

**Neighborhood Council
Executive Committee**

Eryn Block, Chair
Randell Erving, Vice Chair
Helen Tocco, Member
David Bocarsly, Member

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA



10008 National Blvd. #210
Los Angeles, CA 90034

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PALMS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
Joint Board and Executive Committee Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, June 24th, 2020 – 7:15 p.m.

Zoom Meeting Online at <https://zoom.us/j/99420265583>

or by telephone, Dial +1 669 900 6833 to join the meeting
Then enter this Webinar ID: 994 2026 5583 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 975 6193 4460 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)**
 - a. Limited to non-agenda items – subjects related to executive committee issues
- III. INTRODUCTIONS**
 - a. Introductions and welcome (5 minutes)
- IV. COMMITTEE BUSINESS**
 - a. **UPDATES:**

- **Vice President:** Standing Committees
- **Secretary**
- **Treasurer**
- **President**

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. **DISCUSSION:** New plan for Committee Agenda Storage
2. **MOTION:** To authorize the Palms NC to submit a Community Impact Statement in OPPOSITION of council file [20-0600](#), the Mayor’s proposed budget. *[See supplementals for full CIS.]*
3. **MOTION:** To authorize the Palms NC to submit a Community Impact Statement in SUPPORT of the following amendments to council file [20-0600](#): 20-0600-S12, 20-0600-S13, 20-0600-S16, 20-0600-S27, 20-0600-S28, 20-0600-S32, 20-0600-S45, 20-0600-S47, 20-0600-S49, 20-0600-S52, 20-0600-S55 *[See supplementals for full CIS.]*
4. **MOTION:** To authorize the Palms NC to submit a Community Impact Statement in SUPPORT of council file [20-0769](#), which proposes an Unarmed Model of Crisis Response. *[See supplementals for full CIS.]*
5. **MOTION:** To approve the attached letter calling for a Reimagining of Public Safety in Los Angeles to the LA City Council and the Mayor *[See supplementals for full letter.]*
6. **DISCUSSION:** Strategies for supporting racial justice and the Black Lives Matter movement in our neighborhood and city
7. **MOTION:** To form an Ad Hoc Committee on Venice Blvd Improvements
8. **DISCUSSION:** Reimagining our Public Safety and Homelessness Committee
9. **DISCUSSION:** Logistics for posting GA and Committee Meeting recordings online
10. **DISCUSSION:** January Board Retreat Follow-up and Individual Check-ins
11. **DISCUSSION:** Appointing a School Liaison –one person who builds relationships with all the schools in Palms

VI. Adjournment (End time is approximately 9:00 p.m. or shortly thereafter)

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

Council File: 20-0600

To: City Council and Departments

The Palms Neighborhood Council rises up in opposition to the Mayor's Budget as written. These are very difficult times for our City. The response to the coronavirus shrunk revenues. The awakening of the population following the murder of George Floyd by police officers in Minneapolis to the need for additional investment in our disadvantaged communities, largely focusing on the black and brown people in those communities, puts further stress on the Budget.

The Mayor is instituting 26 furlough days for the City's civilian employees. There are 260 work days in a year excluding vacations and holidays so this furlough amounts to a 10% pay cut. The Mayor is treating all departments equally, requiring the same civilian sacrifice across the board.

At the same time the Mayor is asking the civilian City workers to sacrifice, no similar request was made of the sworn workforce. The City negotiated large raises for the sworn Police and Fire personnel earlier this year. Even before the financial impact of the coronavirus, these labor agreements shifted the City's Budget position from surplus to deficit. The Mayor indicates that he will take the raise off the table for the Police. The Palms Neighborhood Council requests the same for the Fire Department. It is not right to ask the civilians to take a 10% pay cut while Police Officers and Fire Fighters do not also make a sacrifice. Giving back their raise in this time of crisis is the least they can do. Raises can be re-evaluated when the City's coffers are replenished.

City Council motion 20-0692 rescinds the raise for the Police Department and seeks to identify an additional \$100K in cuts, but there is no plan for what to do with the money. This cut in funding is a start. It is not a solution. The Palms Neighborhood Council addresses the Police Department in that Council File and uses Council File 20-0600 to discuss our other concerns.

In the short term, we need to be smart. Besides the social programs the Mayor promises to deliver with the budget cuts to the Police Department, we need to fund City services that save us money in the long term. The Budget Advocates presented a list of these services to the City Council Budget and Finance Committee.

- Defunding work on the climate crisis can push us into an apocalypse from which we cannot pull back.
- Without adequate funding, our streets and sidewalks will continue to crumble leading to injuries and deaths for which the City will be liable and the resulting settlements will increase the Budget strain.
- The IT department needs money to protect the City from cyberattacks. We also know that employees working on up-to-date technology are more efficient, another cost savings.
- The funding of Animal Services allows us to spay and neuter cats and dogs. It helps reduce our dependence on shelters. By not spaying and neutering our cats and dogs, we will have to spay and neuter their generations of offspring.
- As the economy recovers, we will need a robust Personnel Department to enable hiring. The Personnel Department has been a hiring bottleneck because it has been underfunded. Reducing funding further harms the City more than helping it.

The Palms Neighborhood Council urges the City not to give up on caring for our homeless population. We need to do to help those living on the street and to provide as much housing as we can. The numbers of those experiencing homelessness is increasing and that trend is likely to continue as we work through the economic setback caused by the COVID-19 shut down.

Let's make sure we are spending our limited money where it will have the most impact.

Council Files: 20-0600-S12, 20-0600-S13, 20-0600-S16, 20-0600-S27, 20-0600-S28, 20-0600-S32, 20-0600-S45, 20-0600-S47, 20-0600-S49, 20-0600-S52, 20-0600-S55

To: City Council and Departments

The Palms Neighborhood Council is in favor of smart budgeting. Across the board cuts penalize the most important services at the expense of the least important. As we review the motions seeking to amend the Mayor's budget, we are focusing on those motions that are broad in scope and not those that apply to individual Council Districts. We would like to see funding to the following departments and services restored.

Bureau of Street Services. (S12, S27, S47, S55) Allowing our streets and sidewalks to continue to crumble leads to injuries and deaths for which the City will be liable and the resulting settlements will increase the Budget strain.

The Climate Crisis. (S13, S28, S49, S52) Defunding work on the climate crisis can push us into an apocalypse from which we cannot pull back. There are many aspects to preventing an even worse climate disaster than we are already experiencing.

Racial Justice. (S16) This extraordinary moment in history has made America more aware than ever of the lack of racial equality and justice. We just do all that we can to ensure that we move forward as one city, inclusive of our glorious diversity. Funding embRACE LA is necessary and insufficient.

Caring for those experiencing homelessness. (S45) We cannot take our foot off the brake with regards to our homeless population. Homelessness is likely to increase as a result of the economic hit from the COVID-19 pandemic.

To: City Council and Departments

The Palms Neighborhood Council (Palms NC) commends the motion to develop an unarmed model of crisis intervention as an important first step in reimagining public safety in Los Angeles. The connection between slave patrols in early America and modern policing cannot be understated; a new system is required. By responding to the needs of our communities with non-law enforcement solutions oriented around harm reduction, this new system has the potential to transform the health and safety of our city. Palms NC voices support for this motion on the condition of the following:

- **Funding for the system is diverted from the LAPD:** The size of the current LAPD budget has been defended partially on the grounds of law enforcement absorbing critical social service functions such as responding to mental health crises and homeless outreach. Recognizing that policing is not merely inadequate to meet such community needs but in fact actively harmful, the role of the LAPD cannot simply be shifted—it must be reduced and phased out. Such a reduction can only be ensured by a reduction in budget.
- **The system is distinct from law enforcement:** As the City develops a new system to respond to non-violent calls for service, it is imperative that this system explicitly supplants the original police system of response. The system cannot be housed within or led by the LAPD, and should rely exclusively on professionals outside of law enforcement including healthcare providers and social workers.
- **The system is developed through a community-based participatory process:** Echoing the motto “nothing about us without us,” the new person-centered system must involve the input of community stakeholders including individual residents, community-based organizations, and local organizers such as the People’s Budget LA coalition. Specifically, the City must engage in continuous dialogue with Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color to ensure our new system of public safety is advancing racial justice and meeting the needs of all Angelenos.

In committing to reimagine crisis response, Los Angeles not only has the power to make a bold statement in a national conversation on public safety, but an opportunity to heal the wounds in our communities caused by years of underinvestment and violent over-policing. We urge the City to sustain the momentum for racial justice through thoughtful implementation of this motion.

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

Dear Mayor Garcetti, Councilmember Koretz and the Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council,

We are living through a pivotal moment in history - a moment that forces us all to decide which side of history we are on. Around the world and in our city, our people have spoken by filling the streets in outrage of the recent, horrific murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Tony McDade at the hands of the police. These murders are a devastating symptom of the structural racism that undergirds our political, social and economic systems in America and here in Los Angeles. In the face of these truths, we ask you not to make small, conciliatory, incremental reforms to LAPD, but rather to fully re-envision and help to rebuild a system of public safety that works for all Angelenos in partnership with Communities of Color and anti-racist organizations such as Black Lives Matter- LA.

To understand why we need to fully re-envision our public safety system, it is important to name the explicitly racist foundations of the police force across the US. Police systems in the United States have often been involved in attempts to control laborers, including slave labor. Our modern police system draws influence from slave raids in the American South when Black people were literally hunted and brutalized (and killed) for running away. Police also have a history of being used to “control” laborers who were striking and people who protest (sometimes against the police) for equal rights and equal protection under the law. As we add into the modern narrative of policing, elements of race and class, we recognize disparities in the types and levels of responses in less affluent communities and communities of color. The idea that some people need to be “ordered” and “control” is deeply entrenched in the culture of modern police.

Today, there is [overwhelming evidence](#) that our criminal justice system, from police encounters to arrests to imprisonment, continues to reinforce and widen racial disparities. There are many examples of structural racism within the practices of LAPD today. The LAPD are [five times more likely](#) to stop Black drivers than White drivers, yet find contraband more often in the possession of White drivers. In 2016, Black individuals were almost [four times as likely](#) to be arrested in LA County than White individuals. In Palms,

Black and Latino residents are [substantially more likely](#) to be arrested than White residents. Evidence suggests that Black individuals are much more likely to be arrested for drug-related crimes even though White and Black individuals are [equally likely](#) to use drugs. Since 2000, the LAPD has killed almost 900 people, [80% of whom were Black or Latino](#). While Black people make up 8% of LA's population, they make up 25% of these killings.

These racial injustices are not caused by “a few bad apples,” i.e. a few racist cops who perpetuate a poor reputation for the collective. Rather, these disparities are the product of a [racist system](#) which reinforces and perpetuates inequities between racial groups through policies, practices, cultural representations and norms. In other words, structural racism isn't chiefly upheld by racist intentions of individual people but rather by the systems that reproduce racial inequities across our society, systematically giving advantage to White people while disadvantaging People of Color. This is why incremental changes and reforms within the LAPD are not enough - increasing the diversity of the police force, requiring checks of transparency such as body cams - none of these comprehensively challenge the structures in place that produce overwhelmingly racially unjust outcomes.

The Palms Neighborhood Council joins with other Angelenos to ask the City of Los Angeles to set an example for cities across the nation and make a legislative commitment to building a fair, just and effective system of public safety and support. To reimagine public safety, it is time to re-envision the city budget, and ensure that it reflects the values and needs of our communities. While the budget of the LAPD has [continued to expand each year](#), now making up more than half of the “unrestricted funds” in the city budget, our social services and community infrastructure is woefully underfunded. After significant pressure from the public, the LA City Council and Mayor have agreed to decrease the LAPD budget by \$150 Million, when the mayor had originally intended to increase the police budget, even while the entire budget was to decrease drastically. This is an important first step, but it is not a solution. This is a tiny fraction of the total LAPD budget.

We urge you to consult with and base budget decisions on the work of The [People's Budget LA](#). Specifically, reinvest a substantial proportion funds currently allocated to the LAPD back into communities, especially Communities of Color, and social support systems such as mental health care,

food security affordable housing initiatives and trained family counselors to address domestic disputes, and public services such as libraries, free public transit and parks. This is not a new concept. Communities of Color have been calling for this [for years](#), and now we're finally beginning to listen. This reinvestment in community services is all the more urgent in the face of our current pandemic, considering that Black and Latinx Angelenos are [disproportionally infected and dying](#) from COVID-19.

We support policy changes that:

- 1) Decrease funding for LAPD
- 2) Build and support social services outside of the realm of the LAPD
- 3) Involve Community-Based Participatory Policymaking, with our Communities of Color at the forefront of these discussions

Specifically,

We urge you to demilitarize the LAPD. In the middle of a pandemic, nurses and doctors in LA have been [forced to reuse their N95 masks](#), yet our police force shows up to protests in full militarized riot gear. For every officer's riot gear, we could [fund full PPE](#) for over 30 health professionals.

We support the creation of an unarmed, highly-trained crisis response team, proposed in Council File 20-0769. Right now, regardless of the situation, the only option for crisis response in LA is the police. Police officers are not trained to respond to the multitude of emergencies that occur in Los Angeles. We believe that, while some are concerned about police response times, if we reimagine public safety with significantly fewer armed police, that it's far more likely that response times will improve. A large portion of LAPD activities could (and should) be handled by unarmed personnel. By creating teams outside of LAPD for these tasks, we allow armed officers to focus on where they are needed. In addition, training, pay, equipment, and liability for unarmed personnel will cost the City and thus our taxpayers significantly less than armed officers for non-violent calls. This will either lead to a lower overall cost, or the possibility to hire more personnel. Either way, having proper division of tasks based on more specialized needs means that it is far more likely that the proper personnel will be available when they are needed. Thus, this reimagining of

emergency services will improve, not degrade, our overall experience of safety in the city, and may even reduce overall overhead.

We urge you to make policing data available to the public for greater transparency and accountability. Police data is notoriously opaque and without this transparency, we can never truly know if any actions we take are working. We call for more expedient and complete information and data regarding officer involved shootings and other actions that lead to the death of Angelenos at the hands of police.

Adopting a People's Budget is not turning our backs on public safety or welcoming in chaos in our communities. We believe, rather, that there are much more effective ways to foster safe communities than by relying chiefly on policing and that we will see a decrease in crime through investment in communities. We believe that there are better ways to respond to most crises than by armed police officers. Ultimately, we envision a Los Angeles that strengthens and supports communities, rather than breaking apart families and reinforcing historical inequities.

Eliot's written statement regarding storage of meeting video recordings:

Now that we are recording Zoom meetings, there is an opportunity to gauge stakeholders' response to being recorded and having the video posted. On the one hand, it gives more opportunities for stakeholders to participate by viewing meetings after they are in real time, and to get details they find relevant; and giving better context to meeting minutes which may not convey the perspective of any given speaker as clearly as seeing or hearing them.

On the other hand, I have a concern as to whether posting video might cause some stakeholders to refrain from speaking. While all our meetings are public and open, there is a difference between speaking in front of those in the room, and having yourself recorded for anyone in the world to see and clip out of context. While we haven't had seriously controversial topics in recent years, we have seen what can happen with video used in ways that we cannot control that make commentary that is less than constructive. There is also historical precedent for other NCs on controversial topics, where "strong" voices have leveraged video to attempt to silence opposition. That said, we are required by law to allow stakeholders to make their own recordings, so perhaps the issue is moot.

Ultimately, stakeholders should have a chance to weigh in. If we decide to post video officially as Palms NC, we should make sure to remind stakeholders of what we will do with the video, and that they are being recorded, at the top of any recorded meeting. As for where it should live, YouTube is certainly an option, but it may make more sense to choose another platform to avoid common trolling that can occur on that platform by people who are not, by our definition, stakeholders. Vimeo is an option; note that there may be a cost involved if we go that route.