

# Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates

www.BudgetAdvocates.org

**Zoom Meeting  
April 19, 2025, 9:30 a.m.  
Meeting #15 Minutes**

Board Members	Roll Call	Region	Board Members	Roll Call	Region
Cindy Cleghorn	Present	1	Tony Michaelis	Excused	7
Lionel Mares	Present	1	Barbara Ringuette	Excused	7
Alena Escobedo	Absent	1	Connie Acosta	Present	7
Brian Allen	Absent	2	-----	-----	8
Garry Fordyce	Present	2	Lynda Valencia	Present 9:36	8
Scott Wright	Absent	2	-----	-----	8
Glenn Bailey	Present	3	Adriana Cabrera	Absent	9
Mihran Kalaydjian	Excused	3	Elvis Diaz	Excused	9
Andres Perkins	Absent	3	Joshua Wafer	Absent	9
Howard Katchen	Present	4	Dorsay Dujon	Absent	10
Brandon Pender	Present 9:36	4	-----	-----	10
Adriana Gomez	Absent	4	-----	-----	10
Jack Humphreville	Present	5	Jay Handal	Present	11
Aura Vasquez	Absent	5	Kay Hartman	Present till 10:29	11
-----	-----	5	Connor Webb	Present	11
Elaine Alaniz	Absent	6	Melanie Labrecque	Excused	12
Mirna Aguilar	Absent	6	Adrian Fernandez	Absent	12
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**I. Call to Order and Welcome:** The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Jay Handal at 9:33 a.m. with a full quorum in attendance.

**II. Roll Call of Budget Advocates:** See below.

Also in attendance was Sharon Brewer (Reseda NC), and Budget Representatives: Aurora Corona (Pico-Union NC), Federico Figus (Greater Toluca Lake NC) and Kevin Davis (Foothill Trails District NC).

**III. Minutes:** Postponed.

**IV. Public Comment:** None

**V. Announcements:**

A. Announcements from DONE: John Darnell not in attendance to provide announcements.

B. Announcements from City Controller Kenneth Mejia: City Controller Kenneth Mejia held a Budget & Finance information session on April 17, 2025, in which he spoke about the City's financial situation, discussing the ever-increasing liability expenditures, the under-funded reserve funds, and a two-year plan to guide the City to a better financial place. He encouraged all viewers to create their own budget and submit it to City Council, through an account on the new Los Angeles budgeting app. The Controller is advising that all funds directed to Homelessness be centralized in one department for better tracking. Co-Chairs will request further advance notice for similar future events, so members can better inform their Neighborhood Councils.

1. [Ask questions and be notified](#) of future sessions.
2. [Create your own](#) City of L.A Budget in the Controller's new app.

C. Announcements from Mayor Karen Bass:

1. State of the City Address: Mayor Bass will deliver the State of the City Address at 12:00 p.m. on April 21, 2025, the same day as the budget release. The event will be streamed live. Members are asked to focus their communication with the public on illustrating how the budget will influence people on a personal level, through public services.

D. Announcements from Councilmember (and Budget and Finance Committee Chair) Katy Yaroslavsky:

1. Community Conversations on the City Budget: Budget & Finance Chair Katy Yaroslavsky will be holding listening sessions about the budget. The event will be held in person on April 21, 2025, and virtually on April 23 and 26. Budget Advocates are encouraged to [attend](#).

E. Announcements for Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, Vice-Chair of the Budget & Finance Committee:

1. Budget Priorities Survey 2025-26: Councilmember Bob Blumenfield released a [survey](#) regarding budget priorities.

## **VI. Old Business:**

A. Vacancies: Vacancies remain in regions 5,6,8 & 10. Kay will be working on elections in Region 5, where a candidate has come forward.

B. Meeting with Mayor Bass: The meeting will be scheduled for the first week of May, held 12:30p.m. – 2:00 p.m. at City Hall. The specific date will be announced.

Notification of the group's Budget Hearing date will be received on Tuesday of next week.

C. Budget Advocate Business Cards: Jay has received all submitted information and will submit the proof this week for printing.

D. Town Hall: "Thoughts on the Mayor's Proposed Budget": Jack will be hosting and leading this event. It will be rescheduled to Tuesday, April 29 at 6:30 p.m., due to a conflict with Budget & Finance.

## **VII. Special Items - Proposed Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget - CF 25-0600:**

A. Budget Released on April 21: Mayor Bass will release the FY 2025-2026 Budget on April 21, along with the State of the City address, which will be delivered at 12:00 p.m. This will simultaneously be broadcast on Channel 35 and on the Mayor's Facebook page. The link will be made available.

B. Budget Hearings: The committee will receive strictly in-person public comment on these two dates. An [initial agenda](#) is available, with the current schedule. This will likely be updated after each day's session.

C. Committee Sessions: Department presentations will continue April 29 through May 16, 2025.

D. Full City Council Public Hearing: This is scheduled for Wednesday, May 21 at 10:00 a.m.

E. "NC Budget Advocacy": The Budget Advocates are scheduled for April 28, 4:00 p.m., after Civilian Labor Partners.

### **1. The Budget Advocates presentation will be finalized, including:**

a) Specific topics and/or departments.

b) White Paper recommendations, including revenue opportunities and cost savings.

c) Budget Advocates speakers and attendees: Connie, Jack, Kay, Glenn and Barbara will present on April 28. It is recommended that attendees be at City Hall no later than 4:00 p.m. Speakers will sit at the table. Those

attending in solidarity may sit in the chambers in the chambers. All support is welcome and appreciated.

John Darnell has offered use of the DONE copy machine for preparing scripts. The documents will be submitted ahead of time, so they can be ready when speakers arrive.

d) Handouts, including presentation of White Paper - authorize up to \$1,000 for printing (if necessary) – MOTION:

Kay brought forward a motion to approve a line item in the budget of up to \$1,000 to print handouts.

Jay moved to approve the item. Kay seconded.

MOTION PASSED, BY ACCLAMATION.

e) Other items: Glenn recommended contacting the other three members of the Budget and Finance Committee to attend the presentation.

#### VIII. New Business:

A. Update on recent wildfires budget impacts: Jack predicted the Mayor's State of the City Address would include updates on this topic, but also described the possibility of these updates as a smoke screen for an already-failing budget. He predicted seeing the impact of these events result in a recession.

B. Update on the impact of any reduction of Federal funding to Los Angeles: The Federal government does not have enough funds to cover the recent crisis.

C. Other City Budget and Fiscal Updates:

1. Proposed increase in the Transient Occupancy Tax – [CF 24-1456](#): The Office of Finance published a [report](#) proposing to raise the Transit Occupancy Tax from 16% from 14%.

#### IX. Committee Reports:

A. Executive Committee: The next meeting was scheduled for May 11, 2025, at 2:00 p.m., but will be rescheduled to May 20 at 2:00 p.m., due to Mother's Day.

B. Finance Committee: Brian was not in attendance to provide a report.

1. Monthly financial reports: Brian has been asked to post recent monthly Financial Reports on the Budget Advocates' ["Financials" webpage](#).

Jay will also be including member photos on the website. Pictures are needed for four remaining people.

2. Approve any outstanding monthly financial reports: No update.

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

4. Finalize DONE/NCBA MOU/Standard Operating Procedures for financials update - possible MOTION: A meeting was held on the MOU. Revisions have been added before, and since. The document helps to provide a more comprehensive understanding the financial details of mutual endeavors, such as Budget Day. Members receiving a draft of a Proposed Memorandum of Understanding will be asked to vote on the document.

5. Contributions from NCs:

Sawtelle Neighborhood Council approved a contribution of \$1,000, which was already paid by the City and approved by the City Clerk.

Northridge East Neighborhood Council approved a contribution of \$2,500 and the check has been cashed.

Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council approved a contribution of \$1,000 at its last board meeting.

North Hills West Neighborhood Council approved a contribution of \$3,000 last Thursday.

Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council has agendized a vote to approve a contribution of \$250.

Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council has agendized a vote to approve a contribution of \$1,000, to be reviewed on Monday.

Echo Park Neighborhood Council has agendized a vote to approve a contribution of \$1,000, which will be reviewed on Tuesday.

C. Outreach Committee: Mihran was not in attendance to provide a report.

1. Social media postings and possible outreach video clips: No update.

2. Regional Town Hall(s): No update.

D. Training and Education: No report.

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

F. Ad Hoc Budget Day Planning Committee: The committee will meet next on April 25, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

1. Review of NC Budget Day budget (as updated or revised): The budget prepared and approved by the Budget Advocates has been sent to the City and received by DONE.

2. Add line item for Outreach for \$1,000 – MOTION: A line item for up to \$1,000 for printing flyers will be added to the Outreach section of the budget.

G. Ad Hoc Overview of City Budget Committee: No new information to report.

H. Ad Hoc Olympics Committee: Barbara was not present to provide a report. Jay shared reports of a \$1 billion shortage to fund hosting the Olympics, along with the need for the City to focus efforts in other areas.

#### **X. 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. Council File [CF 25-0243](#) Controller Revenue Forecast for Fiscal Years 2024-25 and 2025-26 (released 3/3/2025)

J. Council File [CF 23-1027-S3](#) Charter Reform / Biennial Budget Cycle / Public Participation / Engagement Strategies

1. The Controller referenced this Council File in regards to Charter Reform and to citizens creating their own budgeting strategies.

K. Council File [CF 24-0600-S114](#) Third Financial Status Report FY 2024-2025

L. Any new Council Files? Please submit to Co-Chairs in advance of meeting

#### **XI. Upcoming Meetings and Events:**

A. April 21, 2025: Mayor Bass releases proposed FY 2025-2026 Budget

B. ~~BONC: Monday, April 21, 2025, 1:00 p.m., City Hall - CANCELLED~~

C. City Council Budget and Finance Committee budget meetings begin Friday, April 25, 2025

D. NC Budget Advocates presentation to Budget & Finance Committee: Monday, April 28, 2025, 4:00 p.m.

E. NCBA "Thoughts of City Budget" Town Hall: Tuesday, April 29, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

F. Budget Advocates: Monday, May 5, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

G. BONC: Tuesday, May 6, 2025, 6:00 p.m., City Hall

H. Budget Advocates: Saturday, May 17, 2025, 9:30 a.m.

I. NC Budget Day: Saturday, June 21, 2025, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. - [Save The Date](#)

XII. Announcements and Items for Future Meeting Agendas:

A. Email items to LABudgetAdvocates@gmail.com

XIII. Adjournment: Co-Chair Jay Handal adjourned the meeting at 10:39 a.m.

Minutes of Budget Advocate Meeting #15 (April 19, 2025)

ELSPETH WEINGARTEN

May 1, 2025