

Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates

www.BudgetAdvocates.org

**Zoom Meeting
April 7, 2025, 7:00 p.m.
Meeting #13 Minutes**

Board Members	Roll Call	Region	Board Members	Roll Call	Region
Cindy Cleghorn	Present	1	Tony Michaelis	Present	7
Lionel Mares	Present	1	Barbara Ringuette	Present	7
Alena Escobedo	Present	1	Connie Acosta	Present	7
Brian Allen	Absent	2	-----	-----	8
Garry Fordyce	Present	2	Lynda Valencia	Present	8
Scott Wright	Present	2	-----	-----	8
Glenn Bailey	Present	3	Adriana Cabrera	Present 7:17	9
Mihran Kalaydjian	Present	3	Elvis Diaz	Present 7:15	9
Andres Perkins	Absent	3	Joshua Wafer	Absent	9
Howard Katchen	Present 7:06	4	Dorsay Dujon	Absent	10
Brandon Pender	Present	4	-----	-----	10
Adriana Gomez	Absent	4	-----	-----	10
Jack Humphreville	Excused, Present 7:29	5	Jay Handal	Present	11
Aura Vasquez	Absent	5	Kay Hartman	Present	11
-----	-----	5	Connor Webb	Present 7:04	11
Elaine Alaniz	Absent	6	Melanie Labrecque	Present	12
Mirna Aguilar	Absent	6	Adrian Fernandez	Absent	12
-----	-----	6	Thomas Norman	Excused	12

I. Call to Order and Welcome: The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Jay Handal at 7:00 p.m. with a full quorum in attendance.

II. Roll Call of Budget Advocates: See below.

Also in attendance were Budget Representatives: Anna S. Measles (Canoga Park NC), Christine Coe (Hollywood Studio District NC) and Alfredo Gama (Empowerment Congress SE).

III. Minutes: Postponed.

IV. Public Comment: Barbara spoke about safety risks of Silverlake Boulevard losing power, due to the cutting of streetlight wires. Mihran confirmed that the Bureau of Street Lighting will visit on Wednesday to address the issue. Lionel spoke about Ciclavia attendees expressing

anticipation of the White Paper, including the Director of Civic Engagement and a Hollywood District Neighborhood Council board member.

V. Announcements:

A. Announcements from DONE: No report available from John Darnell.

1. DONE's "Budget 101 Town Hall": The department will be announcing a date for the event.

2. Update on DONE's request for Council motion for 2025 Budget Day City Hall use: The request has been submitted to the Council President's office. Motions and a Council file number will be announced.

VI. Old Business:

A. Vacancies: Kay announced that she will open nominations in Region 5. She will open elections in subsequent regions based on individual Budget Representatives stepping forward.

B. Meeting with Mayor Bass: The Mayor's team will contact Co-Chairs directly to schedule a meeting at City Hall the first or second week of May. The meeting will be scheduled for a time slot of 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

C. Business Cards: Members who want business cards and have not yet received them should contact Jay by the end of the week.

D. Fiscal impact of new City documents being made ADA accessible: No report, due to the fires.

VII. New Business:

A. Vote on Budget Day theme: City Services, Budgetary Transparency and Accountability:

Jay brought forward the motion submitted to approve the Budget Day theme as "Services, Budgetary Transparency, and Accountability." Mihran seconded.
MOTION PASSED BY ACCLAMATION, with 19 for and no abstentions.

B. Vote to Approve City Watch Article:

MOTION PASSED BY ACCLAMATION for the Budget Advocates Outreach Committee to distribute both articles to all Neighborhood Councils.

All articles posted will be attributed to the "Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates," rather than individual authors.

C. Town Hall: “Thoughts on the Mayor’s Proposed Budget – April 28:

Jack was not in attendance at the time of discussion to share a report. The event will be held on June 30 over Zoom. Comments will be received and the event will include and a Q & A session. Members are needed to manage the electronic room, to vet questions ahead of time and to set up a Zoom invitation for the event. Contact Jay to help.

D. Updates on budget impacts due to the Recent wildfires: The City is attempting to secure \$2 million from the state of California.

E. Impact of any reduction of federal funding to Los Angeles: Controller Mejia announced that \$355 will be included in the budget from federal funding. No further information is available.

F. Other City budget and Fiscal Updates: The Mayor will release the budget on April 21. The Council Hearing is set for the end of May. Council File 25-0600 has been made available.

G. Contributions from Neighborhood Councils:

West Los Angeles Neighborhood Council has approved a contribution of \$1,000.

Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council approved a contribution of \$500.

Canoga Park has approved a contribution of \$1,000, which has yet to be submitted.

Northridge East Neighborhood Council has approved a contribution of \$2,500, which has also been approved by the City Clerk.

Members must ask their Neighborhood Councils to agendaize this topic and to complete the contribution form by selecting “NC Budget Day,” which will direct the funds to the Budget Advocates and to the Budget Day event. They should be cautioned not to select “Budget Advocacy,” which will direct the funds to DONE instead. Questions should be directed to Brian, as the treasurer.

H. Vote on CIS related to City Watch Article [CF 25-0314](#): Before the Pandemic, the City made yearly contributions to the Budget Advocates of \$10,000 to offset the costs of Budget Day and \$10,000 to support hosting the Congress of Neighborhoods. The funds were withdrawn in 2020, due to the lower costs associated with holding virtual events. The current Mayor is unaware of this precedent. Budget Advocates requested that the City reinstate these funds, but this has not yet been granted.

Once the vote is confirmed, Mihran will draft a line-item to include the funds in the Outreach budget. A form must be completed and submitted by the end of May.

I. Vote on CIS for CF25-0600 requesting NC budgets not be cut: This CIS asks that Budget Advocates be involved in the discussion of Neighborhood Council budgets.

MOTION PASSED BY ACCLAMATION, with one abstention.

The CIS will be distributed to all Neighborhood Councils. Members are encouraged to vote on CIS 25-0600.

Jay moved to ask that the City roll over all remaining Neighborhood Council funds to the next Fiscal Year. Mihran seconded.

MOTION PASSED BY ACCLAMATION.

VIII. Committee Reports:

A. Executive Committee: The next meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2025, at 2:00 p.m., but will be rescheduled due to Passover holiday. Members are invited to submit agenda items in advance of the meeting.

B. Finance Committee:

1. Monthly financial reports now [posted on website](#). Need balance of reports posted.

2. Approve any outstanding Monthly financial reports: Brian was not in attendance to provide a report, but is in the process of bringing everything up to date.

3. Paid and pending invoices update, including Budget Day 2024: No update.

4. Finalize Standard Operating Procedures/MOU for financials (pending DONE review and comment) update: The MOU and SOPs were received and are being reviewed. The MOU will be up for approval at the next meeting.

C. Outreach Committee:

1. Approve the Draft written description of Budget Representatives and Budget Advocates for NCs, etc.: Mihran shared his drafted description of Budget Representatives and Budget Advocates.

Mihran moved to approve the item. Kay seconded.

MOTION APPROVED BY ACCLAMATION.

Jay moved to approve up to \$1,000 to print budget day brochures. Kay seconded.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY, with 19 for and no abstentions.

2. Social media postings and possible outreach video clips: Any information regarding Budget & Finance is always posted on Facebook and Instagram. Mihran and Alena will begin work next week creating video clips.

3. Regional Town Halls: The committee has discussed plans to hold town hall events, but has not yet moved forward on the plans. It will be discussed again at next week's Outreach meeting.

D. Training and Education:

1. Departmental Teams meetings - [Link to view spreadsheet](#): No update. Barbara thanked all those who helped create and publish the White Paper. She told members to prepare for an earlier release next year.

E. Bylaws Committee: Bylaws revision is on hold until elections are finished.

F. Ad Hoc Budget Day Planning Committee: The committee has been reviewing the Budget Day budget and adjusting items down, as actual quotes are found to be lower than expected. This will be reexamined at each meeting. The next meeting will be held on April 11 at 4:00 p.m.

IX. Informational Items:

- A. Council File [24-0600](#) for FY 2024-2025 Budget and related documents
- B. Council File [24-0890](#) LAPD sworn and civilian hiring process
- C. Council File [24-0600-S37](#) Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget / Reserve Fund Restoration / Budgetary Concerns; link to [CAO presentation](#)
- D. Mayor's [FY 2025-26 Budget Policy Letter](#) to Departments dated September 25, 2024
- E. Council File [24-0600-S111](#) - First Financial Status Report (FSR) FY 2024-2025
- F. Council File [24-1368](#): Personnel-Focused Budget Reduction Exercise / City Debt Programs / Pension Obligation Bonds / Fees For Service / Quarterly Reports
- G. Council File [24-0600-S113](#) - Second Financial Status Report (FSR) FY 2024-2025
- H. Any new Council Files? Please submit to Co-Chairs in advance of meeting

X. Upcoming Meetings and Events:

- 1. Budget Advocates: Saturday, April 19, 2025, 9:30 a.m.
- 2. April 21, 2025: Mayor Bass releases proposed FY2025-2026 Budget by this date
- 3. BONC: Monday, April 21, 2025, 1:00 p.m., City Hall
- 4. NCBA "Thoughts of City Budget" Town Hall: April 28, 2025, 6:30 p.m.
- 5. Budget Advocates: Monday, May 5, 2025, 7:00 p.m.
- 6. BONC: Tuesday, May 6, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

XI. Items for Future Meeting Agendas:

A. Email items to LABudgetAdvocates@gmail.com

XII. Adjournment: Co-Chair Jay Handal adjourned the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

Next meeting: April 19, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.

Minutes of Budget Advocate Meeting #13 (April 7, 2025)
ELSPETH WEINGARTEN
April 16, 2025