

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

**Palms Neighborhood Council
Racial and Social Justice
Committee**



10008 National Blvd. #210
Los Angeles, CA 90034

<http://palmsnc.la>
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Danya White, Member
Josh Noble, Community Org Liaison
Tina Chinakarn, Secretary
Josh Nadel, Member

PALMS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Special Joint Board and Racial & Social Justice Committee Meeting Agenda

Thursday, April 22, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting Online at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/92883603065> or by telephone,

Dial +1 669 900 6833 to join the meeting

Then enter this Meeting ID: 928 8360 3065 and press #

Press *9 to raise hand for public comment

The Neighborhood Council system enables meaningful civic participation for all Angelenos and serves as a voice for improving government responsiveness to local communities and their needs. We are an advisory body to the City of Los Angeles, comprised of stakeholder volunteers who are devoted to the mission of improving our communities.

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

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

- I. **CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL**
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Introductions (5min)
- II. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT (10 minutes)**
- III. **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**
 - A. Discussion and possible action: authorize the Palms NC to submit a [resolution](#) to make the Ethics Commission an elected position
 - B. Discussion and possible action: authorize the Palms NC to submit a [resolution](#) to make the Police Commission an elected position
 - C. Discussion: Palms NC [One Year In COVID-19 Virtual Town Hall](#) event
 - D. Discussion and possible action: Palms NC motion to submit [CIS](#) in support of Council File 20-0875
 - E. Discussion and possible action: Palms NC motion to submit a [CIS](#) in support of [Council File 21-0002-S83](#) in support of AB144 which would create California Guaranteed Health Care for All program (CalCare), to provide comprehensive

universal single-payer health care coverage and a health care cost control system.

F. Discussion and possible action: Should we begin our GA meetings with an NC [Land Acknowledgement](#)? Palms is on Chumash ([Link 1](#)) Tongva ([Link 1](#)) and Kizh ([Link 1](#)) lands. Also see nativeland.ca

G. Announcements and Resources:

1. [PalmsNC Racial and Social Justice Education and Resource List](#)

2. LMU's Study on [Policing Los Angeles](#) study and workshops

3. Upcoming Events of Interest to the Committee:

- The [Asian Pacific American Dispute Resolution Center's](#) (APADRC) Building Pathways Dialogue Series:
 - [Living wage](#) April 22, 5:30pm
- The APADRC's [Chinese Community Restorative Justice Virtual Meetups](#)

H. Adjournment

Time allocations for agenda items are approximate and may be shortened or lengthened at the discretion of the President. Public comment will be taken for each motion as well as for any item in the consent agenda prior to Board action. The public is requested to fill out a "Speaker Card" to address the Assembly on any item of the agenda prior to the Assembly taking action on an item. Comments from the public on Agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the Agenda that is within the Assembly's subject matter jurisdiction will be heard during the Public Comment period. Public comment is limited to 1 to 2 minutes per speaker, at the discretion or unless waived by the Assembly. In the interest of addressing all items on the agenda, time limits for individual comments and discussion may be set at the discretion of the President. All items on the consent agenda will be determined by a single Committee vote and without Committee discussion. Committee members may request that any item be removed from the consent agenda and considered individually at any time prior to that vote.

Per Board of Neighborhood Commissioners Policy #2014-01, agendas are posted for public review at: 1) Woodbine Park Kiosk, 3409 S. Vinton Ave.; 2) Palms Neighborhood Council website, <http://palmsnc.la/>.

In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board in advance of a meeting may be viewed at Woodbine Park Kiosk, 3409 S. Vinton Ave, at our website: www.palmsnc.la or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact the Secretary at secretary@palmsnc.la

Palms NC Board and Committee members abide by a code of civility (<http://empowerla.org/code-of-conduct/>). Any person who interferes with the conduct of a Neighborhood Council meeting by willfully interrupting and/or disrupting the meeting is subject to removal. A peace officer may be requested to assist with the removal should any person fail to comply with an order of removal by the Neighborhood Council. Any person who resists removal by a peace officer is subject to arrest and prosecution pursuant to California Penal Code Section 403.

As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least 3 business days (72 hours) prior to the meeting you wish to attend by contacting the Secretary at secretary@palmsnc.la

SI REQUIERE SERVICIOS DE TRADUCCION, FAVOR DE NOTIFICAR A LA OFICINA 3 DIAS DE TRABAJO (72 HORAS) ANTES DEL

EVENTO. SI NECESITA ASISTENCIA CON ESTA NOTIFICACION, POR FAVOR LLAME A NUESTRA OFICINA AL secretary@palmsnc.la

The Los Angeles City Ethics Commission is composed of five (5) citizens each appointed by the Mayor, City Attorney, City Controller, President of the City Council, and the President Pro Tempore of the City Council, each one appointing one member of the Commission. The Commission is accountable to the City's senior elected officials and not the citizens of the City.

As stated on the Ethics Commission's website (www.Ethics.LACity.org):

The Ethics Commission was established by Los Angeles voters in 1990 to help preserve the public trust and foster public confidence in City government and elections.

The Ethics Commission is required by law to administer City and state laws relating to campaign financing, governmental ethics, lobbying, and contracts.

City law requires the Ethics Commission to conduct confidential investigations of and enforce against violations of state and City laws regarding governmental ethics, lobbying, and campaign financing. When a person has violated a law, or aided and abetted another person in committing a violation, the Ethics Commission members may order compliance and assess an administrative monetary penalty.

It is our contention filling these seats by appointment is tantamount to "the fox guarding the henhouse." Furthermore, the funding for the Ethics Commission is at the discretion of the Los Angeles Mayor and City Council. It has been suggested at least one City Council Member has used this fact to influence the Ethics Commission in its interpretation of the law.¹

Every citizen of the City of Los Angeles is impacted by the Ethics Commission's work and should have a say on who is on the commission.

By making these seats elected positions, we can have a City Hall more in line with the principles of democracy by divesting power currently held by the City's senior elected officers.

THEREFORE the Palms Neighborhood Council takes a position of SUPPORT for the Los Angeles City Council to bring forward a motion, and to pass such motion, instructing the L.A. City Attorney to return, within 30 days of the passage of the motion, with a proposed amendment to the Los Angeles City Charter for the ballot in 2022 to make the members of the Los Angeles Ethics Commission elected positions as elected by the citizens of Los Angeles.

THEREFORE the Palms Neighborhood Council takes a position of SUPPORT for the L.A. City Council to bring forward a motion, and to pass such motion, instructing the L.A. City Attorney to return, within 30 days of the passage of the motion, with a proposed amendment to the Los Angeles City Charter for the ballot in 2022 similar to Measure L (2011), wherein the decisions for the funding for the Ethics Commission lay outside the purview of the LA City Council and that such funding be sufficient as to allow the Ethics Commission to fully manifest its mission.

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2021-02-25/ethics-commission-staff-told-to-soften-advice-on-gifts-whistle-blower-says>

The Los Angeles City Mayor is elected by and accountable to the People of Los Angeles however the Police Chief and the Police Commission are not and therefore they are beholden to the Mayor and not the people of Los Angeles.

The board of the Los Angeles Police Commission is composed of five (5) citizens appointed by the Mayor and accountable only to the Mayor and not the citizens of the city. They are responsible for civilian oversight of the Los Angeles Police Department and they should represent the voice of the people. However, meeting after meeting, after public comment after public comment, they do not heed that voice.

The Chief of the Los Angeles Police Department is appointed by the Mayor and accountable only to the Mayor and not the citizens of the city. The only way for the Police Chief to be beholden to the citizenry is if the citizenry holds the power to elect the Chief.

Every citizen of the City of Los Angeles is impacted by the way the Police Department is run and should have a say on who is running it and the civilian oversight needed to hold responsible officers when they step out of line.

In this way, we can have a City Hall more in line with the principles of democracy by divesting power currently held by the City's executive office.

THEREFORE the Palms Neighborhood Council SUPPORTs the Los Angeles City Council bringing forward a motion, and to pass such motion, instructing the L.A. City Attorney to return, within 30 days of the passage of the motion, with a proposed amendment to the Los Angeles City Charter for the ballot in 2022 to make the Chief of Police and the appointed members of the Los Angeles Police Commission board elected positions as elected by the citizens of Los Angeles.

WHEREAS Structural and systemic racism impacts everything about our society—including and especially how we move about and travel around our city and our region. People of different races and ethnicities have different access to, experiences with, and feelings of safety with mobility in Los Angeles, especially in interactions with law enforcement. In the transportation industry, national experts are increasingly recognizing that policing of public spaces reduces mobility for some members of the public, particularly Black and Latino people. These barriers to mobility have cascading impacts on access to job and educational opportunities, healthcare, and parks and open space, all of which contribute to the wide disparities in income, health, and well being experienced in Los Angeles.

WHEREAS Law enforcement agencies nationwide and here in Los Angeles have long used minor traffic infractions as a pretext for harassing vulnerable road users and profiling people of color. From jaywalking citations in Downtown and Skid Row to operations by the Metropolitan Division in South LA, the Los Angeles Police Department's history of misusing traffic enforcement has fostered decades of distrust in communities of color that ultimately undermines true traffic safety initiatives. Data has shown that Los Angeles police officers stop and search Black and Latino motorists far more often than whites. Blacks and Latinos are more likely to be removed from the vehicle and twice as likely to either be handcuffed or detained at the curb. Many Black residents speak of frequently being pulled over for "driving while Black." Fear of racial profiling is often cited as barrier to active transportation in Black and Latino communities, often even more than lack of infrastructure.

WHEREAS Low-income communities of color bear the brunt of traffic violence in Los Angeles due to decades of disinvestment in safe streets infrastructure and policies that prioritize through traffic over local residents' mobility needs. In 2015, when the City endorsed the Vision Zero Initiative to end traffic fatalities through a combination of education, engineering, and enforcement strategies, mobility justice advocates immediately feared yet another campaign to overpolice their communities and lack of follow-through on investment in tangible safety improvements. These consistent critiques, many from leaders based here in Los Angeles, have now grown into a broad consensus among transportation industry' leaders that police involvement can actually undermine traffic safety goals and that a police-led response to what is fundamentally a disinvestment issue is harmful, costly, and counterproductive. In recent weeks, the Safe Routes to School National Partnership and Vision Zero Network have formally dropped Enforcement as one of the "E's" of traffic safety.

WHEREAS Earlier this month, the National Association of City Transportation Officials issued a statement denouncing the role its own industry has played in perpetuating systemic racism in transportation planning, funding, and policing and calling for the reversal of such policies, no matter how deeply ingrained: It is past time for each of us to use that power to stamp out racism and injustice; past time to take an anti-racist approach to all transportation decision-making, from funding and project prioritization to engagement, implementation and enforcement practices, to hiring, contracting, and procurement. It is past time to have hard conversations about how to limit law enforcement's role in the management of public space. It is past time for each one of us to do the work, internally and externally, to truly be drivers of progress towards the values and goals we espouse.

WHEREAS The City of Los Angeles can and should reimagine safety and equity in all realms of transportation. The public has expressed broad support for creating alternatives to armed law enforcement response in a wide variety of situations. The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority is considering replacing armed law enforcement with alternatives such as a transit ambassador program, design strategies, and alternative crisis response models for mental health and substance abuse incidents. Now is the time for the City of Los Angeles to reevaluate how to best structure and fund efforts to provide public safety in an effective and equitable manner within the public right-of-way and on transit.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Palms Neighborhood Council support that City Council direct the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) and the Office of the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA), in consultation with community stakeholders, to report on alternative models and methods that do not rely on armed law enforcement to achieve transportation policy objectives, including traffic enforcement, moving violation and vehicle code enforcement, DUI details, traffic collision reporting and investigation, fare enforcement, bandit cab enforcement, and other programmatic areas. The report should review national and international best practices, identify resources currently allocated to law enforcement agencies from transportation sources, and consider recommendations to: perform enforcement services in-house within LADOT, transfer enforcement authority from LAPD to LADOT, create new classifications and/or identify current classifications in the city that would be needed to carry out the aforementioned types of enforcement, utilize automated enforcement methods, and/or reallocate resources to public safety strategies that are more effective than enforcement.

COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT
Council File: 21-0002-S83

April 22, 2021

Attn: Council President Nury Martinez, Councilmember Ridley-Thomas, Councilmember Buscaino

From: The Palms Neighborhood Council

RE: AB 1400 (Kalra) / California Guaranteed Health Care for All Program (CalCare) / Universal Single-Payer Health Care Coverage / Health Care Cost Control System ([Council File: 21-0002-S83](#))

Dear Los Angeles City Councilmembers,

The Palms NC supports this [Motion](#) [Exhibit 1] for the City of Los Angeles to adopt a resolution of support for AB 1400, the California Guaranteed Health Care for All Act. This bill would establish a single-payer health care system in California, called CalCare, that will ensure that all Californians, regardless of employment, income, immigration status, race, gender, or any other considerations, can get the health care they need, free at the point of service.

The Covid-19 pandemic has exposed how grossly flawed and inequitable our multi-payer health system is and how critical it is for all Californians to be guaranteed access to health care. An estimated [1 in 3 Angelenos](#) has been infected with COVID, and low-income communities of color are [disproportionately impacted](#), experiencing higher rates of infection, hospitalization, and death. COVID has also [exacerbated long-standing racial inequalities in the job market](#), which means that low-income communities of color have also been hardest hit with job losses during the pandemic. The fact that health insurance is tied to employment means that those most likely to get COVID are also those that are most likely to be without medical insurance. This has created a system where those that are most in need of health care are the least likely to seek it due to its costs, especially when they are already [incredibly rent burdened](#). The inability to make rents combined with the inability to afford medical care has also been a major factor in the surge in the unhoused population across Los Angeles during the Covid-19 pandemic, which again [disproportionately impacts low-income communities of color](#).

[NC] has been hit hard by COVID, with over [\[insert number found here\]](#) hospitalizations and [\[insert number found here\]](#) deaths according to the [Neighborhood Data for Social Change - COVID-19 dashboard](#). Of the [\[insert stakeholder number\]](#) stakeholders in [NC], [\[insert % found here\]](#) are uninsured as of 2018, according to [The USC Price Center for Social Innovation - Neighborhood Data for Social Change](#) and this will likely have increased significantly since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic. The current healthcare system has exasperated the effects of the pandemic in our neighborhood and across Los Angeles.

AB 1400 sets in motion a single-payer health care coverage system in California, called Cal-Care, for all residents, regardless of citizenship status. By streamlining payments and lowering per-capita health care spending, CalCare guarantees quality health care and long-term care without creating barriers to care or out-of-pocket costs. By affirming health care as a right to all Californians and establishing a payment system that eliminates waste and aligns reimbursements with the actual cost of care, we can make significant progress on financing and acquiring state and federal approvals.

The [] Neighborhood Council recommends that AB 1400/Cal Care be passed in order to:

- Equitably and effectively address the health care burden of the Covid-19 crisis by providing comprehensive health care to every resident of California, without any cost sharing.
- Guarantee health care be free at the point of service for every person in California, respectively, for all necessary medical care including prescription drugs; hospital, surgical, and outpatient services; primary and preventive care; emergency services; reproductive care; dental and vision care; long-term care; and mental health care.
- Provide coverage without copays, deductibles, or other out-of-pocket costs, and would slash bureaucracy, protect the doctor-patient relationship, and assure patients a free choice of doctors.
- Establish state-wide comprehensive universal single-payer health care and a health care cost control system for the benefit of all residents of the state.
- Guarantee that all residents of [NC] will be fully covered for health care without copays, deductibles, or other out-of-pocket costs.
- Improve the quality of life for the residents of [NC] because they would be able to get the ongoing care they need, instead of waiting until they have a medical emergency that could upend their lives as well as further burden local resources.

RULES, ELECTIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATION:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles, with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, AB 1400 (Kalra), introduced on February 19, 2021, would establish a single payer health care system called the California Guaranteed Health Care for All program (CalCare) to cover all Californians; and

WHEREAS, despite gains made with the Affordable Care Act, 2.7 million Californians remain uninsured while another 12 million, comprising one-third of Californians with medical insurance, cannot afford their insurance co-pays or deductibles so are underinsured, and 5.2 million Californians lack dental insurance; and

WHEREAS, the COVID pandemic has exposed the instability and unsustainability of the current profit driven health system, with historic unemployment forcing many Californians to lose their employer sponsored health insurance at the same time hospitals have laid off thousands of doctors and nurses; and

WHEREAS, even after COVID, inadequate access to health care will increase preventable disease, erode trust in the medical establishment, and magnify trauma and mortality in the event of another public health crisis; and

WHEREAS, AB 1400 (CalCare) would enshrine health care as a human right by guaranteeing comprehensive, lifetime, high-quality care to all California residents, and establish a health care cost control system; and

WHEREAS, CalCare would provide every California resident freedom in their choice of providers and guarantee health care free at the point of service for all necessary medical care including prescription drugs; hospital, surgical, and outpatient services; primary and preventive care; emergency services; reproductive care; hearing, dental and vision care; and long-term care; and

WHEREAS, CalCare would save millions in taxpayer dollars now spent on premiums and administrative bureaucracy that provide often inadequate coverage for government employees, and would ease the burden on municipal resources for handling the emergency needs of uninsured residents; and

WHEREAS, federal policy empowers states, as laboratories of democracy, to use Affordable Care Act innovation waivers to develop locally tailored approaches to health coverage, including by removing barriers to states that seek to implement universal single-payer approaches;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2021-2022 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for AB 1400 (Kalra), which would create the California

MAR 24 2021



Guaranteed Health Care for All program, or CalCare, to provide comprehensive universal single-payer health care coverage and a health care cost control system for the benefit of all residents of the state.

PRESENTED BY:



MIKE BONIN
Councilmember, 11th District

SECONDED BY: 
