



NORTH HILLS WEST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
Special Board Meeting Minutes, Wednesday, October 26, 2022
Minutes Approved 12/15/2022

In conformity with the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 (March 17, 2020) and due to concerns over COVID-19, this duly noticed meeting was held entirely online and telephonically.

Document copies were available at <https://www.nhwnc.net/agendas/october-26-2022-special-general-board-meeting-agenda> and shown online.

NHWNC (and all other) Meeting Minutes are a summary; Minutes were not, are not and are never meant to be an exact, verbatim, word-for-word transcript or comprehensive record of what was said at a Meeting. Exceptions: Motion(s) (included as stated at the Meeting, or, if not stated, as written on the Agenda); quotes (words that have quotation marks ("")) at the beginning and ending of a word or words); and Agenda wording copied into the Minutes.

1. Welcome & Call Meeting to Order and Flag Salute.

President Madlena Minasian called the Meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

2. Roll Call, Determination of Quorum, and Voting Eligibility Report and call for agenda item(s) recusals.

Roll Call was taken by the Minutes Writer. Seven of the 11 Board Members were present online at the Roll Call: Dave Brown (Secretary), Angel Collins, Pat Crone (Treasurer), Maggie Elliott, Linda Erdman, Carol Hart (Vice-President), Madlena Minasian (President). Punam Gohel and Kreshell Ramey arrived later. Garry Fordyce and David Hyman were absent. The NHWNC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is seven (see the Bylaws link at www.empowerla.org/nhwnc), so the Board could take such votes. Quorum was announced. Mr. Brown confirmed that all Board Members' trainings were compliant and they were eligible to vote. Eleven of the 13 Board Seats were filled (by election or appointment). Two Board Seats were vacant (one General and one Residential); to apply, email Secretary@nhwnc.net. Also attended: at least eight Stakeholders and guests.

3. President Comments, Announcements and Meeting Logistics – Madlena Minasian, President. Note: we're currently seeking applicants for 2 Vacant Board Seats: 1 Residential & 1 General (see below)
<https://www.nhwnc.net/board-vacancies-seeking-new-board-member-nominees>

Ms. Minasian noted the above. She also invited Community Impact Statement (CIS) requests for Agendizing and reported that Vanessa Serrano, a Neighborhood

Empowerment Advocate, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) (818-374-9889; Vanessa.Serrano@LACity.org; <http://www.EmpowerLA.org>), emailed about workshops availability.

4. **Discussion and possible action** to approve October 201, 2022 General Board Meeting Draft Minutes. To be reviewed at the November 17, 2022 General Board Meeting.

Ms. Minasian noted the above and that “October 20” was meant, not “October 201.”

5. **Elected Officials, Public Agency Speakers, Field Representatives and Public Service Announcements.**

- a. Assembly District 46/ Field Representative - Lilly Sarafian

lilly.sarafian@asm.ca.gov

Lilly Sarafian, a Field Representative for State 46th District Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian [818-376-4246; <http://asmdc.org/members/a46>], was not present and there was no report.

- b. Council District 12 / Field Representative – Lorena Espinal

Lorena.Espinal@lacity.org

Lorena Espinal, a Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilmember John Lee [818-882-1212; <https://CouncilDistrict12.LACity.gov>], was not present and there was no report.

- c. LAPD Devonshire Division SLO

Efren Corral, an LAPD Devonshire Division (east of CSUN) Senior Lead Officer [Desk: (818) 832-0746; Cell: 424-339-4079; 35472@LAPD.Online; http://www.LAPDOnline.org/devonshire_community_police_station], was not present and there was no report.

- d. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment / NEA - John Darnell

john.darnell@lacity.org

John Darnell, a Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate of the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) [213-978-1551; www.EmpowerLA.org], was not present and there was no report.

- e. To find your Elected Representatives, City Agencies, Departments and more,

6. **General Public Comment**

Resident Debra Francisco urged Board Members to review documents before Board meetings. She believed that speakers using profanity can be muted or cut off by the Presiding Officer and encouraged confirming that with DONE. Resident Anita Goldbaum urged focusing Agenda Item-related comments on those Items.

7. Report from Region 2 Budget Advocate or Budget Representative.

Ms. Minasian noted that Budget Advocates [LABudgetAdvocates@gmail.com; www.BudgetAdvocates.org] Mr. Fordyce and Brian Allen were not present. There was no report.

8. Guest Speakers and Informational Presentations

Ms. Minasian indicated that there were none.

9. Discussion regarding the proposed development at 15701 Roscoe Blvd., North

Hills West Former furniture store, prior Coco's. Request is for a CUP, Conditional Use Permit, to allow deviations from Mini-Shopping Center/Commercial Corner operation standards. Owner representative Mr. Gutierrez said that the site became a homeless encampment. It's now "ready for construction" with better lighting and more. They are requesting for Case #ZA-2022-3143-CUP a Conditional Use Permit for 24-hour operation.

Mr. Brown showed slides online and supplemental documents had been posted on the website and were available. Mr. Gutierrez said that there was a Hearing on September 20th and that, since Mr. Gutierrez hadn't presented to the NHWNC, the Zoning Administrator "extend[ed] the advisement period" so that the NHWNC can first hear a presentation.

Board Member Kreshell Ramey arrived online by 6:23, making eight Board Members present online (the NHWNC quorum is seven).

Mr. Gutierrez explained that they want a 24-hour operation. It was noted that crime and transients could be a major problem; they may need an armed guard from midnight to six or 7:00 a.m. Ms. Erdman believed that an Environmental Impact Report [EIR] should be required of the project.

Board Member Punam Gohel arrived online at 6:26, making nine Board Members present online (the NHWNC quorum is seven).

Ms. Francisco was very concerned that the developer hadn't presented to the NHWNC and that it seemed he hadn't given the required notice to everyone within 500 feet of the project. Guest Glenn Bailey, "speaking as an individual," said the developer's "attitude seemed less than good"; Mr. Bailey encouraged getting mitigations, as an EIR may not be feasible for this kind of project. Andre van der Valk, nearby Valero gas station owner - "377 feet away from the project" -- said he never received notice; he "will pursue that with [City] Planning." He cautioned that the owner may seek an alcohol license, then sell the property. He urged knowing which company would operate the facility. He believed the project would cause traffic problems and urged opposing a 24-hour operation. Ms. Minasian requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item to the November 17th Board Meeting. No Motion was made or vote taken.

10. **Discussion and possible action** to approve a Community Impact Statement (CIS) regarding: CIS – Council File 22-1199 Removal of Councilmember de Leon / Chair / Homelessness and Poverty Committee <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=22-1199> [See the below Motion.]

Ms. Minasian thanked Ms. Erdman for preparing these CISs. Ms. Erdman noted that CISs are to get the NHWNC's views on record. Ms. Hart suggested and it was agreed to replace the word "comport" with the word "conform" in all the CISs.

MOTION (by Ms. Minasian, seconded by Ms. Erdman): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council supports a Community Impact Statement regarding the City Council Motion to remove Councilmember Kevin De Leon from his position as Chair of the Homelessness and Poverty Committee because of his racially insensitive and divisive comments at a redistricting meeting held in October 2021. His comments at that meeting do not comport with the high standard our elected public officials should be held to as members of the Los Angeles City Council and its Committees.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the nine eligible voters present with all nine in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Brown, Collins, Crone, Elliott, Erdman, Gohel, Hart, Minasian and Ramey); zero opposed; zero abstained.

11. **Discussion and possible action** to approve a Community Impact Statement regarding: Council File 22-1197 New Ad Hoc Committee / Government Reform / Increase Transparency and Limit Corruption / Los Angeles Resident Trust <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=22-1197>

[These three paragraphs are copied from the Agenda.] The North Hills West Neighborhood Council concurs with Los Angeles City Attorney's finding that the overtly hateful conversation in which three City Council Members used in discussing redistricting in October 2021 makes it clear the City of Los Angeles is in need of a completely independent redistricting process to ensure the fairness and legitimacy of the district boundaries and the process that establishes them.

Therefore, the North Hills West Neighborhood Council that the City Council establish and Ad Hoc Committee on City Governance and Governance Reform in order to prepare a Charter Reform ballot measure to create independently drawn Council district boundaries, since the current Charter does not currently allow for the any independent commission for this purpose.

The North Hills West Neighborhood Council asks that the City Council immediately establish an Ad Hoc Committee to address this issue so that a Charter Reform measure may appear on the 2024 ballot.

The words "West" and "requests" were added to the above wording in the Motion.

MOTION (by Ms. Minasian, seconded by Ms. Erdman): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council supports a Community Impact Statement that concurs with

Los Angeles City Attorney's finding that the overtly hateful conversation in which three City Council Members used in discussing redistricting in October 2021 makes it clear the City of Los Angeles is in need of a completely independent redistricting process to ensure the fairness and legitimacy of the district boundaries and the process that establishes them. Therefore, the North Hills West Neighborhood Council requests that the City Council establish an Ad Hoc Committee on City Governance and Governance Reform in order to prepare a Charter Reform ballot measure to create independently drawn Council district boundaries, since the current Charter does not currently allow for the any independent commission for this purpose. The North Hills West Neighborhood Council asks that the City Council immediately establish an Ad Hoc Committee to address this issue so that a Charter Reform measure may appear on the 2024 ballot.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the nine eligible voters present with all nine in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Brown, Collins, Crone, Elliott, Erdman, Gohel, Hart, Minasian and Ramey); zero opposed; zero abstained.

- 12. Discussion and possible action** to approve a Community Impact Statement regarding: Council File 22-1195 Racially Insensitive and Divisive Comments / Professional Conduct Failure / Censure <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=22-1195> [See the below Motion.]

Ms. Erdman read aloud the Motion that also was shown online.

MOTION (by Ms. Minasian, seconded by Ms. Erdman): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council supports a Community Impact Statement regarding the motion before its body in accordance with §209 of the Los Angeles City Charter to formally censure Councilmembers Cedillo, De Leon and Martinez for their racially insensitive and divisive statements as reported in the media. Their actions and statements fail to meet the high standards of professional conduct that we expect from our elected public officials. Although censure is the strongest action that can be taken against these Councilmembers, we also ask that Charter be amended to include a process for removal in future cases.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the nine eligible voters present with all nine in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Brown, Collins, Crone, Elliott, Erdman, Gohel, Hart, Minasian and Ramey); zero opposed; zero abstained.

- 13. Discussion and possible action** to approve a Community Impact Statement regarding: CF 21-0042-S3 Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) / Waitlist / Eviction Moratorium / May 2023 Rental Repayment / COVID-19 Pandemic (Informational Only) <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=21-0042-S3>
[This paragraph is copied from the Agenda.] The North Hills West Neighborhood Council at its Special Meeting on October **, 2022 voted to oppose [See the below Motion.]

Ms. Erdman read aloud the Motion that also was shown online.

MOTION (by Ms. Minasian, seconded by Ms. Ramey): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council supports a Community Impact Statement opposing the extension of the Eviction Moratorium on the basis that it is an undue burden on fundamental property rights. Although we can empathize with the position of renters as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, we find that the rights and need of landlord property owners have been violated; and that the action of the City Council is tantamount to the seizure of private property in violation of the Fourth Amendment of the United States Constitution. Landlord property owners have financially suffered as a result of this program, many of which count on rents and receipts as income. The City Council must come up with a more equitable solution that takes into account the rights and needs of property owners, as well as the needs of renters.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the nine eligible voters present with all nine in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Brown, Collins, Crone, Elliott, Erdman, Gohel, Hart, Minasian and Ramey); zero opposed; zero abstained.

- 14. Discussion and possible action** to approve a Community Impact Statement regarding: CF 22-0002-S120 Azerbaijan Aggression Against Armenia / Azeri Regime / Violent Expansionism / Military and Economic Aid Suspension / Arms Sales / Freedom Support Act <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=22-0002-S120>

Ms. Erdman read aloud the Motion that also was shown online.

MOTION (by Ms. Minasian, seconded by Ms. Collins): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council supports a Community Impact Statement regarding CF 22-0002-S120 Azerbaijan Aggression Against Armenia / Azeri Regime / Violent Expansionism / Military and Economic Aid Suspension / Arms Sales / Freedom Support Act.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the nine eligible voters present with all nine in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Brown, Collins, Crone, Elliott, Erdman, Gohel, Hart, Minasian and Ramey); zero opposed; zero abstained.

- 15. Discussion and possible action** to approve a Community Impact Statement regarding: Council File 22-0002-S101 Used Catalytic Converter Sales / AB 1740 (Muratsuchi) / AB 2407 (ODonnell) / SB 1087 (Gonzalez) <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=22-0002-S101>
[This paragraph is copied from the Agenda.] The North Hills West Neighborhood Council at its Special Meeting held on October **, 2022 voted in support of Council File 22-0002-S101 which supports the California State Legislature bills AB 1740, AB 2407 and SB 1087 which would strengthen laws governing the sale of used catalytic converters. This action would deter theft and assist law enforcement in apprehension of criminals.

Ms. Erdman read aloud the Motion that also was shown online.

MOTION (by Ms. Minasian, seconded by Mr. Brown): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council supports a Community Impact Statement regarding Council File 22-0002-S101 Used Catalytic Converter Sales / AB 1740 (Muratsuchi) / AB 2407 (ODonnell) / SB 1087 (Gonzalez).

Board Member Kreshell Ramey left at this time (7:14), making eight Board Members present online (the NHWNC quorum was seven).

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the eight eligible voters present with all eight in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Brown, Collins, Crone, Elliott, Erdman, Gohel, Hart and Minasian); zero opposed; zero abstained.

- 16. Discussion and possible action** to approve a Community Impact Statement regarding: Council File 22-1201 Removal of Councilmember Gil Cedillo / Chair / Housing Committee <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=22-1201>
[This paragraph is copied from the Agenda.] [See the below Motion.]

Ms. Erdman read aloud the Motion that also was shown online.

MOTION (by Ms. Minasian, seconded by Ms. Erdman): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council supports a Community Impact Statement regarding the City Council Motion to remove Councilmember Gil Cedillo from his position as Chair of the Housing Committee because of his racially insensitive and divisive comments at a redistricting meeting held in October 2021. His comments at that meeting do not conform with the high standard our elected public officials should be held to as members of the Los Angeles City Council and its Committees.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the eight eligible voters present with all eight in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Brown, Collins, Crone, Elliott, Erdman, Gohel, Hart and Minasian); zero opposed; zero abstained.

- 17. Discussion and possible action** to approve a Community Impact Statement regarding: Council File 22-1070 Resumption of In-Person or Hybrid Neighborhood Council Meetings <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=22-1070>
[This paragraph is copied from the Agenda.] It has been well over two years since neighborhood councils have had the opportunity to meet in person; nonetheless the Los Angeles City Council has been able to resume its in-person meetings. As you know, neighborhood councils function at the community level, and require a hands-on approach, which is quite impossible with only on-line meetings. This situation is having a chilling effect on the ability of our stakeholders to make their issues and concerns known. This runs counter to the role that neighborhood councils were intended to serve as ratified in the municipal code.

Ms. Erdman read aloud from the document that also was shown online.

MOTION (by Ms. Minasian, seconded by Ms. Elliott): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council supports a Community Impact Statement regarding Council File 22-1070 Resumption of In-Person or Hybrid Neighborhood Council Meetings.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Brown reported that New Horizons is opening to more and more events.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the eight eligible voters present with all eight in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Brown, Collins, Crone, Elliott, Erdman, Gohel, Hart and Minasian); zero opposed; zero abstained.

- 18. Discussion and possible action** to approve a Community Impact Statement regarding: Council File 22-1189 Elected Officials / Martinez, de Leon and Cedillo / Offensive Misconducts / Racist and Hateful Comments / City Charter / Immediate Resignation Demand <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=22-1189>
[This paragraph is copied from the Agenda.] The North Hills West Neighborhood Council voted to approve the Resolution introduced on October 11, 2022 by the Los Angeles City Council to censure Nury Martinez, Kevin De Leon and Gil Cedillo for their conduct and statements that were made public regarding the redistricting meeting of October 2021, which undermined the integrity of the redistricting process throughout the City. The North Hills West Neighborhood Council joins with the Los Angeles City Council and the public in demanding that Kevin De Leon and Gil Cedillo immediately resign from the City Council. Ms. Martinez has already submitted her full resignation as both President and member of the Council.

Ms. Erdman read aloud the Motion that also was shown online.

MOTION (by Ms. Minasian, seconded by Ms. Hart): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council supports a Community Impact Statement regarding Council File 22-1189 Elected Officials / Martinez, de Leon and Cedillo / Offensive Misconducts / Racist and Hateful Comments / City Charter / Immediate Resignation Demand.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the eight eligible voters present with all eight in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Brown, Collins, Crone, Elliott, Erdman, Gohel, Hart and Minasian); zero opposed; zero abstained.

- 19. Discussion and possible action** to approve a Community Impact Statement regarding: Council File 22-1192 Removed from Office / Select New Council President / Vacant <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=22-1192>
[This paragraph is copied from the Agenda.] The North Hills West Neighborhood Council SUPPORTS the City Council’s motion of October 11, 2022 to implement Council Rule 3, to hold an election to select a new Los Angeles City Council

President because of the resignation of the previously elected President, Nury Martinez, which has the position vacant.

Ms. Erdman read aloud the Motion that also was shown online.

MOTION (by Ms. Minasian, seconded by Ms. Hart): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council supports a Community Impact Statement regarding the City Council's motion of October 11, 2022 to implement Council Rule 3, to hold an election to select a new Los Angeles City Council President because of the resignation of the previously elected President, Nury Martinez, which has the position vacant.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the eight eligible voters present with all eight in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Brown, Collins, Crone, Elliott, Erdman, Gohel, Hart and Minasian); zero opposed; zero abstained.

- 20. Discussion and possible action** to approve a Community Impact Statement regarding: Council File 22-1196 Charter Reform Ballot Initiative / 2024 / Redistricting Process / Los Angeles City Council Seats / Representation Fixed to Population Growth <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=22-1196>

[This paragraph is copied from the Agenda.] [See the below Motion.] Ms. Erdman read aloud the Motion that also was shown online.

MOTION (by Ms. Minasian, seconded by Ms. Erdman): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council supports a Community Impact Statement regarding the Charter Reform Ballot Initiative to create an independent redistricting commission. The issue of redistricting has considerable consequences to both the Los Angeles City Council and the Los Angeles Unified School District. This is especially timely after the City of Los Angeles City Council has come under scrutiny world-wide over the lack of transparency and the back-room dealings over this issue. It is time for the City of Los Angeles to align itself with State and County governments which employ independent redistricting commissions to ensure fairness and equity in the process. Failure to do so has already had serious consequences for our city. Taking this step will greatly help the City of Los Angeles to move forward.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the eight eligible voters present with all eight in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Brown, Collins, Crone, Elliott, Erdman, Gohel, Hart and Minasian); zero opposed; zero abstained.

- 21. NHWNC CIS Filer(s) Report** – Linda Erdman

Ms. Minasian thanked Ms. Erdman for her extensive CIS drafts work. Ms. Minasian requested and Ms. Erdman agreed to soon file the CISs. Ms. Minasian noted that Board Members receive emails from Mr. Darnell regarding legislative reports and that, if a Board Member would like to Agendize approving a CIS on any of the Council Files, she encouraged to go ahead and prepare those CISs and email them

to her requesting to be Agendized and it will be placed on the Agenda. Ms. Erdman offered to draft more CISs for Board approval consideration.

22. General Board member announcements on non-agenda items.

Mr. Brown announced the Saturday, Nov. 12th American Heroes Air Show at Hansen Dam and the Sunday, Nov. 13 Westside Safety Fair. Ms. Minasian encouraged emailing her to be an NHWNC Alliance representative and/or Liaison; see the DONE website [www.EmpowerLA.org/Alliances]. She noted that some NCs haven't posted their meeting Minutes or any recordings for many months. Mr. Brown noted that some people don't want to be recorded. Ms. Erdman had "some privacy concerns" about being recorded and preferred good Minutes to be posted on the website than to have meeting recordings. Ms. Minasian said she "asked the Minutes Writer" to write more detailed Minutes.

23. Requests for Future Agenda Items: Send to: President@nhwnc.net minimum 10 days before desired meeting date, with AGENDA REQUEST in the subject line. Please attach documents, along with sufficient information, links to support adequate description for discussion.

Ms. Minasian noted the above.

24. Adjournment

MOTION to ADJOURN (by Ms. Hart).

MOTION to ADJOURN PASSED; zero opposed; zero abstained.

Ms. Minasian **ADJOURNED** the Meeting at 8:14 p.m.

The first paragraph of some Items, Motions/Resolutions and other wording may have been copied from the Agenda. Minutes written by DL, possibly edited by the NHWNC. The NHWNC Board Meeting Minutes page is <http://www.nhwnc.net/agendas-minutes/minutes-and-agendas>.