



CITY OF
LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA



P.O. BOX 4670, WEST HILLS, CA 91308
WWW.WESTHILLSNC.ORG
MAIL@WESTHILLSNC.ORG

WEST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

SPECIAL JOINT BOARD and BYLAWS AD HOC COMMITTEE ONLINE AND TELEPHONIC MEETING AGENDA **Tuesday January 25, 2022 at 7:30 PM**

In conformity with the September 16, 2021 enactment of California Assembly Bill 361 (Rivas) and due to concerns over Covid-19, the West Hills Neighborhood Council meeting will be conducted entirely with a call-in option or internet based service option. All are invited to attend and participate.

This meeting of the West Hills Neighborhood Council Bylaws Committee will be conducted online via Zoom Webinar and telephonically. All are invited to attend and participate.

To attend online via Zoom Webinar, paste the following link into your browser:

<https://zoom.us/j/82813378324>

To call in by phone, dial toll-free **833-548-0276**, then punch in this Webinar code when prompted: **828 1337 8324#**.

This meeting is open to the public. Comments on matters not on the agenda will be heard during the Public Comment period. Those who wish to speak on an agenda item will be heard when the item is considered.

AB 361 Updates: Public Comment cannot be required to be submitted in advance of the meeting, only real-time public comment is required. If there are any broadcasting interruptions that prevent the public from observing or hearing the meeting, the meeting must be recessed or adjourned. If members of the public are unable to provide public comment or be heard due to issues within the Neighborhood Council's control, the meeting must be recessed or adjourned.

1. Call to Order
2. Comments from the Co-Chairs
3. Public Comment
4. Discussion and Possible Action to Amend the WHNC Standing Rules: ARTICLE VII COMMITTEES AND THEIR DUTIES - Section 3: Committee Creation and Authorization
5. Discussion and Possible Action on adding a Youth Seat by amending Article V and Attachment B of the WHNC Bylaws:
6. Discussion and Possible Action on Bylaws Package for Submission to DONE
7. General Discussion of Proposals for Bylaws or Standing Rules Amendments
8. Adjournment - The next scheduled meeting of this committee is TBD.

Public Input: The public is requested to fill out a Speaker Card to address the Board on any agenda item before the Board takes an action on an item. Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. 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. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Board is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, an issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future committee meeting. Public comment is limited to two minutes per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the committee.

Public Posting Of Agendas: WHNC agendas are posted for public review at Shadow Ranch Park, 22633 Vanowen St., West Hills, CA 91307 or at our website, www.westhillsnc.org. You can also receive our agendas via email by subscribing to the City of Los Angeles Early Notification System at

www.lacity.org/government/Subscriptions/NeighborhoodCouncils/index.

The Americans With Disabilities Act: 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, assistive listening devices and other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least three business days (72 hours) prior to the meeting you wish to attend by contacting the WHNC's executive director via email at Michelle.Ritchie@westhillsnc.org. If you are hearing impaired please call 711.

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 in advance of a meeting may be viewed at the meeting where such writing was considered or by contacting the WHNC's executive director via email at Michelle.Ritchie@westhillsnc.org. Requests can be made for a copy of a record related to an item on the agenda.

Reconsideration and Grievance Process: For information on the WHNC's process for board action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy or any other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the WHNC Bylaws. The Bylaws are available at our website, www.WestHillsNC.org.

Servicios De Traduccion: Si requieres servicios de traducción, favor de avisar al Concejo Vecinal 3 días de trabajo (72 horas) antes del evento. Por favor contacte Michelle.Ritchie@westhillsnc.org

Rev 04/17

**Agenda Item #4: Discussion and Possible Action to Amend the WHNC Standing Rules:
ARTICLE VII COMMITTEES AND THEIR DUTIES
Section 3: Committee Creation and Authorization**

PRIORITY OF NEW MEMBERS TO SERVE ON COMMITTEES

(1) Any new sworn-in board member (NEW MEMBER), who has requested within six (6) months of being sworn in, shall have the right to priority on serving on any committee that has, or may claim to have, reached its limitations of persons allowed to serve, or any other reason, for which time of service has not been established as a requirement to serve, to be a member of any such committees over any other person that a new board member has beaten out in an election. This right shall also usurp the service of those who are not previous members beaten out in an election, but those to whom are stakeholders in the event that there are limitations on the amount of members allowed in a specific committee. Any request by a NEW MEMBER cannot be rejected;

(2) The chair of a committee or its members shall not have the sole power to reject a NEW MEMBER'S request to join a committee. Any attempt to do so may be held as sanctionable conduct. If such rejection occurs within the committee, the new member will be permitted to take up the rejection at a full board meeting at any time, without notice, and the full board will be allowed to override any such committee's vote. The committee and new member will be bound by such vote by the board.

(3) This rule shall be retroactive to our council's last election of May 04, 2021.

Agenda Item #5: Discussion and Possible Action on adding a Youth Seat by amending Article V and Attachment B of the WHNC Bylaws:

ARTICLE V GOVERNING BOARD The Board of Directors (or "the Board") shall be the governing body of the WHNC within the meaning of that term. Section 1: Composition the WHNC Board shall consist of twenty-five (25) Directors (or Board Members) elected by the stakeholders on an "at-large" basis. And one (1) Youth Board Member - Open to Stakeholders between the ages of fourteen (14) years or older and no more than seventeen (17) years of age, at the time of election or selection. The Board shall not include more than four (4) Directors who do not live, work, or own property in West Hills.

Attachment B: 1. Set term length; and 2. Choose elected or appointed

West Hills Neighborhood Council Bylaws

Approved: ~~November 18, 2020~~ TBD

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ARTICLE I NAME

The name of this neighborhood council shall be the West Hills Neighborhood Council or WHNC.

ARTICLE II PURPOSE

The purpose of the WHNC is to promote the welfare of West Hills and the City of Los Angeles.

1. The MISSION of the WHNC is:

To provide a forum in which West Hills stakeholders can learn about issues that affect the community and express their concerns and ideas; to recommend actions by government officials to address the needs of the West Hills community; to promote communication between Stakeholders and all levels of government; and to foster pride and participation in addressing the needs of the community.

2. The POLICY of the Council is:

To respect the expression of viewpoints of all individuals, groups and organizations involved with the community; to remain nonpartisan regarding candidates, political parties and religious affiliations; to encourage all Stakeholders to participate in the activities of the WHNC; and to prohibit discrimination against any individual or group in WHNC policies, recommendations, actions or operations on the basis of race, religion, color, creed, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, age, impairment, marital status, homeowner/renter, income or political affiliation.

ARTICLE III BOUNDARIES

The WHNC covers a geographic area described below.

Section 1: Boundary Description

The boundaries about the boundaries of adjacent Neighborhood Councils and include those areas of the City within the following lines of demarcation:

- A. North – From the center of the intersection of Topanga Canyon Boulevard and Nordhoff Street going west along the centerline of Nordhoff Street to its end, and continuing that line westward to the Los Angeles city limits;
- B. East – From the center of the intersection of Nordhoff Street and Topanga Canyon Boulevard going south along the centerline of Topanga Canyon

Boulevard to the center of the intersection of Topanga Canyon Boulevard and Roscoe Boulevard, then west along the centerline of Roscoe Boulevard to the center of the intersection of Roscoe Boulevard and Shoup Avenue, then south along the centerline of Shoup Avenue to the center of the intersection of Shoup Avenue and Victory Boulevard;

- C. South – From the center of the intersection of Victory Boulevard and Shoup Avenue going west along the centerline of Victory Boulevard to the city limits;
- D. West – From the intersection of the centerline of Victory Boulevard and the city’s western limits going north along the city limits to the northern boundary of West Hills.
- E. In addition, the West Hills Neighborhood Council and the Woodland Hills-Warner Center Neighborhood Council share jurisdiction over the property and grounds of the Platt Branch Library, 23600 Victory Blvd.

The boundaries of the WHNC are set forth on the map of the WHNC boundaries attached as Attachment A.

Section 2: Internal Boundaries

Not applicable.

ARTICLE IV STAKEHOLDER

Neighborhood Council membership is open to all Stakeholders. A “Stakeholder” shall be defined as any individual who:

- (1) Lives, works, or owns real property within the boundaries of the neighborhood council; or
- (2) Is a Community Interest Stakeholder, defined as an individual who is a member of or participates in a Community Organization within the boundaries of the neighborhood council.

A “Community Organization” is an entity that has continuously maintained a physical street address within the boundaries of the neighborhood council for not less than one year, and that performs ongoing and verifiable activities and operations that confer some benefit on the community within the boundaries of the neighborhood council. A for-profit entity shall not qualify as a Community Organization. Examples of Community Organizations may include Chambers of Commerce, houses of worship or other faith-based organizations, educational institutions, or non-profit organizations.

[The definition of “Stakeholder” and its related terms are defined by City Ordinance and cannot be changed without City Council action. See Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 22.801.1]

ARTICLE V GOVERNING BOARD

The Board of Directors (or “the Board”) shall be the governing body of the WHNC within the meaning of that term.

Section 1: Composition

The WHNC Board shall consist of twenty-five (25) Directors (or Board Members) elected by the stakeholders on an “at-large” basis. The Board shall not include more than four (4) Directors who do not live, work, or own property in West Hills.

No single Stakeholder group shall hold a majority of Board seats unless extenuating circumstances exist and are approved by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (“Department”).

DONE recommendation

When a Board Member ceases to maintain their stakeholder status pursuant to these Bylaws, their position shall be deemed vacant.

If the Stakeholder status of a Board Member is in question, then the Department will verify status using the Department’s procedure, at the request of the Board.

Section 2: Quorum

The quorum shall be thirteen (13) Directors of the Board. No floating quorums are allowed.

Section 3: Official Actions

The Board shall take official action by a simple majority of yes and no votes cast by the Directors present at a duly noticed regular or special Board meeting, not to include abstentions. There shall be no proxy voting.

Section 4: Terms and Term Limits

Board members shall serve staggered four (4) year terms. Twelve (12) or more Board seats will be decided in each regular election with the remaining Directors serving terms that extend until the next regular election. There will be no limits to the number of terms a person may serve on the Board.

Section 5: Duties and Powers of Board Members

Duties of Board Members:

The duties of Board Members include advancing the Purpose and Mission of the WHNC

by:

1. Participating in regularly scheduled Board meetings;
2. Serving actively on at least one (1) committee of the WHNC;
3. Participating in WHNC actions and events;
4. Representing the interests of Stakeholders before public officials and government agencies;
5. Encouraging the participation of Stakeholders in WHNC activities and events;
6. Assisting Stakeholders in obtaining government services.

Powers of Board Members:

The powers of Board Members include:

1. Making proposals of actions for consideration by the Board.
2. Voting on proposals of action brought before the Board.
3. Serving as Chairs of WHNC committees.

Section 6: Vacancies on the Board

Vacancies on the Board shall be filled using the following procedure:

- A.** When a vacancy is created on the Board, the vacancy shall be announced at the next regular meeting of the Board. The WHNC President shall form an Ad Hoc Vacancy Committee. An application period shall be opened for a minimum of thirty (30) days, and application instructions shall be posted on the WHNC website and promoted via social media.
- B.** Any qualified Stakeholder interested in filling a vacant seat on the Board shall submit an application to the Ad Hoc Vacancy Committee. Application forms shall be available on the WHNC website or obtained by written request to the Chair of the Ad Hoc Vacancy Committee.
- C.** The Ad Hoc Vacancy Committee shall meet no later than 15 days after the filing deadline. The committee shall review the applications to ensure that the applicants are eligible to hold the office and are otherwise qualified to undertake the level of participation expected of Directors of the Board of the WHNC.
- D.** The committee shall submit all applications and shall make a recommendation of a qualified candidate within a reasonable time frame. The President shall have the filling of the vacancy placed on the agenda for a vote at the next Board meeting.
- E.** The votes of the Board shall be taken and the seat shall be filled by a vote of a simple majority. If no candidate has a simple majority after the first vote, the Chair shall call for subsequent votes with candidates who received a low number of votes in the previous round eliminated from consideration.
- F.** When the aforementioned process fills a vacant seat, that seat shall be filled for the remainder of the term for that seat.
- G.** In no event shall a vacant seat be filled when a general election or selection is scheduled for that seat within 60 days.

Section 7: Absences

A Board member who has been absent from five (5) of the previous twelve (12) regular or special meetings of the Board shall be subject to removal from the Board under procedures established by the Board. A Board member shall not be considered "absent" for purposes of this section when he or she attends a conflicting meeting or event as an official representative of the West Hills Neighborhood Council.

Any meeting of the WHNC Governing Board scheduled and noticed as per the Brown Act, shall constitute a meeting for the purpose of determining Board Member attendance with the exception that missing any joint board/committee meeting shall not count as an absence for this purpose.

Section 8: Censure

The purpose of the censure process is to place a Board member on notice of misconduct and to provide the Board member with an opportunity to correct the misconduct. The Neighborhood Council ("Neighborhood Council") may censure any Board member at a regular or special meeting open to the public following a good-faith determination by the Neighborhood Council Board that the member has engaged in conduct that is contrary to rules and regulations applicable to the Board or that impedes the orderly business of Board operations. Grounds for censure include, but are not limited to, persistent disruptive conduct at meetings, violations or abuses of the Board's bylaws or rules, violations of the Code of Conduct, acting on behalf of the Board without authorization, and misuse or abuse of the censure or removal process by acting in bad faith.

The Board shall use the following procedure when censuring a Board member:

1. A motion to censure a Board member may be initiated by any three (3) Board members. Those Board members shall not constitute a majority of the quorum of any Neighborhood Council body, such as a committee. The motion shall be delivered to any officer of the Board or a specific officer or member of the Board as may be specified in the bylaws or standing rules of the Neighborhood Council. The motion shall be in writing and provide the specific facts and grounds for the proposed censure including the date(s) and specific conduct relied upon for the motion. The motion shall not be based upon conclusions, e.g., "for alleged violations of the Code of Conduct" but shall contain factual statements that describe conduct only and is not intended to embarrass or humiliate the board member.
2. The Board member, group of Board members or committee responsible for setting the final Board agenda shall include the motion on the agenda of the next regular or special Board meeting scheduled at least thirty (30) days following the delivery of the proposed censure motion.
3. The Board member subject to censure shall be given a minimum of thirty (30) days prior-written notice, which may include email sent to the last email address on file with the Neighborhood Council, of any meeting at which the motion to censure will be considered. The notice shall provide the specific facts and grounds for the proposed censure as specified in 1 above. The Board shall also provide a copy of the notice to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to the meeting at which the motion to censure will be considered.

4. The Board member subject to censure shall be given a reasonable opportunity to be heard at the meeting, either orally or in writing, prior to the Board's vote on a motion of censure.
5. The Board shall decide by a majority vote of those present and voting whether or not the Board member should be censured. The Board member who is the subject of the censure motion shall not be counted as part of the majority present and voting and shall not be allowed to vote. For the purpose of censure motions, abstentions shall not be counted as votes.
6. In no event shall a motion to censure a board member be heard by the Neighborhood Council within sixty (60) days of the next scheduled Board election or selection.

Section 9: Removal of Governing Board Members

Any Board member may be removed by the Neighborhood Council ("Neighborhood Council") for cause, following a good faith determination by the Board that the member has engaged in conduct that is contrary to rules and regulations applicable to the Board or that impedes the orderly business of Board operations. A Board member shall not be subject to removal under this Policy, unless the member has been censured at least once pursuant to the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners' ("Commission") Censure Policy. Grounds for removal include, but are not limited to, persistent disruptive conduct at meetings, violations or abuses of the Board's bylaws or standing rules, violations of the Code of Conduct, acting on behalf of the Board without authorization, and misuse or abuse of the censure or removal processes by acting in bad faith.

The Board shall use the following procedure when removing a Board member:

1. A motion to remove a Board member may be initiated by any three (3) Board members. Those Board members shall not constitute a majority of the quorum of any Neighborhood Council body, such as a committee. The proposed motion shall be delivered to any officer of the Board or a specific officer or member of the Board as may be specified in the bylaws or standing rules of the Neighborhood Council. The motion shall be in writing and provide the specific facts and grounds for the proposed removal action including the date(s) and specific conduct relied upon for the motion. The motion shall not be based upon conclusions, e.g., "for alleged violations of the Code of Conduct" but shall contain factual statements that describes conduct only and is not intended to embarrass or humiliate the board member. The motion to remove shall also include a copy of the prior censure motion and the date it was passed.
2. The Board member, group of Board members or committee responsible for setting the final Board agenda shall list and briefly describe the motion on the agenda of the next regular or special Board meeting scheduled at least thirty (30) days following the delivery of the proposed removal motion.
3. The Board member subject to removal shall be given a minimum of thirty (30) days prior written notice, which may include email sent to the last email address on file with the Neighborhood Council, of any meeting at which a motion to remove will be heard. The notice shall provide the specific facts and grounds for the proposed removal as

specified in 1 above. The Board shall also provide a copy of the notice to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to any meeting at which a motion to remove will be considered.

4. The Board member subject to removal shall be given reasonable time to be heard at the meeting, either orally or in writing, prior to the Board's vote on a motion for removal.
5. The Board shall decide whether or not the Board member should be removed by an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the currently sitting Board members. The Board member who is the subject of the removal motion shall not be allowed to vote and shall not be counted when determining the two-thirds (2/3) majority vote. For the purpose of the removal motion, abstentions shall not be counted as votes.
6. In no event shall a motion to remove a Board member be heard by the Neighborhood Council within sixty (60) days of the next election or selection.
7. The Commission may review a Neighborhood Council's removal decision if requested to do so by the affected Board member. Once the request is made for the Commission to review the decision to remove, the Neighborhood Council voting to remove the board member may not fill the vacancy created by the removal until the Commission has made a decision on whether the removal was proper or the Commission declines to review the matter. The Commission's decision whether to hear or decline to hear the removal review request shall be sent in writing to the requestor and the Neighborhood Council within 30 days after the request for review is delivered.
8. A request for the Commission to review a Neighborhood Council's removal decision shall proceed as follows:
 - a. The request must be in writing and must be delivered to the Executive Assistant of the Commission or, in the absence of an Executive Assistant, to the President of the Commission within thirty (30) days of the date of the action by the Neighborhood Council to remove the Boardmember.
 - b. The request must state the basis for the review. The request shall not cite or present any evidence not considered by the Neighborhood Council but must address only procedural deficiencies.
 - c. If the Commission determines the request for review raises sufficient questions regarding procedural deficiencies and agrees to hear the review, it will be placed on the agenda of a regular or special meeting of the Commission within sixty (60) days of receipt of the request for review.
 - d. At the review the Commission will determine if the facts as presented support the removal motion and if the procedures set out in this policy were correctly applied.
 - e. If the Commission determines that there were either factual or procedural deficiencies, the Commission may either reinstate the Board member or return the matter to the Neighborhood Council for further consideration.
 - f. If the Commission returns the matter for further consideration and the Neighborhood

Council does not act within sixty (60) days of the Commission's decision the Board member will be considered reinstated.

- g. During the period of appeal the Board member shall not be counted as part of the Board for any quorum and shall not participate in any Board actions.
 - h. If the matter is returned to the Neighborhood Council for further consideration the Board member shall not be counted as part of the Board for any quorum and shall not participate in any Board actions until the Board takes action as requested by the Commission or until the expiration of the sixty (60) day time period.
9. This policy is not intended to restrict or eliminate a Neighborhood Council's ability to remove or render ineligible to serve, Board members who fail to attend meetings, join committees, maintain their stakeholder status, or perform other duties as may be described in the Neighborhood Council's bylaws and/or standing rules. Nor is it intended to limit a Neighborhood Council's ability to remove committee chairs or committee members according to the Neighborhood Council's bylaws and/or standing rules.

Section 10: Resignation

A Director may resign by submitting a letter of resignation to the Secretary of the WHNC at any time.

DONE recommendation

Board Member resignation must be submitted in writing to an executive officer and should include the secretary. The position shall then be deemed vacant. Any member of the Board who ceases to be a Stakeholder is required to submit their resignation to an executive officer and should include the secretary. If the Stakeholder status of a Board Member is challenged, then the Department will contact the board member, verify the Stakeholder status using its procedure

Section 11: Community Outreach

All Board Members shall inform, recruit and engage community members in regard to activities initiated by the Board.

DONE recommendation

The Council shall direct that a system of outreach be instituted to inform Stakeholders as to the existence and activities of the Council, including its Board elections, to find future leaders of the Council, and to encourage all Stakeholders to seek leadership positions within the Council. *The template contains additional options.*

ARTICLE VI

OFFICERS

Section 1: Officers of the Board

The Officers of the Board shall include a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Controller. The President may share duties of office with the Vice President. No individual may hold more than one Officer Position at the same time.

Section 2: Duties and Powers

The duties of the Officers are as follows and also include such additional duties as may be adopted by action of the Board:

- A. The President shall act as the chief executive officer of the Council and shall preside at all Council meetings. The Presiding officer shall set agendas for all regularly scheduled Board meetings in consultation with members of the Board.
- B. The Vice-President shall serve in the absence of the President in his or her stead. In addition, the Vice-President may perform certain presidential duties as mutually agreed by the president and vice president.
- C. The Secretary shall take attendance, determine a quorum at regularly scheduled or special Board meetings, record roll call votes, receive correspondence and petitions, and keep minutes of all Board meetings. An Alternate Secretary may be appointed by the Board to serve in the absence of the Secretary, as needed. Unless the person serving as Alternate Secretary is already a Board member, he or she shall not have any of the powers of a Boardmember.
- D. The Treasurer shall maintain the records of the Council's finances and books of accounts and perform other duties in accordance with the appropriate Los Angeles City agency's policies and procedures and shall be a member of the Budget Committee.
- E. The Controller:
 - 1. Shall maintain an inventory of all assets and properties of the WHNC.
 - 2. Shall conduct an audit of the budgeted expenditures of all committees monthly.
 - 3. Shall submit the audits to the board quarterly.
 - 4. Shall be a member of the Budget Committee.

Section 3: Selection of Officers

- A. All Officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the Board every two (2) years. The biennial election of officers shall occur immediately following the official certification of the biennial election of the Board.
- B. When a vacancy of an Officer seat is created, the seat shall be filled by a director selected by a majority vote of the Board at the next regularly scheduled meeting

following the occurrence of the vacancy. The new officer shall complete the remaining term of the vacated position.

Section 4: Officer Terms

The Officers shall serve two-year terms and serve at the pleasure of the Board. They may stand for reelection.

ARTICLE VII COMMITTEES AND THEIR DUTIES

All standing committees shall meet at a minimum of nine (9) times per calendar year and shall invite the participation of stakeholders.

Section 1: Standing Committees

The Standing Committees of the WHNC are:

- A. STREETS AND TRANSPORTATION**, which shall interface with and negotiate with the City of Los Angeles, businesses and developers on matters concerning the sidewalks, streets, signage and traffic control measures and devices within West Hills and Los Angeles.
- B. YOUTH AND EDUCATION**, which shall interface with and negotiate with public and private schools, the City of Los Angeles, businesses and developers on matters concerning the education, recreation and general welfare of the youth who reside in or use the facilities located within the boundaries set forth in Article II.
- C. ZONING AND PLANNING**, which shall interface with and negotiate with Stakeholders, developers, the City of Los Angeles Planning Department and the Planning and Land Use Management Committee of the Los Angeles City Council among others.
- D. PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**, which shall interface with the Los Angeles Police Department, the Los Angeles Fire Department, hospitals and other agencies on matters relating to the safety of the Stakeholders.
- E. COMMUNICATIONS**, which shall be responsible for keeping Stakeholders aware of WHNC activities, shall promote Stakeholder participation and shall interface with other information technology organizations of the city.
- F. ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**, which shall be responsible for making recommendations to the Board for protecting the environment.
- G. BUDGET COMMITTEE**, which shall be responsible for making recommendations

to the Board for all budgetary and financial matters of the WHNC.

- H. GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE, which shall interface with local, state and federal agencies and officials and bring recommendations to the Board to protect and promote the welfare of West Hills and Los Angeles.
- I. PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, which shall be responsible for making recommendations to the Board for protecting and promoting the health of stakeholders.
- J. OPERATIONS COMMITTEE, which shall discuss agendas and administrative matters pertaining to the WHNC.
- K. BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE, which shall, in cooperation with stakeholders advocate, promote, facilitate and engage in activities to improve and maintain the appearance of West Hills' streets, sidewalks, parks and other features by encouraging greater participation and responsibility of West Hills stakeholders.
- L. HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE, which shall inform and educate the stakeholders of West Hills on homelessness issues in the West San Fernando Valley, connect those experiencing homelessness to resources, and advocate for the effective use of government resources to contend with the problem of homelessness in the area.
- M. SPECIAL EVENTS, which shall produce, develop and present unique events to serve and engage the community of West Hills. Moreover, the Special Events Committee, when consulted, will serve as an adjunct advisory committee for other events that might be produced and/or developed by other committees of the West Hills Neighborhood Council.
- N. BYLAWS COMMITTEE, which shall consider and make recommendations to the WHNC Board concerning amendments to the Bylaws and Standing Rules of the WHNC.

Section 2: Ad Hoc

Intentionally Left Blank

DONE recommendation

The Board may create an Ad Hoc Committee as needed to deal with temporary issues and report its findings, conclusions or recommendations to the Board. An Ad Hoc Committee must have a defined purpose and limited timeframe, carry out a specific task, be composed of only Board Members that constitutes less than a majority of the Quorum, and cease to exist upon the completion of its specific task.

If an Ad Hoc Committee is not created as set forth above and includes Stakeholders, the committee must operate under the notice and posting requirements of the Brown Act.

Section 3: Committee Creation and Authorization

The Board shall establish all Standing Committees and the President shall establish Ad Hoc Committees as needed to address temporary issues. Suggestions for committees may come from Stakeholders or from members of the Board.

The President shall appoint the chairs of all committees, subject to a majority vote of the Board as to chair positions in Standing Committees only. Following appointment, committee chairs shall oversee the appointment of other committee officers and the establishment of operating rules for their committees. Chairs of ad hoc committees shall occupy their positions for the lengths of their committees' intended purpose. The President may remove committee Chairs. Such a decision may be overridden by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership present.

- A.** All committees shall present copies of their approved minutes or reports for posting.
- B.** All standing committees shall publish agendas and post meeting notices.
- C.** All committee recommendations shall be brought back to the full Board for discussion and action.
- D.** Only those committee members who are Board Members are eligible to serve as chairs of committees.

ARTICLE VIII MEETINGS

Section 1: Meeting Time and Place

Frequency – Meetings of the Board shall be held as often as determined by the Board, but at least nine (9) times per calendar year.

Location – Meetings of the Board shall be held at a location within the boundaries of the WHNC, as defined in Article III of this document. In the event that the Neighborhood Council desires conducting a meeting outside its boundaries in conformance with applicable laws, it shall consult with the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment and the Office of the City Attorney for appropriate advice.

Section 2: Agenda Setting

The Presiding Officer shall be responsible for setting the agendas for the meetings of the Board. Where a standing committee has voted to place an item on the agenda, that vote shall be honored if the motion has been transmitted to the Presiding Officer no later than seven (7) days prior to the next Board meeting.

Section 3: Notifications/Postings

Announcements of meetings must be posted according to applicable laws and

such a request during the public comment period of a regular Council meeting. The Secretary/President shall promptly refer the proposal to a Standing Committee or, at the next regular Council meeting, the Board shall either consider the proposal or create an Ad Hoc Committee to consider the proposal. The Council may consider the proposal at a Committee or Board meeting.

regulations. Notices for all meetings must be posted in one public posting place designated by the Neighborhood Council, posted on the Neighborhood Council website, submitted to the Early Notification System and otherwise comply with the Brown Act and Neighborhood Council Posting Policy (See Attachment C – Requirements for Posting Agendas).

DONE recommendation

The Neighborhood Council shall comply with the Ralph M. Brown Act and Department requirements for posting notices, including the Neighborhood Council Agenda Posting Policy approved by the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners. Notice of a regular meeting shall be a minimum of three (3) days (72 hours) in advance of the meeting and at least one (1) day (24 hours) in advance of a special meeting.

Section 4: Reconsideration

The reconsideration process shall be conducted at all times in accordance with Rosenberg's Rules of Order.

DONE has suggested language in the template. This can also be in Standing Rules.

ARTICLE IX FINANCES

1. The Treasurer shall establish and oversee a system of bookkeeping and accounting for the WHNC that complies with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and conforms to all applicable local, state and federal laws. The Board may retain a financial professional to assist in creating a bookkeeping and annual accounting system. The Treasurer may request the assistance of appropriate city agencies when implementing the system. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the maintenance of the system of bookkeeping and accounting and for the protection of all Council assets.
2. The Treasurer shall submit a written and itemized monthly report of income and expenses for the previous month to the Board at every regular Council meeting.
3. The Treasurer shall be responsible for preparing or coordinating the preparation of a financial statement to be submitted to the appropriate agency and in accordance with the applicable deadlines.
4. The Treasurer, in consultation with the Budget Committee, shall be responsible for preparing an annual budget to be submitted to the Board for approval within

deadlines prescribed by appropriate government agencies.

ARTICLE X ELECTIONS

Section 1: Administration of Elections

WHNC elections will be conducted pursuant to any and all relevant ordinances, policies and procedures.

Section 2: Governing Board Structure and Voting

The number of Board seats, the eligibility requirements for holding any specific board seats and which Stakeholders may vote are described in Article V Section 1 and noted in Attachment B.

Section 3: Minimum Voting Age

Except with respect to a Youth Board Seat, a stakeholder must be at least 16 years of age on the day of the election or selection to be eligible to vote. [See Admin. Code §§ 22.814(a) and 22.814(c)]

Section 4: Method of Verifying Stakeholder Status

~~Procedure for verifying Stakeholder status is self-affirmation~~
Voters will verify their Stakeholder status through written **self-affirmation**.

Section 5: Restrictions on Candidates Running for Multiple Seats

A candidate may not declare candidacy for more than one (1) position on the Council Board during a single election cycle.

Section 6: Other Election Related Language

~~[This section left blank intentionally.]~~
Not Applicable

ARTICLE XI GRIEVANCE PROCESS

1. This grievance process is intended to address only matters involving procedural disputes, such as the Board's failure to comply with Board Rules or these Bylaws.
2. Any grievance by a Stakeholder must be submitted in writing to the Board, which shall cause the matter to be placed on the agenda for the next regular Council meeting.

This article makes reference to the [Los Angeles Administrative Code \(L.A.A.C.\) 22.818](#). We strongly recommend the following language to be in compliance with the Administrative Code.

3. A Board Member is not permitted to file a grievance against another Board member or against the Council, except as permitted under the City's grievance policy. The Neighborhood Council grievance review process will be conducted pursuant to any and all City ordinances, policies and procedures pertaining to Neighborhood Council grievances.

DONE recommended language to comply with Administrative code

Grievances Submitted by a Stakeholder

- A. Any Grievance by a Stakeholder must be submitted to the Department's Grievance Portal so that the Department may determine whether such Grievance conforms with the [Los Angeles Administrative Code \(L.A.A.C.\) 22.818](#) Subsections (c)(1) [Grievance Defined] and (c)(2) [Exclusions].
- B. Once the Department certifies the Grievance, the Board will be notified. Such certification of the Grievance by the Department shall not be construed as a statement regarding the validity or invalidity of the Grievance.
- C. After receiving a certified Grievance from the Department, the Board must, at its next regular or special meeting, but not more than 60 calendar days from the communication from the Department, take one of the following actions:
 - a. Consider the Grievance in accordance with a Grievance process specified in the Board's Bylaws and issue a decision to sustain and cure or reject the Grievance in whole or in part; OR
 - b. Waive consideration of the Grievance and request the Department to forward the Grievance directly to a Regional Grievance Panel for consideration.
- D. Any inaction by the Board passing the 60 calendar days will waive consideration of the Grievance and the Department shall forward the Grievance to the Regional Grievance Panel in accordance with [L.A.A.C. 22.818](#) Subsection (d)(5).
- E. Only the Grievant may appeal a Board's decision pursuant to [L.A.A.C. 22.818](#) Subsection (d)(2)(A). Such appeals must be filed with the Department on the portal within seven (7) calendar days from the date of the Board's action on the certified Grievance. A Grievant may not appeal a decision by the Board to waive consideration of any or all Grievances.
- F. Refer to WHNC Standing Rules Article XI Grievance Process

Grievances Submitted by a Board Member

- A. Any Grievance by a Board Member filed against their own Board will bypass consideration by the impacted Board, as set forth in [L.A.A.C. 22.818](#) Subsection (d)(2). The Department will forward a Grievance filed by a Board Member against

their own Board directly to a Regional Grievance Panel for disposition, as specified in [L.A.A.C. 22.818](#) Subsection (d)(6).

Regional Grievance Panel

A. When a certified Grievance is sent to a Regional Grievance Panel, the Board must appoint a Neighborhood Council Representative who shall present an opening argument (not to exceed 10 minutes) and a rebuttal (not to exceed 5 minutes) on behalf of the Neighborhood Council Board to the Panel.

ARTICLE XII PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The parliamentary process is to be governed by "Rosenberg's Rules of Order: Simple Parliamentary Procedures for the 21st Century."

These bylaws supersede the parliamentary rules mentioned above.

ARTICLE XIII AMENDMENTS

Any Board member or Stakeholder may propose amendments to these Bylaws in writing during a regular meeting of the Board. These proposals shall be reviewed by an Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee, which shall provide recommendations to the WHNC. All recommendations shall be announced at a regularly scheduled and noticed meeting. These recommendations shall be voted upon by the Board after consultation with all stakeholders present at a meeting conducted no sooner than thirty (30) days but no later than sixty (60) days after the proposed changes are noticed.

ARTICLE XIV COMPLIANCE

The Council, its representatives and all Community Stakeholders shall comply with these Bylaws and with any additional Standing Rules or Procedures that may be adopted by the Board, as well as all applicable laws.

Section 1: Code of Civility

The Council, the Board and all Stakeholders shall conduct Council business in a professional and respectful manner and in accordance with any Board-adopted Code of Civility. Board members will abide by the Commission's Neighborhood Council Board Member Code of Conduct Policy

Section 2: Training

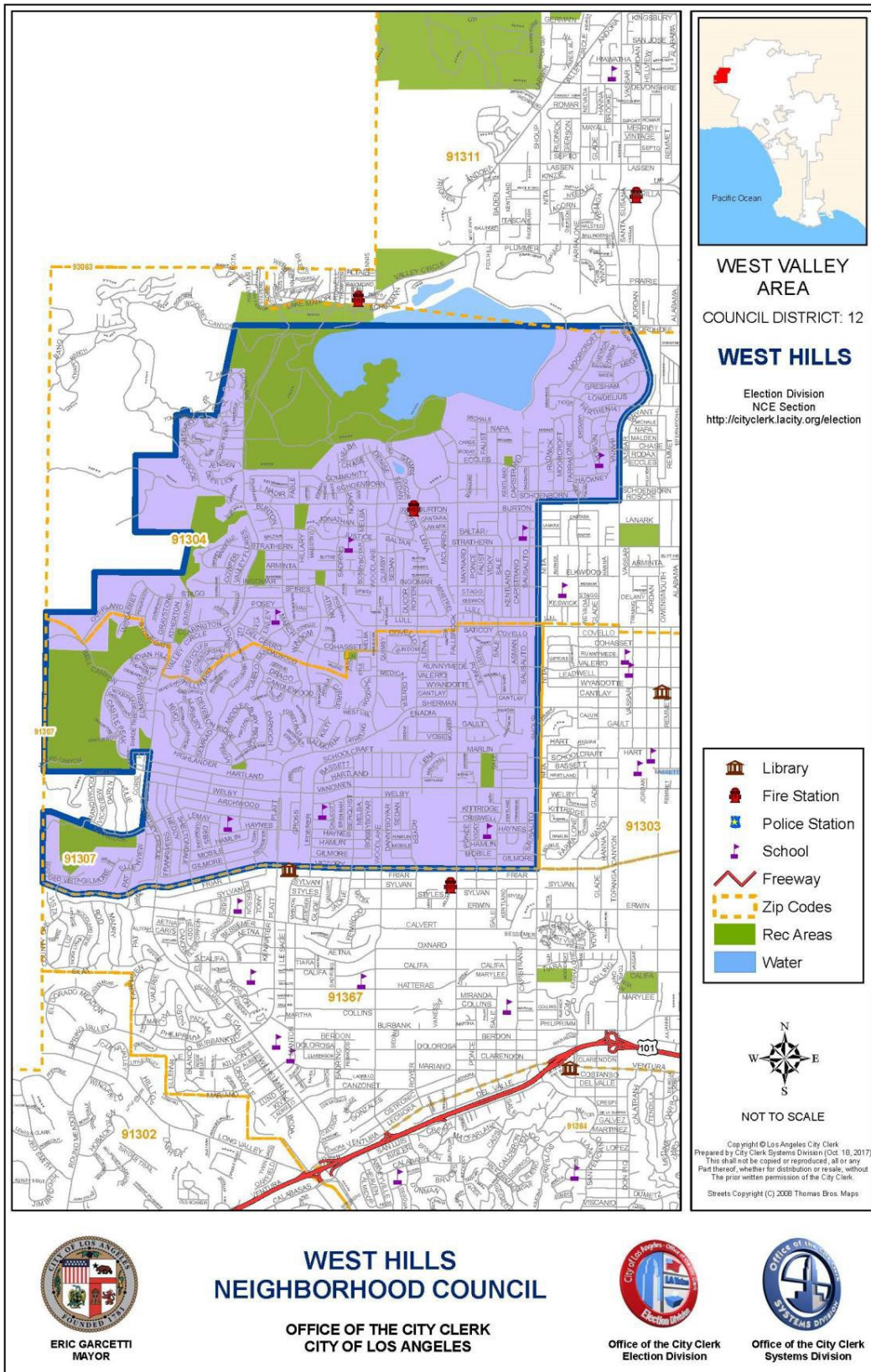
All Board members shall take training in the fundamentals of Neighborhood Council, including, but not limited to, ethics. All board members must take ethics and funding training prior to making motions and voting on funding related matters.

Section 3: Self-Assessment

Every year, the Council shall conduct a self-assessment within ninety (90) days after the end of the fiscal year pursuant to the Plan for the Citywide System of Neighborhood Councils.

The Council may conduct a regular self-assessment to determine whether it has achieved its goals and objectives.

ATTACHMENT A- Map of West Hills Neighborhood Council



ATTACHMENT B – Governing Board Structure and Voting

West Hills Neighborhood Council – 25 Board Seats

BOARD POSITION	# of SEATS	ELECTED OR APPOINTED	ELIGIBILITY TO RUN FOR THE SEAT	ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE FOR THE SEAT
At Large Directors Term: 4 Years	25	Elected	Stakeholders who are 18 years or older and live, work, own real property, or declare a stake in the neighborhood as a community interest stakeholder	All Stakeholders who are 16 years or older (Refer to Article V Section 1)

*The Board shall not include more than four (4) Directors who do not live, work, or own property in West Hills.

ATTACHMENT C – Neighborhood Council Agenda Posting Requirements

RESOLUTION

Be it resolved that the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners creates the following policy:

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL AGENDA POSTING REQUIREMENTS

WHEREAS, the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners established Working Groups comprised of current and past Neighborhood Council members and Neighborhood Council stakeholders to recommend changes to the Plan for a Citywide System of Neighborhood Councils;

WHEREAS, the Working Groups recognized stakeholders are increasingly using the internet and that it allows Neighborhood Councils to communicate with their stakeholders efficiently and inexpensively;

WHEREAS, the Working Groups recognized that any change in the physical posting policy should be accompanied by increased use of other media for outreach;

WHEREAS, the Working Groups recommended that the posting requirements for Neighborhood Councils be changed to require only one physical Brown Act compliant posting while maintaining the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners other outreach requirements;

WHEREAS, Section 902 (b) Article IX of the new Charter provides that the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners “shall be responsible for policy setting and policy oversight...and the promulgation of rules and regulations but not be responsible for day to-day management”.

WHEREAS, this policy supersedes all other posting policies previously adopted by the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners; including the August 3, 2010, Commission Policy on “Neighborhood Council Agenda Posting Requirements” (Policy No. 2010-02), which was also revised at the December 17, 2012, Commission meeting, and the May 6, 2014, Commission Policy on “Neighborhood Council Agenda Posting Requirements” (Policy No. 2014-01), which was also revised at the July 21, 2014, Commission meeting.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED that the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners establishes this policy regarding the posting of agendas for Neighborhood Councils.

POLICY NUMBER: 2014-01.1


Neighborhood Councils are required to post meeting agendas for Board and Committee meetings as follows:


Board of Neighborhood Commissioners
Resolution: Policy No. 2014-01.1 (Revised August 18, 2014)
Neighborhood Council Agenda Posting Requirements

1. Neighborhood Councils shall physically post at least one Brown Act compliant agenda for all Board and Committee meetings.
2. Neighborhood Councils shall post agendas of all Board and Committee meetings on their web site or, on a page made available to them on the EmpowerLA web site. Such postings shall be Brown Act time compliant.
3. Neighborhood Councils shall submit a copy of all regular and special Board and Committee agendas to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (Department) to be posted through the Early Notification System (ENS). The agenda for regular meetings shall be submitted to the Department not less than 72 hours in advance of the meeting and the agenda for special meetings shall be submitted to the Department not less than 24 hours in advance of the meeting. As soon as feasible, the Department will submit the agenda for posting to the ENS system. Accordingly, posting the notices of meetings to the ENS system will not be required to comply with the Brown Act's time limits for posting agendas.
4. Neighborhood Councils that maintain an email list of stakeholders may email either a copy of the agenda for all Board and Committee meetings or an announcement of the meeting with a link to the agenda. Distribution to the email list shall occur at the time meeting information is disseminated to the board or committee members.
5. Neighborhood Councils shall inform the Department of (a) the physical location of their posting site, (b) the address of their web site, if any and (c) confirm with the Department whether they use a stakeholder database to distribute their agendas. Neighborhood Councils shall be required to submit this information on a form approved by the Department.
6. Neighborhood Councils that do not maintain a web site or, a page on the EmpowerLA web site, if available, shall continue to comply with the five (5) to seven (7) physical locations posting requirements imposed during their certification process; one (1) of the posting locations shall be Brown Act compliant; the remaining posting locations shall be within the Neighborhood Council boundaries and shall comply with Brown Act time limits for posting.
7. This Posting Policy does not restrict or prevent a Neighborhood Council from posting any additional notices of its meetings beyond the notices required under this policy in any other locations or within any timeframes determined by the Neighborhood Council in its discretion.

Board of Neighborhood Commissioners
Resolution: Policy No. 2014-01.1 (Revised August 18, 2014)
Neighborhood Council Agenda Posting Requirements

- 8. These posting requirements shall be appended to and become a part of the bylaws of all current and future Neighborhood Councils and any violation of this policy may become the subject of a grievance.
- 9. If a Neighborhood Council is notified by the Department prior to any Board or Committee meeting that a confirmed violation of this policy has been reported the Neighborhood Council shall repost in accordance with this Policy. If the scheduled meeting cannot be reposted in compliance with this Policy, the Neighborhood Council shall cancel the meeting and make reasonable efforts to inform its stakeholders. If it becomes necessary to cancel Board or Committee meetings Neighborhood Councils are encouraged to contact the City Attorney for further guidance.
- 10. If a Neighborhood Council is found to be in violation of this Policy three (3) times within the current fiscal year the Board and any non-Board member committee chairs shall be required to take additional training as may be determined by the Department. If after receiving additional training the Neighborhood Council is again found to be in violation of this policy during the current fiscal year, then exhaustive efforts to remedy this matter, including loss of funding may be taken by the Department pursuant to Article VI section 4 and Article X section 3 of the Plan for a Citywide system of Neighborhood Councils.

Moved by: 
Member, Board of Neighborhood Commissioners

Seconded by: 
Member, Board of Neighborhood Commissioners

Witnessed by: 
Staff, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment

VOTES:

AYES: 6

NAYS: 0

DATE: 8/18/14