

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

Palms Neighborhood Council
Executive Committee

Randell Erving, Chair
Danya White, Vice Chair
Helen Tocco, Secretary
Kay Hartman, Treasurer



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Los Angeles, CA 90034

PALMS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

<http://palmsnc.la>
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Executive Committee Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, July 28, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting Online at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8298797115> or by telephone,

Dial +1 669 900 6833 to join the meeting

Then enter this Meeting ID: 829 879 7115 and 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.

VIRTUAL MEETING TELECONFERENCING NUMBER FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION In conformity with the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 (MARCH 17, 2020) and due to concerns over COVID-19, the Palms Neighborhood Council Racial & Social Justice Committee meeting will be conducted entirely electronically.

Every person wishing to address the Neighborhood Council must join the zoom meeting at <https://zoom.us/j/8298797115> or dial +1 669 900 6833, and enter 829 879 7115 1531 and then press # to join the meeting. Instructions on how to sign up for public comment will be given to listeners at the start of the meeting

- I. **CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL**
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Roll Call
- II. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT (10 minutes)**
- III. **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**
 - A. Discussion and possible action: Motion to approve that the Palms NC submit a letter in response to Wiseman development concerns and violations
 - B. Discussion: Palms NC Retreat agenda + facilitation
 - C. Discussion and possible action: [BONC Code of Conduct Amendments](#)
 - D. Discussion and possible action: [WRAC pending motions](#) for Board Consideration
 - E. Discussion: PLUM Area Rep Duties
 - F. Discussion: Bylaws Amendment, do we want to form an ad hoc committee? Who will chair it?
 - G. Discussion: Draft goals for 2021-2023

H. Discussion and possible action: motion to approve a name change for the Outreach & Communication Committee to the Outreach Committee

I. 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, <http://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.palmsnc.la 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: Board of Neighborhood Commissioners

TO: Los Angeles City Council Arts, Parks, Health, Education, and Neighborhoods Committee

CC: Mayor Garcetti and Members of the Los Angeles City Council

SUBJECT: Proposed Amendments to the Code of Conduct Policy

The _____ Neighborhood Council voices alarm over the Proposed Amendments to the Code of Conduct Policy documented in a July 19, 2021 memo from General Manager Raquel Beltrán to President Eli Lipmen and the members of the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners.

We are deeply concerned about the sweeping powers the General Manager of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment requests; power to suspend and request removal of any Board member or any public stakeholder who is a member of a Neighborhood Council committee without a hearing or right of appeal. While we agree there is a need for a Code of Conduct Policy with enforcement provisions, the remedy provided in these amendments is extreme, anti-democratic, and unamerican.

We expected the proposed revision of the Code of Conduct Policy to incorporate rules under the City's recently adopted Workplace Violence Policy, including appropriate enforcement actions. Instead, all descriptions of prohibited behavior have been removed from the Code of Conduct document and the new proposed Code of Conduct refers NOT to the Workplace Violence Policy, but to a yet-to-be-adopted "Workplace Equity Policy".

There is a big difference between actions that involve real or threatened violence and "diversity, equity, and inclusion" issues that may involve actions such as a failure to use another person's preferred pronouns.

"If a Board Member or Committee Member is alleged to have violated either the City's Workplace Equity Policy or the Commission's Code of Conduct, the Department, with written approval from the General Manager, may immediately suspend the Board Member or Committee Member for a period of up to 90 days."

Punitive action should never be based on an allegation. Punitive action should only be based on a report that follows an investigation and a hearing. Someone accused must have the right to mount a defense against an allegation. Our entire American system is based on the right of self-defense, on the presumption that a person is innocent until proven guilty.

"The Department shall be the sole decision-maker with respect to a suspension. The Board Member or Committee Member may not appeal the suspension decision."

A board member may be suspended solely on an allegation. The Department alone decides. There is no right of appeal. This disenfranchises the voters who elected the Board member.

The Department forgets that Neighborhood Council board members are elected officials. Removing a board member without due process gives it the unilateral ability to overturn an election.

General Manager Beltrán asks for powers that are effectively those of a civic executioner. These powers could be exercised upon the receipt of any complaint, justified or not, by any person, including a member of the public, including anonymous complaints and complaints for actions allegedly committed at any time in the past, which the complainant decides are violations of the Workplace Equity Policy. The website where these complaints can be filed already exists: myvoicela.org.

We urge the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners and the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment to reconsider these amendments and work towards a remedy that is consistent with American electoral principles.

Neighborhood Council Area Representatives PLUM Activities

Area Rep Activities for Developments: Area Reps shall be involved in working within the area on development projects by:

- The PLUM committee shall copy the Area Rep when it contacts developers with new projects, to make sure the Area Rep has early notification.
- When a new development is proposed, publicly post in the neighborhood a notification of the development and alert the public to contact the Area Rep and/or the PLUM committee with questions and concerns and remove the public postings within 3 days after the project is reviewed at the PLUM Committee.
- Work with the outreach committee to make sure the Palms Neighborhood Council Newsletter and social media to alert the community about the coming development.
- Attend the PLUM meeting where the developer is presenting to represent the views of the neighbors at the PLUM meeting.
- Maintain vigilance over developments by remaining aware of developments in their area and working with area stakeholders to open tickets with 311 when violations are found. Are the developers keeping the development site safe and clean? Is the sidewalk remaining usable? Are the tree canopies being maintained? Are the contractors abusing parking? Do its neighbors need intervention?