in this community a wonderful restful and safe new year. Walton expressed his admiration of everyone on this board, with a special appreciation Vice-Chair Spitz and Chair Greenberg. Chair Greenberg and Vice-Chair Spitz noted that they were glad to see him and thanked him for coming.

4. Committee Reports –

- a. WRAC Transportation & Mobility Committee (MTC) – met 12/17/25 and 1/21/26.
- b. WRAC Homelessness Committee (HOC) –next mtg 1/27/26 (Guest: Controller Mejia)
Vice-Chair Spitz noted that we are fortunate to have the controller coming to tomorrow night's HOC meeting, whom she hopes will answer questions about his role on the federal Alliance homelessness case. *LA Alliance for Human Rights v. City of Los Angeles* — requiring the city to deliver accurate data and significant investments to address homelessness.

5. Public Comment – There was no non-member public comment on items not on the agenda.

6. Approval of Minutes

- a) The November 17, 2025, meeting minutes were **approved** by 11-0-0, as moved by Chair Greenberg and Vice-Chair Spitz with the 11 yeses from Chair Greenberg, Vice-Chair Spitz, and Members Jordan, Sankaran, Marton, Torrance, Ruderman, Sann, Pacheco, Tippit, and Chapman.

7. New Business

- a) **Motion (R. Sankaran/DRNC; C. Spitz/PPCC) – Support CF 25-1484 (Park): regulation of sober living density in Los Angeles**

“_____ NC/CC, a member of the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC), supports CF 25-1484 which seeks to regulate sober living density in Los Angeles.

“Currently homeowners and residents in the Del Rey neighborhood of CD 11 are experiencing the effects of a documented pattern of owners/developers over-developing properties intended as “senior living” and then filing a change of use and converting them to un-regulated sober living homes with between 22 and 48 residents. Repeated requests by the community to abide by “good neighbor norms” have gone unaddressed.

“Prior communities in CD 11, CD 5 and other areas citywide have also experienced issues with sober living overconcentration in residential neighborhoods and have supported previous efforts to regulate sober living density in Los Angeles.

“Research and findings from prior communities who have experienced these conditions demonstrate that the best way to resolve many of the problems now stemming from these largely unregulated sober living facilities is by establishing minimum spacing requirements between facilities and to create thresholds based on facility size, modeled on the Costa Mesa ordinance upheld by the courts. The motion in CF 25-1484 seeks to allow the City to preserve the benefits of recovery housing while avoiding the drawbacks of excessive clustering.”

Member Spitz introduced the motion, noting that many WRAC members had previously supported regulation of sober living density in connection with a prior proposed ordinance which was never enacted.

Amendment: Member Sankaran suggested a minor tweak. 2nd paragraph add the words “**and beyond**” - in the neighborhood of CD11 and beyond.... There were no objections to the suggested amendment.

The main motion as amended was **approved** by 11-0-0, as **moved** by Member Sankaran, and Vice-Chair Spitz with the 11 yeses from Chair Greenberg, Vice-Chair Spitz, and Members Jordan, Sankaran, Marton, Torrance, Ruderman, Sann, Pacheco, Tippit, and Chapman.

8. Old Business

a. 25.17. Support STC Project, including on-campus UCLA Station at UCLA Gateway Plaza; oppose changing location to Gayley Ave. & Strathmore Dr. – October 2025 (passage deadline January 2026). 7 councils adopted: BCC, NWNC,* PPCC, WCC, WLASNC,* WNC, WWNC (*modified versions). [Possible motion to extend passage deadline.]

***Passed by 2 more councils since the agenda was distributed (VNC and MVCC); a position letter will be written.

Member Sann (WCC) thanked the 9 councils, Chair Greenberg and Vice Chair Spitz, noted that he went to the Metro meeting, and it was national news that the metro board voted 13-0 for this modified Alternative 5. Member Sann gave a detailed update on this and noted that the question of where the UCLA station will be located is still an open question.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM, as moved by Tippit and Jordan with the next meeting to be held on **February 23, 2026**.