

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

PANORAMA CITY NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

DIRECTORS

Dianabel Gonzalez, Chair • Tony Wilkinson, VCh
Martin Geisler, Treas • Pamela Gibberman, Sec
Elsa Barillas • Elizabeth Galán
Otis Lee Hopson, VP • Michelle Klein-Hass
Steven Martinez • Saul Mejia, VP
Viviano Montes, VP • Jose Sandoval
Faarax Dahir Sheikh-Noor • Angela Sichler
Jose Soto, VP • Fred M. Whitebook, VP

Vacant seats: 3 Bus, 1 AtLarge, 1 Unlim. AtLarge
Youth Representatives: Manuel Bernal,
Danilo Guerra



ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
MAYOR

PANORAMA CITY NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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ALTERNATES

Alt1 Daniel Jiménez • Alt2 Héctor Galán
Alt3 Lance Holt • Alt4 Juan Salas
Alt5 Angel Valdivia

PANORAMA CITY NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, January 26, 2011 -- 6:30 PM

Mission Community Hospital, Medical Office Building, 2nd Floor, Room 208
14860 Roscoe Boulevard, Panorama City, CA 91402

Public comments on agenda items will be heard when the item is considered. Public comments on other matters within the council's jurisdiction may be made during the Public Comment period. Public comments are limited to two minutes per speaker. Action may be taken on any agenda item except Public Comment, announcements and reports. Actions may be reconsidered only if a motion for reconsideration is adopted at the same meeting where the action was taken. You may request a copy of printed materials that are distributed at the meeting. You may record the meeting by audio, video or photographic means as long as it is not disruptive. Meeting notices and agendas are posted at the Panorama City Branch Public Library and at other locations (see list below). If you need translation, or accommodation for a disability, please call the city Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at least three business days in advance (213-485-1360, or toll-free 3-1-1). The city is a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you believe the council is not following the law or its own rules you may file a grievance in writing with copies to both the Chair and the Secretary. Please be respectful of others, even when you differ with them.

The City of Los Angeles has an ongoing budget crisis that will require hard choices to be made. Please TELL THE MAYOR WHAT YOU THINK! Take the Budget Survey online. Say you are PCNC. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2012LABudgetSurvey>

- 6:30 1. **Call to Order** and Opening Remarks (Chair Dianabel Gonzalez) [3m]
- 6:33 2. **Self-Introductions** of Participants and Guests (***Please sign the sign-in sheet!***) [3m]
- 6:36 3. **Public Comment** and Announcements (***Please limit to two minutes per speaker.***) Public comment on agenda items will be heard at the time the item is considered. [8m]
(***Please fill out a Public Speaker Card for the Chair so that we may identify your input. A Public Speaker Card is not required in order to make a public comment.***)
- 6:44 4. **Roll Call** of Board of Directors and Alternates (the quorum for Board meetings is 11) [1m]
- 6:45 5. **Adoption of minutes** [4m]
- 6:49 6. **Reports from the Los Angeles Police Department.** Senior Lead Officer **Edwin Ayala** (818-838-9854, mobile 818-634-0718, 34256@lapd.lacity.org) covers Panorama City's Center-West area. Senior Lead Officer **Karen Reade** (818-838-9842, mobile 818-442-3183, 32851@lapd.lacity.org) serves Panorama City's North and Center-East districts. Officer **Fabiola Humphrey** (818-838-9846, mobile 818-731-2553, 34255@lapd.lacity.org) temporarily covers Panorama City south of Roscoe. [12m]

- 7:01 7. Report from the Los Angeles Fire Department, Fire Station 81.** Fire Station 81 is Panorama City's main station, located behind The Plant shopping center, at 14355 Arminta St., Panorama City, CA 91402 (818-756-8681). If present, firefighters may speak about LAFD and Station 81 issues. [5m]
- 7:06 8. Presentation of recognition awards.** The Board has approved several recognition awards to individuals and local businesses, as recommended by committees. Certificates of recognition will be presented at this time if the individuals and representatives of the businesses and organizations are present. [4m]
- 7:10 9. Consider a resolution of appreciation for the work of LAPD Officer Fabiola Humphrey in the area south of Roscoe Boulevard, with a recommendation that she be chosen permanently for that Senior Lead Officer position.** On January 16 the Public Safety committee recommended this resolution by a vote of 4 yes, 0 no, with 0 abstentions. [4m]
- 7:14 10. Consider taking a position on LAPD's relaxation of enforcement of the state law that provides for impounding the vehicles of unlicensed drivers for 30 days.** On January 19 the Finance committee recommended unanimously that this question be placed on the Board's January agenda because of the timeliness of the issue and its importance to Panorama City. [20m]

BACKGROUND:

State law allows a peace officer who determines that a person has been driving a vehicle without ever having been issued a driver's license to arrest the person and to seize the vehicle, which must be impounded for a period of at least 30 days.

On March 14, 2011, Police Chief Charlie Beck announced a new LAPD policy on impounding cars of unlicensed drivers at sobriety checkpoints. A licensed registered owner or a nearby companion could drive them off. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa strongly applauded the new policy. The change was made after critics accused the department of unfairly taking the cars of undocumented immigrants -- who can't get a license in California.

On June 2, 2011, state assemblymen Michael Allen (Democrat-Napa Valley) and Gil Cedillo (Democrat-Los Angeles) introduced AB 353, which essentially codified the new LAPD policy into state law. The bill passed both houses by large margins, was signed by Governor Jerry Brown, and went into effect statewide on January 1, 2012.

In mid-November, the National Lawyer's Guild (NLG) and the Southern California Immigration Coalition (SCIC) released a report that accused the Los Angeles Police Department of racial profiling based on the impounding of the cars of unlicensed drivers. SCIC is a self-identified progressive organization that was founded to pressure President Obama on immigration reform. The NLG is a non-profit organization made up of lawyers, legal workers and law students "using the law to protect human rights above property interests and to attain social justice."

On November 21, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa announced, in an interview for La Opinión, that LAPD would create a policy similar to the AB 353 sobriety checkpoint protocol that will apply to all traffic stops. He said "I want this to be one of the many things I've done to spread the idea that America is a great place and we should honor our history, welcoming people and bring these people out of the shadows."

On December 19, the Daily News ran an article that quoted opposition to the proposed policy by Paul M. Weber, the former president of the Los Angeles Police Protective League. Weber

cited an incident last month where an unlicensed driver ran over and killed a woman who was trying to cross the street in Panorama City.

On January 17, conservative radio hosts John Kobylt and Ken Chiampou urged their followers to show up at a Police Commission meeting at Saint Nicholas Church in Northridge to protest the proposed change in LAPD's unlicensed driver auto impound policy. Hundreds of people attended, almost all of whom opposed the policy change.

On January 18 at a Community Police Advisory Board meeting, Mission Division Captain Todd Chamberlain said that the policy is not yet established and that Chief Beck is open to public input on the issue. He urged people to send their opinions individually to the Chief. Senior Lead Officer Karen Reade stated that a 30-day impound is mandatory for people driving with a suspended or revoked license. The new policy will presumably apply only to people who have no license.

Opponents of the LAPD policy change cite an American Automobile Association study that found one in five fatal accidents involved an unlicensed driver, and other research that showed unlicensed drivers are nearly five times more likely to be involved in a fatal crash than licensed drivers.

There is a strong presumption of political pressure on Los Angeles to expand the impound exception, with the expectation that it could lead to similar action at the state level, just as the March LAPD policy change for sobriety checkpoints led to AB 353.

Panorama City is a predominantly Latino community with a significant number of undocumented residents who are affected by these policies. Opinions are strong on both sides of the issue. The Finance committee believed that it was important to provide a public forum and to allow the Board to decide if it wants to take a position on the question.

- 7:34 11. Consideration and possible action on any applications for vacant positions.** Five seats are vacant: **Business** (term expires 2014), **Business** (two, exp. 2012), **At-Large** (exp. 2012), **Unlimited At-Large** (exp. 2014). Applicants must apply in writing to the Secretary. The Secretary must be able to verify that each applicant is a stakeholder who qualifies for the specific position. Applications and verifications may be made on the day of the meeting. However, the Board has expressed a preference that applicants participate in committees and events before applying for a seat on the Board. It is essential that Board members and Alternates reliably attend monthly meetings in order to assure a quorum. [5m]
- 7:39 12. Consideration and possible action on any appointments by committee chairs to their respective committees.** Members of each standing committee are selected by the committee chair, subject to approval of the Board, as provided in the council's Bylaws. The council has an informal practice of following the same procedure for its three annually-renewed special committees, City Life, Education, and Public Safety. Members of Ad-Hoc committees are appointed by the chair of the committee without the need for Board approval. [3m]
- 7:42 13. Consider the financial statements prepared by the treasurer in order to approve them as official council records.** Neighborhood councils are required to review and approve financial statements each month, including purchase card bank statements, to assure that the Board has access to timely financial information. [3m]
- 7:45 14. Consideration and possible action on the Outreach committee recommendation that the Board allocate \$150 for public meeting food for the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils Anniversary Mixer at CBS Studios on March 8.** On January 9 the Outreach committee recommended by a vote of 4 yes, 0 no, and 0 abstentions that the Board approve this expenditure. Last year the Board approved \$250 for the event. [3m]

7:48 15. **Consideration and possible action on the Outreach committee recommendation that the Board authorize \$400 for an instructor for a women's self-defense class for the community, provided that the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment approves the expenditure.** The planned class would be six sessions of two hours each and would be held at Panorama High School. The motivation to sponsor this class is a recent set of attacks where thieves ripped gold chains off the necks of women walking down the street in Panorama City. The reason the Outreach committee's recommendation is qualified by the provision that DONE approve the expenditure is that neighborhood councils cannot enter into personal services contracts. NCs can purchase services on a fee-for-service basis, where the service is provided first and then the city is given an invoice for payment. (See Treasurer Handbook, Version 2.1, August 2011, page 76.) A trainer must be found who can fit this payment model. [4m]

7:52 16. **Consideration and possible action on the Rules committee recommendation that the Board create an Ad-Hoc Election Committee for a 2012 election.** On January 19 the Rules committee recommended on a vote of 3 yes, 0 no, that the Board take this action as a result of the Board's formal opposition to cancellation of 2012 elections. The City Council has indicated, after many protests from neighborhood councils, that it may back away from its earlier intention of cancelling 2012 elections and extending all Board terms to 2014 (which would defeat the staggered Board terms at the PCNC).

The City Council may move control of 2012 elections from the City Clerk back to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment if it can resolve some questions, including funding. It will help to assure this happens if NCs prepare in advance to run elections on their own, with the cooperation and oversight of DONE. A committee is needed to propose election procedures, locate an election site, plan and recommend an outreach program, and secure and manage volunteer poll workers. Ninety days before the election date (which has not been set), people who are running for office cannot participate on the Election committee. Absent other instructions from the Board, the Election committee will coordinate with neighboring NCs to plan a common election date that will facilitate joint outreach efforts, as in the 2010 election. [4m]

7:56 17. **Consideration and possible action on the Rules committee recommendation that the Board support the renewal of the MOU with DWP by passing the following resolution.** The neighborhood councils have a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Water and Power that provides for advance notice, information sharing, NC education, and a liaison staff. PCNC Vice Chair Tony Wilkinson is Chair of the MOU Oversight Committee that monitors this agreement. This agreement will expire in April unless it is extended. [3m]

The Panorama City Neighborhood Council urges the Department of Water and Power and the Neighborhood Council DWP MOU Oversight Committee to extend the current Memorandum of Understanding as soon as practicable.

For a copy of the MOU, go to ladwp.com, click on **Neighborhood Councils** at the lower right corner of the page, then click on the [MOU link](#) at the lower right corner of the page.

7:59 18. **Consideration and possible action on the Rules committee recommendation that the Board reaffirm its support of the MOU with DWP by passing the following resolution.** [3m]

The Panorama City Neighborhood Council hereby affirms its participation in the existing Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, and names Tony Wilkinson as its NC Representative to the LADWP. The NC Representative shall also represent this council on the MOU Oversight Committee unless this council's NC Representative names another person or alternate.

Board resolutions in items **#17** and **#18**, if adopted, should be sent by email to:
MOU Oversight Committee: Chair Tony Wilkinson <lawwilkinson@acm.org>
DWP: General Manager Ron Nichols <Ron.Nichols@ladwp.com>
DWP BOARD: Secretary Barbara Moschos <Barbara.Moschos@ladwp.com>

- 8:02 19. Consideration and possible action on the Rules committee recommendation that the Board supplement its participation in the MOU with DWP by passing the following resolution to participate in the DWP Committee.** Since the MOU Oversight Committee (OSC) is an official city entity created by the MOU, it restricts its work to advocacy for information sharing and transparency and for the MOU itself. A separate group, the **DWP Committee** (DWPC), is the political action organization for neighborhood councils and other affiliated groups on DWP issues. DWPC is headed by Jack Humphreville of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council. The MOU OSC and the DWPC meet at 8:45 a.m. on the first Saturday of every month (OSC on even months, DWPC on odd months) at the city's Hollywood Constituent Center. [3m]

The Panorama City Neighborhood Council hereby affirms its participation in the DWP Committee, and names Tony Wilkinson as its NC Representative to the Committee [optional: and _____ as its Alternate Representative].

- 8:05 20. Consideration and possible action on the Rules committee recommendation that the Board supplement its participation in the MOU with DWP by passing the following resolution regarding the new Office of Public Accountability.** Last March 78 percent of the voters passed a measure to create an Office of Public Accountability, including a Ratepayer Advocate, to make independent evaluations of DWP rate proposals and financial plans. Dr. Fred Pickel, an energy consultant and a member of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council, has been recommended by the Citizens Committee as the Executive Director of the new office. The new OPA and RPA will deal with many of the same issues as the DWP MOU. On January 7, both the DWP Committee and the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition voted unanimously in favor of the following resolution, as did the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils on January 12. (All three groups also unanimously supported the resolutions in items **#17**, **#18**, and **#19**.) [3m]

The Panorama City Neighborhood Council requests the Office of Public Accountability / Ratepayers Advocate to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding with the Neighborhood Councils.

Board resolutions in items **#19** and **#20**, if adopted, should be sent by email to:
DWP Committee: Jack Humphreville <JackH@targetmediapartners.com>

Please **also** email the OPA resolution (item **#20**) to:

CITY COUNCIL: President Councilmember Herb Wesson <Herb.Wesson@lacity.org>

- 8:08 21. Consideration and possible action on the Rules committee recommendation that the Board participate in the Mayor's Budget Survey by asking all of its members to take the survey individually. The Board may also want to vote on specific responses to some individual survey questions, as a joint Board response. A member of the neighborhood council Budget Advocates may be present to provide background information. [7m]**

Each year Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa sponsors a process in which neighborhood councils send two budget representatives to the Mayor's Budget Day. Last October, PCNC named Board members Otis Hopson and Faarax Sheikh-Noor as its Budget Representatives. Budget Representatives then elect from among themselves a panel of Budget Advocates, two from

each of the city's seven planning areas. These Budget Advocates then investigate many options and meet with the Mayor to present recommendations for his budget proposal. Budget Representatives are welcome to attend Budget Advocate planning meetings. This year the Budget Advocates have asked each neighborhood council to put an agenda item for city budget recommendations on January and February Board meetings.

Mayor Villaraigosa for several years has created a Budget Survey to collect community input on the city's budget choices for the coming Fiscal Year. (The city's Fiscal Year runs from July 1 through June 30. The Mayor proposes a budget for the City Council's consideration in March.) This year's survey was created with participation from the neighborhood council Budget Advocates. However, it is the Mayor's survey, not the Budget Advocates' survey. Last year there were 10,000 responses to the Budget Survey. This year people hope that participation can be increased significantly. **The deadline for submitting budget surveys is February 22.**

EVERYONE IS URGED TO TAKE THE SURVEY ONLINE. Say you are part of the Panorama City Neighborhood Council. (PCNC will get aggregated data for the responses of its stakeholders, so the Board has a better understanding of what Panorama City people think.)

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2012LABudgetSurvey>

You can get the survey as a PDF file that you can print, mark by hand, and return by mail.

<http://mayor.lacity.org/Issues/BalancedBudget/index.htm>

Four pages of background information on the survey are located at:

http://library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1102285884341-150/Budget_Background_for_2012_Survey.pdf

- 8:15 22. Committee reports** Committees that have business to report (other than the agenda items above) will provide brief reports at this time. The council currently has five standing committees three special committees and two ad-hoc committees. [6m]

STANDING COMMITTEES (Chair and Vice President)

Commerce	Saul Mejia	saulmejia99@yahoo.com	818-714-2133
Finance	Tony Wilkinson	lawilkinson@acm.org	818-785-9355
Land Use	Fred M. Whitebook	workcompmaven@yahoo.com	818-894-7841
Outreach	Viviano Montes	vivianom@yahoo.com	818-780-4586
Rules	Otis Lee Hopson	otishopson@yahoo.com	818-893-6019

SPECIAL COMMITTEES (Chair)

City Life.....	Jose Soto	joeyso007@aol.com	818-339-2812
Education.....	Dianabel Gonzales	dbelgonzalez@yahoo.com	818-304-4285
Public Safety	Jose Soto	joeyso007@aol.com	818-339-2812

AD-HOC COMMITTEES (Chair)

2012 Youth	Angel Valdivia	angval52@mac.com	818-714-2133
2012 Health Fair	Jose Sandoval	josand71@hotmail.com	818-984-2133

- 8:21 23. Public Comment and Announcements.** (*Please limit to two minutes per speaker.*) [4m]

- 8:25 24. Adjournment**

Council Process: The council gained its official city role upon certification by the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners on March 15, 2007. Everyone who lives, works or owns property within the boundaries of the Panorama City Neighborhood Council, or who declares an interest in the area and the factual basis for it, is a "stakeholder". All stakeholders are members of the Council. Stakeholders elect a Board of Directors to represent them. This Board is recognized as the decision-making entity by the City of Los

Angeles. The current Board was elected on March 27, 2010. While the Board is the official decision-making entity, meetings are conducted as much as possible in a town hall spirit. Committees are open to anyone with an interest in Panorama City. Panorama City's neighborhood council is much more than its Board, and it depends on public participation for its success **Posting Sites:** Meeting notices and agendas are posted at five locations within Panorama City (three days in advance for regular meetings and one day in advance for special meetings). The posting sites are: (1) **Panorama City Branch Library**, 14345 Roscoe Boulevard; (2) **Panorama Recreation Center**, 8600 Hazeltine Avenue; (3) **Valley Ice Center**, 8750 Van Nuys Boulevard; (4) **Sepulveda Recreation Center**, 8801 Kester Avenue; (5) **Casa Esperanza**, 14705 Blythe Street. You can receive notices and agendas by electronic mail. Please send your request to 'info@pcnc.us'. We ask that you please also include your name and telephone number.

Agenda-related written materials: The council may occasionally prepare supplementary information to the agenda ("agenda packets"). When this is done, the agenda packets are normally made available both to Board or committee members and to the general public at the start of the posted meeting. In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the Board or committee *in advance of a meeting* may be viewed by appointment at the Panorama City Neighborhood Council office, 14500 Roscoe Boulevard, Suite 425, Panorama City, CA 91401, (818-714-2133) during normal business hours, 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 Pamela Gibberman, Secretary, 14500 Roscoe Boulevard, Suite 400, Panorama City, CA 91402 (818-893-2020, pgibberman@gmail.com).