

# Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils

VANC

34 San Fernando Valley Neighborhood Councils  
Established March 03, 2003 by Jill Banks Barad-Hopkins

**Thursday, March 12, 2026 6:30-9:00p.m.**

**Via zoom: Join Zoom Meeting**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/98759241651>**

**Phone access 888 475 4499**

**Recording of this meeting can be found at [www.VANC34.ORG](http://www.VANC34.ORG)**

**Note:** VANC is an independent Alliance and is not required to follow the Brown Act. We are able to prevent individuals from participating in VANC meetings if they are disruptive, or sufficiently unrelated to VANC business.

**Note:** To be added to the email list, send your information to [www.VANC34.org](http://www.VANC34.org)

## Goats in the Basin.....finally - Pat Bates

We are powerful together

**Reminder:** VANC meetings are to discuss various topics so that you can educate your NC for further discussion and possible action.

**Reminder:** VANC agenda is posted at [www.VANC34.ORG](http://www.VANC34.ORG)

Zoom attendees, please identify your NC along with your first name

### AGENDA

From the Ralph M. Brown Act, 1953

***"The people of this State do not yield their sovereignty to the agencies which serve them.***

***The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know.***

***The people insist on remaining informed so that they may retain control over the instruments they have created."***

**1. Welcome and Introductions:** Linda Gravani, chair

[VANC34.chair@gmail.com](mailto:VANC34.chair@gmail.com)

The Mayor cancelled, but would like to "reconfirm that the new meeting date is Thursday, April 9, at 630p, lasting 45 minutes"

Thank you those of you who forwarded comments for the Mayor, we will save for April meeting.

**2. Guest Speaker: Pat Bates,** Past President and Treasurer of Encino NC, Member of the SFV Audubon Society and Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Steering Committee

3. Update on SB79 **“Abundant and Affordable Homes Near Transit Act”**
4. **Qualified Candidates** attending NC meetings should speak during **Public Comment** unless you plan to give equal time to ALL candidates
5. **The Charter Reform Commission voted in favor of the following LANCC & BONC recommendations**
  1. NCs CIS shall be in a **separate queue** from public comment
  2. NCs **may deliver to any governmental agency a statement** past in a Brown Acted public meeting at which there is a quorum. The City shall create/require language to indicate the NC is speaking for itself and not the City
  3. NCs may **include consent calendars** on their agendas.
  4. When selecting a new DONE GM, provide NCs the opportunity to **submit questions to ask GM candidates** during the employment interview
  5. **Increase the number of BONC commissioners** from seven to nine with the two additional being **at-large and appointed by NCs**
  6. **NCs** shall submit their **budget request at the same time as departments**. BONC president shall be a single point-of-contact and shall organize the requests into a single request for Mayor’s consideration
  7. **Require** City Council, City Council committees, and city commissioners make **provision for NCs to comment via telephone or telephonic conferencing at all meetings** of these bodies
  8. Capitalize *Neighborhood Councils* throughout the Charter
6. Support **CF26-0263** honoring Sun Valley Area NC’s **Mike O’Gara** with a permanent Ceremonial Sign announcing Laurel Canyon Blvd and Sheldon Street as **Michael L. O’Gara Square**
7. Support **CF26-0002-S11** regarding AB 1941 (Gonzalez)/ **Criminal Liability / Organized Metal Theft Operations (see hot topic #1)** change punishment for wire theft to either a misdemeanor or a felony –  
<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=26-0002-S11>
8. **Funding for NCs elections** is being used for other tasks within the city Clerk’s office (**see hot topic #2**)
9. **DONE/ Carmen Chen** Department of Neighborhood Empowerment
  - **Stip Sheet**
  - **DONE’s policy for posting agendas**
  - **Bylaws updates deadline 1APR2026**
    - Go to empowerla.org
      - ✓ Under self serve
      - ✓ Under Administrative forms & templates
      - ✓ Find Bylaw amendment application
      - ✓ Forward to NCSUPPORT.ORG

**10. BONC Commissioners**

**South Valley – Len Shaffer, [commissionerlenshaffer@gmail.com](mailto:commissionerlenshaffer@gmail.com)**

Canoga Park, Encino, Greater Toluca Lake, Greater Valley Glen, Lake Balboa, NoHo, North Hollywood North East, North Hollywood West, Reseda, Sherman Oaks, Studio City, Tarzana, Valley Village, Van Nuys, West Hills, Winnetka, Woodland Hills-Warner Center

**North Valley - Keren Waters, [keren.waters@lacity.org](mailto:keren.waters@lacity.org)**

Arleta, Chatsworth, Foothill Trails District, Granada Hills North, Granada Hills South, Mission Hills, North Hills East, North Hills West, Northridge East, Northridge South, Northridge West, Pacoima, Panorama City, Porter Ranch, Sun Valley Area, Sunland-Tujunga, Sylmar

Budget Advocates – update: [www.budgetadvocates.org](http://www.budgetadvocates.org) Budget day is **27JUN2026 at City Hall**

**11. Items from the floor:**

1. 18APR Chatsworth’s **DAY OF THE HORSE**

**12. Anniversaries: CONGRATULATIONS!**

- 24 Years     Woodland Hills-Warner Center  
                    Pacoima
- 23 Years     Foothill Trails District  
                    VANC
- 19 Years     Panorama City

**13. THANK YOU Valley Leaders for ALL you do** for your communities, the city of Los Angeles, and I appreciate your VANC participation.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**VANC VIRTUAL Meeting Thursday April 9, 2026 with Mayor Bass**

**Important meetings**

**1<sup>st</sup> Saturday** of the month

\*LADWP MOU 8:30-10A (1<sup>ST</sup> Saturday of the month), details at:

<https://www.ladwpnews.com/dwp-nc-mou-and-advocacy-committee-meetings/>

**2<sup>nd</sup> Friday** of the month

Dept of Public Works comes to Van Nuys City Hall- in person

**2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday** of the month

PlanCheck zoom 10AM details [www.plancheckncla.com](http://www.plancheckncla.com)

*Educate yourself on City Planning and Land Use issues*

**Last Friday** of the month IF **-voted on by City Council-**

City Council comes to Van Nuys City Hall – IN PERSON

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## HOT TOPICS

1. Theft of copper wire, and requests for streetlight repairs have doubled across LA, largely because of copper theft. An estimated \$2.5 million is spent fixing stolen wiring. **CF26-0002-S11** is introducing stiff consequences for violators by clarifying the criminal liability of metal theft to be calculated based on the FULL cost to repair/replace the stolen materials, including labor and equipment, rather than the fair market scrap value.

2. Request to VANC from Kay Hartman, President Palms NC

As Mentioned, to meet budget requirements, the City Clerk has taken NC Election funds and will use it for other purposes.

**The city charter needs to include the following:**

**“Neighborhood Council terms are set in their bylaws and elections/selections are held every two years”.**

Please, send an email with this request to each Charter Reform Commissioner AND to your council member.

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and to Commission staff [justin.w.ramirez@lacity.org](mailto:justin.w.ramirez@lacity.org) and [briana.scott@lacity.org](mailto:briana.scott@lacity.org)  
and bcc [kay.hartman@palmnc.la](mailto:kay.hartman@palmnc.la)

**ALSO:** if you wish to add an email and CIS regarding NC Funding here is a sample cis for your convenience

The xx Neighborhood Council requests the Charter Reform Commission add to the City Charter a minimum \$40,000 budget along with the LANCC recommendation that is item 16 in the staff report dated February 3. “During budget challenges, the percentage of Neighborhood Councils’ budget reductions shall not be greater than that of the Office of the Mayor. When the Mayor’s Office budget is restored after the budget challenge, the Neighborhood Council’s budgets are similarly restored.” Whenever there is a budget crunch, from the Great Recession to Covid to a budget deficit, all City Departments are asked to reduced their budgets. The same happens to the Neighborhood Councils. The difference occurs when the fiscal emergency is lifted. The departments have their budgets restored and the Neighborhood Councils do not. This is how the Neighborhood Councils have, over time, had their budgets reduced from \$50,000 to \$25,000. We ask your help in keeping the Neighborhood Councils functional by providing the funds we need to operate.