Valley Alliance *of*
Neighborhood Councils
▬ VANC ▬

Dear Neighborhood Council Leaders:

Now that the 2025 Neighborhood Council election cycle has come to an end, the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC) extends congratulations to the newly elected board members and welcomes back the returning Board and Committee Members.

VANC meets monthly on Zoom every 2nd Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm. We want to ensure that all valley leaders can attend, so we ask that your NC not schedule a commitment on the second Thursday.

Zoom access   **https://us02web.zoom.us/j/98759241651**

Phone access 888 475 4499

We have great speakers at our meetings, including the Mayor, Deputy Mayors, City Councilmembers, Department General Managers, and our regulars, General Manager of DONE, BONC commissioners and City Funding. Be sure to visit VANC's website, where you can find our agendas, hot topics, action items and the recordings of past meetings at: https://vanc34.org/

We look forward to seeing you at our meetings. It's a great way to meet other valley leaders and where we learn from each other.

Sincerely,

Linda

Linda Gravani, Chair of VANC
& President, Lake Balboa NC

VANC Executive Team members,
Corinne Ho, Canoga Park NC; **Judith Daniels**, Chatsworth NC,
Glenn Bailey, Encino NC & Northridge East; **Cindy Cleghorn**, Sunland-Tujunga NC;
Ginny Hatfield, Valley Village NC, **Jeff Mausner**, Tarzana NC;
Tony Wilkinson, Panorama City NC

VANC was created in 2003 by Jill Banks Barad as a coalition to represent the thirty-four Neighborhood Councils (NCs) located in the San Fernando Valley. Jill was President of the Sherman Oaks NC.

Some of the notable VANC accomplishments have been:

- **Advocacy for Neighborhood Council Representation:** Successfully secured a five-minute speaking opportunity for Neighborhood Council representatives during City Council and committee meetings, ensuring that local voices are heard in citywide decision-making processes.

o **Animal Welfare Initiatives:** Passed numerous resolutions related to animal welfare, contributing to the protection and saving of countless dogs and cats. VANC has also addressed critical issues such as the conditions in city animal shelters and the rights of volunteers, advocating for humane treatment and transparency.

- **Support for Neighborhood Council Operations:** Advocated for increased funding and operational resources for Neighborhood Councils, strengthening their capacity to serve their communities effectively.

- **Facilitation of Networking and Knowledge Sharing:** Provide a platform for Neighborhood Councils to connect, recognizing that many face similar challenges. Through VANC, councils can share diverse solutions and perspectives, expanding their knowledge and fostering collaborative problem-solving.

- **Best of Awards Event:** Hosts the *annual* "Best of" Awards event, celebrating Neighborhood Councils that have made significant impacts in their communities. This event highlights innovative projects and encourages the sharing of best practices.

- **Planning & Land Use Workshops:** Organized workshops featuring key professionals and representatives from city, state, county, and federal levels, providing Neighborhood Councils with valuable insights into planning and land use issues.

OBJECTIVES

- Identify problems and help develop solutions to issues of concern to Neighborhood Councils in the Valley and throughout the City.
- Promote Neighborhood Council informed participation in the political process regarding local, regional, and City issues,
- Advocate before City Council, Council Committees, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, and Board of Neighborhood Commissioners as one voice on issues that affect the City and Neighborhood Councils.

GOALS

- Offer a forum for dialogue with elected officials and department heads.
- Make Neighborhood Councils more effective at each level of organization.
- Act as a clearinghouse and resource center on Neighborhood Council and City of Los Angeles issues.
- Encourage involvement of stakeholders in the Neighborhood Council process through effective outreach
- Conduct ongoing research, discussion, and education.