



# Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates

www.BudgetAdvocates.org

## Zoom Meeting

**October 21, 2023, 9:30 a.m.**

**Meeting #6 Minutes**

| Board Members     | Roll Call             | Region | Board Members      | Roll Call             | Region |
|-------------------|-----------------------|--------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------|
| Kevin Davis       | Present at 9:56 a.m.  | 1      | Barbara Ringuette  | Excused               | 7      |
| Cindy Cleghorn    | Present               | 1      | David Hunter       | Present               | 7      |
| -----             | -----                 | 1      | -----              | -----                 | 7      |
| Brian Allen       | Excused               | 2      | Lynda Valencia     | Present               | 8      |
| Garry Fordyce     | Excused               | 2      | -----              | -----                 | 8      |
| Scott Wright      | Present               | 2      | -----              | -----                 | 8      |
| Glenn Bailey      | Present               | 3      | Elias Garcia       | Present               | 9      |
| David Uebersax    | Present               | 3      | -----              | -----                 | 9      |
| Jamie York        | Excused               | 3      | -----              | -----                 | 9      |
| Howard Katchen    | Absent                | 4      | Jennifer Goodie    | Excused               | 10     |
| Brandon Pender    | Present at 10:08 a.m. | 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 | Absent                | 11     |
| Ernesto Castro    | Absent                | 6      | Sheryl Akerblom    | Present at 10:15 a.m. | 12     |
| -----             | -----                 | 6      | Melanie Labrecque  | Excused               | 12     |
| -----             | -----                 | 6      | -----              | -----                 | 12     |

- I. Welcome and Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Kay Hartman at 9:33 a.m., with 10 members in attendance. No quorum was reached.
- II. Roll Call – See above.  
Also in attendance was Lena Ayvasian (Canoga Park Neighborhood Council) and Budget Representatives Lionel Mares (Sun Valley Neighborhood Council) and Miran Kalaydjian (Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council / President, Winnetka Neighborhood Council).
- III. Approval of minutes from meeting #5 October 2, 2023 – Item postponed, due to lack of quorum.
- IV. Public Comment
  - A. Lionel Mares thanked Kevin Davis for attending the Pacoima Neighborhood Council meetings and invited him to attend Sun Valley Neighborhood Council.
- V. Announcements
  - A. Announcements from DONE – John Darnell was not in attendance to provide announcements. He has asked to meet with Budget Advocates in November regarding planning for Budget Day in June 2024.

VI. New Business

A. MOTION to approve a 2023-2024 [budget](#) for the Budget Advocates

1. The Finance Committee drew up an initial 2023-2024 budget for the Budget Advocates. This can be changed as needed, but is intended to be used as a draft and guideline. No quorum was present to vote on the item.

B. Letter to the Mayor requesting money for Budget Day

1. Jennifer is writing a letter to the Mayor to request support for partial cost of Budget Day, on behalf of the Budget Advocates. Departmental budget requests are due by November 16 and the request is intended to be considered within the category of departmental budget planning.

C. Controller Mejia's Budget Educational Session: How The Budget Process REALLY Works! Thursday, October 26th, 7:00 pm – [RSVP bit.ly/lacontroller-budget](#)

1. The City Controller has scheduled an education event regarding the budget, in conjunction with its release. Budget Advocates would like to be considered and involved in matters regarding the budget, moving forward. Members are encouraged to RSVP and to attend, if possible.

VII. Old Business

A. Vacancies (Cindy Cleghorn) - Seeking Budget Advocates for the following regions – One each in regions 1, 4, 7, 10 and 12, and two each in regions 5, 6, 8, and 9.

1. Anyone interested in participating should contact the Co-Chairs or Parliamentarian.
2. The election for regions 1 and 7 will be going out today and allowing Council members 10 days to vote. This will allow a new member to be seated by the time of the next Budget Advocates meeting. Follow up with other regions will go out next, including with Aurora Corona in Region 6. Members are asked to continue spreading the word, especially in regions with additional vacancies.

B. Town Hall with Controller Kenneth Mejia

1. The Outreach Committee is arranging the event, which will be structured as a 30-minute presentation, followed by a question and answer period. Adjustments will be made, so as to not duplicate the Controller's October 26 event.

C. Visiting NCs to make Budget Advocates Reports – assignments? Any challenges?

1. Budget Advocates are reminded to visit their Neighborhood Councils for the purpose of providing reports and hearing constituent concerns. Each Council should be visited at least once a quarter, ideally every other month. Check that Councils are receiving the monthly reports and inform Co-Chairs if a Council is not including an agenda item for Budget Advocates announcements. Please also inform Co-chairs which member will be covering which Neighborhood Council, so constituents can be provided with a point of contact.
2. November 14 will be the last day for SB 411 to be approved or vetoed regarding hybrid meeting options, which could make it easier for Budget Advocates to attend multiple meetings.

D. Business Cards

1. Garry, Howard, Brandon and David Uebersax have requested personalized cards, which will be shipped to the recipients directly. Contact Co-Chairs to join the order. Cindy will help with the artwork.

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

1. Glenn and Kay met with Petty Santos (City Clerk's office)

- I. Petty Santos oversees the Neighborhood Council elections and the Neighborhood Council funding program in the City Clerk's office.
- II. Glenn and Kay suggested that Budget Advocates include a line item for Neighborhood Council Budget Day on the contribution form, based on the precedent set by the Congress of Neighborhoods. No member objections were raised to doing so.
- III. Petty took a note regarding the question of money going to "Budget Advocates" versus "budget advocacy" and said that the money would have to be for

Neighborhood Council use. She recommended meeting with the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) General Manager Vanessa Serrano.

2. Petty Santos and Vanessa Serrano both at 10/12/23 VANC meeting

1. A link is included here, providing a recording of the meetings with both Petty and Vanessa. Budget Advocates renewed the request to meet with Vanessa to discuss securing the approval of DONE and the City Clerk on the final decision. The request has not been denied and is separate from the original council file.

F. Restoring annual Neighborhood Council budget allocation

1. Based on approval of a previous motion, Jennifer Goodie will be creating a template CIS calling for the restoration of Neighborhood Council budgets to levels prior to the pandemic. Many Neighborhood Councils have expressed interest and support for the issue, and any are welcomed to lead the charge on the matter. Budget Advocates are invited to contribute to the CIS template, provided they do so in collaboration with Jennifer.
2. The Council File for this matter will be 24-0600, which will be available in Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

G. Department Meetings – start scheduling for October

1. Please update the list with any meeting or status updates.

H. Who do you know who is a Budget Rep who is not in this list?

1. Members are asked to update the list, or contact Co-Chairs, with any current information on Neighborhood Council Budget Representatives, presidents or treasurers.

I. The Mayor's Budget Memo

1. The Mayor gave departments the deadline of November 17, by which to submit their budget. Any meetings held before that date will have the potential to make an impact on how they proceed.
2. The upcoming shortfall was projected to be \$68 million but will likely be around \$44 million, given civilians, labor workers and the new labor contract. The Proposition HHH bond funds have been used toward addressing homelessness, as well as the one-time \$50 million from the general expenditure fund. Another \$500 million is therefore being sought. Jack Humphreville will outline this information for the monthly report to Neighborhood Councils.

VIII. Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee – Kay Hartman and Glenn Bailey Co-chairs

1. The committee met the second Saturday of the month and discussed many items on this agenda.

B. Finance Committee – Brian Allen, Chair

1. Brian was not in attendance to provide a report. The committee agreed on a draft budget to use as a placeholder, and to specify ongoing adjustments. Comments are welcome. An overall budget was discussed, as well as a preliminary budget for Budget Day, to secure the needed \$10,000 through a portion of City Hall expenses.

C. Outreach Committee – Jennifer Goodie, Chair

1. Jennifer was not in attendance to provide a report. Those wanting to participate on the committee should contact Jennifer and [labudgetadvocates@gmail.com](mailto:labudgetadvocates@gmail.com).

D. Bylaws Committee – Cindy Cleghorn, Chair

1. Cindy will work on Bylaws after elections are completed. Please review existing Bylaws and submit any notes to Cindy.

E. Training and Education Committee – Kevin Davis, Chair

1. Kevin has reached out to interested parties and is waiting for a response. Contact Kevin to join the committee and follow up with him directly, as needed

F. Ad Hoc Editing Committee – Kay Hartman, Chair

1. Contact Kay to join the committee. Kay, Miran and David Hunter will participate.

G. Ad Hoc Budget Day Committee

1. The Finance Committee has created an initial budget to use as a placeholder in submitting the budget request. The committee will be meeting with John Darnell in November to discuss plans and must meet previously in preparation. Jennifer Goodie, Melanie Labrecque, Jay Handal, Brandon Pender, Kay Hartman, Glenn Bailey, and Miran Kalaydjian are on the committee.

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 – CF 21-1187
- D. 4<sup>th</sup> Financial Status Report released – CF 22-0600-S104
- E. Tax and Revenue Anticipation Notes
- F. Mayor's 2023-2024 Budget Summary
- G. Any new Council Files?
  - 1. Two motions were introduced on October 10 regarding the implementation of SB 411:
    - I. Council File 23-1114 was approved on consent by the City Council Rules Committee. This would allow Neighborhood Councils to opt in by  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote to enable both board and work committees to meet virtually, as desired.
    - II. Council File 23-1113 was introduced, requesting a report back from DONE within 30 days regarding the issue of equipment, technology, support and other resources for hybrid meetings.
  - 2. Please inform Budget Advocates over the month of any additional Council Files.

X. Upcoming Meetings and Events

- A. Budget, Finance and Innovation Committee: Wednesday, October 25, 2023 at 2:30 p.m.
- B. LANCC: Saturday, November 4, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.
- C. Budget Advocates Monday, November 6, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
- D. BONC Tuesday, November 7, 2023 6:00 p.m. (Code of Conduct approval)
- E. Budget, Finance and Innovation Committee: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at 2:30 p.m.
- F. Budget Advocates: Saturday, November 18, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.
- G. BONC Monday, November 20, 2023 1:00 p.m.

XI. Items for Future Meeting Agendas

- A. Send items for future agendas to [labudgetadvocates@gmail.com](mailto:labudgetadvocates@gmail.com) or to the Co-Chairs directly.

XII. Adjournment – Co-Chairs Kay Hartman and Glenn Bailey adjourned the meeting at 10:41 a.m.

Next meeting on November 6 at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes of Budget Advocate Meeting #5 (October 21)

ELSPETH WEINGARTEN

October 31, 2023