

Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates

www.BudgetAdvocates.org

**Zoom Meeting
Special Meeting
March 22, 2025, 1:00 p.m.
Minutes**



Board Members	Roll Call	Region	Board Members	Roll Call	Region
Cindy Cleghorn	Excused	1	Tony Michaelis	Present	7
Lionel Mares	Present	1	Barbara Ringuette	Present	7
Alena Escobedo	Excused	1	Connie Acosta	Present	7
Brian Allen	Present 1:10	2	-----	-----	8
Garry Fordyce	Present	2	Lynda Valencia	Present 1:10	8
Scott Wright	Present till 1:50	2	-----	-----	8
Glenn Bailey	Present	3	Adriana Cabrera	Excused	9
Mihran Kalaydjian	Present	3	Elvis Diaz	Excused	9
Andres Perkins	Present	3	Joshua Wafer	Present	9
Howard Katchen	Excused	4	Dorsay Dujon	Present	10
Brandon Pender	Present 1:07	4	-----	-----	10
Adriana Gomez	Absent	4	-----	-----	10
Jack Humphreville	Present	5	Jay Handal	Present	11
Aura Vasquez	Absent	5	Kay Hartman	Excused	11
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Elaine Alaniz	Present 1:48	6	Melanie Labrecque	Excused	12
Mirna Aguilar	Absent	6	Adrian Fernandez	Excused	12
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I. Call to Order and Welcome: The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Jay Handal at 1:03 p.m. with a full quorum in attendance.

II. Roll Call of Budget Advocates: See above.

Also in attendance were Budget Representatives Anna S. Measles (Canoga Park NC) and former Budget Advocate Kevin Davis (Foothill Trails District NC).

III. Minutes: meeting #3 held on October 7, 2024 (pending); meeting #4 held October 19, 2024; meeting #5 held November 16, 2024; meeting #6 held December 2, 2024; meeting #7 December 14, 2024; meeting #8 January 6, 2025; and meeting #9 January 18, 2025; meeting #10 February 3, 2025; meeting #11 February 15, 2025; and meeting #12 March 3,

2025 - MOTION to approve: All minutes, except those listed as “pending,” have been posted on the [website](#) as drafts.

Jay moved to approve all minutes, excluding those from meeting #3. Mihran seconded.
MOTION PASSED, 15 for and 1 abstention.

IV. Public Comment: None.

V. Announcements: Lionel shared reports from the Los Angeles Times, KTLA and other sources regarding the removal of LAPD recruiting officers due to recordings of ongoing racist and sexist remarks over the past year. Lionel shared his view that LAPD should not be recruiting, due to the toxic culture of racism and sexism it upholds.

VI. Special Items - White Paper 2025:

A. Consideration of White Paper opening statement: “Eliminate the Structural Deficit”: Jack distributed a draft of the paper on March 8, for membership review. An amended copy was emailed this morning. Members requested three amendments to the document. All changes will be made and sent out to the entire committee.

Jack moved to approve the document, as amended.
MOTION PASSED BY ACCLAMATION, with 17 for and 1 abstention.

Any additional changes should be brought to Jack and Co-Chairs directly.

B. Consideration of [additional recommendations from Departmental reports](#): An initial set of departmental reports were distributed on March 19, 2025, and will be considered in combination with the newly received reports. Brian requested a statement be removed from his report on the Budget & Finance Department.

Barbara moved to approve all recommendations from Departmental reports, as amended.
Lionel seconded.
MOTION PASSED, with 17 for and 1 abstention.

C. Any other White Paper related topics or required actions?: No other needed actions.
The front cover is approved and ready to publish.

D. Release of White Paper (when, how, where, by whom, etc.): The White Paper will be released this afternoon. Members confirmed that all additional documents for the report will be ready to publish at that time. Mihran and Jack will provide a current press list.

VII. New Business:

A. Third Financial Status Report FY 2024-2025 - [Council File 24-0600-S114](#): The Third Financial Report was released by the Controller, projecting a deficit of over \$900 million.

Jack predicts higher. Revenues were off by \$100 million and expenditures by \$3-4 million, plus additional liability claims.

The Reserve Fund was reported at around \$320 million, leaving it at below 5%. Over-expenditures bring it to below 2.75%, putting the City in a state of Financial Emergency. The City received a one-time cash influx last year from FEMA of \$250 million, which will not be available this year. About a thousand layoffs are projected.

1. [Mid-Year Financial Status Report Presentation](#) by CAO to City Council on March 19, 2025 (20 slides) “nearly \$1 billion gap”

B. Impact of any reduction of federal funding to Los Angeles: The Third Financial Status Report brings up concerns regarding the City’s four-year forecast and how this year’s budget will be balanced. Things will be made worse as the City prepares to host the Olympics, the World Cup, and the Superbowl sequentially, in coming years. Next steps will become clear once the budget is released at the end of April. An assessment of the Recreation & Parks Department is expected. Jack predicts plenty of cuts, increased parking tickets, increased property taxes, and raised fees for trash and solid waste disposal for single family homes. He suggested the possibility that funds allocated to address homelessness could be used to keep the City afloat financially. A State of the City will be upcoming.

C. Other City Budget and Fiscal Updates: The City Council meeting in which the CAO presented the Third Financial Status Report is available for viewing [here](#).

VIII. Committee Reports: None.

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. Council File CF [25-0046](#) - City Council [Motion](#) proposing a Fire Department bond measure for June 2026 Election
- I. Any new Council Files? Please submit to Co-Chairs in advance of meeting

X. Upcoming Meetings and Events:

- A. BONC: Tuesday, April 1, 2025 - 6:00 p.m., City Hall
- B. Budget Advocates: Monday, April 7, 2025 - 9:30 a.m.

C. Budget Advocates: Saturday, April 19, 2025 - 9:30 a.m.
D. BONC: Monday, April 21, 2025 - 1:00 p.m., City Hall

XI. Announcements and Items for Future Meeting Agendas:

A. Email items to LABudgetAdvocates@gmail.com and copy Co-Chairs

XII. Adjournment: Co-Chair Jay Handal adjourned the meeting at 2:05 p.m.

Next meeting: April 7, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes of Budget Advocate Special Meeting (March 22, 2025)

ELSPETH WEINGARTEN

April 2, 2025