

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL BUDGET ADVOCATES MEETING #5
MEETING BETWEEN 2015—2016 FOR THE FISCAL YEAR OF 2016—2017
WEST LOS ANGELES CITY HALL: WLANC OFFICE
1645 CORINTH AVENUE, LOS ANGELES, CA, 90025
SEPTEMBER 19, 2015

ITEM 1: ROLL CALL

Co-Chair Handal called the meeting to order at 10:08 AM. Secretary Morales took the role:

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Kevin Davis (1)
Co-Vice Chair Krystee Clark (1) 10:30 AM
Ms. Krisna Velasco (2) 10:41 AM
Parliamentarian Glenn Bailey (2)
Mr. Harvey Goldberg (3)
Treasurer Howard Katchen (4) 10:20 AM
Mr. Brandon Pender (4)
Mr. Nelson Castillo (6)
Mr. Scott Bytof (6)
Ms. Susan Reimers (7) 10:26 AM
Ms. Barbara Ringuette (7)
Mr. Marcus Rodriguez (7)
Ms. Liz Amsden (8)
Ms. Fanny Ortiz (8)
Ms. Marisol Sanchez (8)
Mr. Brett Shears (10)
Secretary Erick Morales (10)
Co-Chair Jay Handal (11)
Co-Chair Terrence Gomes (11)
Mr. Jon Liberman (11)
Ms. Danielle Sandoval (12) 10:30 AM

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Juan Salas (1)
Ms. Becky Leveque (2)
Ms. Joanne Yvanek-Garb (3)
Ms. C.R. Cochrane (3)
Ms. Jeanette Hopp (4)
Ms. Elvina Beck (5)
Dr. Patrick Seamans (5)
Mr. Charles Lindenblatt (5)
Assistant Secretary Linda Lee (6)
Ms. Margaret Peters (9)
Ms. Veronica Torres-Matthews (9)
Ms. Monica Hernandez (9)
Ms. Ayana McCowen (10)
Ms. Joan Jacobs (12)
Mr. Hayes Thrower (12)

A quorum was not present at the inception of the meeting. At 10:20, a quorum was present for the remainder of the meeting.

ITEM 2: PUBLIC COMMENT

Co-Chair Handal asked if whether anyone had a public comment; no comments were offered.

ITEM 3: APPROVAL OF MINUTES POSTPONED

With the absence of Secretary Erick Morales and Assistant Secretary Linda Lee at the last meeting of the NCBA's, Co-Chair Gomes took on the responsibility of taking the minutes. Those will be provided at a future meeting.

ITEM 4: APPROVAL OF FUNDING REPORT

Treasurer Katchen joined the meeting at 10:20 AM.

Treasurer Katchen informed that NCBA's that \$2,500 had been allocated to fund Regional Budget Days for the year and that a direct purchase card for the NCBA's has been established. Katchen also reported that the NCBA's had more than \$30,000 in available funds after paying for Survey Monkey, Constant Contact, and other allocations.

Ms. Reimers joined the meeting at 10:26 AM.

ITEM 5: ADMINISTRATION

Co-Chair Gomes reported that proofs for business cards and parking passes have yet to be sent to him from the Department of General Services. He will follow up during the week.

Co-Chair Gomes asked that the NCBAs continue to follow the email convention and requested that the NCBAs check to see if the website (www.ncbala.org) is up to date.

ITEM 6: COMMITTEE ARTICLES/REPORTS/RESEARCH

Co-Chair Handal informed that he would like to have a newsletter go out from the NCBAs ahead of the NC Congress on September 26th. He requested that the NCBAs send content for the newsletter. Handal will ask Assistant Secretary Lee to assemble the newsletter.

Co-Chair Gomes requested that the NCBAs inform the public of their role in having City Council raise the NC Budget by \$5,000 in the newsletter.

ITEM 7: SURVEY REPORT

Co-Chair Handal asked if the NCBAs survey, shepherded by Committee Co-Chairs Krystee Clark and Krisna Velasco, had gone out. He requested that the survey be pulled temporarily in order to address issues such as misspelled neighborhood council names and confusing answers to questions. He will address the errors with Co-Vice Chair Clark.

Mr. Goldberg suggested that the NCBAs fix the multiple-choice section of the survey by placing the numbers 1 to 5 (with 1 being the worst and 5 being the best) above the fill-in circles. At the suggestion of the Board, Mr. Goldberg moved to have the survey amended. Mr. Liberman seconded the motion. The motion **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Co-Chair Handal requested that the NCBAs release the survey at the NC Congress, so any corrections had to be made soon.

Board Co-Vice Chair Clark joined the meeting at 10:30 AM.

Ms. Sandoval joined the meeting at 10:30 AM.

ITEM 8. REGIONAL BUDGET DAY

Valley: Parliamentarian Bailey reported that Ms. Hopp has reserved the Braude Center for the event.

Harbor: Ms. Sandoval is the lead for the event.

Northeast and East: Ms. Ortiz and Ms. Sanchez are the leads on planning the event.

West: Co-Chair Gomes reported that he and Co-Chair Handal are planning to host the event in West Los Angeles City Hall.

South: Mr. Shears is the lead organizer of the event.

Co-Chair Handal requested that any fees and costs be reported to Treasurer Katchen as soon as they are known. This must be done at least one week in advance of the event so that the Treasurer can pay for all costs with the purchase card. While the NCBAs may make purchases and then request a reimbursement, this is highly discouraged. Several suggestions were made for how the Treasurer can make purchases, including using the Subway smartphone app and purchasing similar supplies at a single store before distributing the supplies to the regions.

An outline for the Regional Budget Days will be provided by the next NCBA's meeting. The NCBA's were informed that they should create Regional Budget Day documents in a Google Doc. They should also do strong outreach to the NCs in their regions.

Ms. Velasco joined the meeting at 10:41 AM.

ITEM 9: TRAINING

Co-Chair Handal presented the NCBA's with a four page survey he gave the General Manager of the Animal Services Department, which would give the NCBA's the information they need to know more about their departments and to provide the Council, Mayor, and stakeholders with legitimate recommendations. Some NCBA's raised concerns that the survey would be excessive, but Co-Chair Handal stressed the need for responses from the Departments. Surveys should be completed in a week.

Co-Chair Handal spoke about the changes in strategy of the NCBA's over the years, from dividing dollars into figurative cents to the first White Paper. The NCBA's have an obligation to the stakeholders to find out as much as they can and to share that information in recommendations. Mr. Handal said that NCBA's should also follow up with Departments before the budget submission, for example, on the third week of October.

ITEM 10: COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chief Administrative Officer: Chair Yvanek-Garb was not present.

Aging: Ms. Sanchez reported that GM Laura Trejo has not been responsive. Co-Chair Gomes stated that John Chavez and Matt Crawford in Mayor Garcetti's Office have to be informed of unresponsive GMs.

Animal Services: Mr. Handal and the committee met with GM Barnette.

Building and Safety: Mr. Bytof and Ms. Ringuette will organize meetings soon.

City Clerk: No chair was present.

Contract Administration: Mr. Davis is in contact with the GM for a meeting.

Controller: Chair Yvanek-Garb was not present.

Convention Center: Mr. Liberman requested more time to set up a meeting.

Cultural Affairs: Committee Vice Chair requested time to discuss the issue in committee.

Disability: No chair was present

Economic and Workforce Development: Ms. Ortiz requested more time to set up a meeting.

El Pueblo: No chair was present.

Emergency Management: No chair was present.

Employee Relations: No chair was present.

Pensions: Mr. Goldberg, Committee Chair, reported that the committee met with the GM.

Engineering: No report.

Ethics: No report.

LAFD: Chair Nelson Castillo reported that he was unable to tend to the committee due to personal matters.

Finance: No report.

General Services: No report.

Housing/Community Investment and Authority: Mr. Bytof and Ms. Ringuette will organize meetings soon.

ITA: Chair Brett Shears reported that the committee has met with GM Ted Ross and has tried to meet with Peter Marx, Chief Technology Officer.

Library: No report.

DONE: A meeting will be arranged soon.

Personnel: No report.

Planning: Mr. Bytof and Ms. Ringuette will organize meetings soon.

LAPD: Chair Nelson Castillo reported that he was unable to tend to the committee due to personal matters.

Public Accountability: No report.

Public Works: No report.

Sanitation: No report.

Street Lighting: No report.

Transportation: No report.

Unions: Chair Yvanek-Garb was not present.

White Paper: Chair Liz Amsden asked that the committees complete their work as soon as possible.

Zoo: Lead organizer Yvanek-Garb was not present.

Any Departments that are unresponsive should be sent to Co-Chairs Gomes and Handal for forwarding to the Mayor's Office.

ITEM 11: CONCERNS AND IDEAS FOR FUTURE REPORTS

Ms. Velasco asked for more information on the goals of the NCBAs' survey.

Parliamentarian Bailey asked that the NCBAs inform the NCs to agendize reports from individual Budget Advocates as "Public Officials" and not to be lumped into public comment. Many present agreed.

Co-Chair Handal announced that he will retire from the Board by October 6th to become Citywide Director of Elections for the neighborhood council elections in 2016. Handal asked that his region hold a special election to replace him soon.

Mr. Handal clarified that DONE's offices will not move to Van Nuys from Los Angeles City Hall; only some staff has moved to better serve NCs out in the Valley.

The next meeting of the NCBAs will occur on October 5th, 2015 at 7 PM.

ITEM 12: ADJOURN

WITHOUT OBJECTION, Co-Chair Handal adjourned the meeting at 11:45 PM.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

ERICK M. MORALES

2015—2016 NCBAs SECRETARY