



SECOND(*) CORRECTED AGENDA
Woodland Hills-Warner Center Neighborhood Council
FULL BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, March 8, 2023, 6:30 pm
VIRTUAL MEETING BY TELECONFERENCE

Zoom Meeting Online or By Telephone
(<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/96493712127>)
Dial (1 669 900 6833) to Join the Meeting
Then Enter This Webinar ID: 964 9371 2127 and Press #

VIRTUAL MEETING TELECONFERENCE and PHONE NUMBER FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

In conformity with the September 16, 2021 Enactment of California Assembly Bill 361 (Rivas) and due to concerns over COVID-19, the Woodland Hills-Warner Center Neighborhood Council meeting will be conducted entirely telephonically with a call-in option or internet based service option.

Every person wishing to address the Neighborhood Council must either **dial 1 669 900 6833** or go online via Zoom and enter **Webinar ID # 964 9371 2127** 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. When calling-in telephonically, 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. Zoom users should use the “raise hand” feature.

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.

PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS** – The public may 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. ***Public comment is limited to (1) minute per speaker unless adjusted by the President. Public comment can only be made one time and will be heard at the beginning of an agenda item .

***PUBLIC INPUT ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA** - 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.

AGENDA

Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call

Public Announcements:

Office of Councilmember Bob Blumenfield (2 minutes)
Office of Local and State Officials – if available (2 minutes each)
Other Local Agencies – if available (2 minutes each)

General Public Comment, by the Public, on Non-Agenda Items:

General Public Comment is limited to (1) minute per speaker and 20 minutes total.

I. Organization, Operation, Policies, & Procedures:

All comment is limited to 1 minute per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the Board. Time limits set for each agenda item may be adjusted by the presiding officer of the Board. Time limits may vary so the public is encouraged to join the meeting several minutes PRIOR to a specific agenda item being discussed.

A. Approval of Minutes: Board Meeting – February 8, 2023 (5 minutes)

See posted support document

Roll Call Vote

B. Officer Reports (5 minutes)

President – Dena Weiss. Absent.
Vice President – Mihran Kalaydjian
Treasurer – Paul Lawler
Parliamentarian – Leslie Simon.
Secretary -Karen DiBiase

2. Items for Discussion and Possible Action:

Item No. (1) Paul Lawyer, Treasurer
(23-014) Approval of MER for January, 2023

Discussion and possible action: (5 minutes)

Motion for the board to approve the January 11, 2023 Monthly Expense Report (MER).

[See posted support document](#)

Roll Call Vote

Item No. (2) August Steurer and Bobbie Wasserman, Chairs of Community Outreach Committee (23-015) Motion to approve check to Wendy Moore in the amount of \$236.55 .

Discussion and possible action (15 minutes) to reimburse Wendy Moore in the amount \$236.55 for her services related to Communications Services, Creating youth committee page, Board meetings for 2023, CicLAvia, Homeless Count, Disaster Preparedness Fair. Add new members to news. Update news length.

[See posted support document](#)

Roll Call Vote

Item No. (3) August Steurer and Bobbie Wasserman, Chairs of Community Outreach Committee (23-015) Motion to approve check to Wendy Moore in the amount of \$132.00.

Discussion and possible action (15 minutes) to reimburse Wendy Moore in the amount of \$132.00 for her work for Access to Nextdoor and Running on news. Candidate info sessions on calendar. New flyer for disaster fair date.

[See posted support document](#)

Roll Call Vote

Item No. (4) Mihran Kaladjiam, Vice President (23-016) Motion to approve check to Woodland Hills Academy in the amount of \$ 1550.00 .

Discussion and possible action: (5 minutes)

Pay \$1,550† from our outreach budget to Woodland Hills Academy PTO to obtain a table and exhibit space and be included in their promotional material for their March 25, 2023, Community Resource Fair. The WHWCNC Education Committee will staff the booth as they did at last year's well attended event, that featured many educational, public safety, health, and government resource exhibitors. This event takes places in our NC's Area 1 during its NC election candidate recruitment stage and the NC elections outreach team and other interested board members can participate also.

[See posted support document](#)

Roll Call Vote

Item No. (5) Don Patterson, Chair of PLUM (23-017) Motion to approve check to The Chamber in the amount of \$50.

Discussion and possible action for consideration in using the Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$50 per committee meetings and authorization to set a contract for usage of the chamber.

(15 minutes)

[See posted support document](#)

Roll Call Vote

**Item No. (6) Outreach Committee Co-Chairs August Steurer & Bobbie Wasserman
(23-018) Motion for resolution on board policy regarding responsibilities of committees related to
Community Outreach.**

Discussion and possible action: (15 minutes)

The Community Outreach Committee requests the Board of the Woodland Hills – Warner Center Neighborhood Council adopt the following policy resolution:

Motion regarding necessary actions supporting the purpose of the Neighborhood Council.

BECAUSE of the following facts —

Before the year 2000, many communities in Los Angeles, particularly in the San Fernando Valley, felt they were heard much less and not treated equally in the delivery of City Services compared to central Los Angeles.

When the voters approved a new City Charter in November 2000, in Title IX it included section 900 that “created a system of Neighborhood Councils to improve communication between the government of Los Angeles and its communities.”

The **Purpose** of Neighborhood Councils, found in section 900, is stated as: *“To promote more citizen participation in government and make government more responsive to local needs, a citywide system of neighborhood councils, and a Department of Neighborhood Empowerment is created. Neighborhood councils shall include representatives of the many diverse interests in communities and shall have an advisory role on issues of concern to the neighborhood.”*

Section 907 on an **Early Warning System** states: *“The Regulations shall establish procedures for receiving input from neighborhood councils prior to decisions by the City Council, City Council Committees and boards and commissions. The procedures shall include, but need not be limited to, notice to neighborhood councils as soon as practical, and a reasonable opportunity to provide input before decisions are made. Notices to be provided include matters to be considered by the City Council, City Council Committees, and City boards or commissions.”*

Section 908 on the **Powers of Neighborhood Councils** states: *“Subject to applicable law, the City Council may delegate its authority to neighborhood councils to hold public hearings prior to the City Council making a decision on a matter of local concern.”*

Section 909 on **Annual City Budget Priorities** states: *“Each neighborhood council may present to the Mayor and Council an annual list of priorities for the City’s budget. The mayor shall inform certified neighborhood councils of the deadline for submission so that the input may be considered in a timely fashion.”*

Section 910 on **Monitoring City Services** states: *“Neighborhood Councils shall monitor the delivery of City services in their respective areas and have periodic meetings with responsible officials of City departments, subject to their reasonable availability.”*

Section 911 on **Appropriation** of funding for Neighborhood Councils only mentions “operations” and does not mention “supplementing City Services.”

As all City Departments are limited to providing City Services relevant to their function and not those of other Departments, it is not the responsibility on the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, of which Neighborhood Councils are part, to supplement the services of other government agencies.

In the early years of the Neighborhood Council System, the City Mayor at the time through another Department, a Beautification Fund was established to provide grants through an application process to Neighborhood Councils to improve their community.

The grant distribution process evolved into Neighborhood Purpose Grants (NPG) but there is currently no separate funding for grants apart from Neighborhood Council funding, which is intended for operations for fulfilling the stated purpose of Neighborhood Councils.

THEREFORE, the Board of the Woodland Hills – Warner Center Neighborhood Council acknowledges that it must accept and follow the City Charter’s purpose for Neighborhood Councils, which is *“To promote more citizen participation in government and make government more responsive to local needs.”* It has an advisory role on issues of concern to the neighborhood. Additionally, it shall monitor the delivery of City services in its respective areas and have periodic meetings with responsible officials of City departments.

With that acknowledgement, the Board recognizes its primary purpose is to engage in communications with the community and city government agencies to inform the community and city government of what they need to know.

Consequently, the Board also affirms that the primary purpose of every committee is to engage with the community and with City Department(s) (within the committee’s focus} in order to inform the community of City actions and to inform City Departments of the community’s needs and opinions. The goal is to promote citizen participation in improving their community in collaboration with City Government.

FURTHERMORE, the Board requires all Committees to support the Neighborhood Council’s purpose by working with and utilizing the communication functions of the Community Outreach Committee.

Committees will monitor appropriate City agencies and communicate to the community about news and issues within their purview. Committees will issue community impact statements or reports regarding issues under their purview as determined by the Executive Committee.

Committees are responsible for the generation and submission of draft and raw content (Digital Media and Text) sufficient to enable final editing or assembly of various forms of communication to the public.

The Outreach Committee is directed to establish the necessary means, procedures and requirements for Committees to provide their content to the Committee.

The Outreach Committee will conduct periodic communication workshops with committee communication liaisons to establish coordinated schedules and work product.

Vote on 2-13-2023. Unanimous with 4 Ayes, Ball, Kalaydjian, Steurer, and Wasserman.

Roll Call Vote

Item No. (7) PLUM Committee, Don Patterson chair
(23-019) ZA-2022-7413-CUB, 23393 Mulholland Drive, WOODLAND HILLS, CA 91364, Allow the sale of beer and wine for on-site consumption only.

Discussion and possible action -(20 minutes)

ZA-2022-7413-CUB 23393 West Mulholland Dr., Woodland Hills, CA 91367 (Mendocino Farms)
Request for on-site sale of beer and wine.

DESCRIPTION

The Applicant is requesting a CUB Alcohol (CUB) & Adult Entertainment Establishments conditional use permit to allow for the sale and dispensing of beer and wine for on-site consumption in conjunction with Mendocino Farms Sandwich Market under construction, located within the El Camino Shopping Center along with a variety of retail, restaurants, and service tenants. Mendocino Farms occupies 2,636 sf with 28 interior seats and operating hours from 10 AM to 11 PM daily.

RESOLUTION

As pertaining to Case ZA-2022-7413-CUB, having held one virtual public meeting held March 2, 2023, for the A CUB, pursuant to the provisions of section 12.24-W.1 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code, to allow the sale and dispensing of a beer and wine alcoholic beverages for on-site consumption in conjunction with an existing 2,636 sf location with a total occupancy of 28 indoor seats where alcohol sales are proposed, having the hours of operation from 10 AM to 11 PM daily within the Ventura Boulevard Specific Plan area.

WHEREAS, Applicant's request authorization of a CUB to allow for the sale and serving of beer and wine; and,

WHEREAS, Applicant's proposed location for alcohol service is located entirely on private property and has exclusive control over premises where alcohol is served,

THEREFORE, the Planning, Land Use, and Mobility Committee, for the findings and conditions stated herein, finds that the submitted application and plans by Spencer Trombley / Mendocino Farms Sandwich Market for the proposed conditional beer and wine permit at El Camino Shopping Center located at 23393 Mulholland Drive, WOODLAND HILLS, CA 91364 receive the support of the Board of the Woodland Hills-Warner Center Neighborhood Council for the requested actions contingent upon the following conditions:

CONDITIONS:

1. All personnel acting as manager or server at the premise shall attend a Standardized Training for Alcohol Retailers (STAR) session sponsored by the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD).
2. The Petitioner(s) shall be responsible for maintaining free of litter in the area and adjacent to the premises over which they have control.

3. No alcoholic beverage shall be consumed on any property adjacent to the licensed premises under the control of the licensees.
4. No intoxicated person or persons observed publicly drinking shall be admitted to the location,
5. The parking spaces allotted to the Applicant on the premises shall be equipped with lighting of sufficient power to illuminate and make easily discernible the appearance and conduct of all persons on or about the parking lot.
6. No illuminated (i.e., neon) or alcohol advertising or digital signage will be in the windows or the business storefront.
7. Signs shall be posted in English, and the predominant language of the facility's clientele, if different, that California State Law prohibits the sale of alcoholic beverages to persons under 21.
8. The Applicant shall provide the Zoning Administrator a copy of each license suspension thereof or citation issued by the Los Angeles Police Department or State Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control upon such issuance.
9. No smoking of tobacco or recreational/medical marijuana products, including cigarettes, cigars, hookah, vape, or water pipes, either inside the location or on any outdoor patios.
10. All exterior public spaces (front, side, and rear) will be illuminated with sufficient lighting for the police to identify all persons standing outdoors at night.
11. The business operator shall install video surveillance cameras and monitors inside the premises and cameras outside, which show the outside frontage area, to the satisfaction of the Police Department prior to the exercise of the grant. The business operator shall submit evidence of compliance to the Zoning Administrator. The business operator shall maintain the video for at least two weeks and make them available to the Police Department upon request.
12. That the authorized use shall be conducted at all times with due regard for the character of the surrounding district, and the Zoning Administrator reserves the right to impose additional corrective conditions if, in the Administrator's opinion, such conditions are proven necessary for the protection of persons in the neighborhood or occupants of adjacent property or to revoke or amend this authorization if conditions are not met, or operation of the site continues to constitute a nuisance.
13. At all times when the premises are open for business, the sale of alcoholic beverages shall be incidental to the sale of food.
14. No live entertainment, amplified music, or dancing shall be permitted on the premises at any time.
15. These Conditions of Approval shall be retained on the property at all times and shall be produced immediately upon the request of a Police Officer. The manager shall be made aware of the Conditions and inform their employees. The manager shall also maintain an emergency contact number for the property owner.

16. No person under 18 shall serve or sell alcohol.

The Planning, Land Use, and Mobility Committee recommend that the Board of the Woodland Hills-Warner Center Neighborhood Council advise the City of Los Angeles Planning Department and Council District 3 Councilmember Bob Blumenfield of its findings and its subsequent supporting recommendation to approve this application as presented on 03/08 2023.

Sean / Moved, Don / Seconds

Vote: Yes / 6, No / 0 or Abstaining

Roll Call Vote

Item No. (8) PLUM Committee, Don Patterson chair

(23-020) CPC-2022-6472; ENV-2022-673 5353 Del Moreno Drive, Woodland Hills, CA 91364 Demolition of an existing single-family home and development of a mixed-use commercial building with 67 residential units in seven-stories, 61,000 square feet, and 76-foot height.

Discussion and possible action -(20 minutes) Del Moreno Drive, Woodland Hills, CA 91364 Demolition of an existing single-family home and development of a mixed-use commercial building with 67 residential units in seven-stories, 61,000 square feet, and 76-foot height.

Having held two virtual (Zoom) public meetings for the application Case Number: CPC-2022-6472, Env. Case Number: ENV-2022-6473, concerning the demolition of existing 3,001 SF single family residence on a 16,807.4 SF lot, and construction of a new eight story mixed use development comprising of one commercial unit and 67 residential units in the Ventura-Cahuenga Boulevard Corridor Specific Plan section of Woodland Hills, the Planning, Land Use and Mobility Committee hereby finds that:

WHEREAS, the Applicant has submitted construction plans that do not substantially conform to the requirements of the Cahuenga Blvd. /Ventura Blvd. Specific Plan or of the RA-1 zoning of the parcel in question; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant is claiming that this is a necessary project to relieve the City's problems of not have sufficient Affordable or Low-Income housing, yet is only proposing 7 low-income units while planning to offer 60 units at higher market rate rents; and

WHEREAS, the requested incentive to allow an eight story building on a single family residential lot adjacent to two single story RA-1 single family lot does not appear to be warranted would cause hardship on the direct neighbors and neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, the requested incentive to allow a Floor Area Ratio (FAR) of 10 where LAMC §12.21.I allows for FAR no greater than 1.5 demonstrates the Project is over six times more dense than allowed on such a lot and does not appear to be warranted; and

WHEREAS, the requested incentive to waive the requirements of Low Impact Development due to the Applicant's higher cost to implement does not appear to be warranted and is inconsequential to the intent of the requirement; and

WHEREAS, the request to waive the Front Yard Setback requirements from 25 ft. to 0 ft., the Rear Yard Setback requirements from 25 ft. to 0 ft., and the Side Yard Setback requirements from 15 ft. to 0 ft. – requirements per LAMC §12.13.5.B – does not appear to be warranted and provides no setback for any part of the building; and

WHEREAS, the request to waive the Automobile Parking requirements from the required 108 stalls to 54 stalls does not appear to be warranted and is insufficient for 67 apartment units; and

WHEREAS, the request to waive the Open Space requirement per LAMC §12.21.G.2 by 70% from the 7,000 sf required to 2,950 sf does not appear to be warranted and is due the small lot size provided for the proposed Project; and

WHEREAS, the request to waive the Lot Coverage requirements and increase the lot coverage from a maximum of 60% to 90% is excessive and does not appear to be warranted; and

WHEREAS, the request to waive the Commercial Frontage requirement and the Commercial Depth requirement per LAMC §13.09.B.3 from 25 ft. to 21 ft. and from from 25 ft. to 18 ft., respectively, does not appear to be warranted; and

WHEREAS, the request to waive the Transitional Height to Residential Zone More Restrictive Than RD1.5 requirements due to the proximity of the Applicant’s project adjacent to multiple RA-1 single family dwellings unnecessarily affects the direct neighbors to the project does not appear to be warranted; and

WHEREAS, the request to waive the Construction of a Substandard Street and Location requirement per LAMC 12.22.A.25(e)(2)(iv) does not appear to be warranted; and

WHEREAS, the request to waive the Parking Structure Buffer requirement to have 10 ft. of landscape surrounding the parking structure to 0 ft. is out-of-character for the community and does not appear to be warranted; and

WHEREAS, the request to waive the Passageway Width requirement per LAMC §12.21-C.2(b) from 22 ft. to 10 ft. does not appear to be warranted and would limit access for residents; and

WHEREAS, the request to waive the Landing Space Requirement per the Bureau of Engineering which requires a 20ft by 20ft landing space, to No (0 ft.) landing space, does not appear to be warranted and ignores the requirement; and

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Planning, Land Use and Mobility Committee, for the findings stated herein, finds that the submitted application and plans for the proposed project at 5353 Del Moreno Drive on Ventura Blvd, Woodland Hills, CA 91364 are unwarranted, fail to meet too many critical minimum housing and zoning requirements, have the potential to negatively impact the surrounding neighboring properties and community, and recommends that the Board of the Woodland Hills-Warner Center Neighborhood Council support and adopt this motion in OPPOSITION of the requested actions for the reasons as previously stated:and,

FURTHERMORE, The Planning, Land Use, and Mobility Committee recommends that the Board of the Woodland Hills- Warner Center- Neighborhood Council advise the City of Los Angeles Planning Department and Council District 3 Councilmember Bob Blumenfield of the PLUM Committee’s findings and its subsequent recommendation to DENY this application as presented on March 08, 2023.

Motion: Oliver Slosser Seconded: Martin Lipkin VOTE: 6 Aye; 0 Nay; 0 Abstain; _____ Roll Call Vote

Item No. (9) Woodland Hills Issues and Policies Committee Chair Heath Kline

(23-021) Motion for a Board Resolution regarding the need for the Mayor to consult Neighborhood Councils on appointees to the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners.

For discussion and possible action: (5 minutes)

The Woodland Hills – Warner Center Issues and Policies Committee recommends the following resolution-CIS:

WHEREAS, Mayor Karen Bass must submit a nomination for replacement of a Commissioner on the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners [BONC]; and,

WHEREAS, Mayor Karen Bass failed to consult with Neighborhood Councils on her previous submission of a nomination; and,

WHEREAS, members of Neighborhood Councils reached the consensus that consultation of Neighborhood Councils is necessary for a position that has a significant impact on the Neighborhood Council System; and,

WHEREAS, Neighborhood Councils need to have faith that the Commissioners will have the appropriate knowledge, experience, temperament, and judgment to benefit the system; and,

WHEREAS, we believe the Mayor should allow Neighborhood Councils and their Alliances to nominate BONC candidates in their geographically designated area for commissioners to represent their interests and allowed to endorse a nomination or not;

THEREFORE, The Board of the Woodland Hills – Warner Center Neighborhood Council **RESOLVES** to advise the Mayor and all Members of the City Council that the Mayor’s Office should consult with Neighborhood Councils located in the region having a vacancy to find the best candidate for a Commissioner on BONC that they are willing to support.

The vote was unanimous with 5 Ayes: Campbell, Kline, Steurer, Waltrip, Williams. Roll Call Vote

Item No. (10) WH Issues and Policies Committee Chair Heath Kline

(23-022) Motion for Board Resolution regarding inappropriate actions of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment while the Hollywood Studio District Neighborhood Council is under exhaustive efforts process.

Board Members and Stakeholders are encouraged to check the NC website multiple times before the meeting for additional supporting and informative information on this dynamic and rapidly evolving situation.

For discussion and possible action: (15 minutes)

The Woodland Hills Issues and Policies Committee recommends that the Board of the Woodland Hills – Warner Center Neighborhood Council adopt the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, the Hollywood Studio District NC [HSDNC] has had difficulty in achieving a quorum consistently due to board members moving outside the NC’s boundaries; and,

WHEREAS, the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment [DONE] placed HSDNC into an “Exhaustive Efforts” process, which gave DONE control of HSDNC until the restoration of a functioning Board; and,

WHEREAS, for the purported purposes of recruiting new Board Members for the HSDNC, the DONE Empowerment Advocate [NEA], Mr. Mario Hernandez, directed and approved expenditures of \$4,000 one-eight of the HSDNC annual budget to sponsor an event outside of the city limits, contrary to funding guidelines for a neighborhood council, whereby the NC must meet in their boundaries, and bypassing all the prior approval steps required for an NC sponsoring an event and protecting the City of Los Angeles from liability; and,

WHEREAS, the event was outside of HSDNC boundaries and outside the Los Angeles City limits. The proposal described it as an “annual youth event targeting children 7-17 with perhaps 25 adults in attendance conducted by the County Sheriff’s Youth Foundation. It failed to mention the actual location “in the City of West Hollywood [served by the Sheriff, not LAPD], a firm date, co-sponsors, liability insurance, or program-event details [all requirements to obtain pre-approval from the City of LA for an NC sponsored event]; and,

WHEREAS, according to communication from the (former) Board President & Secretary, the Board Members and Stakeholders of the HSDNC objected to sponsoring an event with an organization they did not support and presented their alternative recommendations for outreach activities and board member recruitment within the boundaries of the HSDNC. The Board strongly disagreed with Mario Hernandez on spending their money in a way that is not allowed and with an organization they did not support, to which he was indifferent to their objections and dismissed their alternatives; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Hernandez told the HSDNC board members that their attendance at the event was mandatory and that failure to attend would result in their removal from the Board. Mr. Hernandez has no authority to require mandatory attendance at an event outside of the City’s Limits, which has the appearance of a board meeting, and,

WHEREAS, the event was for children and a small number of adults from the county and not focused on those necessarily from the HSDNC; and,

WHEREAS, the sponsored activity was a costly and untargeted way to recruit very few, if any, new board members, it would not be considered an acceptable Neighborhood Purposes Grant, an NC-sponsored event, or a suitable outreach event for the NC to participate in; and,

WHEREAS, we conclude this (repeated & documented) malfeasance of the Empowerment Advocate appears to serve an agenda separate from that of the Board of the Hollywood Studio District NC; and,

WHEREAS, nine of the eleven remaining HSDNC Board Members have resigned in protest to the inappropriate actions of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment; and,

WHEREAS, the actions on the part of DONE resulted in further damage to the Board of the HSDNC instead of rebuilding it;

THEREFORE, the Board of the Woodland Hills – Warner Center Neighborhood Council **RESOLVES** to communicate to DONE and appropriate City Officials:

- Mr. Mario Hernandez must be removed as the Empowerment Advocate for Hollywood Studio District NC. Pending further investigation, DONE must remove him from any role where he has contact with or decision-making authority over any NC. It must evaluate what rules Mr. Hernandez broke and decide whether he can continue in his position or as an employee of the City of Los Angeles; and,
- Both the City Attorney and the City Controller immediately open independent investigations into the events described in this Resolution (and supporting documents posted with this Resolution), including under what authority, if any, DONE and the City Clerk Funding Division authorized and spent \$4,000 with Sheriff's Youth Foundation in violation of the Brown Act, and Neighborhood Council funding guidelines and safeguards; and,
- If the investigations uncover that additional staff within DONE and the Office of City Clerk were complicit with Mr. Hernández's actions, they also need to be removed from City service; and,
- DONE must cancel and then return (from its funds if necessary) to HSDNC the improper, if not illegal, expenditures made by DONE; and,
- To initiate healing and rebuild trust with the HSDNC and Neighborhood Council members city-wide, DONE's Acting/Interim General Manager [AGM] – (the Mayor asked for and received the resignation of the former General Manager Raquel Beltran according to breaking news reports) must issue a Letter of Apology to the Community and affected former HSDNC Board Members and all Neighborhood Council members.

- In the AGM’s apology letter, the recently resigned HSDNC board members must be offered and encouraged to return to their pre-resignation roles on the HSDNC with deference from every DONE staff member.
- The AGM must offer to meet personally with individuals and groups of HSDNC board members to hear their ongoing concerns and suggestions and develop collaborative solutions to address HSDNC issues.

The AGM must commit to build up and strengthen the HSDNC to remove it from its EE status and be self-sustaining. As DONE created the problem, these efforts should be with the labor of DONE Staff, at the expense of DONE and not the HSDNC.

- While HSDNC is in EE status, DONE must honor the majority wishes and judgment of the HSDNC EE Board and not to substitute DONE’s wishes and judgment. If the HSDNC EE Board does not have sufficient board members to establish a voting quorum of qualified, volunteer members to fill necessary board roles, then DONE must ask for and accept experienced NC board member volunteers from other NCs, vetted and approved by area NC alliance organizations, until sufficient HSDNC Stakeholders can be elected or appointed to fill those roles. In short, DONE and committed NC volunteers will not let the HSDNC fail.
- The AGM must offer to meet personally with individuals and groups of HSDNC board members to hear their ongoing concerns and suggestions and develop collaborative solutions to address HSDNC issues.

FURTHERMORE, the Board should inform Mayor of Los Angeles Karen Bass, City Councilmember CD 1 Eunisses Hernandez and Chair of the Neighborhoods and Community Enrichment Committee, City Councilmember CD 3 Bob Blumenfield, Los Angeles City Attorney Hydee Feldstein Soto, Los Angeles City Controller Kenneth Mejia, the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment Acting General Manager, President, Board of Neighborhood Commissioners Ray Regalado of the WHWCNC Board’s Resolution.

Unanimous Vote on 3-1-2023 4 Ayes: Campbell, Kline, Steurer, Williams Absent:
Waltrip
Roll Call Vote

Item No. (11) Woodland Hills Issues and Policies Committee Chair Heath Kline

(23-023) A Motion for a Board Resolution regarding requesting increased budget allocations for Neighborhood Council.

For discussion and possible action: † Prior version included committees draft version posted in error now replaced with final version. (15 minutes)

The WHIP committee recommends that the WHWCNC Board adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, when Neighborhood Councils [NCs] started, the Mayor's Los Angeles City Budget for 2003-2004 was 5.14 billion dollars. The last adopted the City of LA Budget for 2022-2023 is 11.8 billion dollars, which is 2.3 times as much, representing a 130% increase in the City Budget over 19 years; and,

WHEREAS, in the 2003-2004 City Budget, Neighborhood Councils were allocated 50 thousand dollars and were allowed to roll over unused funds for two years; and,

WHEREAS, a 2023 allocation of budget dollars, equivalent to 2003-2004, would be 81.3 thousand dollars per NC. That is 1.63 times as much as in 2003-2004. Consequently, if past City Budget actions were fair to keep up with inflation, NC's should have seen a 63% increase in budget, which is, by comparison, less than half of the 130% the City Budget increase over the same period; and,

WHEREAS, for 2022-2023, the Neighborhood Councils have only a budget of \$32,000, with a maximum rollover of \$10,000 from the previous year. This amount represents a 36% decrease from the starting budget 19 years ago. However, this represents a 60% decrease in equivalent-dollar buying power after inflation; and,

WHEREAS, per the City Charter, the purpose of Neighborhood Councils is to engage the community to participate in City Government so that City agencies function better to serve the community. Achieving that purpose requires communicating with stakeholders bidirectionally in multiple ways, using more forms of media than when the Neighborhood Councils started; and,

WHEREAS, the cost of conducting in-person events/meetings has increased over time with inflation. In addition, the cost for NCs to meet in ADA-compliant facilities has limited the choices and has increased the direct cost of renting the facilities, plus many of the ADA-compliant facilities do not provide free parking, A/V equipment or tables and chairs, requiring the NCs to incur additional costs; and,

WHEREAS, the costs of implementing the various means of Neighborhood Council communications have increased because of the skills and technical services needed, training, media platforms used, needed equipment, and support services increase in cost/rates with inflation; and,

WHEREAS, to reach stakeholders today, printed media and postal mailing are still the best way to reach the maximum number of stakeholders. Counting on stakeholders to find neighborhood councils on social media or websites is impractical, particularly for seniors and community members who lack internet service. Printed media are complementary means leading to electronic communications; and,

WHEREAS, after expansive growth in our Neighborhood Council over two decades, 37 thousand addresses increased to 42,000. Postage for mailing newsletters rose from 20¢ to 55¢ each. Printing costs increased by about 40% and addressing the mail costs an additional 10¢. When a newsletter now costs about a dollar each (or \$42,000) to print and mail, on a \$32,000 budget, it is impossible to mail even one newsletter per year compared to when in the past it was possible to do multiple times annually; and,

WHEREAS, due to budget constraints that prevent NC's from undertaking larger and longer-term projects as they had in the past, many Neighborhood Councils like ours, with the knowledge and skill capacity to undertake significant outreach projects and community serving events, are now impaired from achieving our true purpose. Therefore, it compels us to spend our funds on less costly but less effective toward our Charter purpose Neighborhood Purposes Grants [NPGs] rather than lose what funding we have.

WHEREAS, there are multiple elements of budget inequity for diverse neighborhood councils, such as 10x population variation from less than 10,000 to over 110,000 along with extreme variation in capacity, public resources, and support; and,

WHEREAS, there is a personal financial holdings disclosure Form 700 from the California Fair Political Practices Commission. For the City of Los Angeles, members of Boards and Commissions that spend over \$70,000 annually must complete this form. This threshold has not increased with inflation since the beginning of Neighborhood Councils; and,

THEREFORE, the Board of the Woodland Hills – Warner Center Neighborhood Council resolves to formally request that Mayor Karen Bass take steps to restore budget parity for Neighborhood Councils by increasing Neighborhood Council budgets up to \$69,999 as part of the City Budget and acting to 1) allow unlimited rollover of funds on a first-in-first-out basis and 2) initiate efforts for increasing the threshold for waiving the filing of Form 700 to accommodate NC members, who are only unpaid volunteers with no contracting authority.

FURTHERMORE, to restore budget parity with the initial years of NC budgets, consideration must be given to allocating base budgets of \$32,000 plus \$1 per resident, based on census counts, up to the maximum allowed.

FURTHERMORE, conduct a study on forces/reasons favoring NPG expenditures and what could be the negative impacts of establishing limitations on NPGs along with consideration of providing additional supplemental budgets to Neighborhood Councils based on variable circumstances such as underserved stakeholders and additional costs of facilities and communications. Furthermore, research whether larger well-functioning NCs like the WHWCNC break up to restore necessary per capita Stakeholder spending resources absent population and inflation-adjusted budget restorations.

FURTHERMORE, we request Council Member Bob Blumenfield, as Chair of the City Council's Budget, Finance, and Innovation Committee, to advocate and work collaboratively with Mayor Karen Bass and other members of the City Council in this regard.

Vote on 3-1-2023. 3 Ayes: Kline, Steurer, Williams. 2 Naye: Campbell, Waltrip. **Roll Call Vote**

3. Area Reports – (10 minutes)

Area 1 - Aaron Quantz, Karen DiBiase, Mark Schwartz, Reina Cerros-McCaughey

Area 2 - Arturo Velasquez, Paul Lawler, Sean McCarthy, Philp Swain

Area 3 – Mark Ball, John Sandy Campbell

Area 4 – Don Patterson, Martin Lipkin, Dena Weiss, Rachel Tabak

Area 5 – Christopher Waddy, Julie Waltrip, Theresa Campbell, Gretchen Gesell

Area 6 – Leslie Simon, Mihran Kalaydjian, Heath Kline

Area 7 – Aaron Williams, Houtan Hormozian, Christine Robinson

At-Large –August Steurer, Bobbie Wasserman

Youth Member – Talia Isaacs

4. Committee Reports, including report on in person meeting locations - (10 minutes)

Budget Committee – Paul Lawler, Chair

Community Services Committee – Rachel Tabak and Houtan Hormozian, Chairs
Community Outreach Committee – August Steurer and Bobbie Wasserman, Chairs
Education and Youth Committee –Mihran Kalaydjian and Talia Isaacs, Chairs
Environmental & Beautification Committee – Karen DiBiase, Chair
Governance Committee – Dena Weiss, Chair
Public Health and Homelessness Committee –Aaron Quantz and Reina Cerros-McCaughey, Chairs
Public Safety and Transportation – Houtan Hormozian and Rachel Tabak, Chairs
PLUM Committee – Don Patterson, Chair
WHIP Committee – Heath Kline, Chair
Ad-hoc Committee – Flight Path and Noise Advisory Committee, Martin Lipkin, Chair

Announcements:

The next Regular Board meeting will be held **in person** on April 12, 2023, tentatively at the Woodland Hills Academy school (at Burbank and De Soto across from Kaiser Hospital). Please visit the calendar page at whcouncil.org for the complete details and to confirm the date and time.

Meeting dates for the 2023 year: Full Board meeting are held the second Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. Check the NC website calendar for a complete list of committee and board meetings. Meeting dates and times are subject to change. Check the NC calendar for updated meeting schedules.

Adjournment of Meeting:

*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 Dena Weiss, at email address d.weiss@whcouncil.org or the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at (213) 978-1551 EmpowerLa@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.whcouncil.org or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record, if available, related to an item on the agenda, please contact Dena Weiss, at email address d.weiss@whcouncil.org.

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

- www.whcouncil.org and go to the website Calendar page and click on the date – Board meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. Check the calendar for any change of meeting date and/or time.

- You can also receive our agendas via email by subscribing to L.A. City’s Early Notification System at <https://www.lacity.org/subscriptions>

- **A copy of this agenda is also physically posted on the outside of the window of the West Valley Warner Center Chamber located at 6100 Topanga Canyon Blvd, Ste 2330,**

Woodland Hills, CA 91367. The Chamber is located at the Promenade Mall outside the east entrance of the mall and to the left of Ruth Chris Restaurant. The Chamber office is accessed from Owensmouth Street. Parking is free.

*RECONSIDERATION AND GRIEVANCE PROCESS - For information on the WHWCNC process for board action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy, or any other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the WHWCNC Bylaws. The Bylaws are available at our website at www.whcouncil.org

SERVICIOS DE TRADUCCIÓN - Si requiere servicios de traducción, favor de avisar al Concejo Vecinal 3 días de trabajo (72 horas) antes del evento. Por favor contacte a Dena Weiss al d.weiss@whcouncil.org o por correo electrónico avisar al Concejo Vecinal.

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 §§ 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