



# AGENDA

## Northridge West Neighborhood Council

**PUBLIC MEETING –Tuesday May 22, 2007 – 7:00 PM**

Beckford Avenue Elementary School –  
19130 Tulsa Street Northridge, CA 91326

**LEGALLY REQUIRED OFFICIAL POSTING: Please do not remove until AFTER above date and time.**

[www.NorthridgeWest.com](http://www.NorthridgeWest.com)

<p><b>Jim Alger</b> President</p>	<p>Dawn Alger At Large District 1</p>
<p><b>Sherry Ramstead</b> VP Administration</p>	<p>Nancy Brimm Education</p>
<p><b>Craig Michayluk</b> VP Communication &amp; Outreach</p>	<p>Judith Frazin Seniors District 2</p>
<p><b>Sam DeFrisco</b> Treasurer</p>	<p>Jamie Ramstead General Business District 1</p>
	<p>Suejung Shin Youth</p>
	<p>Glen Wilson General Business District 2</p>
<p>vacant Northridge Fashion Center Homeowner District 2 Community/Faith Based</p>	

**PUBLIC INPUT AT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS:** The public may be requested to fill out a “**Speaker Card**” to address the Board on any item of the agenda prior to the Board taking action on an item. Comments from the public on Agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the Agenda that is within the Board’s subject matter jurisdiction will be heard during the Public Comment period. Public comment is limited to 2 minutes per speaker, unless waived or additionally restricted by the presiding officer of the Board. The Agenda is posted for public review at the following Northridge locations: Northridge Fashion Center (Information Desk); The Discovery Shop, 9719 Reseda Blvd.; Beckford Avenue Elementary School, 19130 Tulsa Ave.; K-Mart, 19600 Plummer St.; Albertsons Market, 18555 Devonshire St.; Gelson’s Market, 19500 Plummer St.; North Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce, 9401 Reseda Blvd..

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 prior to the meeting you wish to attend by contacting Tom Soong, Project Coordinator (323) 359-2579.

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Treasurer’s Report –

4. Committee Reports: -

- A. Elections Committee
- B. Service Cabinet

5 PUBLIC HEARING –

**A PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT and RESIGNATION of Boardmember** – The President does hereby move that the board ACCEPT the resignation of Jamie Ramstead from the Business District 1 seat and immediately confirm the APPOINTMENT of Jamie Ramstead to fill the vacant seat of Homeowner, District 2 until a newly elected board is seated, or the next election whichever comes first. Additionally, the president does hereby appoint Carol Margolis to fill the vacant position of Community/Faith Based seat until a newly elected board is seated, or the next election whichever comes first.

**B SELECTION OF EXECUTIVE BOARD.** Note: Pursuant to the Neighborhood Council Bylaws “Executive Committee positions shall be elected annually by Board Members at the first Board Meeting following the annual elections, with the meeting to be held no more than one month after the election date. “ Therefore the following are agendized as discussion and action items:

- 1. SELECTION OF EXECUTIVE BOARD - PRESIDENT
- 2. SELECTION OF EXECUTIVE BOARD – VICE PRESIDENT OF ADMINISTRATION
- 3. SELECTION OF EXECUTIVE BOARD - VICE PRESIDENT OF COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH
- 4. SELECTION OF EXECUTIVE BOARD – TREASURER
- 5. SELECTION OF EXECUTIVE BOARD – SECRETARY
- 6. Thomas Baker of Northridge East Neighborhood Council and Steve Cline of Northridge Parks and Recreation presentation and funding request for Northridge Park's firework show at their annual salute to recreation. (Motion required, Possible action item)
- 7. Discussion and possible action – Office space for NWNC

6 CONSENT AGENDA –

- a. **MOTION (Alger) (Request from Council Office)** Discussion and possible action - That the Northridge West NC officially SUPPORT Councilman Greig Smiths’ attempt to maintain funding for the CERT program. That the NWNC officially appear before committees and council to transmit such a position to the entire City Council as well as the Mayor, and that the NWNC also file a CIS cc’d to the City Council and Mayor as to our official position.
- b. **MOTION (Alger)** Discussion and possible action - That the Northridge West NC SUPPORT the Beckford Avenue Elementary School by FUNDING the cost of school supplies not to exceed \$3,000.00.
- c. **MOTION (Alger)** Discussion and possible action - That the Northridge West NC form a Grievance Committee and immediately refer a grievance by Council Member Brimm to said committee for action under the councils bylaws. (See Attached)
- d. **MOTION (Brimm)** Discussion and possible action - That the Northridge West NC SUPPORT area schools by funding various needs of individual schools.
- e. **MOTION (Alger/Ramstead)** Discussion and possible action – That the Northridge West NC transmits to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment and the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners its previously passed bylaws and boundary changes. Specifically:
  - 1 Executive Committee positions shall be elected annually by Board Members at the first Board Meeting following the annual elections, with the meeting to be held no more than one month after the election date. For the purpose of continuity of the council, once elected by the board, Executive Committee members shall serve the remainder of their stakeholder-elected term as a board member and Executive Committee member.
  - 2 Inserting a provision EXCLUDING write in Candidates for elections
  - 3 Extending the southern boundary of the council to Roscoe Blvd (pending DONE approval)
  - 4 Renumbering of bylaws sections for consistency

5 Incorporating the approved Election procedures into the bylaws of the council

7 Appointment of Committee Chairs as necessary

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS AS THEY ARISE**

8 **Board Member Comments** - Comments from Board members on any items not covered on the agenda;  
Requests for agenda items and committee referrals.

9 **Public Comments and request for agenda items** – Comments from the Stakeholders on any items not covered on the agenda.

10 **ADJOURNMENT**

**NEXT PUBLIC MEETING**

**Tuesday, June 13, 2006 – 6:30 p.m.**  
**Beckford Avenue Elementary School**

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*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world.*

*Indeed it’s the only thing that ever has.”*

*-Margaret Mead*

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## **BASIC NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING RULES**

**ALL MEETINGS ARE CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RALPH M. BROWN ACT.** The basic council rules listed here are contained either in that act, the governing bylaws of this Council or in rules adopted by the Governing Board.

All Neighborhood Council meeting locations shall be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

**DEFINITION OF STAKEHOLDER:** [Bylaws Article 3 (7) LA City Charter Sec 906(3)] “any individual who lives, owns property, works, participates in a community or faith-based organization, or attends classes within the geographic area of this Council”. Geographic area of this council is from the 118 to Nordhoff and Reseda to Corbin with the centerline of each street as the boundary. (Bylaws Article 5)

**AGENDAS** – Unless otherwise posted, the Northridge West Neighborhood Council meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7 PM at the Beckford Avenue Elementary School Auditorium. The agendas for Neighborhood Council meetings contain a brief general description of those items to be considered at the meetings.

Items on the “Consent Agenda” may be voted on as a group unless a councilmember or stakeholder wishes to be heard on that item. In the event a councilmember or stakeholder wishes to be heard on an item, it will be called special and heard under the “Public Hearing” section of the agenda.

Seven (7) members of the Council constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The Council may consider an item not on the agenda only if it is determined by a two-thirds (9) vote of the entire council that the need for action arose after the posting of an Agenda.

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND TIME LIMITS** – Council members requesting to address the Council will be recognized by the Council President in the order requested. A motion calling the “previous question” may be introduced by any member during a Council debate. If adopted, this motion will terminate debate and the Chair will instruct the Secretary to call the roll on the matter.

Other Board Rules will be put in place and this section will be updated as necessary.

### **CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE**

The undersigned does hereby affirm that the official agenda contained herein was posted at the following locations on the date(s) and time(s) indicated.

	Date:	Time:
	AM	PM
Northridge Fashion Center (Information Desk)		
The Discovery Shop, 9719 Reseda Blvd.	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Time:</b> <b>AM</b> <b>PM</b>
Beckford Avenue Elementary School 19130 Tulsa St.	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Time:</b> <b>AM</b> <b>PM</b>
K-Mart 19600 Plummer St.	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Time:</b> <b>AM</b> <b>PM</b>
Albertsons Market 18555 Devonshire St.	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Time:</b> <b>AM</b> <b>PM</b>
Gelson's Market 19500 Plummer St.	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Time:</b> <b>AM</b> <b>PM</b>
North Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce, 9401 Reseda Blvd.	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Time:</b> <b>AM</b> <b>PM</b>

Signature of person affixing agenda as described: \_\_\_\_\_

## ITEM 6 C

### ARTICLE XII GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

- A. Any grievance by a Stakeholder must be submitted in writing to the Secretary. Within ten (10) days of receipt, the Secretary will refer the grievance to a grievance panel comprised of five (5) Stakeholders who are randomly selected by the President from a list of Stakeholders who have expressed an interest in serving from time-to-time on such a grievance panel. Within ten (10) days of the referral, the Secretary will coordinate a time and a place for the panel to meet with the person(s) submitting the grievance to discuss the basis for the grievance and the desired outcome.
- B. Within thirty (30) days of the panel meeting with the person(s) submitting the grievance, the panel members will conduct any investigation necessary in order to reach agreement on the panel's recommendation to the Board. A report will be written and forwarded to the Secretary to be placed on the next Board meeting, outlining the panel's collective recommendations for resolving the grievance. The Board may receive a copy of the panel's report and recommendations prior to the meeting, but the matter will not be discussed among Board members until the matter is heard by the Board at a meeting pursuant to the Brown Act.
- C. This formal grievance process is not intended to apply to Stakeholders who simply disagree with an Official Action taken by the Board. Those grievances can be aired at Council Meetings. This grievance process is intended to address matters involving procedural disputes, e.g., the Board's failure to comply with its rules or these Bylaws, or its failure to comply with the City's Charter, the Plan, local ordinances, and/or state or federal law.

In the event that a grievance cannot be resolved through this grievance process, then the matter may be referred to DONE for consideration or dispute resolution in accordance with the Plan.

### **GRIEVANCE AS FILED:**

Dear Northridge West Neighborhood Council Members and Stakeholders:

Challenge to Record

I would like to have the removal of a board member, Jamie Ramstead PRIOR to a special meeting involving any voting requested by the current president called for on Monday April 30, 2007 at 7:00 pm located at Beckford ES.

The reasons for removal of Jamie Ramstead said board member is based on By-Law Article VII. I have included below for your reference.

- A. A Board Member may resign in writing to the President or Secretary. (I have not personally seen a written copy.)

"A description, in detail, of the reason for removal. Board members may not be removed due to a substantive disagreement about a Board Decision. Removal must be based on either:

- a) A good faith determination that the Board member has failed to observe the NWNC by-laws, rules adopted by the Board of Directors rules of conduct, or any civility code adapted by the Department, or has represented the Council without prior approval of the Board of Directors, or"

Mr. Ramstead was elected as a General Business Representative: Per By Laws Article VI BOARD OF DIRECTORS: This Director shall own a business or work for a business that is PHYSICALLY located within the boundaries of the Council, or from persons legally operating a business from their primary residence within the boundaries of the Council. I placed three separate homes in escrow by Mr. Ramstead each and every meeting where paperwork was signed and dated was held at his office located at R.R. Gable each the office is EAST of Reseda Blvd. On one occasion I followed Mr. Ramstead whereas he pointed out his home to me.

To keep the integrity of the Northridge West Neighborhood Council I firmly believe this error in Ethics Article XIII should be addressed first on the agenda. Any votes, motions or actions which include said Director's position will set up myself as

having to file grievances and Challenges based on violating Board Rules that are subject to any and all applicable sections of the City of Los Angeles Governmental Ethics Ordinance (L.A.M.C. Section 49.5.1), and will abide by all applicable federal, state, and local laws.

I am sure this will not be a problem for any one. Jamie and Sherry did a fine job raising two sons to become Eagle Scouts and productive citizens of our community. Above all the Ramstead family believe in Integrity and the Ethics of the system. I faithfully believe this error occurred based on the excitement of making our community the best it can be.

**ADDITIONAL INFO:**

Hi Jim

Thank you for getting back to me.

This is a great learning experience of how a system works.

I'm sorry to say I lost my first draft of this e mail and have run out of steam.

So forgive me for just getting down to the bottom line.

Bottom line, I want to file a grievance towards Mr. Ramstead's motion and vote.

In response to your information, I believe it is common sense that if a person is placed in the wrong seat, voted into office without having the correct information then that person has no authority or privileges immediately. Not after a meeting or next week but immediately. We fix the wrong to a right ASAP. It doesn't matter which was first the "Chicken or the egg!"

OK Jim, my reason for my strict stance is I don't see money being left for what I feel will benefit ALL of the children in our NWNC district. Recently, I learned that our schools do not have enough school library books. The Federal and State average is 19 books. My NWNC school only have 9. I do not propose just sending the schools in our districts including 3 ES and 1 Middle School money but to match funds they are able to raise. I have some rough figures of maybe \$6,000 per school depending how much they raise. Of course we would have a cap.

Jim, all I see is money going out of our districts. I'm afraid there won't be money left for us. Between PALS, microphones, office space, phone dialers, minute takers etc. etc. the pot is quickly getting used up for this year. I sadly think and afraid of being told next year, next year. This is/was our money. In my heart Jim I have faith and kudos of what a great idea it would be to help our schools. I'm trying to get to our bank before it's empty this year. And Jim, every parent, community member thinks I have a great idea. Please help me.

I need to have faith in our community system, our children, our parents,our stake holders put us in office also with faith. Let's do the right thing and feed our community first. We want the chicken not be left with the feathers.

As a side bar, I have faith in Jamie...I purchased my home with him and trusted him with my personal information and large amounts of my money.

It's a no brainer I honor Jamie.

Lastly, I am sorry to hear about your father. I hope he was able to see the new baby prior.

Most sincerely,

Nancy Brimm

----- Original Message -----

Date: Wed, 25 Apr 2007 14:19:35 -0700

From: "Jim Alger" <Jim@JimAlger.net>

To: <nellen@lausd.k12.ca.us>

Subject: RE: nwnc meeting agenda

>Nancy,

>

>One problem is that this paperwork has already been done. Beyond that

>let me "type out load" and think this through...

>

>Under the ByLaws the only person who can bring about a motion to

>reconsider is any member of the prevailing side, so that wouldn't work.

>

>Your position is deeper though in that you're stating in effect Jamie's'

>motion was out of order in that he effectively didn't belong in the seat.

>Had Mr. Ramstead been forced out of the Business District 1 seat he  
>still would have been physically on the board because I would have  
>appointed him to the vacant Homeowner District 2 seat. However that is  
>a woulda coulda shoulda argument that probably wouldn't stand up.  
>  
>But once again I come back to the fact no challenge has been made to Mr.  
>Ramsteads stakeholder status by anyone. Mr. Ramstead has resigned of  
>his own valition and at the time he was voting was a duly elected board  
>member. No finding has been made otherwise and as such I lack the authority to do much.

>  
>Keep in mind:  
>Votes opposed were 3  
>Votes in favor were 4  
>Abstentions was 1 (myself)

>  
>Had I voted in the event of a tie I would have voted in favor so the  
>reality is that this item would have passed regardless.

>  
>I would imagine the only recourse you have would be an official  
>grievance procedure essentially challenging Jamie's' stake holdership  
>in the seat he occupied and therefore motions or votes he cast, the  
>process for which is in our bylaws. Barring that, it is my sincere  
>belief that I have no authority to rescind a vote. Should you choose to  
>file a grievance, upon receiving it certain procedures must be  
>followed. Additionally I would submit it to the City Attorney for guidance.

>  
>Hope that helps.

>  
>Jim

>  
>PS: We may be right on the edge of a Brown Act violation if the  
>conversation goes into actions that our board will be deciding at a  
>public meeting so in the future please address the correspondence to  
>me. I will keep a record and make I public if you wish. Rest assured  
>that while I disagree with what you are trying to do, I will defend your right to do it.

>  
>  
>  
>-----Original Message-----

>From: NANCY ELLEN [mailto:nellen@lausd.k12.ca.us]  
>Sent: Wednesday, April 25, 2007 11:17 AM  
>To: Jim Alger  
>Cc: completeboard@northridgewest.com  
>Subject: nwn meeting agenda

>  
>Dear Jim

>  
>Thank you for getting back to me. I believe you made some good points.  
>Now I'm looking for some more!!

>  
>I stand firm of what I was told you said about Mr. Ramstead's placement  
>approval. I was told during the voting day by Mark. I can't figure  
>out why he would make up such a story. But so be it!

>  
>A good point made by you is that a year of un-voting is to much to request.  
>But I believe un-voting of the last vote with PALS can be overturned.  
>I'm sure the record will reflect Craig, Sherry and I voted "NO" to the action.  
>Taking Mr. Ramstead out of the vote. The motion did not pass nor  
>should have been made since it was Mr. Ramstead's motion.

>  
>So I don't know Jim how to fix it. So I'm looking to you. I surely  
>don't mean any dis-respect to the Ramsteads. I consider the Ramsteads  
>when ever I hear something I think might be an interest to them. It  
>was not nor is a personal attack. In fact Sherry as given me guidance  
>on how to follow up on a project to put before the board for funding.

>

>I would like to add to the agenda cancelling the vote for PALS. Please  
>let me know what I have to do. Thanks Jim for your help.

>  
>Nancy

>  
>  
>----- Original Message -----  
>Date: Thu, 26 Apr 2007 07:23:32 +1620  
>From: "Jim Alger" <Jim@JimAlger.net>  
>To: <nellen@lausd.k12.ca.us>, <completeboard@northridgewest.com>  
>Subject: RE: nwnc meeting agenda

>  
>  
>>Nancy;

>>  
>>First of all, I never said any such thing nor would I have the  
>>authority  
>to.

>>Secondly, Mr. Ramstead has not been formally challenged by anyone, he  
>>has merely turned in a resignation that has not had the opportunity to  
>>be acted upon because there has been no meeting since he did so.  
>>Therefore it is premature and probably unfeasible to do what you are asking.

>>  
>>How would you propose doing such a thing considering than we a) don't  
>>keep individual vote records and b) virtually all of our votes are  
>>unanimous or near unanimous so that the outcome wouldn't change anyway.

>>  
>>What would this accomplish besides attempting to create problems for a  
>>family who has not missed a meeting ever and even defended your  
>>ability to stay on the board when discussion of your removal for  
>>missing too many meetings was being discussed?

>>  
>>I will place the item on the agenda if you insist, but I believe it  
>>would  
>be  
>>a mere symbolic cheap shot that is a dis-service to the community and  
>serves  
>>no real purpose other than to increase divisions and resentment while  
>firmly  
>>aligning yourself with a group of individuals who repeatedly attacked  
>>this council, undermined its authority in the community and accused  
>>this board (including YOU) of financial improprieties with city funds.  
>>(as if there

>was  
>>doubt considering you campaigned for them)

>>  
>>Please advise me if you wish to continue, and if you do please read  
>>through the bylaws and Roberts Rules of order and cite for me the  
>>authority to do such a thing (and how exactly you propose it be done),  
>>because I don't believe I have such authority.

>>  
>>Speaking of authority, the City Attorney policy (so as not to get  
>>caught up in bickering on individual councils) is to require advise  
>>requests to go through the President of the council, not individual  
>>board members. I seriously advise all board members to familiarize  
>>themselves with the appropriate rules and regulations regarding  
>>rights, responsibilities, and authorities of board members, especially  
>>before you challenge a fellow

>board  
>>member into removing years of their service to the community.

>>  
>>Jim

>>  
>>-----Original Message-----  
>>From: NANCY ELLEN [mailto:nellen@lausd.k12.ca.us]  
>>Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2007 5:18 PM

>>To: completeboard@northridgewest.com

>>Subject: Re: nwno meeting agenda

>>

>>

>>

>>Hello Jim

>>

>>I would like to open up the last years voting record to void votes

>>placed

>by

>>mistake by Jamie Ramstead. I understand he did not actually qualify

>>since his office is East of Reseda. Mark explained he was told by you

>>that he was just a little out of the area and it would be OK. I would

>>rather have you approved someone north or south of Lassen a little out

>>of the area than completely out of our Northridge WEST District. So

>>please add my request

>to

>>the upcoming agenda. I have written Done and in the process of the

>>City Attorney regarding my concerns.

>>

>>Thank you so much adding my items.

>>

>>Sincerely,