

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA



**Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council
Citywide Issues Committee
Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, March 25, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
11139 Woodley Ave.
Granada Hills, CA**

The public is requested for follow up purposes (but not required) to fill out a **“Speaker Card”** to address the Board on any item of the agenda prior to the Board taking action on any item. The Agenda is posted for public review at Albertsons 16201 San Fernando Mission Blvd, HOWS Market located at 11900 Balboa Blvd., Sugar Suite located at 11858 Balboa, Bee Canyon Park Kiosks (2) – one located across from 17160 Van Gogh St. and the other at the playground between Van Gogh and Sesnon Blvd. 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, 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 you wish to attend by contacting the Neighborhood Council Project Coordinator at 818-374-9895 or e-mail amelia.hererra-robles@lacity.org.

Minutes

- 1) Call to order and roll call.

As there are four members of the committee and only two were in attendance a quorum was not established and the meeting was not conducted.

Sid Gold nad Rafael Garcia considered the agenda and make recommendations for the GHNNC Board to consider

- 2) Public comment on non-agenda items.

There were no members of the public present.

- 3) Reconsideration of Council files and Report 54 with possible recommendation(s) to GHNNC Board

Sid Gold reported that the LANCC met and heard from Al Abrams, a BONC Commissioner, who stated that he considered the form 54 to be arduous to complete and would discourage stakeholders from seeking Board positions. He also stated as these forms were too disclose much more personal data than would be required. He suggested that a City

Council should be encouraged by all NC's to reconsider their motion of asking for Form 54 and replace it with a less complicated disclosure form as was previously recommended i.e form 52.

It is recommended that GHNCC Board support a resolution that City Council reconsider the use of form 54 in conjunction with an opening of a city file and that they develop a form similar to Form 52 to be used as the method of reporting disclosure of any possible conflicts of interest.

- 4) Billboard Ordinance: Discussion of recent events in regard to billboards and possible recommendation(s) to GHNCC Board

At the previous GHNCC Board meeting a resolution on billboards was adopted and sent to all appropriate parties. Since that vote new information has appeared and the concept of sign districts has been brought forward. These districts would be exempt from any ordinance passed by CC and may lead to a billboard and supergraphic blight in these areas. In addition this concept goes in the face of the court decision that found that the city had unfairly discriminated against Worldwide Rush Agency.

It is recommended that GHNCC Board consider supporting a resolution that would call for a permanent moratorium, citywide, on all new billboards, supergraphics and Digital billboards and to notify all parties of GHNCC'S action.

- 5) Hillside Mansionization: Discussion and possible recommendation(s) to GHNCC

There was to be a meeting, March 26, 2009 to define hillside. The committee should discuss this matter at a future meeting.

- 6) Update on city budget activities and possible recommendation(s) to GHNCC Board

Sid Gold reported that at the LANCC meeting budget reps reported on the city budget and how all departments are being asked to cut back. At the Valley DONE meeting on March 21, the director of DONE reported that he has been asked to let go four staff.

At LANCC, many neighborhood council reps discussed whether NC's budgets should be affected in the same way as other areas of city government. Comments were made that NC's are grassroots organizations whose actions affect each neighborhood directly. In addition most work is done locally and at a low administrative cost and salary.

It is recommended that GHNCC consider supporting a resolution requesting that in the City budget process, consideration that all possible attempts should be made to keep the present yearly allocation to NC's in place.

- 7) Ethics Commission: Discussion regarding involvement of appointed city managers in city elections and possible recommendation(s) to GHNCC Board

It was noted that in the recent city elections that certain appointed city managers took a direct

action in openly supporting candidates and that these candidates hire or have direct supervisory interaction with the city department manager. Although, it is apparently not illegal for the city department manager to do so, it raises question about the propriety of an employee supporting his or her boss. There is an apperance of a quid pro quo or coercion that may taint such activity.

It is recommended that GHNNC board consider adopting a resolution to write a letter to the City's Ethics Commission asking them to draft a policy or ordinance regarding the participation of appointed City department managers and their role in campaigning in city elcetions.

8) Airport noise abatement: Discussion of Burbank-Glendale Airport and impact on Van Nuys Airport.

Sid Gold reported that at the VANC meeting, represebntatives from Burbank Airport reported they were about to complete their filing to the FAA regarding banning all flights after 10 PM. Presently non commercial or freight do land at Burbank after 10 PM. In the report it was shown that the majority of these after hours flights will be diverted to Van Nuys Airport. The Van Nuys Airport advisory committee has not yet acted. Since a number of these flights may fly over our neighborhood we will attempt to keep the GNNC board aware of developments.

9) Update on Measure B and March election

Measure B was defeated. It was done by a grassroot's effort with many neighborhood councils involved. In spite of being outspent by more than a million dollars, the grassroot effort was able to turn back this iniative that was rushed to the voters without much of a vetting process. Many believe that this is an indication of the effectiveness of the NC movement when and if they get organized as a political unit.

There was a low turnout of voters and it is expectewd in the runoff election that there will be even fewer voters, somewhere between six and eight percent.

Many NC's reported that there were voting problems in their area and it would be of interest to know if there were any problems in the GHNNC area.

10) Comment by Committee members on non-agenda items

There will be a Department of Transportation, NC MOU strategy meeting on March 28

Please be advised that the Bylaws of the Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council provide a process for reconsideration of actions as well as a grievance procedure. For your convenience, the Bylaws are available on our website: www.ghnnc.org

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 GHNNC.ORG or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact us at (818) 831-0578.