

# CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS  
**EMPOWER LA**  
Department of  
NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

## BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS

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## BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS

### SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES - APPROVED

Monday, August 3, 2020 6:00 PM

Zoom Meeting Online or By Telephone

To Join the Meeting Dial: (669) 900-6833 or one of the following  
Toll Free Telephone Numbers:  
(833) 548 0282, (888) 475 4499, (877) 853 5257, (833) 548 0276

The toll free feature eliminates long-distance call charges for participants. However, other telephone charges may apply from a participant's phone carrier.

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You can also join the meeting online by clicking on this link to join the webinar:  
<https://zoom.us/j/96594814829>.

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IN CONFORMITY WITH THE GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER N-29-20 (MARCH 17, 2020) AND DUE TO CONCERNS OVER COVID-19, THE BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED ENTIRELY TELEPHONICALLY.

SI REQUIERE SERVICIOS DE TRADUCCIÓN, FAVOR DE NOTIFICAR A LA OFICINA 3 días de trabajo (72 horas) ANTES DEL EVENTO. SI NECESITA ASISTENCIA CON ESTA NOTIFICACIÓN, POR FAVOR LLAME A NUESTRA OFICINA AL (213) 978-1551.

Every person wishing to address the Commission must dial (669) 900-9128, and enter 965 9481 4829 and then press # to join the meeting. Instructions on how to sign up for public comment will be given to listeners at the start of the meeting.

The amount of time for public comment on each agenda item is to be determined by the Chair at each meeting. Speakers shall limit their comments to matters relevant to the item on the agenda. The Chair may rule that the speaker is out of order if the comments are not germane to the item under consideration. If multiple requests for public comment are submitted on one agenda item, preference will be granted to members of the public who

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have not spoken previously during the meeting, either during general public comment or on another agenda item.

A member of the public wishing to speak on more than one agenda item at a single meeting shall limit his or her remarks to a total of five (5) minutes per meeting. Members of the public who want to speak on multiple agenda items for up to five (5) minutes at one time can choose to speak during the Multiple Agenda Items Comment period. Members of the public who choose to speak during the Multiple Agenda Items period will be given the opportunity to also speak during General Public Comment.

Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Board’s jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. General Public Comment is limited to 15 minutes maximum. No individual speaker will be allowed more than two (2) minutes during General Public Comment, unless the presiding officer of the Board decides differently.

As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and upon request will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities. Sign language interpreters, assisted listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least 3 business days (72 hours) prior to the meeting by contacting the Department at (213) 978-1551.

The agenda is posted for public review in the Main Street Lobby of City Hall East at 200 North Main Street. The Agenda and report(s) related to an agenda item will be available for review at [www.Empowerla.org](http://www.Empowerla.org).

Telecommunication Relay Services

Telecommunications Relay Service is a telephone service that allows persons with hearing or speech disabilities to place and receive telephone calls. If you have limitations hearing or speaking a specially-trained Communications Assistant (CA) can relay telephone conversations for all of your calls. In California, dial **711** to reach the California Relay Service (CRS). If you prefer having your calls immediately answered in your mode of communication, dial one of the toll-free modality- and language-specific numbers below. The call will be routed to the CRS provider.

Type of Call	Language	Toll-free 800 Number
TTY/VCO/HCO to Voice	English	1-800-735-2929
	Spanish	1-800-855-3000
Voice to TTY/VCO/HCO	English	1-800-735-2922
	Spanish	1-800-855-3000
From or to Speech-to- Speech	English & Spanish	1-800-854-7784

Federal regulations specify very strict confidentiality requirements for CAs of all Relay services. No part of the conversation that takes place between callers is revealed or recorded in written, verbal, or any other form. CRS CAs do not participate in the conversation and acquire no benefit from information relayed.

Notice to Paid Representatives If you are compensated to monitor, attend, or speak at this meeting, City law may require you to register as a lobbyist and report your activity. See Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 48.01 et seq. More information is available at [ethics.lacity.org/lobbying](http://ethics.lacity.org/lobbying). For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at {213} 978-1960 or [ethics.commission@lacity.org](mailto:ethics.commission@lacity.org).

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1. [6:03 PM] **Introduction (5 minutes).**

Commissioner Lipmen acknowledged the death of the Honorable John Lewis, former member of the U.S. of House Representatives. Commissioner Atkinson reflected on her interactions with Mr. Lewis. A moment of silence was observed in honor of the Honorable John Lewis.

2. [6:12 PM] **Call to Order and Commission roll call (1 minute).**

Commissioner	Present	Absent
Atkinson	X	
Lipmen	X	
Shaffer	X	
Darett-Quiroz	X	
Wehbe	X	
Regalado	X	
Vo-Ramirez	X	

3. [6:15 PM] **Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting 07/20/2020.** [[Board of Neighborhood Commissioner Regular Meeting Minutes 07.20.2020-DRAFT](#) ]

Public Comment: Cindy Cleghorn and Josh Nadel

Commission Comment: Commissioner Shaffer

Action: Commissioner Darett-Quiroz made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of 7/20/2020 pending a correction to the total count of commissioners on agenda item sixteen (16). Commissioner Atkinson seconded the motion with the correction. Motion was approved.

VOTE	Mover	Darett-Quiroz	Second	Atkinson
<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Ayes</b>	<b>Nays</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Atkinson	X			
Lipmen	X			
Shaffer	X			
Darett-Quiroz	X			
Wehbe	X			
Regalado	X			
Vo-Ramirez	X			
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>			
<b>Motion</b>	<b>Carries</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Fails</b>	

4. [6:18 PM] **Multiple Agenda Items Comment (15 minutes)** – Comments by members of the public who want to speak on all items for up to five minutes at one time can choose to speak during the Multiple Agenda Items Comment period. Members of the public who choose to speak during the Multiple Agenda Items period will be given the opportunity to also speak during General Public

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Comments. This agenda item will last a total of 15 minutes and no individual speaker will be allowed more than five minutes.

Public Comment: Cindy Cleghorn, Jennifer Goodie, Josh Nadel, Eva Greene, Glenn Bailey, Lee Blumenfield, Gemma Marquez, Alexandria Naseef, Maebe A. Girl, Mihran Kalaydjian, Reynold Blight and Rachael Rose Luckey

Commission Comment: None

5. [6:52 PM] **General Public Comments (15 minutes)** - Comments from the public on non-agenda items within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction. This agenda item will last a total of 15 minutes and no individual speaker will be allowed more than two minutes.

Public Comment: Helen Fallon, Rd Plasschaert, Maebe A. Girl, Gemma Marquez, Alexandria Naseef, Lee Blumenfield, Joy Enix and Gilbert Arevalo

Commission Comment: None

6. [7:14 PM] **Discussion with Neighborhood Council (NC) representatives.** This item pertains to any Neighborhood Council Resolution or Community Impact Statement filed with the City Clerk which relates to any agenda item listed or being considered on this agenda for the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners.

Public Comment: None

Commission Comment: None

7. [7:14 PM] **Verbal updates from elected representatives (10 minutes).** Representatives include: Office of the Mayor, Los Angeles City Council, and other City representatives.

D.O.N.E. Department Representative: Raquel Beltrán

Public Comment: None

Commission Comment: None

8. [6:47 PM] **Verbal updates from Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates (10 minutes)** – Representatives provide input to the City on the City's Budget. Additional information regarding the Budget Advocates is available at <http://ncbala.com/>.

Public Comment: Jack Humphreville and Lee Blumenfield

Commission Comment: None

9. [7:17 PM] **General Manager's Report. (10 minutes).**

- a. Staffing, budget, elections and other operational matters.
- b. Briefing on Department Operations during the COVID-19 declared local emergency.

D.O.N.E. Department Representative: Raquel Beltrán

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Public Comment: Julianna Lassleben, Melanie Labrecque, Laurie Jacobs, Joy Enix, Jacqueline Bandejeaux and Adriana De La Cruz

Commission Comment: Commissioner Wehbe, Commissioner Daret-Quiroz, Commissioner Atkinson, Commissioner Lipmen and Commissioner Shaffer

**10. [8:02 PM] Presentation from the Office of the City Clerk regarding an overview of the City’s vendor procurement process. (10 minutes) ([See Presentation](#))**

City Clerk Office Representative: Jeffrey Brill

City Attorney Representative: Elise Ruden

Public Comment: Laurie Jacobs, Karen Ceaser, Sharon Brewer, Danielle Sandoval, Sydney Yarbrough-Baune and Rd Plasschaert

Commission Comment: Commissioner Lipmen and Commissioner Shaffer

**11. [8:37 PM] Discussion and Possible Motion on Bylaws Amendment and Board Structure Change for the Echo Park Neighborhood Council.** Echo Park Neighborhood Council is requesting to modify their Board structure to maintain their total Board size by:

1. Reducing the number of At-Large Representatives from nine (9) to eight (8) seats.
2. Adding one (1) new Youth Representative seat, which shall be elected.

The Department recommends that the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners:

1. **FIND** the Echo Park Neighborhood Council’s request to change their Board structure consistent with the principles governing a Certified Neighborhood Council’s purpose and operations per Article VI, Section 3c of the Plan for a Citywide System of Neighborhood Councils; and
2. **APPROVE** the change to the Echo Park Neighborhood Council’s bylaws.

[[EPNC Approved Bylaws 07282020](#), [EPNC Bylaw Amendment Request Documents Board Structure Change](#), [EPNC Bylaws Amendment Application March 2020](#), [EPNC Bylaws approved 20181016](#) ]

D.O.N.E. Department Representative: Raquel Beltrán, Jose Galdamez and Mike Fong

Public Comment: Darcy Harris, Sharon Brewer, Steve Randall and Reynold Blight

Commission Comment: Commissioner Shaffer

Action: Commissioner Shaffer made a motion to approve the change to the Echo Park Neighborhood Council’s bylaws. Commissioner Atkinson seconded the motion. Motion was approved

VOTE	Mover	Shaffer	Second	Atkinson
Commissioner	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Atkinson	X			
Lipmen	X			

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<b>Shaffer</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Darett-Quiroz</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Wehbe</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Regalado</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Vo-Ramirez</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>			
<b>Motion</b>	<b>Carries</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Fails</b>	

**12. [8:53 PM] Discussion and possible action on creating a fair and equitable NC funding model. Guiding principles include (15 minutes):**

- a. California Air Resources Board representative brief on the [CalEnviroScreen 3.0](#)
- b. Addressing the best allocation of NC funds during an era of fiscal austerity
- c. Allocating the same amount of guaranteed "Base" funding
- d. Allocating a variable amount ("Plus") funding by factoring in verifiable Resident Stakeholder population and
- e. Neighborhood Councils with "Priority Populations" (determined by the State of California's [SB 535 Disadvantaged Communities](#) and [AB 1550 Low-Income Communities](#))

Public Comment: Danielle Mead, Jaqueline Badejeaux, Melanie Labrecque, Jualiana Lasseben, Maebe A. Girl, Lisa Chapman, Sharon Brewer, George Skarpelos, Laurie Jacobs and Joy Enix

Commission Comment: Commissioner Shaffer, Commissioner Lipmen and Commissioner Regalado

**13. [9:29 PM] Commission Business. (15 minutes) - Comment from Commissioners on matters within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction.**

- a. Brief report on Commissioners' own activities/brief announcements.
- b. Brief response to statements made or questions posed by persons exercising their general public comment rights/ask staff questions for clarification.
- c. Introduce new issues for consideration by the Commission at its next meeting and direct staff to place on the agenda.
- d. Ask staff to research issues and report back to the Commission at a future time.

Public Comment: None

Commission Comment: Commissioner Shaffer and Commissioner Regalado

**14. [9:36 PM] Adjourn**

Action: Commissioner Shaffer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Regalado seconded the motion. Motion was approved

<b>VOTE</b>	<b>Mover</b>	<b>Shaffer</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Regalado</b>
<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Ayes</b>	<b>Nays</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Atkinson</b>	<b>X</b>			

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Lipmen	X			
Shaffer	X			
Darett-Quiroz	X			
Wehbe	X			
Regalado	X			
Vo-Ramirez	X			
Total	7			
Motion	Carries	X	Fails	

**Future Board of Neighborhood Commissioners Meetings (INFORMATION ONLY)** *(Please note: The items listed below are tentative and may be subject to change. You are encouraged to visit the City's website at [www.lacity.org](http://www.lacity.org) to view Commission agendas and [subscribe](#) through the City's Early Notification System Subscription page to receive the Commission's agendas via email.)*

- Regular Meeting on Tuesday, August 4, 2020 at 6:00pm - CANCELLED
- Regular Meeting on Monday, August 17, 2020 at 1:00pm – Zoom Webinar – Connection Information TBD
- Regular Meeting on Tuesday, September 1, 2020 at 6:00pm – Zoom Webinar – Connection Information TBD

**FINALIZATION OF BOARD ACTION:**

Per City Charter Section 245, the Board's determination shall become final at the expiration of the next five meeting days of the Council during which the City Council has convened in regular session, unless the City Council acts within that timeframe by a two-thirds vote to bring the action before them or to waive review of the action.

**EXHAUSTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES:**

If you challenge these agenda items in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing or in written correspondence on these matters delivered to this agency at or prior to the public hearing. California Code of Civil Procedure Section 1094.6 governs the time in which a party may seek judicial review of this determination. Under that provision, a petitioner may seek judicial review of any decision of the City pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure Section 1094.5 only if the petition for Writ of Mandate pursuant to that section is filed no later than the 90th day following the date on which the City's decision became final.

**RECONSIDERATION:**

The Commission may make a **MOTION TO RECONSIDER** and alter its action taken on any item listed on this agenda at any time during this meeting, or make a **MOTION TO RECONSIDER** at its next regular meeting as indicated below:

If the Commission moves and approves a Motion for Reconsideration at the *initial* meeting wherein an action was taken, then the underlying item may be reconsidered at that time.

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If the Commission moves and approves a Motion for Reconsideration at *the next regular meeting* then consideration of the item may *only* occur at this regularly scheduled meeting if the item for consideration has been placed on that meeting's agenda. If the underlying item for reconsideration has not been placed on the agenda for that next regular meeting, then it shall be considered at a subsequent meeting pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown Act.

**PUBLIC ACCESS OF RECORDS:**

In compliance with Government Code Section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners in advance of their meetings, may be viewed at the office of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, located at City Hall, 20<sup>th</sup> Floor, 200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90012, by clicking on the Department's Web site at <http://www.EmpowerLA.org> or at the Commission meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, contact the Department at (213) 978-1551 or via e-mail: [Commission@EmpowerLA.org](mailto:Commission@EmpowerLA.org).





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## Comment regarding "fair and equitable" NC funding allocation

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Monica Waggoner <monica@atwatervillage.org>

Mon, Aug 3, 2020 at 3:38 PM

To: Commission@empowerla.org

Greetings,

I serve on the Atwater Village Neighborhood Council. My comments here are my own, not reflective of any position adopted by the AVNC.

While I feel that the City has done us all a great disservice by further cutting Neighborhood Council budget allocations, resulting in less than a 1% savings to the overall budget, but a net real-dollar reduction of 48% compared to our 2007 allocations (\$50,000 which has the same buying power as \$61,866 today), I understand that BONC is not taking up that particular issue.

However, I would ask that you consider in any change to the allocation formula the extent to which a particular Neighborhood Council has City-owned property within its boundaries that can be used as meeting space, office space, or storage space, and therefore how much that NC must pay in rental of such spaces where the City does not have property. In our case, we have only \*one\* City-owned meeting room, in our local library, which is adequate for committee meetings but closes no later than 8 p.m., rendering it infeasible for much of our business. We are reliant on local restaurants, churches, and other businesses to provide meeting space for our general meetings and most of our committee meetings. We also have to rent a storage space for our outreach materials and event equipment, and we are unable to procure our own printing and computing equipment for lack of an office to set it up in; this results in additional costs incurred for printing materials.

Given that some NCs are more apt to expend their full budget than others, I would also recommend the following:

- 1) \*Ban\* the practice of sweeping unexpended funds into the City's General Fund.
- 2) Create an NC grants fund, where unexpended, un-rolled-over funds are swept.
- 3) Allow NCs to apply to this fund for additional funding, in the event they have exhausted their annual budget.

Thank you,

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Monica Waggoner  
Education Representative  
Atwater Village Neighborhood Council  
she/her pronouns  
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[www.atwatervillage.org](http://www.atwatervillage.org)

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## Regarding re-allocation of funds for NCs

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**Eliot Hochberg** <eliot.hochberg@palmsnc.la>

Mon, Aug 3, 2020 at 2:06 PM

To: Commission@empowerla.org

Hello!

I heard about tonight's BONC special meeting, and don't know if I can attend. But I thought I'd take a chance and submit my personal view.

First, I agree that allocating by population makes sense. In Palms, we get less attention due to the transient nature of much of our stakeholders. This means it's much harder to do outreach; I assume that's true for other NCs with larger populations. To me, this is the most crucial function of the NCs: get stakeholders involved in L.A. policy, and outreach is our main job.

Second, I would support giving more funds to those areas who historically have not had enough of a voice. Especially now, given the spectrum of experiences we have as relates to policing, public safety, and other important government issues.

Third, I believe that DONE needs to be held accountable to do more work regarding outreach. My experience so far is that DONE outreach is a team of followers, not leaders. Given that our elected terms are 2 years in some NCs, and often not longer than 4 years, I think it behooves DONE to do more city-wide awareness work, and to provide more support for incoming board members who can take up to a year to come up to speed and then get anything accomplished. However, they need the staff, resources, and support to do this. I would support plans that allowed DONE to have white label tools that allow NCs to simply plug in and leverage for outreach and events. And I think DONE should, instead of informal "Hey, what have you done that works?" sessions, instead initiate packages that would make it easier for NCs to budget and execute events. Imagine if an NC could ask their DONE rep how to host a community day, and the rep could say "Here's everything you need, fill out the numbers and then we can review it to make sure it will sail through permitting and approvals." That's what I'd like to see, and I could see reducing NC budgets in exchange for some of that kind of service.

Finally, I have seen that we are getting more meaningful participation through Zoom. While I have concern about that specific platform, I think if DONE can provide the tools that having online meetings be more standard would make it easier for us to get people involved. I don't think it should be a complete replacement, but having it as an option in future I think would make for a better overall result for NCs.

Thanks,

Eliot

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