

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

Palms Neighborhood Council Green Committee

James Dusenberry, Chair
Alison Regan, Vice-Chair
Daniel Gale-Rosen, Member
Avi Jhingan, Member
Paulina Quaranta, Member
Marianne Ricci, Member



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PALMS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Green Committee General Meeting Agenda

Thursday, February 16, 2017 – 7:30 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 green committee issues only.
- III. OLD COMMITTEE BUSINESS**
 - a. Update on park expansion project (Dusenberry)
 - b. Update on green business certification (Ricci)
 - i. New logo for business windows (Gale-Rosen)
 - c. Update on new dog bag dispenser locations (Quaranta)
- IV. NEW COMMITTEE BUSINESS**
 - a. Action on included letter of support for L.A. County Pharmaceuticals and Sharps EPR Ordinance (Regan)
- V. 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. Committeemembers may request that any item be removed from the consent agenda and considered individually at any time prior to that vote.

In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5 and Neighborhood Commissioners Policy #2014-01, 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@palmsla.org

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@palmsla.org

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@palmsla.org

Proposed Letter of Support for L.A. County Pharmaceuticals and Sharps EPR Ordinance

Dear Chair Ridley-Thomas:

The signatories to this letter are in strong support of Los Angeles County's efforts to craft an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) ordinance for pharmaceuticals and sharps. The people of L.A. County need a safe and convenient take-back system for their unwanted medications and medical sharps. Ensuring easy access to collection sites providing secure and environmentally sound disposal of leftover medicines and sharps will reduce risks of medicine abuse and poisonings, help prevent dangerous and costly needle sticks, and protect our waterways and environment. We strongly support the language of the 1/5/2016 draft "Pharmaceutical and Sharps Collection and Disposal Stewardship Ordinance", and urge the county to adopt this legislation.

We especially support the following strengths of the 1/5/2016 draft ordinance:

1. Residents throughout the county will have access to a secure collection system for all unwanted medications and sharps used in the home, with convenient collection sites distributed throughout the county, as well as options for prepaid mailers upon request.
2. All unwanted medications used in homes, for people and pets, will be accepted, both prescription and over-the-counter, and including prescription drugs that are controlled substances.
3. Manufacturers of medicines and sharps have the primary responsibility for secure collection and safe disposal of their products as a cost of doing business. Visible fees cannot be charged to consumers at point of purchase or at disposal. This approach recognizes that industry has a key role in managing the society impacts and end-of-life consequences of their products, and that externalizing all the costs onto other stakeholders and local governments is not fair or sustainable. Manufacturers can include the modest cost of a safe take-back program – a penny for every \$10 prescribed as stipulated in the Alameda Supreme Court case – in the cost of medicines and sharps without significantly impacting consumers.
4. Security protections are required that will give consumers confidence that the take-back system for their leftover medications and sharps is safe and confidential.
5. Manufacturers must promote the stewardship program to residents and the health care community, and expressly discourage the stockpiling of unwanted pharmaceuticals/sharps and discourage disposal into the trash or by flushing into a sewer.
6. The ordinance requires secure handling and environmentally sound disposal of all collected pharmaceuticals and sharps in compliance with all relevant state and federal regulations.
7. The stewardship plan review process includes public comment opportunities and gives the county the option of forming a technical advisory committee to assist with plan review to ensure local stakeholders are heard in the planning process.
8. The ordinance has a clear definition for "Responsible Steward" that focuses responsibility on the manufacturer of the medicine or sharp, and also clearly defines who the county can hold responsible as the steward if the manufacturer cannot be identified.

We appreciate the County's transparent process for stakeholder input during the development of this ordinance. County staff have done an excellent job in crafting this policy and in addressing stakeholder comments and we believe this ordinance is the best available and includes lessons learned from the other counties who have passed these ordinances including Alameda, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Marin, and Santa Cruz in CA and King County Washington.

We commend Los Angeles County for taking action to address the serious problems faced by families and communities due to leftover pharmaceuticals and sharps. Pharmaceutical manufacturers already provide medicine take-back programs in other countries, including France, Spain, Mexico, Brazil and most provinces in Canada and for sharps in the Canadian province of Ontario. We urge the county to enact this EPR stewardship ordinance to provide this key public health and environment health service to residents as soon as possible.