



General Board Meeting

Tuesday, July 16, 2024, 6:00 P.M.

Agenda



Philip Armstrong, President | Ronee Reece, Vice President
Lara Morrison, Treasurer | Hector Quezada, Secretary
Quazi Huda, Community Interest Rep | Jennifer Quinones, At-Large Rep
Shafi Ahmed, At-Large Rep | Amy Lee, Student Youth Rep
Jason Gamez, At-Large Rep | Gaines Newborn, At-Large Rep
Vacant, At-Large Rep

Rampart Village Neighborhood Council
St. Anne's, Anne Floto Classroom
155 N. Occidental Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90026

Si requiere servicios de traducción, favor de avisar al Concejo Vecinal 3 días de trabajo (72 horas) antes del evento. Por favor contacte Philip Armstrong al 213.275.9322 o por correo electrónico: Philip.armstrongrvnc@gmail.com para avisar al Concejo Vecinal.

IN CONFORMITY WITH THE OCTOBER 6, 2023 ENACTMENT OF CALIFORNIA SENATE BILL 411 (PORTANTINO) AND LA CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL ON NOVEMBER 1, 2023, THE RAMPART VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED VIRTUALLY.

Physical Meeting Access Information

If the gate to St. Anne's parking lot is not open when you arrive, please use the intercom to contact the building's gate opener to let you in. If the front door to St. Anne's is locked when you arrive, please use the intercom there to gain admission. Then, take the elevator or walk up the stairs to the second floor.

Zoom Meeting Access Information Online or By Telephone

Internet: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84399345554> | Telephone: 669.900.6833 | Mtg. ID: 843 9934 5554 (No Password Required)

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Every person wishing to address the Board must dial 669.900.6833, and enter 843 9934 5554 and then press # to join the meeting. When prompted by the presiding officer, to provide public input at the Neighborhood Council meeting the public will be requested to dial *9 or use the Raise Hand option, 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, the issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future Board meeting. Public comment is limited to 2 minutes per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the Board.

SB 411 Updates:

In the event of a disruption that prevents the eligible legislative body from broadcasting the meeting to members of the public using the call-in option or internet-based service option, or in the event of a disruption within the eligible legislative body's control that prevents members of the public from offering public comments using the call-in option or internet-based service option, the eligible legislative body shall take no further action on items appearing on the meeting agenda until public access to the meeting via the call-in option or internet-based service option is restored. Actions taken on agenda items during a disruption that prevents the eligible legislative body from broadcasting the meeting may be challenged pursuant to Section 54960.1.

(C) The eligible legislative body shall not require public comments to be submitted in advance of the meeting and shall provide an opportunity for the public to address the legislative body and offer comments in real time.

(D) Notwithstanding Section 54953.3, an individual desiring to provide public comment through the use of an internet website, or other online platform, not under the control of the eligible legislative body, that requires registration to log in to a teleconference may be required to register as required by the third-party internet website or online platform to participate.

(E) (i) An eligible legislative body that provides a timed public comment period for each agenda item shall not close the public comment period for the agenda item, or the opportunity to register, pursuant to subparagraph (D), to provide public comment until that timed public comment period has elapsed.

(ii) An eligible legislative body that does not provide a timed public comment period, but takes public comment separately on each agenda item, shall allow a reasonable amount of time per agenda item to allow public members the opportunity to provide public comment, including time for members of the public to register pursuant to subparagraph (D), or otherwise be recognized for the purpose of providing public comment.

(iii) An eligible legislative body that provides a timed general public comment period that does not correspond to a specific agenda item shall not close the public comment period or the opportunity to register, pursuant to subparagraph (D), until the timed general public comment period has elapsed.

- I. **Call to Order, Welcoming Remarks, and Reading of RVNC’s Purpose** (0 Min.)
- II. **Roll Call and Adoption of Outstanding Minutes** (0 Min.)
- III. **Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items (2 minutes per speaker)** (0 Min.)
- IV. **Reports:** (0 Min.)
 - A. **Government Agencies, Elected Officials or their Rep, and Candidates for Office**
 - B. **Community Organizations**
 - C. **RVNC Officers**
 - D. **RVNC Committee Chairs and Liaisons**

In accordance with the motion passed at the October 17, 2023, General Board meeting, all RVNC Committee Chairs are requested to report to the board:

1. **Who is on the committee;**
2. **What is the committee working on; and**
3. **When is the day of the month for regular committee meetings.**

V. **Presentations**

- A. **LA Metro presentation: LA Metro is in the early planning phase of the [Vermont Transit Corridor Project](#). The session aims to provide insights into project goals and benefits and address questions.**

VI. **Announcements** (0 Min.)

- A.

VII. **Discussion and Possible Action on the following Motions & Resolutions.** (0 Min.)

Old Business

- A. **Discussion and possible board action to recommend one board member to serve as a panelist to sit on a Regional Grievance Panel. The following link connects to the Neighborhood Council grievance policy in Section 22.818, Article 3 of Chapter 28 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code: <https://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Grievance-Policy.pdf>**
- B. **Discussion and possible action to have the assigned member(s) present the updated Rampart Village Neighborhood Council Inventory Reports to the General Board for final Board review and approval.**

- C. Discussion and possible action as follow-up to the Central LA virtual community workshop to develop a community-driven action plan to improve walking and biking safety focusing on neighborhood schools of Commonwealth Avenue ES, Frank Del Olmo, and Lafayette Park PC. We heard from Margot Ocanas, LADOT's Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Director that the SRTS plan for those schools and a total of 21 schools in the area was funded for \$32 million in CalTrans Active Transportation Program, Cycle 6. Margot had told us that the scramble crosswalk proposed for 3rd and Vermont was removed from the ATP application because that intersection is in the Vision Zero Program's High Injury Network. We were subsequently told by the Vision Zero Program that it doesn't meet their guidelines and Margot then said she would go back to the Vision Zero Program to understand this because the studies for the crosswalk had already been done. Now that Margot has moved on, Matt Gertz in the Vision Zero Division of LADOT informed Philip that, at this time, LADOT is not looking to implement any new scrambles unless there is a documented crash pattern of turning vehicle vs pedestrian, in addition to the volume threshold requirements. Even if safety issues exist and the volume thresholds are met, other countermeasures should be explored first before LADOT goes to a scramble (i.e. right turn on red restrictions, bus stop relocations, left turn phasing, etc). Delays to Metro services are also a relevant concern for LADOT, and Vermont is a very highly-utilized bus corridor. All of this is in addition to the fact that LADOT is backlogged and has budget constraints.
- D. Discussion and possible action regarding the HCID rollout of a database of all low-income housing created in projects using Density Bonus or Transit Oriented Communities (TOC) incentives. In response to our analysis showing some building permits being issued to projects that ostensibly did not appear on Los Angeles Housing Department (LAHD)'s list of covenanted projects, LAHD completed a review of those projects with final permits issued and asked LADBS to provide information regarding LADBS' receipt of LAHD clearance for low income units. This data visualization reflects collaboration between the RVNC PSHT Committee and LAHD to fill the data gaps for covenants for those projects with final permits issued: [extract of join of covenants-permits and discretionary approvals 4.20.23 5.23.23 APN | Tableau Public](#). The Budget Advocates posted the 2024 White Paper to Council File [24-0600](#) on May 7: https://clkrep.lacity.org/online/docs/2024/24-0600_misc_NCadvocacy.pdf and the RVNC filed a [community impact statement](#) on May 21. In anticipation of filing the community impact statement, on May 10, Philip reached out to Kevin Keller, Senior Advisor, Office of Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass. In response, Armeen Neshat who is the Mayor's Office's link to affordable housing production reviewed Philip's email and provided the following response: "All departments that have a role in a project's construction, either by issuing a permit or conducting a necessary inspection, or providing a required clearance, communicate and coordinate closely." At her budget recap webinar on May 29, Philip asked Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez whether she would be willing to introduce a motion in Council to ask the Los Angeles Building and Safety Department with support from the other Departments as needed to report back on the concerns as discussed in the 2024 White Paper. Specifically, there is no City Department that is responsible for producing affordable housing. The responsibility is divided among the Los Angeles Housing Department, the Los Angeles Building and Safety Department, and the City Planning Department and they each have a piece but none of them has all of the data that is needed: 1) to ensure that the low-income units produced are actually affordable and 2) to produce data available to the public that shows how many affordable units are being produced on a yearly basis in the various categories (including with Density Bonus and Transit Oriented Communities incentives). As the Councilmember requested, Philip submitted this question to Diana Vicente on May 29. Philip also submitted this information to CD 4 on June 7 and to CD 13 on June 30. On July 2, Emma Howard, CD 13 planning deputy, told us she would follow up with LAHD and LADBS on this issue in depth. For the slides from LAHD's April 19, 2022, presentation to the RVNC Public Safety, Housing & Transportation committee, please see the following link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hpb4YXRvA0nfw_55Lxq6srQJqNnSDoGg/view?usp=sharing
- E. Discussion and possible action to follow up on an action plan for the 100 block of S. Occidental Boulevard. The RVNC understands that Occidental is included along with the medians on Verdugo in one of the city departments' contracts. The RVNC learned from Javier Solis, Superintendent of Recreation and Parks Maintenance Operations, 213-485-4809, that the Occidental medians belong to Public Works/Bureau of Street Services/Urban Forestry Landscape Div. At our March 19 General Board meeting, Diana Vicente, CD 1 Field Representative, told us that they want to bring to us a proposal for their Climate Fellows to plant native vegetation in the Occidental medians and they will convey this to CD 13. Please see the following link: <https://streetsla.lacity.org/urban-forestry-division>.

New Business

- F. APPROVE the Monthly Expenditure Report for June 2024.
- G. Discussion and possible action to look at the 2024-2025 budget and approve Spanish-English and English-Spanish simultaneous interpretation for the remainder of the fiscal year, either on Zoom or in-person. Ronee said he would agendize outreach to inform the community about the availability of the Spanish-English and English-Spanish simultaneous interpretation for the next meeting of the CROSN Committee.
- H. Discussion and possible action to approve support for LA Metro in the early planning phase of the [Vermont Transit Corridor Project](#). Metro wants to work with our Neighborhood Council. Tonight's presentation aims to provide insights into project goals and benefits and address questions.
- I. Discussion and possible action to approve a letter of support or community impact statement for CD 13 to flag noncompliance with permit and inspection requirements and request enforcement agencies to investigate and cite. At our May 21 General Board meeting, the board passed a motion to request: 1) an explanation from the BSS investigator of what transpired; 2) a copy of the traffic control plan that was enforced by the developer and 3) a traffic signal and a pedestrian crosswalk across Vermont Avenue at Council Street. In response, Tim Frémaux, Principal Transportation Engineer, Design and Construction Management at LADOT informed us that the signal at Vermont/Council is going through plan review and they estimate that the developer will construct it in the next 3-6 months although the developer controls their own schedule. On June 17, Philip spoke with Wallie Jong in Construction Services at the Bureau of Engineering who told us that Permit No. A2024-000049, Reference No. 108644, required: 3. Call for inspection before noon on the workday prior to doing any work. 6. Pedestrian and vehicular access must be maintained at all times. In response to an email message from Philip, John Calderon who is an inspector at the Bureau of Contract Administration told us on June 21 that the developer did not follow the requirement in the traffic control plan to maintain pedestrian access, did not notify the public, and did not request an inspection prior to implementation. There would be an incentive for the developer to meet the permit requirements except that the City Attorney doesn't enforce LAMC 62.61 (f), penalties for noncompliance. The developers know that the Bureau of Contract Administration is short-staffed and a pattern of noncompliance is observed as a result. In response, CD 13 told us [Council File 20-1469](#) provides the authority and, at this point, flagging the noncompliance so that they can request enforcement agencies investigate and cite is the appropriate process.
- J. Discussion and possible action to approve working with Vince Ababao, LAFDCERT Battalion 11 Coordinator, to request the Neighborhood Team Program (NTP) through Patrick Botz-Forbes and Chin Thammasaengsri, to recruit and train a Team Leader, to modify and upgrade the 2015 RVNC Emergency Plan (C. Burleson), and to request the completed class roster from LAFD.
- K. Discussion and possible action to ask CD 10 and Department of Recreation and Parks to take actions to inform our stakeholders of the renovation project and seek their input in completing the Shatto Recreation Center – Park Renovation (PRJ21768) Project. Please see the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners Report No. 24-064, Shatto Recreation Center Park Renovation Project, at the following link: <https://www.laparks.org/sites/default/files/pdf/commissioner/2024/apr04/24-064.pdf>.
- L. Regarding Case No: ZA-2021-8464-ZAA, discussion and possible action to approve a motion for Hector to contact City Planning to find out what outreach was done to our stakeholders in correcting the violation and, if necessary, to appeal the decision before the July 15 deadline. In that case, Hector will inform City Planning that he will bring this appeal to the July 16 board meeting to ask the board to confirm the decision regarding the appeal. Hector to inform the board members in advance of the meeting whether they have to have completed the Planning 101 training to vote on this decision.
- M. Discussion and possible action to approve a motion to authorize Philip to use the RVNC Zoom account for meetings of the Los Angeles Bicycle Advisory Committee, Planning and Bikeway Engineering Subcommittee. On March 12, Philip discussed with Lorenzo using the RVNC zoom account for the Planning and Bikeways Engineering Subcommittee meetings going forward and he said that's ok.
- N. As recommended by the Public Safety, Housing & Transportation Committee on July 3, discussion and possible action to recommend approval of a community impact statement for Council File 18-0406, Notification of Demolition / Los Angeles Municipal Code / Amendment (please see the following link:

https://ens.lacity.org/clk/referralmemo/clkreferralmemo9179491_04162024.htm). Philip was asked by Stella Grey, Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on LADBS Policies, Bel Air Beverly Crest NC, to support the Proposed Motion by Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky with the following amendment:

- Add a requirement for the demolition permit applicants to provide LADBS Plan Check with a proof of compliance with Rule 1403 for asbestos clearance <http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/rule-book/reg-xiv/rule-1403.pdf>. LADBS shall consult with AQMD and LAFD regarding implementation of this request.

Background:

- Under California Health and Safety Code, permit applicants can declare asbestos absence by signing an affidavit.

- LADBS and its Plan Check Department rely solely on applicants' integrity to report compliance with Rule 1403 for asbestos clearance <http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/rule-book/reg-xiv/rule-1403.pdf> by simply signing an affidavit.

- Unfortunately, some applicants have signed affidavits without performing necessary tests to prevent neighbors and construction workers from being exposed to debris contaminated with asbestos. After our reports, AQMD intervened, stopping demolitions and enforcing compliance.

- By requesting a proof of compliance from SoCalAQMD or LAFD we will ensure that public health and safety are further protected during demolition from asbestos-contamination.

- O. Discussion and possible action to approve a community impact statement for Council File 23-0002-S144, SB 960 (Wiener) / Caltrans Transportation Projects / Complete Street Facilities / Safe Streets / Bicycle Lanes / Accessible Sidewalks (Raman – Soto-Martinez): Introduced June 26, 2024 and referred to Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Relations Committee. Resolution is requesting that the City of Los Angeles include in its 2023-24 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for SB 960 (Wiener), which seeks to ensure all transportation projects funded or overseen by Caltrans provide complete street facilities, IF AMENDED to remove the phrase “to the extent feasible.”
- P. Discussion and possible action to approve a community impact statement for Council File 23-0002-S143, Ellis Act Amendment / One-Year Extension / Intended Future Use / Tenant One-Year Extensions / Municipality Rent Regulation (Raman – Soto-Martinez): Introduced June 26, 2024 and referred to Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Relations Committee. Committee waived consideration of item. City Clerk scheduled item for Council on July 2, 2024. Resolution is requesting that the City of Los Angeles include in its 2023-2024 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for legislation that would amend the Ellis Act.
- Q. Discussion and possible action to approve a community impact statement for Council File 23-1027 regarding City Charter Reform, currently in the Ad Hoc Committee on City Governance Reform. Ronee, as our LANCC representative, said he would review what LANCC has done on this and Lorenzo told us he will check with his leadership on whether DONE currently has the capacity to directly provide administrative support to Neighborhood Councils or whether they would want to ask for that authority through the Charter Reform. Another possible item for the community impact statement is who should be responsible for assessing and championing the needs of the Neighborhood Councils for funding and resources sufficient to enable them to accomplish their purpose. According to [DONE's About Neighborhood Councils webpage](#), Neighborhood Councils gather, vet, debate, and come to a consensus on matters that impact City life and policy, and deliver their official stance on these issues in letters called “Community Impact Statements”, which are shared with City decision-makers, such as the Mayor, City Council, or City Departments such as City Planning. However, there has been no effort to assess or furnish the necessary resources and funding to allow Neighborhood Councils to accomplish this.
- R. Discussion and possible action to approve a community impact statement for Council File 24-0602, Synthetic Grass / Artificial Turf / Polyflouroalkyl Substances (PFAS) / Forever Chemicals / Health and Environmental Risks / Drought-Friendly Landscaping (Blumenfield – Hernandez - Yaroslavsky): Introduced May 24, 2024 and referred to Energy and Environment Committee. Motion is instructing the Chief Legislative Analyst to report with in coordination with the City's Chief Heat Officer and the Climate Emergency Management Office (CEMO), a summary of policies regarding synthetic grass or artificial turf in jurisdictions with climate and water supply issues analogous to Los Angeles, and their heat impacts citywide.
- S. As a standing agenda item, collect feedback at the end of each meeting as to what worked well and what needed improvement.
- T. Consider whether any of the items on the Board meeting agenda (such as the minutes and MER) could be added to the consent calendar.

VIII. Adjournment

THE AMERICAN 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, 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 of Neighborhood Empowerment by calling (213) 978-1551 or email: NCsupport@lacity.org

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 our website: rvnc.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 Philip Armstrong at Philip.armstrongrvnc@gmail.com

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GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON AGENDA ITEMS

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, the issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future Board meeting. Public comment is limited to two minutes per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the Board.

PUBLIC POSTING OF AGENDAS – Neighborhood Council agendas are posted for public review as follows:

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- 2) RVNC Bulletin Board, Suite #236, 155 N. Occidental Blvd, 90026;
- 3) www.rvnc.org; and
- 4) You can also receive our agendas via email by subscribing to L.A. City's Early Notification System at <https://www.lacity.org/subscriptions>

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. For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or ethics.commission@lacity.org

RECONSIDERATION AND GRIEVANCE PROCESS - For information on the NC's process for board action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy, or any other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the NC Bylaws. The Bylaws are available at our Board meetings and our website www.rvnc.org