

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

Palms Neighborhood Council
Business & Beautification
Committee

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PALMS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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Joint Board and Business & Beautification Virtual Committee Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, June 17, 2020 – 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Zoom Meeting Online at <https://zoom.us/j/94822859782>
or by telephone, Dial +1 669 900 6833 to join the meeting
Then enter this Webinar ID: 948 2285 9782 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 meeting will be conducted entirely telephonically. Every person wishing to address the Neighborhood Council must dial +1 669 900 6833, and enter 915 5174 9170 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 (5 min)**
 - a. Call to Order (Hochberg)
 - b. Roll Call (Halff)
 - c. Review of code of conduct (Hochberg)
 - d. Agenda preview (Hochberg)
- II. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT/ FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (10 min)**
- III. **REPORTS (10 Minutes each)**
 - a. Halff
 - b. Hochberg
- IV. **FOOD SERVICE/BUSINESS SURVEY AND MAP (10 min)**
- V. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE LETTER: CALIFORNIA MEDICAL RESERVE (10 min)**
- VI. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE LETTER: CALL FOR LAPD REFORM (10 min)**
- VII. **VENICE BLVD. IMPROVEMENT STATUS (10 min)**
 - a. Create Ad-Hoc Committee
- VIII. **DISCUSSION: WOODBINE PARK KIOSK REPAIR AND UPGRADE PROJECT**
- IX. **DISCUSSION: WESTSIDE COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE (5 min)**

The following items are included in the agenda to keep them on our radar. Items may be tabled if there is no new information and no public comment.

- X. **DISCUSSION: MANAGEMENT COMPANY WELCOME PROJECT (2 min)**
 - XI. **DISCUSSION: UPDATING UTILITY BOX PROGRAM (2 min)**
 - XII. **DISCUSSION: COMMUNITY SCHOOL PARKS (2 min)**
 - XIII. **DISCUSSION: BUSINESS FLYER (2 min)**
 - XIV. **PALMS GATEWAY LIGHTING PROJECT (2 min)**
 - XV. **CLOSING GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT(5 minutes, time permitting)**
 - XVI. **Adjournment**
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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.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

July XX, 2020
Mayor Eric Garcetti
Los Angeles City Council
Paul Koretz

Mayor, Councilman, and City Council;

As we look at the recent protests in response to the murder of George Floyd, many Angelenos are looking to their elected officials for leadership in answering two fundamental questions: how can we prevent the needless killing of civilians, particularly black Americans, at the hands of law enforcement; and what do we really want from our law enforcement and emergency services?

We see the slogan “Defund the Police,” and that’s a scary phrase. It sounds to some like “Get Rid of the Police”, but that is not the goal. Instead, it is a demand to do more than ask the question “What do we want from law enforcement?” Instead, it is a demand to finally, after so much pain, do something about it.

The Palms Neighborhood Council joins with other Angelenos to ask the City of Los Angeles to set the example for cities across the nation and make a legislative commitment to solving these issues. Further, we ask that the Mayor and the City Council take the following five steps to enact this change.

First, to review the recommendations put forth by Campaign Zero (joincampaignzero.org), an organization inspired and created by Black Lives Matter.

These recommendations are even handed, well researched, and comprehensive. They are backed by detailed data and with the input of every stakeholder in these issues. Their recommendations can be summarized as follows:

- 1) End Broken Windows policing
- 2) Insist on Community Oversight
- 3) Limit Use of Force
- 4) Independently Investigate & Prosecute
- 5) Include Community Representation in the process
- 6) Require Body Cams
- 7) Update Training
- 8) End For-Profit Policing
- 9) Demilitarize the Police Force
- 10) Insist on Fair Police Union Contracts

Second, we ask that the city dismantle and re-evaluate our emergency response system. While the problems identified by Black Lives Matter and others focus on the actions of police, the truth is that these issues extend to other emergency services, with response times in poorer parts of the city being often woefully slow. Not to mention underfunding and inefficient administration of these essential services. Not only that, but it is a fair statement to say that the current burdens on LAPD are unfair to their staff as well. How many times are the police sent when it should be animal control, mental health support, or any number of other tasks that are not appropriate for armed officers? It is in everyone’s best interest to re-evaluate what is asked of the police and other emergency services, and allocate appropriate resources based on the actual needs of citizens, not some imagined system based on fear and profit.

Third, we ask that the LAPD make a pledge to 100% transparency regarding interactions between police and civilians. U.S. police forces historically do not provide a full accounting of civilian interactions. Without this transparency, we can never truly know if any actions we take are working. This includes especially officer involved shootings and other actions that lead to the death of Angelenos at the hands of police. This transparency includes both publicly available data and police (and potentially other emergency service) body cams.

Fourth, we ask that the city make a commitment to “Zero Civilians Killed By Police”. There is no reason why an unarmed citizen should ever be killed by a police officer, and we would argue the same holds true for any suspect, even if they are later found to be guilty. Police are not intended to be the executioners; their job is to respond to crime, and bring citizens safely to a place where justice can be executed. The only time a citizen should ever be killed by police is when there is zero doubt they are armed and will harm someone. That will mean that whatever kind of law enforcement we create to replace our current system will pose more risks to both officers and citizens. But we believe if a civilian is killed, better it be at the hands of a criminal than an officer.

Finally, we also need to ask our citizens to take a pledge to release police of the obligation of a goal of zero crime. This is impossible in a free society, and it leads to police injuring and killing civilians who are later found to not have been a threat, or to have only committed minor offenses. We must do our part in this social contract to take on the risks that having a free, just society requires of citizens. Putting all of that risk on police means we have shirked that responsibility.

The city must use the power of legislation and executive order to enact these policies, just like we might call for a balanced budget or zero waste, to call for zero citizens killed by police. It is unbalanced that any law abiding citizen should be afraid of the police. And the death or permanent injuring of any citizen at the hands of the police is an unacceptable waste. We understand that making such a pledge will mean significant changes to law enforcement and other services, and that is exactly what we want.

The past is not set in stone. We do not need to do things as we did them before just because we always have in current memory, or because change is hard. The Revolution was hard. The Civil War was hard. The Civil Rights Movement was hard. And yet, after each of these battles for freedom, our society became more free for more people. Fear is the enemy of freedom, and in this moment, we need to abandon that fear, look at the facts head on, and make the hard choices that will lead to a better life for everyone. That is quite simply what we are asking for, and we will settle for nothing less.

July XX, 2020
Governor Gavin Newsome
Assembly Member Sydney Kamlager
State Senator Holly Mitchell
(ADDRESSES)

CC: Mayor Eric Garcetti, Councilmember Paul Koretz,

RE: Emergency Medical Reserve Program

The Palms Neighborhood Council asks that the State of California, in conjunction with the various cities and counties and other principalities in the state, create a plan to deal with lack of medical personnel in the event of future pandemics, COVID spikes, or other disasters that will require more medical personnel than are needed on normal days in local areas.

While the state has been very fortunate to not have been as heavily impacted as some other locations around the country and the world, the need for medical staff in the event of issues like COVID-19 could never be clearer than now.

The City of Los Angeles has asked for residents to volunteer to assist for emergencies, and while this is a good goal, the truth is that even after an emergency like this, getting people to commit to and sustain volunteer efforts is no guarantee we will have enough knowledgeable people to properly staff hospitals and emergency medical facilities in the event of other emergencies. And it has become clear that states should not depend on the federal government to provide these kinds of resources when they are needed.

Additionally, it is well known that there is not sufficient medical staff across the state even at the best of times, let alone during a time of crisis, where shift rotations are critical to maintain the health of medical personnel and keep them alert and well rested.

What's more, scrambling to recruit the necessary personnel at the time an emergency occurs leads to losses in both lives and money. We think it can be argued successfully that spending money in long term planning can greatly reduce these costs, and overall can save money when an emergency occurs. By having medically trained staff available to fill these needs, downtime from such emergencies can be reduced; spending can be made more efficient by having the necessary people on call; and issues relating to unemployment can be addressed in the short term, doubled up with providing a necessary function that is only required from time to time.

We propose the State of California take the following steps to insure that we have sufficient personnel during emergencies while also taking advantage of those who are currently unemployed or underemployed.

- 1) Create a Medical Reserve program modeled after the Army and Navy Reserve programs, where residents would get paid to train once per month in all necessary medical and emergency procedures, to be available at a moment's notice to provide well trained reserve personnel instead of depending on the current fire, police, and medical personnel who already have extensive responsibilities during emergencies and could use additional knowledgeable people to pick up any slack.
- 2) Encourage people to enter into medical fields by promoting existing education programs, and providing job guidance counseling specifically aimed at increasing the pool of trained medical professionals, including doctors and nurses, but also non-university trained medical professionals like orderlies and medical assistants.
- 3) Pass legislation to insure that our medical professionals, especially EMTs, ambulance drivers, nurses, and others who are not at partnership levels earn enough to make their taking of overtime unnecessary for them to earn a decent living, and therefore make space to have more employment available. By doing this, we will increase our overall pool of trained professionals which will make us more prepared for larger emergencies.
- 4) Provide additional grants and scholarships for those entering higher medical training.

In addition, we recommend designing this program to function on the local level, giving each city and county the ability to manage their pool of medical reserve workers, while also putting in place a system similar to that we already have for fire emergencies to mobilize neighboring city's reserves when localized disasters strike. We also recommend encouraging neighboring states to follow our lead so that similar mobilization plans could be put into place across states.

If this crisis teaches us anything, it should be that we need to be better prepared for every kind of emergency. Encouraging volunteers is good, but providing income and jobs to increase the number of people who are both trained and dedicated to the process will be key for the next, possibly worse, emergency. Depending on the federal government or private sector to provide sufficient medical personnel in an emergency has proven time and again to leave many people facing serious consequences as we have not been fully prepared for such emergencies, both in California and across the nation. Let's set an example of how states can support our stakeholders by being prepared with both full time and on demand trained and paid medical staff to insure we aren't caught off guard again.