

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS**

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

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Jace Dawson, At Large Rep.  
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.  
Richard Williams, Business Rep.  
Vacant, Education Rep. (term expiring 2027)  
Vacant, Youth Rep (term expiring 2025)  
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](mailto:westadamsnc@gmail.com)  
Website: [westadamsnc.org](http://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

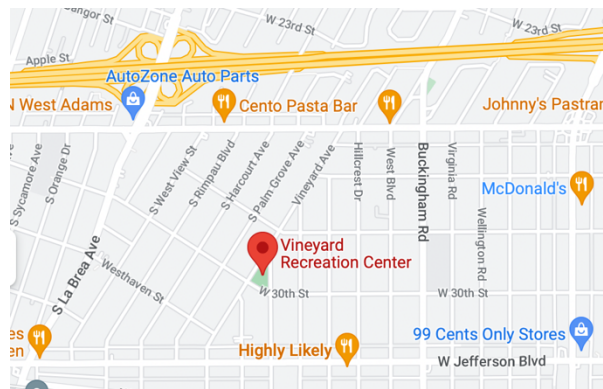
**DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT**

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200 N. Spring St. 20th Floor  
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**West Adams Neighborhood Council**  
HYBRID Board & Stakeholders Meeting Agenda

**Monday, March 17, 2025 (6:30pm)**

**Vineyard Recreation Center - 2942 Vineyard Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90016**



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 also be conducted virtually. **Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85771117277>**



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## **West Adams Neighborhood Council**

### **Hybrid - Board & Stakeholders Meeting Agenda**

**Monday, March 17, 2025 (6:30pm)**

**Vineyard Recreation Center - 2942 Vineyard Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90016**

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85771117277>

Meeting ID: 856 7545 0585, Dial by your location • + 1 669 900 6833

***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**
4. **WANC Internal Activity Reports, including but limited to subcommittees and individual board member activities**
  - a. Board member standing (incomplete trainings and renewals listed in attachments). See <https://neighborhoodempowerment.lacity.gov/wanc/>
  - b. Subcommittees: **Executive** (Jett, Lynch, Piatek), **Finance** (Piatek, Williams), **Land Use** (Meeks, Piatek, Williams), **Outreach** (Dawson, Gilbert, Jett), **Public Safety** (Stakeholder Co-chair Simonson, board member Valdez), **Rules** (Dawson, Lynch, Thomas), **Youth & Education** (Jett). For questions about, report from, or to be a stakeholder member or participant on any committee: **email [westadamsnc.org](mailto:westadamsnc.org)**.



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- c. **WANC 2025 election in-person events: March 22** (Meet the Candidates?); **March 29** (Meet the Candidates?), Vote-by-Mail applications, plus drop box, at Baldwin Hills Recreation Center until March 31, Vote-by-Mail applications at Baldwin Hills Branch Library until March 31, but option of pre-scheduled WANC-hosted information table in lobby. For additional instructions on elections, **email westadamsnc.org**

## 5. Old Business

- a. Board vote to approve **recent Board & Stakeholder Meeting Minutes.**

1. February 24, 2025 <https://ncmanager.org/nc/wanc/board/meetings/2025-02-24/minutes>

## b. Treasurer Report

1. Discussion and possible action to re-approve the September 2024 MER (due to the naming of the action in the Board Meeting Minutes on October 21, 2024 being not sufficient to pass the requirements of the LA City Clerk's office).
2. Discussion and possible action to approve **February 2025 MER**
3. Discussion and possible action to pay **UmeWorks** \$64 for their **February invoice** NTE \$75
4. Discussion and possible action to fund the West Adams NC **ZOOM license** NTE \$200
5. Discussion and possible action to fund the annual **CANVA license** through EmpowerLA NTE \$130
6. Discussion and possible action to move **\$10,000 from Office Expenses in the WANC budget to NPG requests**



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- c. Update, discussion, and possible further action on **WANC explored (and NTE \$3,000 approved) Community Preparation for Emergency & Disaster Management event, with special attention to individual preparations, to be held on May 17** in conjunction with UNNC and ECWA, with CERT, LAFD, LAPD, and Emergency Management Division committed
  
- d. Discussion and possible action to support the **establishment of the Los Angeles Public Bank** ([Council File: 19-1235](#)). See attached sample CIS letter prepared by United Parents and Students.

## 6. New Business

- a. Discussion and possible action to approve **WANC Stakeholders** co-chairs and Stakeholder members of subcommittees to **have option of westadamsnc.org email addresses**.
  
- b. Discussion and possible action to Fund an **NPG request from BeautifyLA** NTE \$4750
  
- c. Discussion and possible action to fund an **NPG request from Parents, Educators/Teachers & Students in Action (PESA)** NTE \$5000
  
- d. Discussion and possible action to approve a CIS from the Land Use Committee regarding joining with ECWA NC to **require the City to enforce the laws and ordinances regarding lawful and unlawful Cannabis Dispensaries in South LA, including the WANC area**. Please see attachment.



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## 7. Discussion of WANC anticipated key dates, events, and meetings

- a. **Deadline: WANC elections VoteByMail applications** (Monday, March 31@11:59pm)
- b. Next **Public Safety** meeting (1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday, April 1@6:30pm)
- c. Next **Youth and Education** meeting (1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday, April 3@5:30pm)
- d. **Deadline: WANC elections, postmark ballots** (Tuesday, April 8)
- e. Next Outreach meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, April 9 @6:30pm)
- f. Next Land Use meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, April 10 @6:30pm)
- g. Vineyard Recreation Spring Yoshi Egg Hunt (Saturday, April 12)
- h. Next Executive meeting (Wednesday, April 16 @6:30pm)
- i. **Next Board & Stakeholder public-business meeting (3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, April 21@6:30pm)**

## 8. Adjourn

### **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



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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 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](mailto: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](http://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>



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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](mailto: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](http://ethics.lacity.org/lobbying). For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or [ethics.commission@lacity.org](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.WestAdamsNC.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](http://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 email: [westadamsnc@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.WestAdamsNC.org)

## ATTACHMENTS

### AGENDA ITEM 4A

**Incomplete trainings and renewals (as of Friday, March 14); completion of all trainings required for voting on any business matter**

Dujon (Ethics), Dawson (Funding), Meeks (Funding, Gender Expression and Gender Identity), Robinson (Gender Expression and Gender Identity)



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## AGENDA ITEM 4D

Sample customized for WANC - Community Impact (CIS) to support the Los Angeles Public Bank:

February 24, 2025

RE: Fund the Los Angeles Public Bank Plan

Dear Los Angeles City Council Members,

On behalf of the West Adams Neighborhood Council, we strongly support the establishment of the Los Angeles Public Bank ([Council File: 19-1235](#)). With our city facing wildfires, unaffordable housing, and crumbling infrastructure, redirecting public funds from the [\\$1.4 billion we currently pay to private banks annually](#) is critical. That money can rebuild neighborhoods, strengthen disaster resilience, and support local small businesses.

The Los Angeles Public Bank—a nonprofit, city-owned institution—will reinvest local dollars into affordable housing, modern infrastructure, and small business development. Its primary goal is to keep funds within our local communities by providing low-cost loans for projects that benefit our neighborhoods, rather than redirecting public funds to prioritize the interests of private commercial banks. It will prioritize equity and ensure that profits benefit Angelenos rather than shareholders.

Public banks are governed by an independent Board of Directors, run by experienced bankers and financial experts. This structure ensures transparency and accountability in decision-making, as the board operates autonomously from political influences. LA's public bankers will make investment and lending decisions based on the mission and mandates set by the City and stakeholders to meet the needs of LA projects.

We applaud the City Council unanimously approving a feasibility study for the public bank in June 2023 and in [May 2024](#). Now, we urge you to take the next crucial step: allocate the \$460K needed to fund the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the City's consultants to begin developing the bank's feasibility study and business plan. This modest investment will save millions in the





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short term and lay the foundation for a resilient financial infrastructure before the next crisis strikes.

The Los Angeles public bank offers many advantages including:

1. Saving money. LA currently spends over \$1 billion a year in fees to Wall Street. A public bank would significantly cut borrowing costs and put those savings back into local projects, ensuring every public dollar benefits our community instead of lining private pockets.
2. Community development. When funds stay local, they work harder for us. Deposits in a public bank create local loans that boost affordable housing, improve infrastructure, and support small businesses, all vital for building stronger neighborhoods.
3. Ethical investment. A public bank is more than just a bank; it's a long-term, community-rooted source of capital that targets the structural inequalities affecting generations. It's about investing in initiatives that genuinely uplift LA residents and local businesses.
4. Democracy and transparency. A public bank puts financial control in the hands of Angelenos. It gives our community a real say in where our money goes, ensuring investments reflect our shared values and priorities instead of private profit.

We respectfully request that the City Council consider our Community Impact Statement in support of the Los Angeles Public Bank.

Thank you for standing with our communities as we work to build a Los Angeles where every dollar truly serves its people.

Sincerely,

**West Adams Neighborhood Council**



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## **AGENDA ITEM 6D**

Los Angeles City Council  
City Hall  
200 N. Spring St.

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Regarding: CF 14-0366-S33 - Unlicensed Commercial Cannabis Business Activity/Padlock Enforcement/Cease and Desist

West Adams Neighborhood Council submits this Community Impact Statement (CIS) to highlight the detrimental effects of unlicensed cannabis dispensaries in our community and to advocate for immediate action in support of licensed social equity operators.

### Public Safety and Community Harm

The unchecked proliferation of unlicensed cannabis dispensaries in South Los Angeles has created an alarming public safety crisis. These unregulated businesses not only undermine the legal market but also contribute to:

- The sale of untested and potentially harmful cannabis products, posing serious health risks to consumers. This is especially alarming in light of the recent deaths related to Fentanyl-laced products.
- Increased criminal activity, including violent crime, robberies, and illicit transactions around these businesses.
- Decreased neighborhood quality of life due to loitering, traffic issues, and unregulated operations.

We are alarmed at the recent testimony by the Captain of the LAPD Gang and Narcotics division at the February 4th City Council Government Operations Committee meeting. The captain stated numerous times that despite the City's stated commitment to enforcement, these illegal storefronts remain operational with little to no intervention. Meanwhile, legally licensed cannabis businesses in our community, many of which are Black-owned social equity operators, struggle to survive under constantly changing regulations and immense tax burdens.

### Economic Impact on Social Equity Businesses



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Social equity license holders were granted licenses with the promise of economic opportunity and restitution for communities disproportionately impacted by the War on Drugs. However, their ability to operate successfully is being severely undermined by:

- **Unfair competition:** Illegal dispensaries do not pay taxes or licensing fees, allowing them to sell products at significantly lower prices.
- **Excessive taxation and fees:** Legal operators face local and state taxes of up to 45%, putting them at a competitive disadvantage.
- **Regulatory barriers:** Bureaucratic delays and burdensome compliance requirements further stifle the ability of social equity businesses to compete.

As a result, many of these businesses have closed or are struggling to stay open, while illicit operators continue to erode the integrity of the City's regulatory framework.

### **Immediate Actions Requested**

To address this urgent crisis, we urge the Cannabis Regulation Commission to take the following immediate steps:

#### 1. Aggressive Enforcement Against Illegal Dispensaries

- Prioritize targeted crackdowns on unlicensed businesses in South Los Angeles.
- Hold landlords accountable for knowingly leasing to illegal operators.

#### 2. Tax Relief and Financial Assistance for Social Equity Businesses

- Advocate for tax amnesty and a tax holiday for social equity licensees, suspending City cannabis taxes for five years.
- Establish a low-interest loan and grant program to support social equity businesses.

#### 3. Joint Presentation and Public Hearing

- West Adams Neighborhood Council requests that this issue be agendaized for discussion at the Cannabis Regulation Commission meeting on March 20, 2025.
- We seek to present testimony, data, and community concerns to highlight the urgency of this issue.

#### 4. City Council Engagement



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- The Commission should collaborate with the City Council to schedule a hearing on enforcement failures and economic relief for social equity licensed businesses.

## **Conclusion**

South Los Angeles has become a hotspot for illegal cannabis activity while our legal, social equity businesses face an existential crisis. This is not just an economic issue; it is a matter of public safety and community well-being. Without immediate enforcement and policy intervention, the very businesses the City set out to empower will disappear.

West Adams Neighborhood Council stands with the legal cannabis operators in our community and urges the Commission to take swift action to uphold the integrity of the industry, protect consumers, and ensure economic justice for social equity licensees.

We look forward to presenting our concerns at the upcoming Cannabis Regulation Commission meeting and welcome collaboration on solutions to this crisis.

Sincerely,

West Adams Neighborhood Council

cc:

Mayor Karen Bass

Los Angeles Cannabis Regulation Commission

Los Angeles Police Department

Black Los Angeles Cannabis Council (BLACC)