

## BOARD MEMBERS

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Steven Meeks/President  
Yolanda Davis-Overstreet/Vice President  
Brian Piatek/Treasurer  
Dorsay Dujon/Secretary



## BOARD OF THE WEST ADAMS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

P.O. BOX 78474 Los Angeles, CA 90016  
Tel: 323-451-9262  
Email: [contact@westadamsnc.org](mailto:contact@westadamsnc.org)  
Website: [westadamsnc.org](http://westadamsnc.org)

**West Adams Neighborhood Council**  
meets every third Monday of the month  
Vineyard Recreation Center  
2942 Vineyard Ave, Los Angeles, CA, 90016

### BOARD

Jace Dawson/At Large Representative  
John Ma/At Large Representative  
Thomas Murray/At Large Representative  
Kristyn Yancy/At Large Representative  
Clint Simmons/Homeowner Representative  
Phillip Wiley/Youth Representative  
Connie Thomas/Community Interest  
Representative  
Richard Williams/Business Representative  
Marcia Jones/At Large Representative  
Vacant/Business Representative  
Vacant/Education Representative

## DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

City Hall  
200 N. Spring St. 20<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
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# West Adams Neighborhood Council

Zoom Meeting online or by Telephone

## Special Board Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, January 25, 2023 6:00 - 6:45 PM

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://zoom.us/j/82438808189>

Or One tap mobile :

US: +1 669 900 6833,, 824 3880 8189#

Or by telephone, dial

US: 1-669-900-6833 or toll free 1-877-853-5257

Enter this Webinar ID: [824 3880 8189](https://zoom.us/j/82438808189)

## AGENDA STARTS ON PAGE 3

(PLEASE NOTE)

All items may be discussed in a different order than how they are listed on the agenda on the day of the noticed meeting. The order of business may be changed without notice.



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Si requiere servicios de traducción, favor de avisar al Concejo Vecinal 3 días de trabajo (72 horas) antes del evento. Por favor contacte XXXX, Secretaria, al 323-451-9262 o por correo electrónico [westadamsnc@gmail.com](mailto:westadamsnc@gmail.com) para avisar al Concejo Vecinal.

IN CONFORMITY WITH THE SEPTEMBER 16, 2021, ENACTMENT OF CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY BILL 361 (RIVAS) AND DUE TO CONCERNS OVER COVID-19, THE WEST ADAMS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED ENTIRELY WITH A CALL-IN OPTION OR INTERNET-BASED SERVICE OPTION.

Every person wishing to address the Board must dial **1-877-853-5257** and enter **82438808189** and then press **#** to join the meeting. When prompted by the presiding officer, to provide public input at the Neighborhood Council meeting the public will be requested to dial **\*9** or use the Raise Hand option, to address the Board on any agenda item before the Board takes an 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 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 minutes per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the Board. AB 361 Updates: Public comment cannot be required to be submitted in advance of the meeting, only real-time public comment is required. If there are any broadcasting interruptions that prevent the public from observing or hearing the meeting, the meeting must be recessed or adjourned. If members of the public are unable to provide public comment or be heard due to issues within the Neighborhood Council's control, the meeting must be recessed or adjourned. Any messaging or virtual background is in the control of the individual board member in their personal capacity and does not reflect any formal position of the Neighborhood Council or the City of Los Angeles.



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## AGENDA

### 1. Call to order and Roll Call

### 2. Government Representatives

### 3. General Public Comment: non agenda items (two minutes per person)

### 9. New Business:

- A. Discussion and possible action on submitting a Community Impact Statement regarding [Council File 22-0560](#) (Municipal Lobbying Ordinance / Updates)
- B. Discussion and possible action on submitting a community impact statement regarding [Council File 22-1232](#) (Charter Reform / Ethics Commission / Powers and Responsibilities / Ballot Measure)

### 12. Adjourn

#### **Supporting Documents (pages 4-6):**

- A. *Draft CIS on Council File 22-0560 (Municipal Lobbying Ordinance) – page 4*
- B. *Draft CIS on Council File 22-1232 (Charter Reform / Ethics Commission / Powers and Responsibilities / Ballot Measure) – pages 5-6*

DRAFT

[Council File 22-0560](#)

(Municipal Lobbying Ordinance / Updates)

Position: FOR

The West Adams Neighborhood Council supports the changes to the municipal lobbying ordinance (MLO), including the amending motion, which have answered the call of many neighborhood councils for increased transparency on lobbyist identification and registration. We urge the Committee Chair Paul Krekorian to schedule this council file for consideration and for a vote in either the Ad Hoc Committee on City Governance Reform or the Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee. The MLO has not been comprehensively updated since 1994 and two previous revisions from the Ethics Commission died in committee. As part of a comprehensive approach to government reform, the MLO should be updated. A number of loopholes need to be closed to make the public feel more confident in the City Council in the wake of so many scandals.

In particular, the West Adams Neighborhood Council supports the call for increased transparency around lobbying activities and lobbying identification. We believe lobbyists should identify themselves to neighborhood councils and the City Council both orally and in writing. We also support the clarification of who needs to register as a lobbyist and better more robust enforcement of this issue.

The Municipal Lobbying Ordinance is long overdue for an update and [we join with over 40 other neighborhood councils](#) in calling for the recommendations from the Ethics Commission to finally be reviewed and passed by the City Council. As Council President Krekorian said at the advent of the new government reform committee, “We’re at a turning point in the history of this city. In the wake of recent violations of the public’s trust and failures to meet the standards of integrity the people deserve of their elected officials, we can no longer accept business as usual. The people of Los Angeles are calling out for fundamental reform.” The neighborhood councils join in this call for fundamental reform on the municipal lobbying ordinance.

Thank you for your consideration of this topic,

The West Adams Neighborhood Council

**Supporting Document B: Draft CIS on Council File 22-1232 (Charter Reform / Ethics Commission / Powers and Responsibilities / Ballot Measure)**

DRAFT

File to the Ethics Commission through the CIS portal  
([Charter Sec 700 Ethics Reforms](#))

AND

[Council File 22-1232](#)

Charter Reform / Ethics Commission / Powers and Responsibilities / Ballot Measure

**Position: Support If Amended**

The West Adams Neighborhood Council supports the recommended changes to the charter if amended. Our city's ethics commission was a model for the nation when it was created over three decades ago, and an update is long overdue. We urge the city to do the work necessary to finalize a proposal for a future ballot. However, rushing this work and waiving it out of committee is patently unacceptable as an answer to the ever-evolving scandal at City Hall. This work cannot be done as an election stunt or for good press. It deserves a full and fair hearing in committee with robust discussion.

The Ethics Commissions recommendations would largely reflect input received on how to empower the body to enforce the law, meaningfully change policy, and would change power dynamics at city hall. However, they fail to equally enhance the independence of the commission. This could give rise to elected officials strong arming commissioners and meddling with the enforcement actions and policy proposals they carry out.

We recommend the following specific amendments:

- **Independent Appointment:** The city of LA will not have a truly independent ethics commission until it ends the involvement of elected officials in the appointment process. The incumbent commissioners should be responsible for accepting and vetting applications through a public process like the Oakland and Long Beach Ethics Commissions.
- **Eligibility Requirements:** The commission proposes adding restrictions excluding any bidder, contractor, developer, or someone with a direct financial interest in work of the city from service on the commission. These restrictions are warranted but incomplete. We also recommend excluding anyone who is a recent candidate for the city of LA, former elected officials in the city of LA, and anyone who has donated or raised above a certain threshold for local candidates.
- **Raise the vote threshold for removal of a commissioner:** The commission recommends increasing the number of elected officials who may initiate removal and reducing the threshold to a majority vote. We recommend requiring a 2/3rds vote for all removal proceedings of ethics commissioners.
- **Increased maximum penalty:** The commission recommends increasing the maximum administrative penalty to \$10k per violation. We recommend adopting Chicago's max penalty of \$20k per violation model.
- **Raise minimum budget:** The commission recommends their budget be set at \$4.5 million and tied to CPI. While this would protect against retaliation or defunding during a financial crunch, this essentially freezes the status quo into the charter. \$4.5 million is a few hundred thousand above the commission's current budget. The recommendations include new expenditures, like outside counsel, which will require more money. If the

Council is expanded, ethics will require more money. A minimum budget in the range of \$7-10 million would give the commission the resources needed to fulfill its broad sweeping mandate.

These reforms would ensure the commission is sufficiently independent enough to be entrusted with the expanded power offered.

Thank you for your consideration of this topic,

The West Adams Neighborhood Council

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**THE AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT** - 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 and 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 Department of Neighborhood Empowerment by email, [NCsupport@LACity.org](mailto:NCsupport@LACity.org) or by telephone 213-978-1551.

**PUBLIC INPUT AT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS** – The public is requested to dial \*9, when prompted by the presiding officer, to address the Board on any agenda item before the Board takes an 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 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.

**PUBLIC POSTING OF AGENDAS** – WANC agendas are posted for public review as follows:

- Vineyard Recreation Center, 2942 Vineyard Ave, Los Angeles, 90016
- [www.WestAdamsNC.org](http://www.WestAdamsNC.org)
- You can also receive our agendas via email by subscribing to L.A. City’s Early Notification System at <https://www.lacity.org/subscriptions>

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](mailto:NCsupport@lacity.org)

**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](http://ethics.lacity.org/lobbying). For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or [ethics.commission@lacity.org](mailto: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 our website: [www.WestAdamsNC.org](http://www.WestAdamsNC.org) 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 Dorsay Dujon, Secretary, at 323-451-9262 or email at: [westadamsnc@gmail.com](mailto:westadamsnc@gmail.com).

**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. The Bylaws are available at our Board meetings and our website [www.WestAdamsNC.org](http://www.WestAdamsNC.org)