

Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils

VANC

Established March 03, 2003 by Jill Banks Barad-Hopkins

Thursday, August 11, 2022 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Via zoom: Join Zoom Meeting

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

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 VANC@empowerla.org

Alberto Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools, LAUSD

Reminder: VANC meetings are to educate you on various topics so that you can bring back to your NC for discussion/vote

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

AGENDA

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Jill Banks Barad-Hopkins, Founder and Chair
2. **Superintendent Alberto Carvalho, LAUSD Issues and Plans for the Future**
3. **Will Metro North SFV Corridor Transit Project affect your neighborhood? Watch 5.5 minutes**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j35VTIXnXrY> , The proposed project is anticipated to be reviewed and considered by METRO BOARD in Fall of 2022. Your NC should comment for your stakeholders. www.Metro.net/nsfvbrt See hot topic #1
4. Public Comments wanted for Whiteman Airport next meeting 25AUG22 via zoom details at: www.reenvisionwhitemanairport.com
5. VANC recommends that you and your stakeholders forward your personal comments on LA CITY COUNCIL FILES. See hot topic #2 for easy steps. (Also attached to agenda)
Try it out on CF22-0600-S20 and CF22-0600-S61 support goats for brush removal
6. **Ayelet Feiman joined the City Attorney's General Counsel Neighborhood Council Advice Division (NCAD) assigned to the Valley NCs.** ayelet.feiman@lacity.org 213-978-8132
7. **DONE UPDATE** by General Manager Beltran or her appointee
8. **THANKS** for **Deputy Chief Trevor Richmond's** intervention! The fire danger created by the RVs and homeless encampment adjacent to the West Valley Animal Shelter has been removed. See hot topic #3
9. Status of Northeast Valley Animal Shelter - See hot topic #4 for update

10. **Suspension or Termination of Animal Services Department Volunteers** see hot topic #5

11. **BONC UPDATE** Commissioner Len Shaffer, South Valley

12. **Items from the Floor:**

A. Rate Impacts of DWP's LA100 Plan

Neighborhood Councils have a written Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Water and Power for transparency, project information, and future rates. LADWP is the largest municipal utility in the United States. Each NC should appoint an MOU Representative. EVERYONE is welcome to attend. Meetings are held online every first Saturday of the month from 8:30 to 10:00 am. The link for the meetings and copies of materials from prior meetings will always be found at this LADWP website.

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

***VANC Meeting Thursday, September 8, 2022: Speaker: TBD**

***PlanCheck 2nd Saturday of the month, details at www.plancheckncla.com**

Educate yourself on City Planning and Land Use issues.

***LADWP MOU 1ST Saturday of the month, details at:**

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

HOT TOPICS For August 11, 2022



STILL PENDING AND STILL HOT and needs your attention

Municipal Lobbying Ordinance, CF 22-0560:

Budget Advocates OPPOSE CF11-1020-S3.

Urge City Council to retain telephonic public commenting

1. **VANC HOT TOPIC** - North San Fernando Valley Transit Corridor Project

The Metro North San Fernando Valley Transit Corridor Project was initiated in 2017 and subsequently two options for a Bus Rapid Transit line were proposed on Nordhoff Street OR Roscoe Boulevard. Last month Metro held three community meetings to announce a different "network approach" instead. This "BRT Network Improvements" proposes an enhanced bus network that would increase connectivity and provide high-quality bus service and transit infrastructure in North San Fernando Valley communities from Northridge on the west to North Hollywood on the east.

For a project overview, watch the video linked here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j35VTIXnXrY>

If you were unable to attend the Metro community meetings, you can watch the [virtual meeting](#), access [meeting materials](#) and visit the online interactive [StoryMap](#) on the [project website](#), by visiting metro.net/nsfvbrt. Please share any additional comments via the [online form](#).

Metro anticipates completing the Alternatives Screening Report (ASR) analyzing the new proposed BRT Network Improvements and comparison of the benefits and tradeoffs to the previously-analyzed BRT alternatives in Fall 2022. The proposed project is anticipated to be on the agenda for Metro Board review and consideration in Fall 2022.

2. HOW TO FORWARD PUBLIC COMMENTS ON Council Files

Go to clerk.lacity.org
move down under POPULAR SERVICES
click on Council File Management System
under SIMPLE SEARCH _____
enter council file number or topic
ex: 22-0600-S20 or goats
click on SEARCH
on RIGHT SIDE
click on the File Number
At top of page to the right of COUNCIL FILE #
Click on NEW in RED
PUBLIC COMMENT FORM will appear
Complete information required and click on SUBMIT
GO TO YOU YOUR EMAIL, you MUST reply to the city's email to activate

3. Thank You to Los Angeles Fire Department and Police Department

Our guest speakers over the last two months (June, July) have included Deputy L.A. Fire Department Chief Trevor Richmond (Valley Bureau Commander), Assistant Chief John Drake (Command 42, Valley Operations), and Captain Ruben Lopez (I/CM42 Adjutant).

The fire danger created by the inhabited RVs and homeless encampment next to the West Valley Animal Shelter was discussed with them. RVs and tents were very close to the Shelter, with one inhabited RV touching trees that also touched the roof of the Shelter where dogs are locked in their kennels. If there had been a fire, animals in the Shelter would have been burned to death. As well as creating a fire danger, belongings and trash from the RVs and tents blocked the route to take the Shelter Dogs for a walk.

The situation was quickly handled and the fire danger mitigated.

Thank you to our guest speakers, as well as LAFD Battalion Chief Karen Richter, Watch Commander Sergeant Nick Nemecek of LAPD, and all other personnel from LAFD and LAPD who participated in mitigating the fire danger and are continuing to assure the safety of the West Valley Animal Shelter. Thank you to VANC for conveying the information about this danger directly to the proper City officials.

4. Hot Topic re Northeast Valley Animal Shelter

At last month's VANC (July) meeting, we passed the following resolution, 24 in favor, none against, one abstention:

The Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC) represents the 34 Neighborhood Councils throughout the San Fernando Valley, including all of the Neighborhood Councils in the vicinity of the Northeast Valley Animal Shelter. This shelter is a City facility built with Proposition F funds to be a municipal animal shelter, open to the public. It was not meant to be a private facility to house rescue organizations. Nevertheless, the Board of Animal Services Commissioners has issued an RFP (Request for Proposal) to do just that, lease the Northeast Valley Animal Shelter to rescue organizations to operate. The Board of Animal Services Commissioners and Animal Services Department did not provide an opportunity for the affected Neighborhood Councils to provide input into this decision.

Therefore, it is RESOLVED that VANC takes the position that the Department of Animals Services and City Council should receive input from the affected Neighborhood Councils before releasing the Request for Proposal for rescue organizations to operate the Northeast Valley Animal Shelter.

UPDATE: New Council file introduced 5AUG22 regarding: Article 2, Section 10.15 (3) of the Charter, the requirements for circulation of an RFP are as follows:

“Public notice of the RFP shall be given in writing or electronically to prospective contractors or suppliers of the appropriate commodity and to any other sources deemed appropriate. The RFP shall state the time and place at which the proposals will be received. Proposals received after the time and date specified may be returned and may not be considered.”

Council File does not yet have a number.

5. Hot Topic re Suspension or Termination of Animal Services Department Volunteers

In the last month, the Los Angeles Times, as well as other news outlets, have run stories very critical of the Animal Services Department and conditions for animals in the City Animal Shelters:

‘It’s Inhumane’: Dogs At L.A. Animal Shelters Go Weeks Or Months Without Being Walked: <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2022-07-14/la-city-animal-shelters-dogs-sit-in-kennels-weeks-months-without-walks>

‘Horrorified’: L.A. City Council Members Call For Action On Overcrowded Animal Shelters: <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2022-07-16/l-a-city-council-members-called-for-action-city-shelters>

LA Animal Services Officials Blame Staff Shortage, Pandemic Challenges For Issues At City Shelters: <https://abc7.com/animal-shelters-la-city-council-concerns-emergency-meeting/12061158/>

Volunteers who spoke with the press and others about conditions at the City Animal Shelters have been suspended or terminated. As well as likely being a First Amendment violation subjecting the City to potential liability, this harms the animals who are deprived of the essential care given by these Volunteers, making the conditions exposed in these articles even worse.

This isn’t the first time that the Animal Services Department has tried to cover-up conditions at the Shelters by suspending or terminating Volunteers. Please see: *Budget Advocates Call for Investigation of Animal Services Department Volunteer Program:* <https://citywatchla.com/index.php/budget-advocates-2/19044-budget-advocates-call-for-investigation-of-animal-services-department-volunteer-program>

Therefore, I propose the following resolution, to be sent to City officials, Neighborhood Councils, and others:

RESOLVED, that the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC), representing the 34 Neighborhood Councils throughout the San Fernando Valley, strongly condemns the suspension or termination of Volunteers for speaking with the press about conditions in the City Animal Shelters or exercising their First Amendment rights.