



CITY OF
LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA



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

WEST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

JOINT BOARD AND EDUCATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE ONLINE AND TELEPHONIC SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA FRIDAY JUNE 12, 2020, AT 10:00AM

This meeting of the West Hills Neighborhood Council Education Committee/ Public Health 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/91895891335>

To call in by phone, dial (669) 900-6833, then punch in this Webinar code when prompted: **918 9589 1335#**.

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.

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|----|--|------------|
| 1. | Call to order and Introduction: | 5 Minutes |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aida Abkarians, Education Chair • Sandi Bell, Public Health Chair • Stephen Bell, Secretary Public Health • Steve Randall, Zoom Host • Joan Trent, Ann Mirzahi, Henlie Sakamoto, Eddie Ruano Members | |
| 2. | Review and Approval of Minutes February 26, 2020 | 10 Minutes |
| 3. | Public Comment | 5 Minutes |
| 4. | Discussion and Possible Action for the Education Awards | 5 Minutes |
| 5. | Discussion and Possible Action on the suggestion of Anti-Racism Education Study on how to tackle the issue in our schools, suggested by Ms. Maggi Espada Hernandez. | 10 Minutes |
| 6. | Budget Request for Education Committee, for the upcoming fiscal year | 10 Minutes |
| 7. | Current Health Issues | 10 Minutes |
| 8. | Discussion and possible action to support the Mayor's proposal for defunding LAPD | 10 Minutes |
| 9. | Discussion and possible action to submit a letter requesting support of hotel voucher programs for the homeless | 10 Minutes |

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10. Budget request for Public Health Committee 10 Minutes
11. Next meeting date, August 19, 2020, Time and place to be decided by July 2020. 5 Minutes

Public input at Neighborhood Council meetings: When prompted by the presiding officer, members of the public may address the committee on any agenda item before the committee takes an action on the item by punching in *9 (if calling in by phone) or by clicking on the “raise hand” button (if participating online through Zoom) and waiting to be recognized. Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the committee’s jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Ralph M. Brown Act, the committee is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future committee meeting. Public comment is limited to 2 minutes per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of said committee.

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 §§ 48.01 et seq. More information is available at ethics.lacity.org/lobbying. For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or ethics.commission@lacity.org

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.



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YOUTH AND EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES **February 26, 2020**

Attendance:

Aida Abkarians, Chair, Sandi Bell, Stephen Bell, Steve Randall, Joan Trent, Ann Mirzahi, Henlie Sakamoto and Eddie Ruano, Members

Meeting Called to order 3:30pm.

There was no Public Comments.

Minutes of January 29, 2020 passed unanimously.

Education Awards, we have collected awards applications from our West Hills Elementary schools. We should set up date for the Award Ceremony at our Board Meeting, possibly in April or May.

NPGs for Capistrano was reviewed and passed by all.

NPG has to approved by the budget committee and the Board.

Haynes School and El Camino do not have NPG Applications ready.

The Anti-Bullying Program was postponed to the Next School Year, possibly in October or November. Ann will find out available dates from De Toledo High School.

The funds delegated to the Anti-Bullying Program, in the amount of \$1,000.00, \$800.00 was transferred to The Bike Safety Fair Education, set up by our Streets and Transportation Committee and \$200.00 was to be transferred to the Government Relations Committee, for a major Committee meeting with all the Government services, such as DWP, Gas Co, etc... We cannot transfer the funds and hold them for next year.

We need to check with the schools to make sure our WHNC banners for our contributions to our schools are up. Next meeting date, March 25, 2020, at 3:30pm.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE MINUTES

February 26, 2020

Attendance:

Sandi Bell, Chair, Stephen Bell, Secretary, Steve Randall, Joan Trent, Ann Mirzahi, Henlie Sakamoto and Eddie Ruano, Members, Aida Abkarians

Meeting Called to order, 4:30pm.

There was no Public Comment.

Current Health Issues, Corona Virus. Sandi, informed us that the situation could be much more serious than what we think. She would think about preparing an informational text for our Web Site.

Mr. Bell was notified by the Gender Nation that they will not be able to attend our meeting and bring their book to be reviewed for us.

Ann Mirzahi, suggested a program with the help of the Public Health for our schools on Healthy Eating and exercise.

Next meeting date Wednesday, March 25, 2020, at 4:30pm

[DATE]

The Honorable Members of the Budget and Finance Committee
c/o Office of the City Clerk
Los Angeles City Hall
200 N. Spring Street, Rm 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012
clerk.budgetandfinancecommittee@lacity.org

Re: The Mayor's Proposed Budget

Dear Councilmembers Krekorian, Price, Koretz, Blumenfield, and Bonin,

The West Hills Neighborhood Council writes to express our deep concern regarding the Mayor's Proposed Budget for the Fiscal Year 2020-21 and urges you to revise the budget so that it reflects the values of our community. **At this critical time of converging health, economic, and racial justice crises, our city budget should be increasing funding for the vital social services on which so many Angelenos depend, not cutting those services to offset raises for police officers.**

We appreciate that the City Council and the Mayor appear to be moving in the right direction on this issue with the recent commitment to cut between \$100-150 million from LAPD's budget to reinvest back into disadvantaged communities and communities of color. The fact remains, however, that even with this cut, the LAPD budget will still consume over 50% of the City's unrestricted revenues for the coming fiscal year—unless you take further action now.

The Mayor's Proposed Budget cuts \$230 million in services, weakening vital programs that many Angelenos rely on and imposing furloughs on nearly 16,000 city workers while simultaneously increasing LAPD officer pay by \$144 million. While the newly-announced \$100-150 million cut to LAPD's budget has the potential to mitigate the effect of these raises, the Mayor's Proposed Budget still cuts City investments in housing programs by 9.4%, job programs by 8.9%, and homelessness programs by 6%—despite the great need created by the COVID-19 outbreak.

Even before COVID-19, roughly one in three renters in Los Angeles spent more than half their income on housing, and there were over 36,000 unhoused people in our City. The pandemic will only make matters worse. Over half of Angelenos are now unemployed following the massive job losses stemming from COVID-19. And economists predict that many of the recent layoffs will be permanent. Without bold action from the City, more Angelenos will become severely rent-burdened or fall into homelessness.

We applaud the City's efforts to respond to the COVID-19 emergency: delivering meals to seniors, opening childcare centers for healthcare workers, purchasing personal protective equipment (PPE) for first responders, implementing a small business loan program, committing to providing rental assistance, and setting up testing sites, additional shelters, and more. These are the kinds of interventions Angelenos need at this critical and unprecedented time.

Sadly, the Mayor's Proposed Budget puts some of these very initiatives on the chopping block. The Department of Aging has reported that furloughs and office closures will directly affect seniors trying to enroll in meal services, many of whom do not have internet access and rely on staff to help them enroll in city programs via telephone. (CAO's May 19, 2020 Report on the Impact on City Services of the Furlough Program Included in the 2020-21 Proposed Budget, 7.) The Department of Economic Development anticipates that its cuts will cause delays in economic relief and related assistance to the thousands of workers and businesses impacted by the COVID-19 emergency. (*Id.* at 15.) The Department of Housing and Community Investment predicts that furloughs will reduce its ability to provide services to tenants, prevent poverty and homelessness, and create affordable housing. (*Id.* at 20.)

In her opening remarks during the May 21, 2020 Council Meeting, Council President Nury Martinez said, "As we start the new fiscal year, it is important to keep in mind the people who need us the most right now—working families, those living in poverty, communities of color that have long been forgotten, seniors and children." This budget balances itself on the backs of those very people—the most vulnerable among us—all to preserve LAPD's enormous allocation of the City's unrestricted revenues and offset LAPD raises. If officers simply received the same pay they did last year, the City could prevent two-thirds of these devastating cuts to critical services.

Some now will undoubtedly point to the recent civil unrest in our city as justification for the budget's prioritization of law enforcement over social services. While we agree that public safety should no doubt be one of the City's highest priorities, this is a moment for us to recognize that policing is far from our most effective tool to ensure public safety—and, in fact, for Angelenos of color—and especially black Angelenos—it can pose a mortal threat to their very lives. **This is a moment for us to recognize that investments in housing and job security, mental health care, and after-school programs are our best investments in public safety—and that they are also cheaper than police spending. By cutting these services, this budget will not make Angelenos safer.**

As Councilmember Ryu observed in his recent comments on the budget, "If we make cuts to departments and services that serve low-income and working families, we will be paying for those cuts for decades to come." The Mayor's Proposed Budget puts political expediency over the urgent needs of the Angelenos who are suffering most acutely in this time of crisis, and it will cost our city dearly if enacted without significant revision.

We understand that the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in significant revenue shortfalls for the City and that cuts in spending must be made. But **we urge you, as our representatives, to rework the 2020-21 budget so that it meets the needs of this moment. Shift resources away from policing and direct them to vital social services. Invest in true**

public safety. Budgets are moral documents that reflect our values. What kind of city cuts services and increases spending on law enforcement when its people are struggling to eat? What kind of city doubles down on policing at a moment when its deepest injustices are being exposed? What does that say about us? We need not take this path.

The coronavirus outbreak and the murder of George Floyd, together, have laid bare many hard truths—about the fragility of our healthcare system, the vulnerability of the many Angelenos living paycheck to paycheck, the real threat that police pose to Angelenos of color on a daily basis. By taking an honest look at where we are, however, we are presented with an opportunity to improve upon the past instead of repeating its mistakes. It is in that spirit that our Neighborhood Council asks you for a compassionate budget—and through it, for a more just, equitable, and humane Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

West Hills Neighborhood Council

CC: John Lee
Councilmember, 12th District
Los Angeles City Hall
200 N. Spring Street, Rm [XXX]
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Hon. Nury Martinez
City Council President
Councilmember, 6th District
Los Angeles City Hall
200 N Spring Steet, Ste 470
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Mayor Eric Garcetti
Los Angeles City Hall
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

People's Budget Community Impact Statement (General Comment: Council File 20-0600)

WHEREAS the West Hills Neighborhood Council Council stands in solidarity with Black Lives Matter and demands justice for George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, and countless others who have lost their lives at the hands of police brutality, racism, and white supremacy.

WHEREAS LAPD officers have been observed needlessly escalating confrontations with and deploying repressive violence against peaceful protestors across Los Angeles, including usage of tear gas, shooting plastic and rubber bullets at close range, running into demonstrators with LAPD vehicles, among other acts of aggression and violence.

WHEREAS after ordering Westwood protestors to move from the 405 Freeway to Wilshire Boulevard, LAPD officers subsequently declared the peaceful demonstration to be an unlawful assembly.

WHEREAS LAPD officers fired rubber bullets and detained at least 10 peaceful protestors in Westwood.

WHEREAS these detainees, including a pregnant woman and another suffering from epilepsy, were held in close quarters for several hours, left handcuffed, and denied access to food, water, or medical attention at UCLA's Jackie Robinson Stadium.

WHEREAS, although UCLA claims that it did not grant permission for LAPD to use Jackie Robinson Stadium as a field jail, it did allow the property to be used as an LAPD command post, making UCLA complicit in the police response.

WHEREAS, despite widespread public anger at LAPD and numerous documented acts of recent police brutality, Mayor Eric Garcetti chose to approve a budget increase to \$1.86 billion for law enforcement for the 2020-21 fiscal year, an increase of \$122 million compared to the prior year, despite austerity cuts to all other City departments.

WHEREAS, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, \$230 million were cut from services imposing furloughs on nearly 16,000 workers. Programs essential to ensure safe distancing and protect vulnerable populations, along with the general public, saw significant cuts at a time when they must be increased. Housing programs were cut by 9.4%, job programs by 8.9%, and homelessness programs by 6%; all while boosting expenditure on police by 7.1%.

WHEREAS City Council President Nury Martinez has already proposed the decrease of the LAPD budget by \$100 to 150 million.

WHEREAS Councilmembers Ryu, Bonin, and Harris-Dawson have also expressed interest in reducing the LAPD budget during Budget Committee deliberations.

WHEREAS the People's Budget LA Coalition, led by Black Lives Matter Los Angeles, has taken urgent steps to engage in a public process of participatory budgeting, and with over 10,000 people participating in this process has identified divestment from police and policing as a top priority.

WHEREAS racialized police violence and mass arrests in tandem with cuts to municipal social services in the midst of a global pandemic creates a threat to public health, particularly for Black communities throughout Los Angeles.

WHEREAS a reduction in aggressive proactive policing during the 2014-2015 NYPD strike actually caused a reduction in major crimes such as burglary, felony assault, and grand larceny.

BE IT RESOLVED that the West Hills Neighborhood Council endorses the People's Budget for Los Angeles, shifting resources away from policing and directing them to essential social services to promote the safety and wellbeing of Los Angeles residents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the West Hills Neighborhood Council recommends that LA City Councilmember Paul Koretz move to amend the Los Angeles City budget in accordance with the changes delineated in the People's Budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the West Hills Neighborhood Council recommends there be further transparency in the annual budgeting process of Los Angeles City Council, with proactive efforts from Los Angeles City Council and the Los Angeles Department of Neighborhood Empowerment to facilitate a process for active community input through neighborhood councils.

West Hills Community Impact Statement
SUPPORT: Council File 20-0478
Expanding Project Roomkey Efforts in L.A. City
June 2020

The West Hills Neighborhood Council expresses our support of Project Roomkey, a collaboration by the State, the County, and LAHSA that plans to secure 15,000 hotel and motel rooms for unhoused populations across LA County during COVID-19. As of May 15, 2020, only 3,200 rooms were secured.

Project Roomkey, first and foremost, is a demonstration that we value the livelihoods of those who may suffer the greatest impacts from this pandemic in our shared city. Secondly, the initiative is necessary to minimize the spread of COVID-19 *everywhere* and is more effective from a public health lens than solely increasing and maintaining handwashing stations. Additionally, the closely packed shelters have already demonstrated widespread and rapid transmission, resulting in some shelters with more than 35% positive COVID-positive cases, a concern for housed and unhoused community members alike. Hotels and motels have lost significant revenue due to the pandemic, but can earn income from leasing rooms. The Federal Emergency Management Agency will reimburse 75% of their costs and their solvency will benefit our City Treasury.

We urge our City Councilmembers to do everything in their power to secure vacant rooms at hotels across the City, especially in downtown L.A., near the epicenter of the homelessness crisis. This includes eight hotels, which received over \$797 million in taxpayer revenue from the City since 2005. We are in a circumstance that measures the humanity and character of our City officials and citizens. We ask that your actions display your commitment to both the represented and underrepresented members of our society.

MOTION

Tens of thousands of people living unsheltered on the streets of Los Angeles is unacceptable at any time. Tens of thousands of people living unsheltered on the streets of Los Angeles during a public health crisis that requires social distancing and frequent hand-washing is intolerable. Tens of thousands of people living unsheltered on the streets of Los Angeles during a public health crisis while there are tens of thousands of vacant hotel rooms is outrageous.

We must take every possible action to stop or slow the spread of COVID-19. Public health officials warn that the tens of thousands of people living on our streets are particularly vulnerable to the virus and cannot practice social distancing or follow other public health guidelines. Left unhoused, they are at risk of contracting and spreading the virus. Meanwhile, there are nearly 100,000 hotel rooms in LA, and most of them are vacant. Hotels are heading toward bankruptcy and thousands of hotel workers are unemployed.

On March 15, Governor Gavin Newsom shared that homelessness was a "top concern" during the COVID-19 pandemic and announced the state was launching a major effort with counties to house people in vacant hotels and motels. More than a month later, Newsom shared that the state had secured approximately 15,000 hotel rooms. The unhoused population in the State of California is estimated to be 108,000. In Los Angeles, a reported 2,400 hotel rooms have been secured, and approximately 800 people have been provided housing there.

Despite tremendous efforts by various levels of government, the number of people experiencing homelessness being housed in hotels falls far short of what is necessary to address this human and public health crisis. Reports indicate that many hotels have been unwilling to participate or have reneged on initial interest, citing security concerns, liability issues, objections from corporate management, or fear of lost revenue from being branded a "homeless hotel." Many of those issues have been addressed by the city, county, or state, and others are unacceptable responses in the middle of a public health crisis.

Through Project Roomkey, officials with the state, the County of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority and the Office of the Mayor continue to negotiate with hotels to provide thousands of additional rooms. Many hotels are willing to participate in the program, while others, including many large hotel chains, are more recalcitrant.

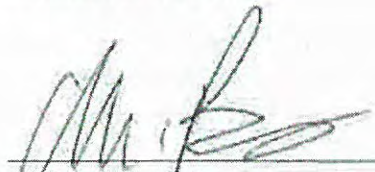
Many hotels in Los Angeles have received some form of economic development incentive from the City of Los Angeles. Any hotel that has benefited from any form of public support should be participating in Project Roomkey. In downtown Los Angeles, hotels that provide thousands of hotel rooms have been constructed with partial public subsidies.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Chief Legislative Analyst, City Administrative Officer, and City of Los Angeles Department of Convention & Tourism Development report back immediately with a list of all hotels, listed by Council District, in the the City of Los Angeles that:

- Have received public subsidy, tax breaks, or economic development incentives
- Sit on, lease, or make use of in any fashion publicly owned property
- Sit on, lease, or make use of in any fashion property formerly owned by the Community Redevelopment Authority, and any successor agencies.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority report to the City Council with a list of hotels from the above list that are not participating in the Project Roomkey program, and explanations the hotels have given for their lack of participation.


PRESENTED BY:



MIKE BONIN
Councilmember, 11th District

MARQUEECE HARRIS-DAWSON
Councilmember, 8th District

SECONDED BY:



NURY MARTINEZ
Council President, 6th District