



Empowerment Congress Southwest Area Neighborhood Development Council



Board Members

Executive Committee

Serving the communities of: Gramercy Park/
West Park Terrace, Manchester Square, and Vermont Knolls

President
Marcello Robinson

Vice-President
Ra-Shon Chavis

Secretary
Valencia Marlow

Treasurer
Tunisia Johnson

Ra'Shon Chavis
At-Large

Nia Mayers Franklin
At-Large

Vanessa Bailey
Business Representative

Nelson Clifton Williams Jr.
Faith-Based Representative

Daniel Fuller
Social Media Representative

Dominica Robbins-Wilson
Area 1 Residential
Representative

Timothy Henry
Area 2 Residential
Representative

Valencia Y. Marlowe
Area 3 Residential
Representative

Ashley Crisp
Area 4 Residential
Representative

Ashlye Durrell
Area 5 Residential
Representative

Tracey Davis
Youth Representative

Tunisia Johnson
At Large Representative

Marcello Robinson
Organizational Representative

General Board & Community Regular Meeting Agenda

Mark Ridley-Thomas
Constituent Service Center
8475 S. Vermont Ave. #207
Los Angeles, CA 90044

Monday, September 16, 2024
6:00pm

Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Board's jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Board is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future Board meeting. Public comment is limited to 2 minutes per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the Board.

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 by contacting the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment by calling (213) 978-1551 or email: ncsupport@lacity.org

All items on the agenda are subject to discussion, possible action, and filing of a Community Impact Statement to the Office of the City Clerk.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS CAN BE VIEWED ONLINE AT: www.southwestnc.org/agendas-minutes/

1) CALL TO ORDER AND BOARD ROLL CALL

2) Discussion and possible motion to approve May 20, 2024 meeting minutes.

3) GOVERNMENT REPORTS

- Public Safety
- City Council & County Representatives
- Government Departments/Agencies

4) GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

- Comments from the public on non-agenda items within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction. Each speaker will be allowed for 2 minutes.

5) BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

ECSWANDC Approved Bylaws as of June 26, 2024:

Section 5: Duties and Powers - The Board shall: (1) provide leadership on the ECSWANDC, (2) plan community meetings, events, and activities, (3) monitor issues within the ECSWANDC boundaries, (4) participate in ongoing projects, events, and activities, (5) attend scheduled community and planning meetings and such additional duties as may be adopted by official action of the Board: [\(View our Bylaws\)](#)

- Provide a monthly report at the ECSWANDC monthly meeting regarding their activities.

6) OLD BUSINESS

- a) Discussion and possible motion to approve [April, May, June, July and August 2024 Monthly Expenditure Reports \(MER\)](#).

b) Discussion and possible motion to approve the [2024-2025 fiscal year administration packet](#) including rolling over funds from 2023-2024 fiscal year into 2024-2025 fiscal year.

c) Update / Status regarding 2023-2024 fiscal year approved Neighborhood Purpose Grants (NPG). Possible motion and discussion to approve resubmitting denied NPG applications to the City Clerk.

- Discussion and possible motion to approve [Neighborhood Purpose Grant up to \\$5,000.00 to Youth Mentoring Connection, Application](#). Youth Mentoring Connection, (YMC) is requesting funding to purchase equipment for the YMC Urban Oasis Film Academy (UOFA). YMC has been providing the Urban Oasis Film Academy (UOFA) program since 2007. Funds will be used to purchase much needed equipment. Programming includes workshops on all aspects of film making including scriptwriting, storyboarding, acting, filming, and editing. The creative process and production are youth-led which not only empowers them but also brings a deeper awareness of their inner selves through their films.
- Discussion and possible motion to approve [Neighborhood Purpose Grant up to \\$5,000.00 to Concrete Queenz, Application](#). Concrete Queenz is a nonprofit that brings skateboarding and community to underserved girls in South LA. We believe that skateboarding can be a powerful tool for empowering girls to be strong, independent, and confident. Our mission is to create a safe and inclusive space for girls to learn and practice skateboarding, while also building valuable life skills such as leadership, teamwork, and communication. Studies in the Journal of Sport & Exercise Psychology found that participation in physical activities that foster resilience, such as skateboarding, can reduce stress that leads to those mental health problems among youth.

d) Motion to fill remaining ECSWANDC Standing and Ad Hoc Committees in accordance with Empowerment Congress Southwest Area Neighborhood Development Council Bylaws:

Bylaws Section 3: Committee Creation and Authorization

B. Committee Structure - With the exception of the Executive Committee, Committee members shall be appointed by the President and ratified by the Board. Standing Committees shall be comprised of at least two (2) Board members and may include any interested Stakeholders. Ad Hoc Committees shall be comprised of three (3) or less Board members and may include any interested Stakeholders.

**** Draft Description of Each Committee's Purpose for Discussion and Possible Adoption Motion**

Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM): - Standing Committee

The Planning, Land Use Management (PLUM) Committee reviews and advises on planning and land use issues within ECSWANDC boundaries. It makes recommendations to the Board on discretionary agency actions, including variances, permits, zone changes, environmental clearances, and development applications

Education: - Ad Hoc Committee

The Education Committee focuses on addressing educational issues and opportunities within the ECSWANDC area. It collaborates with schools, parents, and community members to support educational programs, advocate for resources, and recommend initiatives to the Board that enhance learning and development in the community.

Unhoused/Homeless: - Ad Hoc Committee

The Unhoused/Homeless Committee addresses issues related to homelessness within the ECSWANDC area. It collaborates with local organizations, advocates for resources, and develops initiatives to support and provide services for the unhoused community. The committee makes recommendations to the Board on actions and policies to alleviate homelessness and improve living conditions.

Neighborhood: - Standing Committee

****Chaired by the ECSWANDC Vice President, The Neighborhood Committee works to enhance the quality of life within the ECSWANDC area. It addresses community concerns, promotes neighborhood engagement, and fosters a sense of community. The committee makes recommendations to the Board on initiatives and actions to improve safety, beautification, and community relations. ****

**** Draft Description of Each Committee's Purpose for Discussion and Possible Adoption Motion**

7) NEW BUSINESS

a) Discussion and possible motion to adopt the provisions of California Assembly Bill 2449 (AB 2449) for the ECSWANDC full board. This will allow board members to participate remotely under specific conditions, including "just cause" or "emergency circumstances." This flexibility will ensure that the ECSWANDC board can continue its operations even when in-person attendance is not possible for some board members, while maintaining transparency and public access for stakeholders.

b) Discussion and possible Motion to adopt the provisions of California Senate Bill 411 (SB 411) for the ECSWANDC full board. This will enable the board to hold teleconferenced meetings; addressing unexpected loss of quorum challenges and increasing stakeholder participation. At least one in-person meeting will be held annually to ensure public accessibility and maintain transparency, as required by the bill.

c) Discussion and possible motion to approve up to \$1,000 for the ECSWANDC full board to purchase teleconferencing equipment, contingent upon the board's approval of the adoption of AB 2449. This equipment will ensure the board can effectively implement remote participation and maintain high-quality public access to virtual meetings, as outlined in AB 2449 provisions.

c) Discussion and possible motion to schedule a fall ECSWANDC Board Retreat. Date and Time are to be determined pending board availability.

d) Appoint (two) Neighborhood Council Homeless Liaisons to the Mayor's Homeless advisory board.

8) Board Member Announcements and Future Agenda Items Request.

Any Board Member who misses three (3) regularly scheduled consecutive ECSWANDC Board meetings during any (12) month period may automatically be removed from the Board. Board Members who miss five (5) in total during any twelve (12) month period, without extenuating circumstances as deemed by the board, shall be deemed a failure to consistently attend and may be removed from the Board. Each Board Member's absence shall be recorded in the ECSWANDC's meeting minutes or other manner of ECSWANDC record keeping, and that, upon missing the required number of Board meetings, the President shall provide notice to the Board Member that the seat has been declared vacant and may place on the agenda the removal of the Board Member at a regular or special Board meeting. All Board Members must alert the presiding officer to the absence of a monthly meeting prior to that meeting taking place. Failure to do so may lead to the Board Member being censured

9) ADJOURNMENT

Public Posting of Agendas

- Neighborhood Council agendas are posted for public review at:
 - MRT Constituent Service Center – 8475 S. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90044
 - <http://www.southwestnc.org/>
 - Subscribe to L.A. City's Early Notification System (ENS) for agendas via email.

Notice to Paid Representatives

- If you are compensated to monitor, attend, or speak at this meeting, City law may require you to register as a lobbyist and report your activity. See Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 48.01 et seq. More information is available at ethics.lacity.org/lobbying. For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or ethics.commission@lacity.org.

Public Access of Records

· 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 the Mark Ridley-Thomas Constituent Service Center and at www.southwestnc.org. If you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please email board@southwestnc.org.

Reconsideration and Grievance Process

· For information on the NC's process for board action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy, or any other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the NC Bylaws available at our Board meetings and our website www.southwestnc.org/.