

# Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates

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Neighborhood Empowerment Office, City Hall  
200 North Spring Street, Suite 2005, Los Angeles, CA 90012



Monday, February 6, 2017

7:00 pm

## Minutes

Board Members	Roll Call	Region	Board Members	Roll Call	Region
Ivette Ale	Present by Phone	9	Brigette Kidd	Present by Phone	9
Brian Allen	Present	2	Keith Kirkwood	Present by Phone (7:10 pm)	5
Liz Amsden	Present	8	Jon Liberman	Excused	11
Julie Burg	Absent	10	Monica Massey	Present by Phone	12
Kjiel Carlson	Paternity leave	10	Michael Menjivar	Present	4
Kevin Davis	Present by Phone (7:15 pm)	1	William Morrison	Present by Phone	8
Adrienne Edwards	Present by Phone	6	Carol Newman	Present by Phone	3
Amy Foell	Present by Phone (7:15 pm)	7	Christopher Perry	Present	9
Cindy Wu Freeman	Present by Phone	2	Ava Post	Absent	6
Craig Goldfarb	Present by Phone (7:10 pm)	12	Rick Ramirez	Present by Phone	1
Valaida Gory	Present by Phone	10	Barbara Ringuette	Present (7:05 pm)	7
Jay Handal	Present	11	Marcus Rodriguez	Present by Phone	7
Jeanette Hopp	Present	4	Danielle Sandoval	Present by Phone	12
James Hornik	Absent	6	Patrick Seamans	Present (7:05 pm)	5
Jack Humphreville	Present (7:05 pm)	5	Lynda Valencia	Present	8
Ann Job	Present (7:10 pm)	1	Krisna Velasco	Present by Phone (7:45 pm)	2
Howard Katchen	Present by Phone (7:10 pm)	4	Joanne Yvanek-Garb	Present	3
Jacqueline Kennedy	Present by Phone	11	Vacant Seat		3

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Co-Chair Jay Handal.
2. **Roll Call:** A quorum of 30 board members was present (see list above). Mike Fong, DONE’s Director of Policy and Government Relations, and Michael Popwell, Budget Rep/CHNC, were also present.
3. **Public Comment** – None
4. **Approval of Minutes from Meetings #12 & #13 (January 9<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>)** – Approval of the minutes for meeting #13, January 21<sup>st</sup>. Minutes for meeting #12, January 9<sup>th</sup> not yet available. Motion by **William Morrison** to approve the minutes from meeting #13, January 21, 2017 with minor corrections, second by **Jeanette Hopp**, and passed with 19 yeases (Ale, Allen, Amsden, Edwards, Freeman, Gory, Handal, Hopp, Kennedy, Kidd, Massey, Menjivar, Morrison, Newman, Perry, Ramirez, Rodriguez, Sandoval, and Valencia.), 0 noes, 1 abstention (Yvanek-Garb), and 10 not yet present (Davis, Foell, Goldfarb, Humphreville, Job, Katchen, Kirkwood, Ringuette, Seamans, and Velasco).

**5. Status on Replacement of BA for Region 3**

- a. Jay has not heard back from Patty Bates, will ask Harvey Goldberg if he would be interested.
- b. Joanne will represent Simone's NCs in the interim.

**6. Treasurer's Report** - Howard Katchen, Treasurer

- a. Still no information from DONE. Howard to forward his request to DONE for information to Mike Fong who will follow up with Man-Qin.
- b. Motion by **William Morrison** to approve the treasurers report, second by **Lynda Valencia**, and passed with 21 yeses (Ale, Amsden, Edwards, Freeman, Gory, Handal, Hopp, Humphreville, Kennedy, Kidd, Massey, Menjvar, Morrison, Newman, Perry, Ramirez, Ringuette, Rodriguez, Sandoval, Seamans, and Valencia), 0 noes, 2 abstentions (Allen and Yvanek-Garb), and 7 not yet present (Davis, Foell, Goldfarb, Job, Katchen, Kirkwood, and Velasco).

**7. Draft amendment to Article XI, Section 1 (Compliance) of the NCBA Bylaws, and potential motion to approve (would be first of two votes).**

'It is recommended that all Budget Advocates take the trainings required by the Department including, but not limited to, ethics, funding, and code of conduct provided by the City within the time prescribed by the Department. Verification of such trainings will be by self-affirmation. In addition, Budget Advocates will be offered training in the City's budget process, and the Department shall help facilitate training for any Budget Advocates who so request.'

Motion by **Liz Amsden** to approve the initial draft of the proposed amendment to Article XI, Section 1 (Compliance) of the NCBA Bylaws as amended (final draft above), seconded by **Jack Humphreville**, and passed with 29 yeses (Ale, Allen, Amsden, Davis, Edwards, Foell, Freeman, Goldfarb, Gory, Handal, Hopp, Humphreville, Job, Katchen, Kennedy, Kidd, Kirkwood, Massey, Menjvar, Morrison, Newman, Perry, Ramirez, Ringuette, Rodriguez, Sandoval, Seamans, Valencia, and Yvanek-Garb), 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 1 not yet present (Velasco).

**8. Update on Regional Budget Day plans: agendas & guests – for budget & candidates (Jay Handal), Regions 1, 2, 3, 4 (Joanne Yvanek-Garb), Regions 5 & 6 (Adrienne Edwards); Regions 7& 8 (Lynda Valencia), Regions 9 & 10 (Brigette Kidd & Christopher Perry), Region 11 (Jacqueline Kennedy & Jay Handal), Region 12 (Danielle Sandoval).**

- a. Jay will circulate agenda as discussed.
- b. Too late to organize a candidate forum in conjunction with our event..
- c. Discussion on inviting City officials to the meetings to answer questions: ok but this is for the stakeholders, not the electeds.
- d. Budget Advocates need to distribute the agenda to all NCs along with the flyers to publicize Regional Budget Day to their stakeholders including that refreshments will be provided
- e. Danielle will edit/update last year's flyer with information from Jay.
- f. A number of Budget Advocates have other obligations and will not be able to attend Regional Budget Days.
- g. Will need a coordinator for Regions 7/8 as none of their Budget Advocates who have worked on prior Regional Budget Days are available.

**9. Report on the White Paper and department reports. Schedule for presentation to the Mayor**

- a. White Paper: The latest draft was e-mailed to the Co-Chairs just prior to the meeting. Jack will circulate to all Budget Advocates and incorporate any input into a final draft to be discussed edited and approved at the next meeting.
- b. Content: Jay wants it to address the issues which deter businesses from coming to Los Angeles. Amy asked if there was an existing report on revenue lost due to business-

unfriendly regulations currently enforced by the City. Craig requested that suggestions for increasing revenue be added to the White Paper as discussed in August. Liz will circulate the suggestions from Budget Day and the retreat and all Budget Advocates are encouraged to send Jack additional suggestions asap.

- c. Department Reports: Liz will circulate a list of outstanding reports to all Budget Advocates so Marcus can assemble the amalgamated document which will also be voted on. The CAO advised that will respond to all recommendations if we get them in asap – consensus was that we would not submit anything until after the vote on Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup>.

**10. Report on Electeds' & Candidates' Survey** – Jon Liberman was not present

- a. Jay reported that there have been only two replies so far (plus one person who wanted to hire him to fill in the survey).
- b. Jay will circulate the survey along with the names of to whom it was sent, and the responses to date to all Budget Advocates
- c. Budget Advocates should follow up with candidates in their regions to encourage responses.

**11. Stakeholder Survey update** – Danielle Sandoval

- a. There is no new survey pending due to low response to the current surveys.
- b. We still need to get stakeholder input so Budget Advocates should to continue distributing survey cards and encouraging NCs to post link on their websites. People should be directed to the link on the NCBALA website rather than with a forwarded link which will indicate the survey has already been taken.

**12. Update on fiscal impact of potential withholding of federal funds from Los Angeles due to declaration of "Sanctuary City" status.** – Jay Handal

- a. At the LANCC meeting, Matt Szabo stated that the City is assessing possible losses if Trump makes good on his threat to withhold federal funds from Sanctuary cities which could amount to a loss of as much as \$500M, primarily to the LAPD.
- b. Jay has requested Rick Llewellyn provide a breakout of the potential impact by department.
- c. Should also look at the impact if the state government declares California a Sanctuary state which could cut off funding which flows to the City through the state.

**13. Report on addressing the marijuana framework needed by the City with regards to its finances**

Danielle advised that the Central and Coastal San Pedro NCs are having a community forum on the issue on February 17<sup>th</sup>, and she will circulate information on both legislative and revenue issues of the three aspects of the state legislation (growers, medical, recreational) for discussion at a future meeting.

**14. Discussion of fiscal impacts and funding in regards to existing NCs, NC subdivisions and new NCs** – Lynda Valencia

- a. Discussion about the inequity of NC funding given the number of stakeholders vary from under 10,000 to over 100,000 and each NC received the same amount of funds.
- b. There is a process to add up to five NCs every two years but there needs to be a better review process including verification of the data submitted in applications and a way for existing NCs to have input, as well as, in the event of a subdivision, providing for all stakeholders in the area to vote, not just those looking to secede.
- c. Jay advises that the current lawsuit against adding Skid Row as a DTLA NC overlay will be messy but NCs can submit a CIS on this issue [Council File [12-1681](#)].
- d. The adding of NCs while DONE staff and resources stay static stretches already thin resources. Jay asked Howard (as chair of the DONE committee) to look into this and evaluate if the Budget Advocates should make a recommendation.

**15. Outreach &**

**16. Status of CityWatch/Budget Advocates marketing campaign**

- a. Very little outreach is in evidence: Budget Advocates need to be attending NC meetings and handing out survey cards (see Jay for more).
- b. Adrienne advised that CityWatch was not posting our surveys and thought that we were paying for stories and blogs. Will go back to Ken and impress on him that the surveys are a priority and they need to be up there every day.
- c. If marketing committee members indicate they will attend, Adrienne will set up a meeting to address this and other concerns.

**17. Housekeeping**

Jay has located a file cabinet already in the West LA Municipal Building and needs a hand truck to move it to the Budget Advocates' space. Will address the speakerphone again after April.

**18. New Business**

The CAO has requested the Budget Advocates submit our recommendations to him asap so his staff has time to evaluate and report back. The recommendations will be collated and submitted following the next BA meeting, once the department reports are approved.

Jay read a request from Len Schafer requesting support for a DONE/EMD budget proposal asking for \$192,000 to fund four staff positions (two for DONE and two for EMD) and related expenses, to work on preparing a Disaster Preparedness Plan, which will lead to preplacement of supplies for first responders and training of individuals at the neighborhood level.

Therefore, the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates support the inclusion of \$192,000 as a multi-departmental budget item in the 2017/2018 city budget to cover the cost for four staff and related expenses.

Motion by **Ann Job** to approve the above motion of support, second by **Barbara Ringuette**, and passed with 30 yeases (Ale, Allen, Amsden, Davis, Edwards, Foell, Freeman, Goldfarb, Gory, Handal, Hopp, Humphreville, Job, Katchen, Kennedy, Kidd, Kirkwood, Massey, Menjvar, Morrison, Newman, Perry, Ramirez, Ringuette, Rodriguez, Sandoval, Seamans, and Valencia, Velasco, and Yvanek-Garb), 0 noes, and 0 abstentions.

**19. Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm. The next scheduled meeting is Saturday, February 18, 2017 at the West LA Municipal Building at 10 am.

Respectfully submitted, Sheryl Akerblom  
for the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates