



Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates

www.BudgetAdvocates.org

Zoom Meeting

January 20, 2024, 9:30 a.m.

Meeting #11 Minutes

Board Members	Roll Call	Region	Board Members	Roll Call	Region
Kevin Davis	Present	1	Barbara Ringuette	Present	7
Cindy Cleghorn	Present	1	David Hunter	Present	7
Lionel Mares	Present	1	Connie Acosta	Present	7
Brian Allen	Excused	2	Lynda Valencia	Absent	8
Garry Fordyce	Present	2	-----	-----	8
Scott Wright	Absent	2	-----	-----	8
Glenn Bailey	Present	3	Elias Garcia	Absent	9
David Uebersax	Present	3	-----	-----	9
Jamie York	Absent	3	-----	-----	9
Howard Katchen	Present at 9:51 a.m.	4	Jennifer Goodie	Absent	10
Brandon Pender	Present	4	Skei Saulnier	Absent	10
-----	-----	4	-----	-----	10
Jack Humphreville	Present	5	Jay Handal	Present	11
-----	-----	5	Kay Hartman	Present	11
-----	-----	5	Adriana de la Cruz	Present	11
Ernesto Castro	Absent	6	Sheryl Akerblom	Present	12
-----	-----	6	Melanie Labrecque	Present	12
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- I. Welcome and Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Kay Hartman at 9:43 a.m., with a full quorum in attendance.
- II. Roll Call – See above.
 - A. Also in attendance were Dave Brown (North Hills West NC), Sharon Brewer (Reseda Neighborhood Council) and Budget Representatives: Aurora Corona (Pico-Union Neighborhood Council), Wendy Diaz-Antonio (Mission Hills Neighborhood Council), Tess Taylor (Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council) and Miran Kalaydjian (Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council / President, Winnetka Neighborhood Council).
- III. MOTION to approve minutes from meeting #6 from October 21, 2023, #7 from November 6, 2023, #8 from November 18, 2023, #9 from December 6, 2023 assuming the date and meeting number is fixed in Meeting 9
 - A. Expecting #10 from December 16, 2023
Motion by Kay Hartman to approve minutes from meetings: #6 on October 21, 2023, #7 on November 6, 2023, #8 on November 18, 2023 and #9 on December 6, 2023, with the date and

meeting number corrected for meeting #9, second by Jay Handal, passed with 13 yes, 0 no, and 0 abstention.

IV. Public Comment on non-agenda items within subject matter jurisdiction – None

V. Announcements

A. Announcements from DONE (John Darnell) – Not present

B. Controller Mejia shared his report “City of LA Staffing Vacancies by Department”

1. The report provides a breakdown of the regular and ad hoc positions of all departments.

VI. New Business

A. MOTION to hold a Town Hall on the Mayor’s FY2024-2025 Proposed Budget

Motion by Kay Hartman to hold a Town Hall via Zoom on the Mayor’s Budget, second by Jay Handal, passed with 16 yes, 0 no, and 0 abstention.

1. Possible dates include April 20 and April 27

- a. It is expected that the mayor will release the budget prior to April 20 and that the Budget and Finance Committee will begin its hearings on April 26. This indicates that the CAO will be preparing for the following Monday and Friday. Jack Humphreville suggested an update from Mayor’s office or the CAO around March 1 or March 20. Kay Hartman has reached out to many possible speakers for the Town Hall, with no response yet.

B. MOTION to hold a Town Hall, or partner with another NC organization on a Town Hall, on the subject of the Controller’s [audit of the LAPD’s Air Support Division](#) (helicopters) ([CF 23-1422](#)) – preferred month is March

1. It has been requested that the LAPD committee include this subject in conversation at their department meeting.

Motion by Glenn Bailey to hold a Town Hall, or partner with another NC organization on a Town Hall, on the subject of the Controller’s [audit of the LAPD’s Air Support Division](#) (helicopters) ([CF 23-1422](#)), second by Jack Humphreville, passed with 16 yes, 0 no, and 1 abstention.

C. Whitepaper

1. Kay wrote some paragraphs and shared them with Jack for input.

2. Theme

- a) Garry suggested: “Is there budget equity after COVID?”

- b) Glenn suggested creating a Word Cloud

- c) Kay suggested: “Who is doing the work?”

- d) What suggestions do you have?

- i. Jay suggested “Broken budget, Broken record? History repeats itself.”

After 2 rounds of voting, item C.1.a) received 10 votes and item C.1.d)i. received 5 votes, there were 2 abstentions.

Committee for Cover Artwork: Connie, Kay, Cindy, Brandon, David Hunter

D. Start time of Monday, February 5 NCBA meeting - change to 7:30 p.m.

VII. Old Business

A. Vacancies (Cindy Cleghorn) - Seeking Budget Advocates for the following regions – One each in regions 4, 10 and 12, and two each in regions 5, 6, 8, and 9. Election(s) in progress – update – Cindy Cleghorn not present

B. Business Cards – update

1. Proofs were made and all recipients have signed off. Kay will submit to the printer as soon as possible.

C. [CF11-1020-S3](#) (Budget Advocacy vs. Advocates) and NC Contributions

1. Latest DONE proposal

“One solution is to add another category to state "**Neighborhood Council Budget Day in the amount of:**

“We can also include a statement in the form that explicitly conveys, 'By checking 'Neighborhood Council Budget Day,' you will be contributing to cover expenses associated with Budget Day, additional Budget workshops, and essential administrative needs.”

- a) The current proposal from Tom Soong (DONE) specifies that the City Clerk doesn't want to add "Budget Advocates" to the form, but was willing to add "Budget Day."
 - b) Kay and Glenn explained that the group does more than hold Budget Day and that it will need funds beyond those for the event.
 - c) Budget Day was included on the Neighborhood Council Contribution form. Contributions to Neighborhood Councils must be approved by June 1.
 - d) Members are asked to take this information to their Neighborhood Councils and to make it clear that all donations will help.
- D. Update on the opening of new Council File 24-0600 for FY2024-2025 Budget
- 1. Board for Neighborhood Commissioner (BONC) Len Shaffer (President, Tarzana Neighborhood Council / BONC Chair) has been in touch with Councilmember Bob Blumenfeld to open the Council File earlier than usual.
- E. Meeting with Mayor Bass
- 1. Kay Hartman will email them to follow up. The office said they'd get back to her.
- F. Town Hall on the DONE Budget Proposal for FY 2024-2025
- 1. Need DONE to settle on a date
- G. MOTION to authorize the Budget Advocates to send a letter to the Mayor and the Budget, Finance, and Innovation Committee to request that the \$10,000 in the DONE budget for the Budget Advocates be left in place
- 1. Should the CAO be included?
 - a) The letter will be copied to DONE and CAO Matt Szabo. BONC will be considering the letter at their Tuesday meeting.
 - b) Budget Advocates in attendance are asked to comment about including the group in the language of the letter, if that change has not already been made.
- Motion by Sheryl Akerblom to authorize the Budget Advocates to send a letter to the Mayor and the Budget, Finance, and Innovation Committee to request that the \$10,000 in the DONE budget for the Budget Advocates be left in place, second by Connie Acosta, passed with 16 yes, 0 no, 0 abstention.
- H. Department Meetings
- 1. 2024-2025 Department Budget Requests
 - a) Those writing the reports should include recommendations at the top, which should be actionable and useful. Writers are to use the provided template, in Microsoft Word. The report should not be a transcript of the meeting.
 - 2. We need to get the white paper out in February. Meetings are being held but reports are not being delivered. Please submit your reports for editing ASAP with a deadline of end of day Feb 3. If you have some reason you can't make Feb 3, please speak offline with David Hunter and the co-chairs.

VIII. Committee Reports

- A. Executive Committee (Kay Hartman/ Glenn Bailey)
 - 1. The committee met last weekend and discussed everything presented on this agenda.
 - 2. There was an inquiry process regarding a budget survey. This was an issue raised by a Neighborhood Councils. No updates are available at this time, but the issue is being discussed.
- B. Finance Committee (Brain Allen) – Not present
- C. Outreach Committee (Jennifer Gookie) – Not present
- D. Bylaws Committee (Cindy Cleghorn) – Not present
- E. Training and Education Committee (Kevin Davis) – No report
- F. Ad Hoc Editing Committee – No reports available to edit
- G. Ad Hoc Budget Day Planning Committee – next meeting today @ 5 pm
 - 1. The committee will be meeting today at 5:00 p.m. The group has met twice with John Darnell (DONE), who is putting in the request to reserve City Hall. Glenn has requested a list from John to specify what actions he will be taking, or not.

IX. Informational Items

- A. Controller Report Relative to Recommendations to more effectively Prepare the City of Los Angeles for Emergencies - CF 22-1258
 - B. Controller's Revenue Forecast
 - C. L.A. REPAIR Cohort1 Program design and voting results.-CF21-1187
 - D. Tax and Revenue Anticipation Notes
 - E. Mayor's 2023-2024 Budget Summary
 - F. First Financial Status Report for Fiscal Year 2023-24 (127 pages) - CF 23-0600-S110
 - G. Mayor's Executive Directive #5 "Improving Customer Service" (MyLA311) issued October 30, 2023
 - H. Controller Preliminary Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2022-2023- CF 23-0600-S108
 - I. Mayor's 2024-2025 Budget Letter
 - J. CAO's Second Financial Status Report (FSR) (86 pages) - CF 23-0600-S113
 - K. Controller's Auditon LAPD Air Support Division (helicopters)- CF23-1422- Controller's webpage
 - L. Human Resources Payroll Project delay - CF 20-0313-S10
 - M. CF 23-1187 Updated Citywide Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts Policy
 - N. Any new Council Files?
- X. Upcoming Meetings and Events
- A. BONC: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. at City Hall (Special Meeting)
 - B. Budget Advocates February 5, 2024 7:30 p.m.
 - C. BONC: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in Granada Hills (North Valley)
 - D. ~~BONC: Monday, February 19, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. at City Hall CANCELED (HOLIDAY)~~
 - E. NC Budget Day: Saturday, June 15, 2024
- XI. Items for Future Meeting Agendas
- A. Email items to LABudgetAdvocates@gmail.com
- XII. Adjournment – Co-Chair Kay Harman adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

Next meeting on February 5, 2024 at **7:30 p.m.**
 Minutes of Budget Advocate Meeting #11 (January 20, 2024)
 ELSPETH WEINGARTEN
 February 2, 2024