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Quintus Jett, President
Vacant, Vice President
Brian Piatek, Treasurer
Dorsay Dujon, Secretary
Blake Lynch, Parliamentarian

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Dorsay Dujon, At Large Rep.
Angela Gilbert, At Large Rep.
Quintus Jett, At Large Rep.
Blake Lynch, At Large Rep.
Steven Meeks, At Large Rep.
Tora Miller, Homeowner Rep.
Brian Piatek, Homeowner Rep.
Brandy Robinson, Business Rep.
Connye Thomas, Community Interest Rep.
Julio Valdez, At Large Rep.
Jennifer Walker, Education Rep.
Phillip Wiley, Youth Rep.
Richard Williams, Business Rep.
Vacant, At Large Rep. (term expiring 2025)



**BOARD OF THE WEST ADAMS
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**
P.O. BOX 78474 Los Angeles, CA 90016

Email: westadamsnc@gmail.com
Website: westadamsnc.org

West Adams Neighborhood Council
Meets third Monday's each month & fourth
Monday's in February, January and June
Vineyard Recreation Center
2942 Vineyard Ave, Los Angeles, CA, 90016

**DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD
EMPOWERMENT**

City Hall
200 N. Spring St. 20th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Tel: (213) 978-1551 | Toll Free: 311
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West Adams Neighborhood Council

Board & Stakeholders Meeting Agenda
ZOOM MEETING

Monday, January 27, 2025 (6:30pm)

In conformity with the October 6, 2023 enactment of California Senate Bill 411 and LA City Council approval on November 1, 2023, this West Adams Neighborhood Council subcommittee meeting will be conducted virtually.

West Adams Neighborhood Council is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85934094403>

Meeting ID: 859 3409 4403

Dial by your location

- +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
- +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
 - +1 305 224 1968 US
 - +1 309 205 3325 US
 - +1 312 626 679



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Board & Stakeholders Meeting Agenda

Monday, January 27, 2025 (6:30pm)

AGENDA (*Please note: All items may be discussed in a different order than how they are listed on the agenda on the day of the noticed meeting. The order of business may be changed without notice*).

1. **Call to Order:** Welcome and Roll Call of Board Members
2. **General Public Comment:** Public comments on non-agenda items (2 min max per person)
3. **Reports from Government Officials & Representatives**
 - a. Start with Michael Suarkeo, new Community Resilience Officer, Los Angeles City Fire Department, Operations South Bureau.
4. **WANC Subcommittee reports, including committee referrals since last Board & Stakeholder meeting, and Individual Board Member Activity reports**
5. **Old Business**
 - a. Deadline tonight! **WANC board member election candidate filing. Monday, January 27, 11:59pm.** Email contact@westadamsnc.org
 - b. Board vote to approve **recent Board & Stakeholder Meeting Minutes.**
 1. December 16, 2024 <https://ncmanager.org/nc/wanc/board/meetings/2024-12-16/minutes>
- c. **Treasurer Report**
 1. Discussion and possible action on **November 2024 MER.**
 2. Discussion and possible action on **December 2024 MER.**
 3. Discussion and possible payment to **UmeWorks for domain renewal** NTE \$22



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d. Discussion and possible action on **WANC Community Impact Statements** (see full-text on pages 8-10) addressing the following:

1. **Proposed Opposition to Community Councils receiving same status as Neighborhood Councils.** Council File 15-0389-S2 & Council File 15-0389-S1

Council File: 15-0389-S2. Community Councils / Same Privileges As Neighborhood Councils / Legal and Charter Considerations / Brown Act Compliance / Los Angeles Administrative Code Amendment

Council File: 15-0389-S1. Addressing City Council, Commissions or Boards / Extend Time Allowance to Non-Certified Community Councils / Los Angeles Administrative Code Amendment

2. **Proposed Support to Ratepayer Advocate of the Proposed Increase in Sewer Service Charges**

Council File: 24-0995. Ratepayer Advocate/ Supplementary Review/ Proposed Sewer Service Charge Rate Adjustments/ Wastewater System Challenges (proposed CIS language appended)

6. New Business

a. Discussion and WANC possible outreach activities at **CicLAvia – West Adams Meeting University Park, Sunday, February 23, 9am-3pm.**

https://www.ciclavia.org/ciclavia_west_adams_meets_university_park25

7. Upcoming WANC Meetings & Events

a. **Next Board & Stakeholder public-business meeting (4th Monday, February 24, 2025)**

8. Adjourn



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SB 411 Updates:

If a Neighborhood Council has a quorum of board members in a physical location, board members who wish to join the meeting via teleconferencing must adhere to AB 2449 rules and regulations. If a Neighborhood Council does not have a quorum of board members in a physical location, they must adhere to SB 411 rules and regulations.

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.

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. 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.

(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 , 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.**

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, assistive listening devices and other auxiliary aids and/or services, may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request



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at least 3 business days (72 hours) prior to the meeting you wish to attend by contacting Department of Neighborhood Empowerment by email, NCsupport@LACity.org or by telephone 213-978-1551.

PUBLIC INPUT AT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS – 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.

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

- Vineyard Recreation Center, 2942 Vineyard Ave, Los Angeles, 90016
- www.WestAdamsNC.org
- You can also receive our agendas via email by subscribing to L.A. City’s Early Notification System at West Adams Neighborhood Council
<https://www.lacity.org/subscriptions>

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 by contacting the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment by calling (213) 978-1551 or email: NCsupport@lacity.org

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 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: www.WestAdamsNC.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 Dorsay Dujon, Secretary, at 323- 998-0616 or email at: westadamsnc@gmail.com. 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.WestAdamsNC.org

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COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Council File: 15-0389-S2

Title: Community Councils / Same Privileges As Neighborhood Councils / Legal and Charter Considerations / Brown Act Compliance / Los Angeles Administrative Code Amendment

Position: Against

Council File: 15-0389-S1

Title: Addressing City Council, Commissions or Boards / Extend Time Allowance to Non-Certified Community Councils / Los Angeles Administrative Code Amendment

Position: Against

While the members of the West Adams Neighborhood Council appreciate the well-meaning intent of the motion referenced by Council Files 15-0389-S2 and 15-0389-S1, granting Community Councils the same privileges as those afforded to Neighborhood Councils pursuant to Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 22.819, West Adams Neighborhood Council must oppose the motion for the following reasons:

All certified Neighborhood Councils are required to comply with the Brown Act, Public Records Act, relevant City ordinances, and the policies and rules of the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, and the City Clerk's Neighborhood Council Funding Program and Election Division, including several training, funding, and records requirements. In contrast, community councils are not subject to these requirements, which serve to promote transparency, accountability, and public participation.

Neighborhood Councils are prohibited from activities such as raising outside funding, supporting or opposing candidates and ballot measures, and suing the city. Depending on their status Community Councils may support candidates and ballot measures.

Community Councils can restrict board membership in any way they choose, do not need to give notice of meeting times and locations, do not have to allow the public to attend and



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address them, or let the public know what they are discussing and deciding. The purpose of the Neighborhood Council System is supposed to be open discussion of issues in a public meeting. Community Councils can meet and decide issues in ways that are opaque and secretive. Several years ago, the Pacific Palisades Community Council declined to seek Neighborhood Council status, stating it did not wish to comply with the Brown Act and other laws. It also solicits private contributions, which Neighborhood Councils are not allowed to accept. The Brentwood Community Council requires the annual payment of \$150 by each person serving on its Board, contrary to the City ordinance governing Neighborhood Councils. The Westwood Community Council, while unnamed in this motion, operates with “annual voluntary dues” and “contributions,” which Neighborhood Councils are again not allowed to accept. It also exists in an area already covered by two certified Neighborhood Councils, (the North Westwood Neighborhood Council and the Westwood Neighborhood Council). If this motion is implemented, this both could provide an unfair advantage to one community (of double speaking time, CIS filing, etc.) that is not available anywhere else in the City and could also muddle the stance of our area when there are disagreements.

Further, if this motion is adopted by the City Council, it will mean that other Community Councils, Civic organizations and possibly Homeowners organizations throughout the city can demand the same privileges. Will the Council next permit Homeowners Associations and Condo Associations the same rights as Neighborhood Councils? Residents Associations? Chambers of Commerce?

Instead of providing special treatment of community councils (and opening a Pandora’s box of who else gets recognized), the City Council should instead instruct the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment to prioritize the formation of Neighborhood Councils in community council areas where Neighborhood Councils do not now exist, and to facilitate participation by Community Councils in areas where Neighborhood Councils already exist. Further, if the City Council is concerned with hearing from Neighborhood Council and community voices, it should reinstate telephonic comment at committee meetings and make Neighborhood Council comment separate from public comment. Additionally, the City Council should address the movement of general comment to the end of the agenda, which was done in contradiction of Council rules and without debate or discussion.



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COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Council File: 24-0995

Regarding: Ratepayer Advocate/ Supplementary Review/ Proposed Sewer Service Charge Rate Adjustments/ Wastewater System Challenges

Position: Support

The West Adams Neighborhood Council supports Council File 24-0995, which proposes to instruct the Bureau of Sanitation (BOS), with the assistance of the Ratepayer Advocate (funded by BOS), to conduct a supplementary review of the proposed Sewer Service Charge rate adjustments and the components that comprise it - consisting of the capital program, operation and maintenance expenses and debt service requirements - in order to assess its viability and determine if there are alternative methods to address the wastewater system's challenges thereby protecting the interests of the ratepayers. (Motion by Council member Monica Rodriguez)

In addition, two outreach events conducted by the Bureau of Sanitation to educate over 3,000,000 residents in Los Angeles about the proposed adjustments that will greatly impact their economy is simply insufficient. West Adams Neighborhood Council recommends more outreach be done.

The West Adams Neighborhood Council is opposed to the proposed increase in Sewer Service Charge. The increase, as proposed, 22% in 2024, and approximately 120% total by 2028 will be detrimental to the cost of living for residents and businesses of Los Angeles who are already struggling to make ends meet. The cost of living in Los Angeles is already too high. Lack of planning and foresight on the part of the Bureau of Sanitation should not adversely burden the citizens of Los Angeles. Therefore, SVANC supports CF 20-0995 and requests that more public outreach be done.