

**Palms Neighborhood
Council
Green Committee**

Jessalyn Waldron, Co-Chair
Helen Tocco, Co-Chair
Kristen Chiarello, Member

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
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**PALMS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
Joint Board and Green Committee Meeting Agenda
Thursday, September 17, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.
Zoom Meeting Online at:
<https://zoom.us/j/92881443662>
Or by telephone, Dial +12532158782
Then enter Webinar ID: 928 8144 3662, then press #
Press *9 to raise hand for public comment**

The Neighborhood Council system enables meaningful civic participation for all Angelenos and serves as a voice for improving government responsiveness to local communities and their needs. We are an advisory body to the City of Los Angeles, comprised of stakeholder volunteers who are devoted to the mission of improving our communities.,

- I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL**
- II. ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - a. Call for Green Committee Members
- III. INTRODUCTIONS (10 Minutes)**
- IV. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT (10 minutes)**
- V. COMMITTEE UPDATES (45 minutes)**
 - a. NC Green Biz
 - b. Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance (NCSA)
 - c. Tree planting initiatives
 - City Plants “Growing Vibrant Communities” Webinar 9/22
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_egs32mF_RAeLvjZwk_wsdA
 - Tabling at Farmer’s Market 9/20
 - d. Dog Waste Bag Dispensers
 - e. Water Trust Education
 - f. September Clean-Up
 - Tabling at Farmer’s Market 9/20
- VI. NEW PROJECTS (30 min)**
 - a. Citizen Science Programs
 - b. **MOTION:** To approve a letter requesting policy changes in response to DWP towing on Motor Ave. The letter is attached to this agenda.
- VII. Adjournment:**

Time allocations for agenda items are approximate and may be shortened or lengthened at the discretion of the President. Public comment will be taken for each motion as well as for any item in the consent agenda prior to Board action. The public

is requested to fill out a “Speaker Card” to address the Assembly on any item of the agenda prior to the Assembly taking action on an item. Comments from the public on Agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the Agenda that is within the Assembly’s subject matter jurisdiction will be heard during the Public Comment period. Public comment is limited to 1 to 2 minutes per speaker, at the discretion or unless waived by the Assembly. In the interest of addressing all items on the agenda, time limits for individual comments and discussion may be set at the discretion of the President. All items on the consent agenda will be determined by a single Committee vote and without Committee discussion. Committee members may request that any item be removed from the consent agenda and considered individually at any time prior to that vote.

Per Board of Neighborhood Commissioners Policy #2014-01, agendas are posted for public review at: 1) Woodbine Park Kiosk, 3409 S. Vinton Ave.; 2) Palms Neighborhood Council website, www.palmsnc.la

In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board in advance of a meeting may be viewed at Woodbine Park Kiosk, 3409 S. Vinton Ave, at our website: www.palmsla.org or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact the Secretary at secretary@palmsnc.la

Palms NC Board and Committee members abide by a code of civility (<http://empowerla.org/code-of-conduct/>). Any person who interferes with the conduct of a Neighborhood Council meeting by willfully interrupting and/or disrupting the meeting is subject to removal. A peace officer may be requested to assist with the removal should any person fail to comply with an order of removal by the Neighborhood Council. Any person who resists removal by a peace officer is subject to arrest and prosecution pursuant to California Penal Code Section 403.

As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least 3 business days (72 hours) prior to the meeting you wish to attend by contacting the Secretary at secretary@palmsnc.la

SI REQUIERE SERVICIOS DE TRADUCCION, FAVOR DE NOTIFICAR A LA OFICINA 3 DIAS DE TRABAJO (72 HORAS) ANTES DEL
EVENTO. SI NECESITA ASISTENCIA CON ESTA NOTIFICACION, POR FAVOR LLAME A NUESTRA OFICINA AL
secretary@palmsnc.la

To: Councilmembers Paul Koretz, Mike Bonin, and Joe Buscaino of the Los Angeles City Council Transportation Committee

Cc: Seleta Reynolds, Los Angeles Department of Transportation General Manager

Martin L. Adams, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power General Manager

Sherman Torres, StreetsLA Street Maintenance Division Manager

On August 17, 2020 cars parked on Motor Ave in Palms were towed in response to “No Parking” signs that had been installed by the Department of Transportation at the behest of the Department of Water and Power. “No parking” signs were already installed for several weeks prior to the event due to construction work from several development projects that are being built within the same block. The “no parking” restrictions from those construction sites were never enforced. The signs came and went over the course of many weeks and they looked exactly like the new DWP-ordered signs. In several cases, the DWP-ordered signs were placed on the same tree or pole as the existing signs, with differing day and time restrictions (see attached). In a case like this, how is a driver supposed to know which signs take precedence over another or which signs are legitimate in the first place? Additionally, in this high-density neighborhood, where on-street parking is in high-demand, drivers often park vehicles blocks away from their destinations. The relaxed parking restrictions during Safer at Home mean that vehicles remain unattended for days, sometimes weeks at a time, here in Palms. When LADWP began its necessary work on Motor Ave, it requested that all vehicles on the Avenue be towed - obviously a shock to those whose cars remained on the street that morning. During such a sensitive time for Angelenos financially, this series of actions has caused undue hardship on many local residents.

Once the LADWP work began on Motor Ave, traffic was diverted into temporary lanes that were bounded by the street’s curb in some places. This resulted in local trees (planted in the parkway by the Palms Neighborhood Council and the Motor Avenue Improvement Association) being clipped by passing trucks and buses, sending debris flying into the sidewalks, damaging the tree canopies and, in one specific case, leaving a large tree branch hanging dangerously for the following vehicles to hit. To the credit of the LADWP work crew, that hanging branch was quickly detached and removed.

The Palms Neighborhood Council, local organizations, and several stakeholders have been in contact with LADWP, LADOT, and Council District 5, receiving responses with varying degrees of accountability and concern. As a result, the Palms Neighborhood Council hereby recommends the following policy changes to ensure clear and trustworthy communication among City departments, stakeholders, and the Neighborhood Council.

- LADOT parking restrictions must be labeled with enforceable beginning and ending dates.
- LADOT-posted “no parking” signs must be labeled with information about the associated project and contact information should stakeholders have concerns or questions.
- LADOT must provide clear direction on parking restrictions. LADOT staff must resolve the situation of multiple signs with conflicting messaging.
- LADOT must limit parking restrictions to the smallest stretch of street to safely complete the work.
- If parking restrictions are granted to construction projects, the above stipulations must apply regardless of whether the signs are posted by LADOT staff, a contractor, or anyone associated with the construction project.
- Neighborhood Councils must be given at least 72 hours advance notice of upcoming street closures and parking restrictions so they can use their outreach tools to alert the public. It would also be helpful for LADOT and other City departments to reach out to neighborhoods through their social media channels or other public avenues.

- Given the “safer-at-home” instructions we live by today, stakeholders and Neighborhood Councils must be given at least one week’s notice of any upcoming changes until the emergency order is lifted.
- Temporary lanes designed by LADOT must take into account issues such as local street trees that can be few and far between in many under-served communities. Traffic should be diverted to preserve such foliage and accommodated on alternate streets if necessary.
- When traffic is diverted to the parking lane, StreetsLA should be dispatched in advance to trim the trees so passing trucks and buses will not clip the trees and have them endangering pedestrians walking by.











