Neighborhood Council Executive Committee

Nick Greif, Chair
Andres Cuervo, Vice-Chair
V. Claire Jadulang, Member
Melissa Wyatt, Member
Alison Regan, Member

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA

PALMS
NEIGHBORHOOD
COUNCIL

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Los Angeles, CA 90034

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PALMS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Executive Committee General Meeting Agenda
Monday, February 27, 2017 – 8:15 p.m.
Fire Station 43 – 3690 Motor Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90034

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
   a. Call to Order
   b. Roll Call

II. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT (10 minutes)
   a. Limited to non-agenda items – subjects related to executive committee issues

III. COMMITTEE BUSINESS
   a. **MOTION:** Recommend the Palms Neighborhood Council authorize up to $100 per month (up to $1,200 per year) of promoted online posts for Facebook, Twitter, and NextDoor, including MailChimp facebook promotion integration, at the discretion of the President, Vice-President, and Outreach & Communications Committee Chair.

   b. **MOTION:** Recommend the Palms Neighborhood Council allocate $250 to the neighborhood Norouz potluck being organized by Mindi Thelen and Arlene Nilsson for March 19th, as specific in the PNC Block Party Policy. *[See supplemental appendix for event flyer]*

   c. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:** Reviewing rolling applications submitted thus far for PNC Utility Boxes. *[See supplemental appendix for mockups]*
   - Utility Box Program: http://www.bit.ly/palmsart
   - Application 1: Ilya Faytelson for box #2, #11, #12 or #13.
   - Application 2: Ashley Dutka (aka James Wilde XO) for box #7 or 2nd choice #9. Instagram Tumblr
   - Application 3: Jamie Callahan [3500 block of Mentone] for box #9 https://jamiecallahan.wordpress.com/

   d. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:** Reviewing potential mural artists for the city owned walls on the Overland Ave hill on both sides of the street. *[See supplemental appendix for a selection of muralist options]*

   e. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:** Regarding whether to apply for an Empower LA Award for the Palms NC (submission deadline March 1st). https://lacity.quickbase.com/db/bkx2brpzw

   f. **MOTION:** To authorize the President to sign on behalf of the Palms Neighborhood Council, a letter supporting the BODYART application to the LA

City Arts Activation Fund for a live performance art event to take place while a to be determined mural is painted in Palms. *[see supplemental appendix for draft letter]*

g. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:** Regarding adopting a CIS on Council File 15-1022-S2 "Online Voting / Improve Experience / Neighborhood Council Elections" - https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=15-1022-S2
[see supplemental appendix for main council file recommendations]

h. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:** Regarding adopting a CIS on Council File 13-1493 "Street Vending / Special Sidewalk Vending District Program" - https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=13-1493
[see supplemental appendix for main council file recommendations]

i. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:** Regarding how to get Measure M local return funding for alleyway repair and funding from any source to close the funding gap on the Overland Ave I-10 onramp second right turn lane.

j. **DISCUSSION:** Update on contract with Kenneth Greene and discussion of additional tasks that may be useful for inclusion into his work schedule.

k. **DISCUSSION:** On PNC priorities and further steps needed to accomplish our strategic objectives laid out in the FY16-17 retreat.

IV. **Adjournment**

It's A Neighborhood Pot Luck ...And You're Invited!

HAPPY NOROUZ 2017 (1396)

Please join us as we come together in solidarity with our local Muslim community and to celebrate Iranian New Year!

Your neighbors Mindi Thelen and Arlene Nilsson, wanted to reach out to our Muslim neighbors to let them know that we appreciate them and their contribution to our community. So, we and the Iman Center, will be hosting a pot-luck for the community on Sunday, March 19, at the IMAN Cultural Center from 11am–2:30pm. *Children welcome!*

Lots of Fun for Kids!

WHAT YOU CAN BRING:

- Any Vegetarian dish
- Any fish dish
- Any dairy dish

Please do not bring pork

- Any chicken dish
- Any Halal Kosher beef dish
- Any dessert or cake

DATE/TIME: **Sunday, March 19th, 2017 11am–2:30pm**

LOCATION: **IMAN Cultural Center (310) 202-8181 3376 Motor Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90034**

For more information or to RSVP please email:
Arlene: Arlene@thewaginc.com OR Mindi: minders1960@gmail.com 310-733-8865
Please RSVP by Monday, March 13th

Join us as we celebrate tolerance and diversity!

Ilya Faytelson
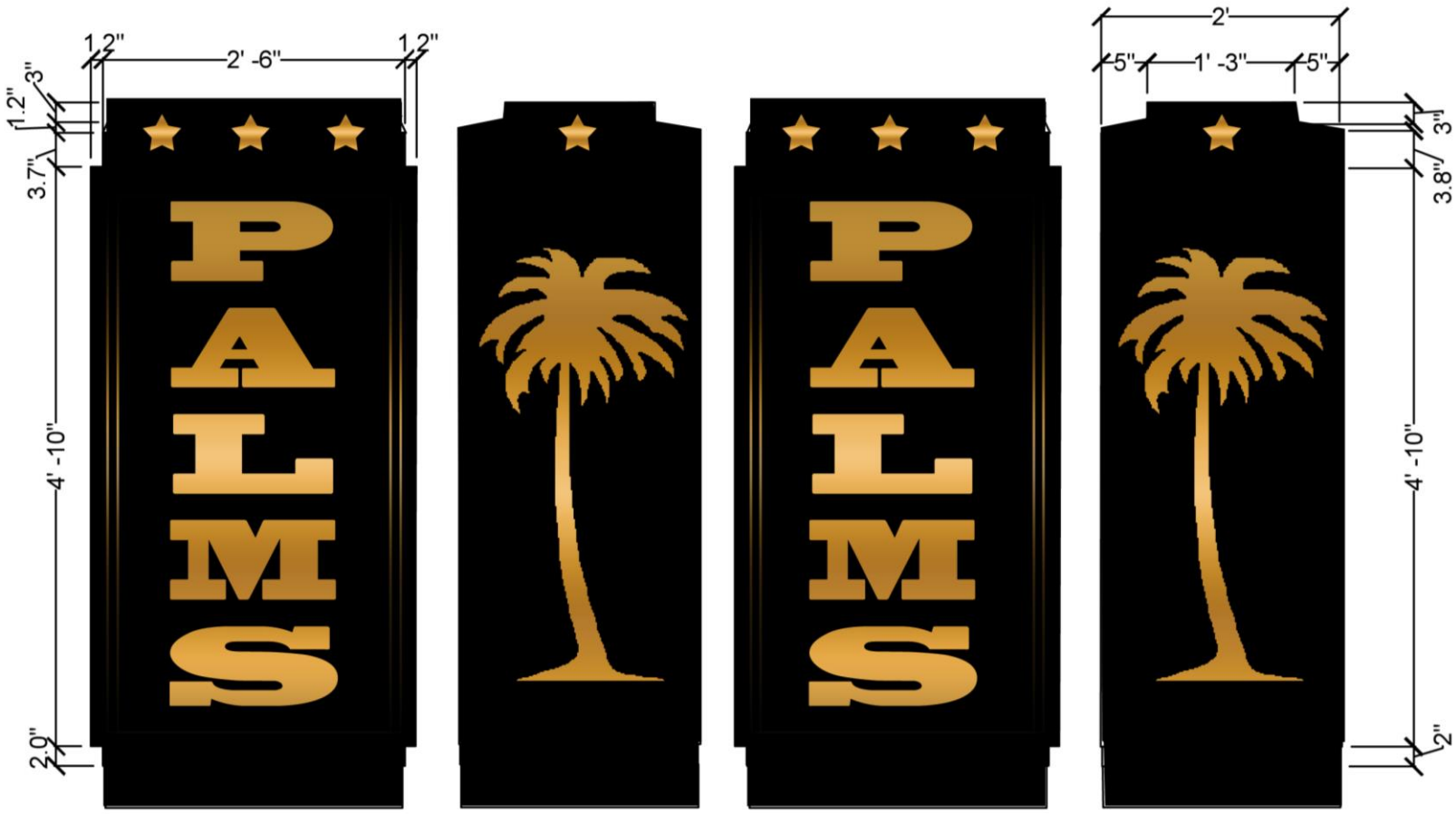
Utility Art Submission Template

Please Place Your Art Design in the Below Template

[You may print and fill in by hand, design sketches do not need to be as detailed as the examples on the next page]

Utility Art Submission Template

Please Place Your Art Design in the Below Template

[You may print and fill in by hand, design sketches do not need to be as detailed as the examples on the next page]

Palms Neighborhood Council

@palmsnc

Artist: @theriverrunpast

www.palmsnc.la
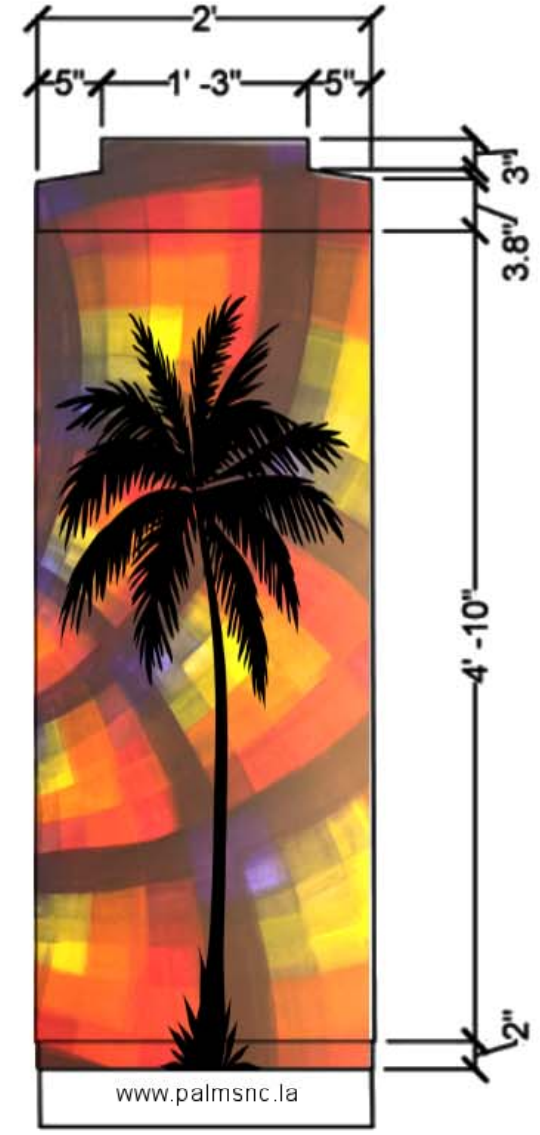
1. **John Park**

Uniquely gifted in his ethereal natured art, he often integrates Eastern influences combined with bright colors and poignant word play. www.johnparkart.com

2. **Clinton Bopp**

Clinton has clever ways to integrating his art with the surrounding environment. He is known for using existing signs, plants, and other naturally existing objects as a part of his work. www.clintonbopp.com

3. **Risk Rock**

Kelly Graval, the multi-talented Fine Artist, Illustrator, and Graffiti artist known as RISK, has been synonymous with the Los Angeles art community for decades. With a career spanning 30 years, RISK has solidified his place in the history books as a world-renowned graffiti legend. Riskrock.com

To work with any of these BE artists and more, please inquire with Heather@BeautifyEarth.org

4. Anthroe Foresight

Mixing colorful abstract designs and beautifully rendered realistic animals and humans interacting, Anthroe knows how to move and inspire the onlooker. www.instagram.com/anthroe

5. DJ Neff

Owner of an arts collective in Mar Vista, DJ Neff has been instrumental in transforming much of Venice Blvd into an art gallery. His colorful animals will brighten any canvas. www.neffink.com

6. Ginoflo

Gino's Escher-inspired art will flow you through an imaginative journey, always with a new detail to discover. He recently painted two Beautify Western + LA Great Streets murals on the corner of Melrose and Western: LA Love Story and Swim in Love. www.instagram.com/ginoflo

To work with any of these BE artists and more, please inquire with Heather@BeautifyEarth.org
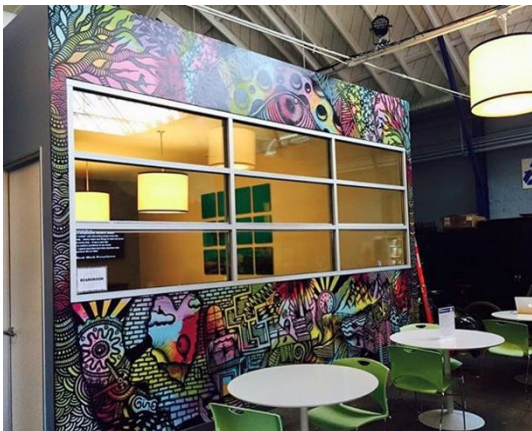
7. David Gilmore

David's multi-colored faces have begun to creep up everywhere. His work is colorful, thought provoking and a treat for the imagination. www.davidgilmorestudio.com

8. Wrdsmth

Wrdsmth has become well known in LA and beyond for his thoughtful, heartfelt typewriter messages on Utility boxes and other public surfaces. His words are warmly welcomed as loving reminders for our life. Wrdsmthinla.tumblr.com

To work with any of these BE artists and more, please inquire with Heather@BeautifyEarth.org

9. Jonas Never

Never has really built a name for himself around town, painting up historic movie scenes and more. Perhaps you've seen his "Venice" mural at Windward Circle? Much like old photographs, Jonas' murals provide an experience of joyful nostalgia. www.cult-classics.com

10. House of Meggs

This Australian artist has made an international name for himself. We love his bold use of color and incorporation of street elements when telling his artistic story. One of his latest with BE was at Cross Campus in Santa Monica. www.houseofmeggs.com

11. Trek Thunder Kelly

The most interesting man in the world...or Venice. Trek painted the 40 foot tall Abraham Lincoln in modern day garb on Lincoln Blvd. He is known for his multi-faceted artwork and socially engaging pieces. www.trekthunderkelly.com

12. Gus Harper

Santa Monica born and raised, Gus Harper has a talent for sharing the spectacular in the everyday. Sophisticated, simple, abstract, celebratory...We love his "Minor Identity Crisis" at the intersection of Pico Blvd and the 10 freeway. gusharperart.com

13. Evan Mendel aka @awonderfulmistake

He is an expressive artist who does primarily portraits with color accents. He captures the essence of human energy in his paintings, and they can leave a lasting imprint. www.evanmendel.com

14. Kevin Ledo

You know it's Kevin Ledo whenever you see a perfectly rendered portrait paired with colorful abstract snake-like swirls, creating visually bold and iconic compositions. www.kevinledo.com

15. Naira Hart

This artist/DJ creates flowing works of art that primarily focus on the feminine form. She is local to Venice and has begun to expand her following across the country. www.nairahart.com

16. Mad Man Art

A majority of this work brings superheroes to life. "Pop-art" style, cartoon and imaginary landscapes are also in the repertoire. www.instagram.com/madmanart

17. Francisco Letelier

Francisco has been pioneering the mural movement for over 20 years and is passionate about creating art that represents the local community. He recently painted "The Guardian Mural" at The Red Cross in Santa Monica and continually contributes in amazing ways to the art culture throughout LA and beyond. letelierart.blogspot.com

18. StarfighterA

One of the most visually stunning artists in LA, Christina focuses on the flowing beauty of the feminine in many of her works. She captures the imagination with her dynamic colors and swirling, curved portraits. www.christinaangelina.com

19. Ruben Rojas

Ruben's mural was voted 2016 Most Loved Mural in Santa Monica. His art is based around love, as he uses many hearts in his art. www.rubenrojas.com

20. ESPY

Founder of Ktown Wallz Project which is successfully deterring gang activity and tagging in Korea Town alleys and empowering artists with legal canvases on which paint. His mix of graffiti styles and photo realistic imagery merge, gaining respect from all. espydpt.wix.com/espydptznc#!canvas www.instagram.com/espy_dpt_znc

21. Caroline Geys

Caroline's art is geometrically inspired, as most of her art carries definitive lines and exotic colors mixed to highlight landscapes and buildings. www.carolinegeys.com

22. SEL

A street artist who has taken his work to new heights over the last two years. Respected for his intensely aware animal portraits as well as his street spray knowledge, Sel is one of a kind. www.punkrockzen.com

23. Jawsh Smyth

Jawsh has a striking, bold style, exploring fractals, black and white, and bright contrasting colors in order to create relatable imagery. www.instagram.com/jawshsmyth

24. Calen Blake

Calen Blake intends to accelerate the connection of city life and the natural world in the psyche of his viewers. Using minimal colors and design, his murals often showcase beautiful and imaginative hybrid creatures. www.calenblake.com

25. Heather Rabun

Heather's dynamic brush strokes enlighten and engage all who pass before them. She excels in the portrait arena and is well known for dancing in front of her murals. www.instagram.com/explore/tags/dancinheatherart/

26. Couto Brothers

Alexandre and Christopher Couto are two brothers with a diverse cultural background that shows up in their colorful, swirling, abstract, paisley-esque shapes. www.coutoart.com

27. Allison Kunath

Allison does her geometric art by hand. Without measuring devices, she trusts her artistic intuition and creates brilliant murals and other works of art. www.allisonkunath.com

28. Brian Allen

Brian's artwork is imaginative and playful. He enjoys using bright colors to emphasize his vision of beauty. www.brianallenartist.com

29. Matthew Willey

This artist, the founder of *The Good of the Hive* Initiative, and has committed to personally paint 50,000 honeybees – the number necessary for a healthy, thriving hive – in murals around the world. www.thegoodofthehive.com

30. Karn Ashimyan

He specialize in fractal patterns, sacred geometry and other mathematical renderings. He just completed "Charley Chaplin" as one of the murals in our Beautify Hollywood Blvd project. www.artofkarn.com

31. Gretta Kruesi

Gretta is a local to Venice, and has painted a myriad of gems on the West Side. She specializes in portraits, ocean scenes and classic refurbishments. Grettakruesi.tumblr.com

PALMS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

March 1st, 2017

Name
Address
City

Dear Arts Activation Fund Panel,

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of support for BODYART & Beautify Earth on behalf the Palms Neighborhood Council (PNC) for their project *legal canvas*. The project is poised to provide positive foot traffic to the area around the painting of a mural. Commissioned street art has long been seen as a positive addition to the community and through this project we will generate new connections and hopefully more visibility through local press coverage of this live dance event.

Community engagement through the arts has long been goal of the PNC. Free, public art events, like *legal canvas*, will hopefully bring awareness of the existing art in the area to both current Palms residents as well as the larger Los Angeles community.

The PNC is made up of 13 community-elected board seats, which include 5 executive seats, 5 residential representative seats, and 3 business representative seats. The Council is organized into committees to provide adequate consideration, expertise, and deliberation to community issues. The Council and its committees meet regularly every month, with all meetings being open to the public.

The project will take place in late April and the requested funds will cover the live performance element around the painting of a wall. The event will be free and open to the public.

The Palms Neighborhood Council is excited to welcome this event to our community. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out to me for additional information.

Sincerely,

On behalf of the Palms Neighborhood Council

Nick Greif
President

Palms Neighborhood Council - Nick Greif, President / Andres Cuervo, Vice-President / V. Claire Jadulang, Secretary / Melissa Wyatt, Treasurer / Alison Regan, Community Org. Rep. / Pam Fellin, Residential Rep. B / James Dusenberry, Residential Rep. C / Paul Seo, Residential Rep. D / Elena Albright, Residential Rep. E / Maria Muñoz, Business Rep. 2 / Zale Richard Rubins, Business Rep. 3

Follow us on twitter: @PalmsNC or on Facebook.com/PalmsLA
Learn more about the Palms Neighborhood Council and sign up for updates at http://palmsnc.la/

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA

Eric Garcetti
MAYOR

January 17, 2017

Honorable Members of the
 Los Angeles City Council
c/o City Clerk's Office
Room 395, City Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**SUBJECT: REPORT BACK ON COUNCIL FILE 15-1022-S2 REGARDING ONLINE
VOTING PILOT FOR NEIGHBOHROOD COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

Honorable Members:

SUMMARY

The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, in collaboration with the Office of the
City Clerk, conducted an online voting and voter registration pilot for 36 Neighborhood
Councils in the 2016 Neighborhood Council elections on the Everyone Counts platform.
The outcomes and recommendations are presented in this report.

The Department appreciates and thanks the Neighborhood Councils for participating in
the pilot, the Office of the City Clerk for their excellent work with candidate registration
as well as testing and development of the online voting platform and the Bureau of
Engineering for developing a crucial online address look up widget, all of which were
necessary to make this pilot possible.   Based on the following outcomes, the
Department recommends continued build out of the online voter registration and voting
platform for Neighborhood Council subdivision elections in April 2017 and all
Neighborhood Council elections from March to June 2018 with changes to election
outreach, board structures and voting requirements.

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council adopt the following recommendations:

1. Instruct the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment and the Office of the
   City Clerk to continue the build out of Neighborhood Council voter registration
   and online voting platform to be available for 2 Neighborhood Council subdivision
   elections (Herman Neighborhood Council and Skid Row Neighborhood Council)

in April 2017 and to be completed for 96-98 Neighborhood Councils in time for the 2018 Neighborhood Council elections.

2. Instruct the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment to require picture identification along with self-affirmation of the stakeholder type (live, work, own real property or substantial and ongoing community interest stakeholder) to register to vote in order to make the voting process easier and for the voting age set by the Neighborhood Councils to be between 12 and 16 years old for their elections and selections citywide in order to encourage youth participation.

3. Instruct the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment to work with the Neighborhood Councils and the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners to change the individual Neighborhood Council voting requirements and, if necessary, the applicable Neighborhood Council board structures so that there are no more than 3 ballot types required for each Neighborhood Council election or selection in 2018.

4. Instruct Neighborhood Councils to set aside at least 20% of their yearly funding in election and selection years to notify stakeholders of candidate filing and of the election and to support any election day costs for location, refreshments and volunteers. This funding would be in addition to the citywide election outreach that will be conducted by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment if such funding is allocated.

5. Instruct the Office of the City Administrative Officer to identify $342,000 in funding for the following election outreach and expansion of the online voting platform this current fiscal year to begin as soon as possible:
   a. $150,000 for continued build-out of online platform
   b. $90,000 for Printing and Binding
   c. $67,000 for As-Needed Staffing
   d. $35,000 for Office and Admin

BACKGROUND

Goals

For the 2016 Neighborhood Council online elections voting pilot, the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (EmpowerLA) had the following goals:

1. Create a secure voter registration database on the Everyone Counts platform so that once voters are registered for the 2016 election, they will not have to re-register for subsequent Neighborhood Council elections.
2. Offer secure online and telephone voting on the Everyone Counts platform so voters could easily vote either in person at the polling location or from any computer, tablet or phone.
3. Increase voter turnout because of the ease of voter registration and voting.

Neighborhood Councils in the Pilot

Neighborhood Councils were provided the option of enrolling in the pilot, and 35 Neighborhood Councils initially elected to do so. Of the 35, 2 Neighborhood Councils, Greater Valley Glen Neighborhood Council and Central Alameda Neighborhood Councils, ultimately did not have an election because they had no contested seats, which resulted in a board affirmation instead. Another Neighborhood Council, Echo Park Neighborhood Council, was included in the pilot after the initial 35 because of fears of voter intimidation at the polling location. In total, 34 Neighborhood Councils conducted online voting elections in the pilot. Of these 34, 12 Neighborhood Councils also offered Interactive Voice Response (IVR), i.e., telephone voting. All 36 Neighborhood Councils had advanced voter registration available. Eighteen of the Neighborhood Councils verified voters through self-affirmation and 18 verified voters through documentation. See Attachment A for a summary of the 36 Neighborhood Councils in the pilot.

Voter Registration and Voting Processes

For Election Regions 1-4, which covered the North and South Valley, voters for the pilot Neighborhood Councils could only register online on the EmpowerLA website (empowerla.org/onlinevoting/) to vote either online or via telephone[1] if they wanted to vote before the polling date. The voter registration database was hosted on EmpowerLA's QuickBase case management system because the Everyone Counts voter registration database was not completed until June 2016. This delay was due in part to a later start for the online voting pilot because of the final contract approval date and in part to the complexity of connecting the Everyone Counts voter registration database to the online voting platform. Everyone Counts required the online voting platform to be completely separate from the voter registration database for security reasons.

Voters in Neighborhood Councils that required self-affirmation for voter registration had to still scan or take a photo of any picture identification with their name on it and upload the information to the voter registration portal. All self-affirmation voters for the pilot Neighborhood Councils had to provide photo identification at the polling location as well to check against the voter registration database to determine if they had already voted or registered. This requirement was to prevent voters from voting online and then coming to the polling location and voting again or vice versa.

Voters in Neighborhood Councils that required documentation for voter registration had to provide both picture identification and paperwork verifying the type of stakeholder they were in order to register to vote online or at the polling location. See Attachment B for a list of acceptable Qualifying Documents for Neighborhood Council Elections.

When EmpowerLA election staff received the voter registration documents, they would review for completion, and once verified, staff were instructed to delete the documentation from the database. Voter registrations with the same names and/or

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[1] Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council had the addition of Pop-Up Polls for voter registration before their election date because their election was moved from April to June due to the gas leak in the area.

email addresses were flagged for further review to determine their validity. Verified voters were downloaded from the QuickBase voter registration database daily and sent to Everyone Counts where they were entered into the online voting platform to be issued a unique user number and password to vote, which were then emailed to the voter. The average turnaround time from voter submission to verification was 5 calendar days and from verification to receiving a user number and password to vote was 2 calendar days.

Online voter registration was available by the first week of January 2016 and was open until 7 days before the Neighborhood Council's election day. This early close allowed staff the time to complete the verification process and to send the online voting credentials. Once online voter registration was closed, voters would have to go to the election day polling location to complete their voter registration to vote unless a Pop-Up Poll was offered for their Neighborhood Council the 7 days before the election day.

To vote, voters who received their online voting credentials from Everyone Counts, could cast their vote online from 3 weeks before the election day to the close time of the poll on the election day. If they did not want to vote online, they could go to the polling location the day of the election to cast their vote online or on a paper ballot. They could also cast their vote at a Pop-Up Poll if their Neighborhood Council offered one. The online voting experience was available in Spanish and English. In order to track the source of the votes and to control the close of online voting on the polling day,[2] Everyone Counts created 2 online voting accounts: one for the polling location and one for off polling site voting. Election staff had the ability to check Everyone Counts' staff database whether a voter had already voted online and to check off if a voter voted at the polls in order to ensure each voter had only voted once. How the voter voted was never visible online to staff as that information was encoded as soon as the vote was cast.

At the close of election day, election staff would work with Everyone Counts to compile an Unofficial Canvass of Votes that would combine the off polling site online votes, at poll online votes, at poll paper ballots and at poll provisional ballots. This list would be posted on the EmpowerLA website for public review and election challenges. If no election challenges were filed, a Final Canvass of Votes would be issued 5 days after the election day. If election challenges were filed, a Final Canvass of Votes would be issued once all election challenges were resolved. See Attachment C for more details in the Neighborhood Council 2016 Election Manual.

OUTCOMES

EmpowerLA partially met its goals for the pilot:

1. Create a secure voter registration database on the Everyone Counts platform so that

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[2] Election staff had to be able to delay the close of online voting ballot submission at the polling location in case there was a line at closing time. Election staff could let voters in line complete their voting processes, which would take them past the closing time. In these cases, the off polling site voting database would close on time, while the onsite polling voting database would close after the last voter finished casting their online ballot.

once voters are registered for the 2016 election, they will not have to re-register for subsequent Neighborhood Council elections.

Outcome: The Everyone Counts voter registration database has been created for 50 Neighborhood Councils[3] though it was only completed in time to test for several Neighborhood Councils. Verified voters from 2016 will be loaded into the voter registration database so they will not need to be verified again in 2018.

2. Offer secure online and telephone voting on the Everyone Counts platform so voters could easily vote either in person at the polling location or from any computer, tablet or phone.

    Outcome: Voters had the ability to vote online securely and, for the most part, easily in person at the polling location or from any computer, tablet or phone once they received their voting credentials. For some voters, receiving voting credentials was a challenge as noted below in election issues.

    IVR was offered in the pilot despite Everyone Counts recommendation that voting via touch tone phone was not easy to either set up or cast a ballot[4] because some Neighborhood Councils wanted a lower technology option for their voters. Of the 12 Neighborhood Councils that offered IVR, only 2 votes were cast. Due to the high work load to set up the IVR, which was handled by the Office of the City Clerk, and the low voter use, EmpowerLA does not recommend using IVR in the future.

3. Increase voter turnout because of the ease of voter registration and voting.

    Outcome: Of the 34 Neighborhood Councils, 16 Neighborhood Councils had a voter increase from their last election or selection, ranging from 1 to 270 voters with the majority of the increase being less than 100 voters, but which resulted in mostly over 10% voter increase when compared to 2014.

    These results confirmed that online voting, like any other type of voting platform, is heavily influenced by other factors other than the ease of voting, e.g. number of candidates, how much outreach was conducted, process for voter registration and whether there was a community issue or different factions driving an increase in election numbers.

    Of the 25,571 votes cast in the 2016 Neighborhood Council elections, 34% of voters voted online and 34% of those online voters voted on their own devices.

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[3] Everyone Counts completed its voter registration database in June 2106 so it was only available for 3 Neighborhood Councils: Mid City, Empowerment Congress North and Empowerment Congress West. Per the contract with the City, Everyone Counts completed the voter registration and online voting platforms for 50 Neighborhood Councils. EmpowerLA selected the remaining 14 Neighborhood Councils for completion. See Attachment D for all 50 Neighborhood Councils for which the voter registration database and online voting platform are completed.

[4] Using IVR to cast a ballot on a touch tone phone can take 20 to 30 minutes or more because each candidate must be announced for every seat in order for the voter to select via touch tone.

ELECTION ISSUES

Aside from these outcomes, EmpowerLA identified the following issues for online voter registration and voting that were either addressed at the time of the occurrence or will need to be addressed for online voter registration and voting to be offered in the 2018 Neighborhood Council elections. See Attachment E for a more detailed summary of all the Neighborhood Council election results and issues.

1. Voters were reluctant to upload sensitive documents to complete voter registration online.

    Because of security concerns and/or the expressed disbelief of the type of documentation needed to verify stakerholdership to vote in Neighborhood Council elections, many voters did not complete their online voter registration, which resulted in more people voting at the polling locations than expected. Approximately 68% of the 5701 voters, who registered online, completed their registrations.

    Solution: EmpowerLA created the Pop-Up Polls once online voting moved out of the Valley in order to address this issue. Pop-Up Polls consisted of one or two staffers going to a field location where many stakeholders would hopefully be present to register and vote them there. These types of voting opportunities were really critical for some Neighborhood Councils to increase their voting numbers. Staff would review the documentation at the location and issue voting credentials then and there for the voter to cast their vote on either a tablet on the voter's smart phone. Pop-Up Poll locations were provided by the candidates all of whom were asked to provide a location by staff. For future elections, EmpowerLA recommends the Neighborhood Council provide Pop-Up Poll locations by board vote in their Election Stipulation Worksheets to avoid accusations of unfairness from some candidates who provided no locations about other candidates who may have provided multiple locations.

    In addition, voter registration should occur at Neighborhood Council events and meetings year long in partnership between EmpowerLA, Office of the City Clerk and the Neighborhood Councils. Several Neighborhood Council members could be deputized to assist in verifying voters. This idea was supposed to be implemented for the 2016 elections, but could not because of the delay in the voter registration database build out.

    Again, once voters are registered, they would not have to re-register again unless they moved, had a change in stakeholder status or the Neighborhood Council changed their voting requirements or board structure.

2. Some voters required more assistance than expected to complete online voting registration and voting.

While there were successes in voters using their own devices to vote and voting quickly at the polls online,[5] there were also challenges as some voters did not know how to use a tablet at the polls or had trouble submitting the online voting ballot on the Everyone Counts platform. The online voting ballot was one long ballot with every race on a single page, which had to be scrolled through, and any changes the voter made on the ballot started the scrolling from the top again. Once the voter reached the bottom of the ballot, some of them did not know to click submit. Some voters also wanted proof that they voted via email, but that was not possible because of the anonymity of the vote, which voters did not understand completely.

Also, there were voters who had trouble registering either because they tried to register multiple voters with one email account or had registered for the wrong type of stakeholder so they did not get the ballot they wanted or thought they could vote for in an election.[6] These actions caused complaints to staff that voters were not receiving their credentials or that online voting does not work.

Solution: When it was evident from the first election at Sylmar Neighborhood Council that voters were taking longer to vote because they were unfamiliar with either using a tablet and/or the online ballot, EmpowerLA created a "How-To" video and written instructions in multiple languages for using the tablet and working with the online ballot, which were posted in the voting booths. More education and instruction should be prepared in 2018 ahead of time to address the technological divide as well as to inform voters of general election information, including that voter registration information is considered public information, which many voters do not know. Education would also assist with voters trying to register multiple voters under one email and for voters who did not receive the ballot they were supposed to in a race to explain how to properly register to vote and the different Neighborhood Council ballots.

Extra voting time at the online polls was also due to voters not knowing how to input voter user identification and passwords. Having additional staff available to assist in addition to posted directions with pictures alleviated this issue.

EmpowerLA and the Office of the City Clerk have also discussed with Everyone Counts a change from the one page scrolling ballot to paginated ballots with a page for each race. Everyone Counts is now able to provide this improvement for all Neighborhood Council elections to make voting for each race and the final submission of the ballot clearer and easier. There are also additional technological improvements, such as a voting receipt with QRL code, to load ballots quicker at the polls, which also doubles as voting proof, and card swipe machines to make loading voter information faster instead of manually typing it in, which significantly slowed voter down registration at the polls. Having physical poll books, which list registered voters, would also assist in speeding up voter check-in on election day.

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[5] One particular great success at the polls in Sylmar Neighborhood Council was when a Spanish speaking voter brought her young child to assist her with translating the ballot. The voter was delighted to find, however, that the online voting portal was in Spanish so she was able to read and complete her ballot by herself.

[6] See Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council and Studio City Neighborhood Council respectively in Attachment E.

3. EmpowerLA initial voter registration and online voting policies and procedures needed to be updated in real time to address stakeholder elections issues.

   In preparing for the 2016 Neighborhood Council elections, EmpowerLA was in unchartered territories in preparing its voter registration and online voting policies. While Everyone Counts provided their expertise, the many elections they have conducted were based on pre-existing voter registration databases of residents. Because of the diversity of Neighborhood Council stakeholders and because there were no existing registered voter databases, EmpowerLA worked with Everyone Counts to create an entirely new system.

   While EmpowerLA election staff did their best to follow verification policies and procedures, excessive workload of verifying voters and following up on the many voters who did not provide all of the necessary documentation, caused staffing errors, which delayed the distribution of online voting verifications. In addition, not having a clear understanding of QuickBase led one staffer to provide the candidates of the Studio City Neighborhood Council with an internal list of the registered voters with links to sensitive documents. These documents were either pending for those voters who were still missing documents or should have been deleted upon verification, but had not been because of a misunderstanding of the EmpowerLA policies that these documents should be deleted immediately instead of at the end of the election.

   Solution: While the EmpowerLA were updating procedures during the elections in an effort to address issues, after the elections, EmpowerLA has debriefed with the Neighborhood Councils, Office of the City Clerk and Everyone Counts to ensure better procedures for the 2018 elections now that we have foundational knowledge of where improvements have to occur. The error of the QuickBase voter database being shared with sensitive documents will not be possible on the Everyone Counts voter database because the documents and voter registration file are separated, which could not happen in QuickBase. Policies for following up on the handling and deleting of any sensitive information must also be implemented in 2018.

   EmpowerLA and the Office of the City Clerk have decided that in order to increase efficiencies and to focus on our strong suits that EmpowerLA will focus strictly on election outreach and the Office of the City Clerk will focus on all election functions from voter registration to online voting.

4. More Neighborhood Council election outreach efforts are needed not only by the Neighborhood Council, but also by EmpowerLA, particularly for candidates.

   In the 2016 elections, EmpowerLA staff encountered more resistance than in the past to Neighborhood Councils conducting election outreach. Many board members both during the elections and in post election town halls stated that it made no sense for them to conduct the outreach to find candidates to run against them. While EmpowerLA assisted in a citywide marketing campaign about Neighborhood Councils with bus benches, bus stops and banners, EmpowerLA does not have the

staffing or funding to launch a comprehensive campaign for each of the Neighborhood Councils individually.

Solution: Neighborhood Councils were asked by EmpowerLA to set aside at least 10% of their yearly allocation to spend towards election outreach and costs in 2016. Notification to stakeholders via mailers and online campaigns are critical to getting candidates, and such efforts are very costly. Even with a more robust citywide campaign by EmpowerLA, Neighborhood Councils should be required set aside election outreach funds along the lines of 20% of their yearly allocation for the 2018 elections.

EmpowerLA also requested in the current year budget proposal for funds to begin planning election outreach earlier since by the time EmpowerLA receives the funding and staffing in election fiscal years, there is not enough time for the Valley to receive the full benefit of the election outreach. In order to continue the build out for online voting and voter registration for Neighborhood Councils and begin the necessary election outreach preparations this fiscal year, EmpowerLA is requesting City Council to provide the following funds in the current fiscal year:

- $150,000 for continued build-out of online platform for 96 Neighborhood Councils this fiscal year
- $90,000 for Printing and Binding (bus benches, banners, signs, etc.)
- $67,000 for As-Needed Staffing
- $35,000 for Office and Admin (swag, pins, social media ads, etc.)

Everyone Counts has provided pricing for the 2018 Neighborhood Council elections that either administers an expanded pilot of the 50 Neighborhood Councils that are already built out or continues the building out to 96 Neighborhood Councils. There is also pricing for the 2020 election cycle that shows the ongoing costs to administer online voting and voting registration for 96 Neighborhood Councils. See Attachment F. EmpowerLA recommends continuing the building out of the online voting and voter registration for the remaining 46 Neighborhood Councils because of the time it takes to complete the build. Additional funding has been requested in the EmpowerLA

5. More uniformity in voting requirements is needed for Neighborhood Councils to be inclusive of all stakeholders.

   Article IX, Section 900 of the Los Angeles City Charter states that "Neighborhood Council shall include representatives of the many diverse interest in communities..." After co-administering the past 3 election cycles with the Office of the City Clerk, EmpowerLA has determined that there needs to be more uniformity in voting requirements for Neighborhood Council elections to make participation easier for all stakeholders. See Attachment D for supporting information for these recommended changes:

   a. Having no more than 3 ballot styles for Neighborhood Council elections and selections – while every community is unique, the complexity and confusion of having upwards of 21 different ballot styles for some Neighborhood

Councils is not only hard for stakeholders to understand when they are trying to determine what ballot they qualify for, but also difficult to execute at the polling location for election staff.

b. Having a voting age minimum between 12 to 16 years old to encourage youth participation – Neighborhood Councils should be part of the first experience of civic engagement for youth in Los Angeles, but 32 Neighborhood Councils set their minimum voting age at 18 years old. This creates a situation where only some youth can participate in the Neighborhood Council system depending on the luck of where they are stakeholders. While a few Neighborhood Councils allow youth as young as 12 to vote in their elections, the voting age for all Neighborhood Councils should be lowered to at least 16 years old.

c. Voter documentation requirements should only be any type of picture identification and self-affirmation about the type of stakeholder the voter is – the majority of Neighborhood Councils (51) already use self-affirmation to verify that they can vote in a Neighborhood Council election. The requirement of the excessive documentation that is currently mandated in the remaining Neighborhood Council (45) elections has caused stakeholders to leave the polling location without voting or having to vote provisionally, including current and former City Councilmembers and other electeds. This documentation issue is, in the nationwide conversation of voter suppression, one of the most significant obstacles to overcome in engaging voters and one of the most significant tools for excluding voters. There are no federal, state, county, local or private elections that are as complex as the Neighborhood Council election documentation requirements. Keeping the picture identification is currently necessary to prevent double voting for online voting and polling locations. If another method can be identified, which only requires the initial picture identification to register, EmpowerLA recommends that option instead.

CONCLUSION

Neighborhood Councils average at least 40,000 in just residential stakeholders alone, not including the work, own real property and community interest stakeholders. Attempting to engage this many stakeholders in a 2 to 9 hours of at polls only election is impossible. Online voting and a voter registration database is the only cost efficient platform to connect Neighborhood Councils to an increased voter base of all ages, which should be the continuing election goal of every Neighborhood Council.

Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions relative to this report.

Sincerely,

Grayce Liu
General Manager
Department of Neighborhood Empowerment

PUBLIC WORKS AND GANG REDUCTION COMMITTEE REPORT relative to creating a sidewalk vending permit system.

Recommendations for Council action, as initiated by Motion (Huizar – Price – Buscaino):

1. APPROVE, in concept, a regulated sidewalk vending program for the City of Los Angeles with restrictions on zoning, placement and operations.

2. REQUEST the City Attorney to:

   a. Prepare and present an ordinance to:

      i. Immediately decriminalize violations of LAMC 42.00, et seq.

      ii. Authorize the Board of Public Works, or designee, to issue permits for stationary vending in commercial and industrial zones, with a maximum of two vendors per block face, and limited, mobile vending in residential areas.

   b. Report on the feasibility of establishing an amnesty provision for existing sidewalk and vendor misdemeanors.

3. DIRECT the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) and City Administrative Officer (CAO) to:

   a. Research sidewalk vending policies and to report to the Public Works and Gang Reduction Committee relative to how other cities take into consideration nearby businesses when issuing sidewalk vending permits.

   b. With the assistance of the City Attorney, Bureau of Engineering Bureau of Street Services, Los Angeles Police Department, Economic and Workforce Development Department, City Clerk, Office of Finance, and any other City Department as necessary to report in 60 days with recommendations relative to:

      i. A two-tiered penalty structure, with greater penalties for vending without a permit, and less severe penalties for vending in violation of permit conditions.

      ii. A staffing plan and budget that will provide for efficient permitting and effective enforcement, to include options for:

         1. Permit fees that will achieve full cost recovery.

         2. General fund subsidized permit fees.

         3. Additional funding strategies.

      iii. A process to create special vending districts to be initiated by Council, the Board of Public Works, or petition (with signatures from 20 percent of property owners or businesses in the proposed district), based on legitimate public

health, safety and welfare concerns that are unique to specific neighborhoods with special circumstances.

iv. Permit requirements that will help mitigate risk to the City, adjacent property owners and businesses, including a County of Los Angeles health permit, City of Los Angeles Business Tax Registration Certificate, liability insurance, agreement to indemnify and hold harmless the City of Los Angeles, the adjacent property owner and business, and Business Improvement District (BID), the exact address the applicant is seeking a vending permit (with a maximum of three locations authorized per vendor) or route where vending will occur consistent with the County of Los Angeles model, the consent of the adjacent property owner or business at that address, a list of the food or merchandise to be sold and clear photos of the proposed location showing the nearest obstructions.

v. An electronic notification system of permits issued.
vi. Incentives to promote the sale of healthy food, including discounted permit fees, and authorization to vend near schools, as well as a list of what qualifies as a healthy food.

vii. The creation of a special fund for the deposit of permit fees and collected fines to support permitting, education and enforcement.

viii. A comprehensive outreach and education campaign.

ix. Annual status reports, including number of permits issued, locations, violations, revenues and recommendations to improve the program.

x. Recommendations for operational requirements, location restrictions and cart standards.

xi. Options to facilitate the collection of fees by BIDs from permitted sidewalk vendors.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Neither the CAO nor the CLA has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: Yes
For: Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council
                               Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council
                               Mid-Town North Hollywood Neighborhood Council
                               Los Feliz Neighborhood Council
                               Greater Echo Park Elysian Neighborhood Council
                               Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council
                               Central Alameda Neighborhood Council
                               West Adams Neighborhood Council

For, if amended: Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council

Against:	Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council
	Studio City Neighborhood Council
	Westside Neighborhood Council
	Hollywood Hills West Neighborhood Council
	Northridge East Neighborhood Council
	Chatsworth Neighborhood Council
	United Neighborhoods of Historic Arlington Heights Neighborhood Council
	West Los Angeles Neighborhood Council
Against, unless amended:	Arleta Neighborhood Council
	Westwood Neighborhood Council
Neutral Position:	Hollywood United Neighborhood Council
General Comments:	Van Nuys Neighborhood Council
	Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council
	Mar Vista Neighborhood Council

(Economic Development Committee waived consideration of the above matter)

SUMMARY

In a letter to Council dated November 22, 2016, Councilmembers Buscaino and Price present recommendations to create a sidewalk vending permit system. They state the City of Los Angeles has a broken and dysfunctional policy relative to the vending of food and merchandise on public sidewalks. The Councilmembers do not believe that scarce limited police and prosecutorial resources should be used to enforce the existing prohibition.

The Councilmembers recommend the establishment of a regulated sidewalk vending permit system. Their proposal allows for stationary vending in commercial and industrial zones during the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., with a maximum of two vendors per block face. Street vending would be prohibited in residential areas and within 500 feet of a school, unless the vendor is soiling exclusively healthy food. It is also recommended that all misdemeanor penalties be replaced with a graduated penalty structure that includes fines, confiscation of property, and permit suspension or revocation. Their proposal includes an option to create opt-out districts in which certain areas can prohibit street vending.

The Councilmembers go on to recommend policies for permit requirements, incentives for healthy food, education and outreach, and periodic program review. Their letter also discusses related issues such as requiring the consent of adjacent business owners, liability concerns, electronic notification of permit approvals, and ensuring access to city sidewalks by pedestrians.

At its meeting held December 12, 2016, the Public Works and Gang Reduction Committee

discussed this matter with representatives of the Police Department, the Bureau of Street Services, and the City Attorney. Committee members expressed support for the proposal praising the entrepreneurial spirit of street vendors and the potential economic benefits. The City Attorney confirmed that Council can create special districts for enhanced or reduced street vending regulations. Residential restrictions were also discussed with the City Attorney stating that such regulations are a policy decision to be made by Council.

During the public comment period, support for decriminalizing street vending was expressed. Statements were given in support of requiring the consent of adjacent businesses and special opt-out districts. The need for adequate enforcement was stressed to keep sidewalks open and to ensure compliance with program regulations. Concerns regarding public health and litter were also expressed.

Street vendors spoke in favor of the proposed program, urging the Committee to allow more than two vendors per block face. Street vendors often congregate for safety and mutual support. Vendors supported a proposal to create their own special districts but opposed the proposal to allow certain areas of the City to opt out and prohibit street vending. If such opt-out districts are established, they should require the approval of the full City Council and their size should be limited.

Committee members recommended that Council approve the recommendations of the November 22, 2016 letter relative to creating a permit system for street vending, as amended for the City Attorney to establish an amnesty provision for existing sidewalk and vendor misdemeanors, and for the CLA and CAO to research sidewalk vending policies and report on how other cities take into consideration nearby businesses when issuing sidewalk vending permits.

Respectfully Submitted,
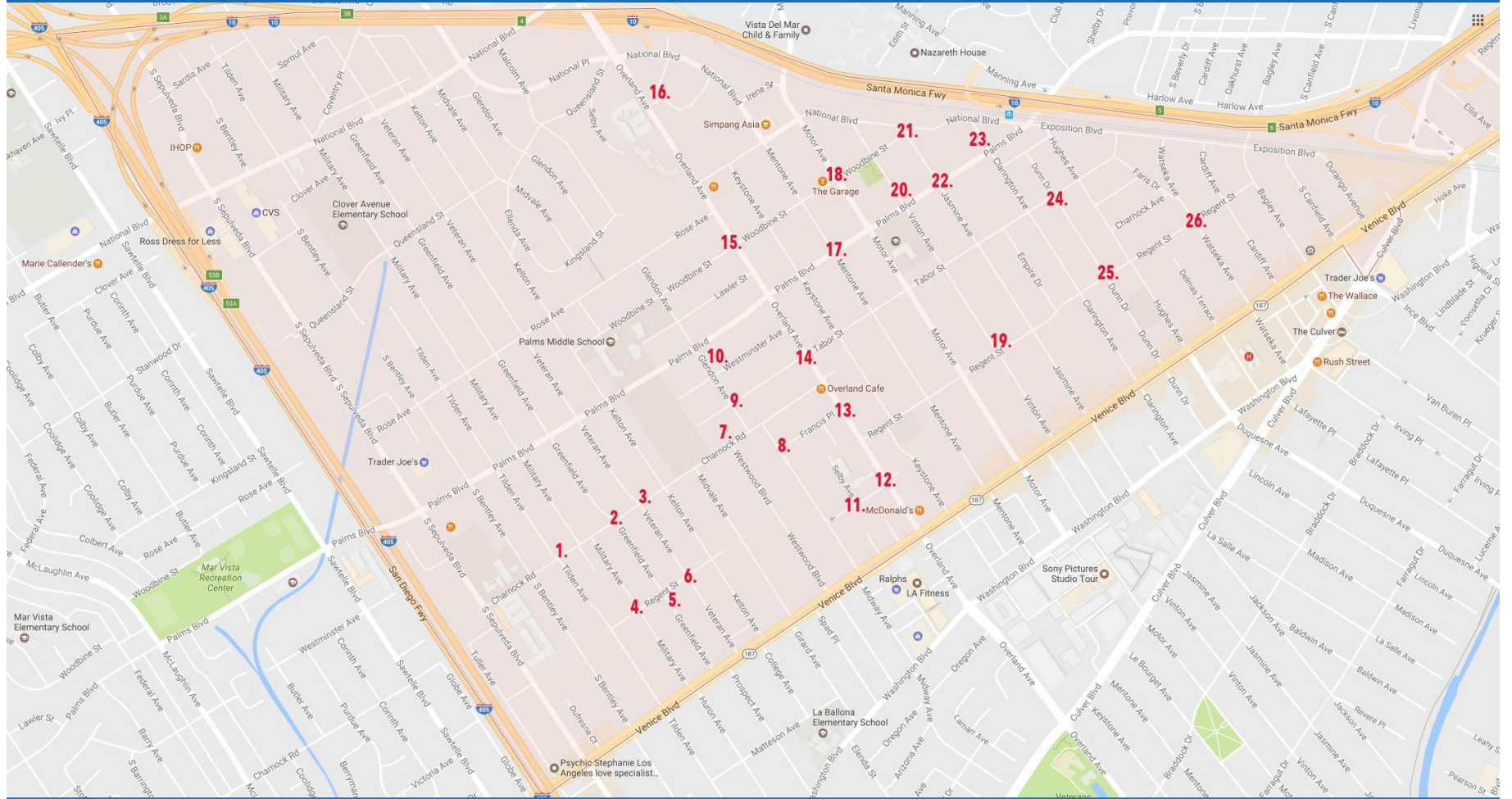
PUBLIC WORKS AND GANG REDUCTION COMMITTEE

MEMBER   VOTE
BUSCAINO: YES
MARTINEZ: ABSENT
PRICE: YES
O'FARRELL: ABSENT
RYU: YES

jaw

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-

2017 2-WAY STOP SIGN MAP

PALMS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

KEY

1. Charnock Rd & Tilden Ave
2. Charnock Rd & Greenfield Ave
3. Charnick Rd & Veteran Ave
4. Regent St & Military Ave
5. Regent St & Greenfield Ave
6. Regent St & Veteran Ave
7. Charnock Rd & Westwood Blvd

8. Glendon Ave & Francis Pl
9. Glendon Ave & Tabor St
10. Glendon Ave & Westminister Ave
11. McCune Ave & Selby Ave
12. McCune Ave & Overland Ave
13. Francis Pl & Overland Ave
14. Tabor Ave & Overland Ave

15. Woodbine St & Overland Ave
16. Cheviot Vista Pl & Valparaiso St
17. Palms Blvd & Mentone Ave
18. Woodbine Ave & Motor Ave
19. Regent St & Vinton Ave
20. Palms Blvd & Vinton Ave
21. Woodbine Ave & Jasmine Ave

22. Palms Blvd & Jasmine Ave
23. Palms Blvd & Clarington Ave
24. Tabor St & Dunn Dr
25. Regent St & Dunn Dr
26. Regent St & Watseka Ave

PALMS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Certificate of Congratulations

IS HEREBY PRESENTED TO:

_____

ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES AND THE PALMS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL, WE CONGRATULATE YOU ON _____, AND WISH YOU CONTINUED SUCCESS IN ALL YOUR FUTURE ENDEAVORS

_____

PALMS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Come Join a Palms Committee!

PALMS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

They meet every month!

Executive Board Committee – 8:15 p.m. on the 4th Monday of the month at Fire Station 43, 3690 Motor Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90034

Commercial Corridor Activation Committee – 8 p.m. on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at Fire Station 43, 3690 Motor Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90034

Green Committee – 7:30 p.m. on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the IMAN Center, 3376 Motor Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90034

Outreach & Communications Committee – 7 p.m. on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at Fire Station 43, 3690 Motor Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90034

Planning & Land Use Committee – 7 p.m. on the 3rd Monday of the month at the IMAN Center, 3376 Motor Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90034

Public Safety Committee – 7 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Fire Station 43, 3690 Motor Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90034

Transportation & Infrastructure Committee – 7 p.m. on the 3rd Monday of the month at Fire Station 43, 3690 Motor Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90034

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