

# SPECIAL WNNC MEETING AGENDA



## BOARD OFFICERS

*Elaine Alaniz*  
**PRESIDENT**

*Ernesto Castro*  
**VICE PRESIDENT**

*Cedric J. Nelms*  
**SECRETARY**

*Rebecca M. Alvarado*  
**TREASURER**

City of Los Angeles  
**WESTLAKE NORTH  
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

## AGENDA

Special Board Meeting  
5 PM  
Friday, January 17, 2025

### WNNC Board Meeting

### Zoom Online

### ZOOM MEETING ONLINE OR BY TELEPHONE

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89116091830>

**DIAL 669 444 9171 TO JOIN THE MEETING**

**THEN ENTER MEETING ID: 891 1609 1830 AND PRESS #**



## BOARD MEMBERS

MIRNA AGUILAR

ELAINE ALANIZ

REBECCA M. ALVARADO

JOSE M CALDERON

ERNESTO CASTRO

DAVID DEFRENZA

CEDRIC J. NELMS

ANA PALACIOS

The City's Neighborhood Council system enables civic participation for all Angelenos and serves as a voice for improving government responsiveness to local communities and their needs. We are an advisory body to the City of Los Angeles, comprised of volunteer stakeholders who are devoted to the mission of improving our communities and bringing government closer to us.

Si requiere servicios de traducción, favor de avisar al Concejo Vecinal 3 días de trabajo (72 horas) antes del evento. Por favor contacte a TBD, Secretaria, al [TBD](#) para avisar al Concejo Vecinal.

Every person wishing to address the Board must **Dial 669-444-9171** and enter **Meeting ID: 891 1609 1830** and then press #9 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

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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.

## 1. WELCOMING REMARKS

- a. Call to Order & Roll Call

## 2. COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENT REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. LA Police Department Senior Lead Representatives
- b. LA City Fire Department Representatives
- c. LA City Council District Representatives

1. Council District 1 - Rep: Gabriela Agarie
2. Council District 13 - Rep: Laila Molina

- d. Government Departments/Agencies, including:  
Department of Neighborhood Empowerment - Jose Galdamez
- e. Community Organizations

## 3. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. Comments from the public on non-agenda items within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction. Each speaker will be allowed on the floor for 2 minutes.

4. **CONSENT CALENDAR** - Items that are routine in nature and do not require debate; any item may be pulled from the consent calendar for debate at the request of any Board Member, to appear on the Regular General Board agenda for January 9, 2025

## 5. MONTHLY EXPENDITURE REPORTS & FINANCIALS

- a. Discussion /Action MOTION to approve the Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) for the month of November 2024.
- b. Discussion /Action MOTION to approve the Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) for the month of December 2024.
- c. Discussion /Action MOTION to approve \$1,076.70 of Expenditures in Support of the Wildfire Emergency Relief Efforts to support LAFD First Station 11 for supplies and equipment.
- d. Discussion /Action MOTION to approve a larger storage unit at Los Angeles Self Storage up to \$200 a month, or a 6x10 unit in the amount of \$185.00 a month.

## 6. COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENTS (CIS)

- a. Discussion and possible action to approve a Community Impact Statement letter of support of Councilmember Blumenfield's motion in [Council File 24-0602](#) as a path toward an eventual ban on artificial turf.

- b. Discussion and possible action to approve a Community Impact Statement letter of support of the LAFD CERT Unit for the LAFD Board of Fire Commissioners motion File [No. 24-117](#) Section Emergency Operations & Specialized Resource Impact.
- c. Discussion and possible action to approve a Community Impact Statement letter of [Council File 23-0792](#) Acquisition of the Mayfair Hotel to provide interim housing and support services for persons experiencing homelessness.

## 7. OUTREACH EVENTS

- a. Discussion and possible action to approve up to \$500 expenditure for WNNC Community CERT class for water, food, snacks and Outreach merchandise.
- b. Discussion and possible action to approve up to \$1,000 for WNNC and Pico Union outreach Love My Community event.
  - c. Discussion and possible action to approve up to \$2,000 WNNC event for April 2025 for community education of use of car seats and community resource fair.
- d. Discussion and possible action to approve up to \$3,000 WNNC Outreach March 2025 Youth Community event.
- e. Discussion and possible action to approve up to WNNC name plates \$250 for board member name plates.
- f. Discussion and possible action to approve up to \$300 for WNNC business cards for board members.

## 8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Discussion and action to discuss the Westlake North NC Elections: Candidate Application, open seats and deadline date of Monday, February 3, 2025.

### The following seats are up for election:

- Three (3) Resident Representative
- Business Representative
- Community Organization Representative
- Four (4) At-Large Representative

### Important Dates:

- Application Deadline: **Monday, February 3 by 11:59 p.m.**
- Election Day: Tuesday, April 22, 2025

### Application:

- [Online Candidate Application \(Portal\)](#)
- [Candidate Filing Paper Application \(Multilingual\)](#)
- [2025 NC Documentation Guide](#)

## 9. COMMITTEE REPORTS & UPDATES

- a. Outreach Committee
- b. Budget and Finance Committee
- c. Youth/Education Committee
- d. Beautification and Land Use and Planning Committee
- e. Crime Prevention/Public Safety Committee
- f. Rules and Selections Committee
- g. Government Liaison Committee

## **10. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS & NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Introduce new or agenda items for consideration by the Board at its next meeting and request for items on future agenda.

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

# SPECIAL WNNC MEETING AGENDA

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)

## **Public Posting of Agendas -**

Neighborhood Council agendas are posted for public review as follows:

- 1401 W 6th St, Los Angeles, CA 90017
- [www.westlakenorthnc.org](http://www.westlakenorthnc.org)
- You can also receive our agendas via email by subscribing to L.A. City's [Early Notification System \(ENS\)](#)

## **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 Neighborhood Council Office Space Address (if applicable), at our website: [www.westlakenorthnc.org](http://www.westlakenorthnc.org) or at the scheduled meeting at 1401 W 6th St, Los Angeles, CA 90017. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact Heather Stokes, Secretary, at: [hstokes@westlakenorthnc.org](mailto:hstokes@westlakenorthnc.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.westlakenorthnc.org](http://www.westlakenorthnc.org).



Westlake North Neighborhood Council  
January 14, 2025

Honorable City Council City of Los Angeles  
C/O City Clerk Room 395  
City Hall Los Angeles CA 90012

**RE: CF 24-0602** Councilmember Blumenfield's motion on Artificial Turf

Dear City Council,

We support Councilmember Blumenfield's motion in Council File 24-0602 as an important step toward an eventual ban on artificial turf, and we wholeheartedly vote in favor of this initiative.

Soil is not just dirt—it is a living ecosystem, teeming with microorganisms and essential life forms. When we cover it with plastic grass, we effectively suffocate these organisms, killing vital biodiversity. As you are well aware, we are in the midst of a biodiversity crisis, further exacerbated by the climate crisis. The widespread use of artificial turf stands in stark opposition to the urgent need to restore and protect the environment.

The environmental costs of artificial turf extend beyond its impact on soil life. Fake grass exacerbates flooding by preventing the natural absorption of stormwater, increasing runoff and overwhelming local water systems. Worse, the runoff from synthetic turf, often made from petrochemicals such as crude oil or natural gas, contains harmful PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), toxic "forever chemicals," and microplastics. These substances pollute our drinking water and watersheds, posing severe risks to public health. The EPA has stated that there is no safe level of PFAS exposure, which are linked to cancer, neurotoxicity, and hormone disruption. Additionally, studies show that approximately 15% of the plastic found in our oceans originates from synthetic turf.

The dangers of artificial turf are not limited to the environment. It can reach temperatures up to 80 degrees higher than the surrounding air, posing a serious burn risk to those who come into contact with it. It also contributes to the urban heat island effect, exacerbating the risks of heatstroke, particularly in already vulnerable communities. The artificial nature of this material can lead to more frequent injuries in sports and requires costly maintenance and eventual replacement.

Given the many dangers and environmental costs associated with artificial turf, we urge the City Council to take bold and swift action in support of this motion, and to commit to a future where our public spaces are restored to their natural, biodiverse, and sustainable state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Westlake North Neighborhood Council Board Members

[www.westlakenorthnc.org](http://www.westlakenorthnc.org)

January 9, 2025

Westlake North Neighborhood Council  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

ATTENTION: LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL  
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

**Motion in support of the Los Angeles City Fire Department (LAFD) Board of Fire Commissioners File No. 24-117 Section Emergency Operations and Specialized Resource Impact - Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Unit**

Honorable City Councilmembers and Board of Fire Commissioners,

The Westlake North Neighborhood Council (WNNC) fully supports the Los Angeles City Fire Department (LAFD) Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Unit, its mission, its professional staff and their dedication to the City of Los Angeles. As outlined in File Report No. 24-117, the LAFD CERT Unit plays a crucial role in providing essential community education on emergency preparedness, prevention, and recovery. The LAFD CERT Unit offers significant benefits to our community, helping us to prepare for, respond to and recover from incidents. The community benefits extremely from these community training programs specially now that our City is limited in resources.

There have been multiple fires and other critical incidents within the Westlake North area where the preparedness skills promoted by the LAFD CERT Unit were put to use by community members. These efforts have proven to be indispensable and are more urgently needed now more than ever.

In recognition of the importance of the LAFD CERT Unit, the Westlake North Neighborhood Council is hosting LAFD CERT community education classes both in English and Spanish. We understand the significance of educating and training our community in emergency preparedness to ensure their safety and resilience.

The Westlake North Neighborhood Council respectfully urges the City Council and the Board of Fire Commissioners to approve and allocate the necessary Overtime Variable Staffing Hours (V-Hours) required to continue supporting the vital work of the LAFD CERT Unit.

Thank you for your attention and support.

Respectfully,  
Westlake North Neighborhood Council  
[www.westlakenorthnc.org](http://www.westlakenorthnc.org)





Westlake North Neighborhood Council  
November 6, 2023

Honorable City Council City of Los Angeles  
C/O City Clerk Room 395  
City Hall Los Angeles CA 90012

**RE: CF 23-0792 Acquisition of the Mayfair Hotel to provide interim housing and support services for persons experiencing homelessness.**

Dear City Council,

At our Regular Board meeting held on August 22, 2023, the Westlake North Neighborhood Council (WNNC) voted to submit a Community Impact Statement in opposition to the purchase of the Mayfair Hotel unless certain conditions are included to ensure the safety, well-being, and active participation of the Westlake community. Below, we outline several key concerns that need to be addressed by the Mayor's office prior to any further consideration of this project.

### **1. Lack of Adequate Community Outreach**

Effective community outreach is essential, especially for such a large and consequential project. The Westlake community, which has already faced significant challenges with Project Roomkey at the same location during the pandemic, deserves full transparency and meaningful engagement in this process. Unfortunately, the Mayor's office has neglected to engage the community adequately:

- There was a rushed timeline set by the Mayor's office, with an August 31, 2023, deadline for the Mayfair Hotel purchase, which seems designed to push this project through City Council without proper community consultation.
- The only outreach has been a last-minute email about a virtual meeting on August 2, 2023, and an in-person meeting held by Westlake businesses and residents on August 12, 2023. However, neither Mayor Bass nor Councilmember Hernandez attended, sending only their representatives instead.
- No comprehensive outreach, including flyers in English and Spanish (the predominant language of 75% of the Westlake community), has been conducted to inform the community of the potential project. This lack of engagement is unacceptable.

### **2. Concerns About the Repeat of Project Roomkey Failures**

The Westlake community remains deeply scarred from the experience of Project Roomkey, which was implemented at the Mayfair Hotel during the pandemic. Many residents fear that the revival of similar homeless housing at this site will repeat the same destructive pattern:

- The hotel was previously a vibrant, popular establishment, frequented by tourists from around the world. However, after being used for homeless housing under Project Roomkey, the area saw a significant rise in crime, drug use, unsanitary conditions, and public safety issues.
- Over \$11 million in damages were incurred by the hotel, but far more significant was the physical, emotional, and mental toll it took on the local community. Residents were subjected to assault, robbery, and other crimes. These traumatic experiences are still fresh, and the community is just beginning to recover.
- There is no clear plan from the Mayor's office to ensure this does not happen again. We demand that the city take full responsibility for preventing such a disaster and provide concrete measures for community safety and control over the new housing project.



### **3. Lack of Detailed Information and Community Engagement**

The community has been left without clear answers to essential questions about the project. How will the city control the homeless individuals within and outside the Mayfair Hotel? What measures will be put in place to safeguard the local community from crime and disturbance? The Westlake community deserves clear and detailed answers before this project moves forward.

Additionally, the community has expressed frustration over the failure of the Mayor's office to hold a town hall meeting with local residents before making a decision about the acquisition.

### **4. Over-concentration of Homeless Shelters and Services in Westlake**

Westlake, part of Council District 1, is already heavily saturated with rehabilitation centers, homeless shelters, and other social services for vulnerable populations. This community has done its share in caring for those in need, but the city needs to ensure that other neighborhoods in Los Angeles contribute more equitably.

- Westlake and other low-income, predominantly communities of color such as Pico-Union have disproportionately shouldered the burden of housing the homeless. Meanwhile, more affluent neighborhoods seem to receive more support for smaller-scale, less impactful projects.
- This inequality in the distribution of social services exacerbates the problems in these neighborhoods, and Westlake is now being asked to accept yet another large-scale project that threatens to further destabilize the area.

### **5. Overburdening Emergency Services**

Westlake is already one of the most densely populated areas in Los Angeles. Adding an additional 300 at-risk individuals—many of whom suffer from mental health or substance abuse issues—will put immense strain on our already-overworked emergency services:

- The area is served by Fire Station 11, which already handles a disproportionate number of emergency medical service (EMS) calls, including nearly 12,000 calls during Project Roomkey. The LAFD and LAPD are facing staffing shortages, which will only worsen the situation.
- The lack of available resources to deal with the increased strain will undoubtedly put both emergency responders and residents at risk.

### **6. Safety Concerns for Nearby Schools**

There are three schools within 1–3 blocks of the Mayfair Hotel:

- John Liechty Middle School
- Esperanza Elementary
- Immaculate Conception Elementary School

Parents are deeply concerned about the safety of their children, particularly given the history of crime and instability during Project Roomkey. The city must provide detailed safety plans to ensure that students, teachers, and families are protected from any negative impacts the project may bring to the area.

### **7. Accessibility Issues for the Disabled and Elderly**

During Project Roomkey, sidewalks near the Mayfair Hotel were obstructed by tents, creating serious accessibility problems for the disabled, elderly, and those in wheelchairs. These barriers forced vulnerable individuals to navigate busy streets, putting them in danger. We must ensure that such conditions do not return.

## **Conclusion**

While we understand the pressing need to address homelessness, we firmly believe that the Westlake community should not bear the brunt of this burden any longer. The Westlake North Neighborhood Council strongly opposes the purchase of the Mayfair Hotel unless the city takes comprehensive measures to address the concerns outlined above. These include proper community outreach, clear plans for safety and oversight, and equitable distribution of social services throughout the city.

We urge the Mayor's office to engage the community in meaningful dialogue and to answer the pressing questions and concerns before proceeding with this acquisition. The Westlake community deserves better.

Respectfully,

Elaine Alaniz

President

Westlake Neighborhood Council

Westlake Neighborhood Council Board Members