



westsidecouncils.com

Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council
Brentwood Community Council
Del Rey Neighborhood Council
Mar Vista Community Council
Neighborhood Council of Westchester-Playa
North Westwood Neighborhood Council
Pacific Palisades Community Council

Palms Neighborhood Council
South Robertson Neighborhoods Council
Venice Neighborhood Council
West LA-Sawtelle Neighborhood Council
Westside Neighborhood Council
Westwood Community Council
Westwood Neighborhood Council

July 20 2022

To: WRAC Member Councils (Chairs/Presidents and Representatives)
From: WRAC Chair Matt Wersinger and Vice-Chair Chris Spitz

In case you missed it, here's an update on our July 18, 2022 Board meeting:

Government Reports:

The Board was honored to welcome new LAFD Chief Kristin Crowley, who presented information about her work and goals and answered a number of questions from Board members. Chief Crowley emphasized the importance of *preparedness and prevention* in addition to emergency response, and stressed that the Department is moving forward with its Strategic Plan which will address issues of concern to the Westside, including increased density, emergency evacuations and homelessness. She also noted that LAFD is exploring ways to go "green" and has acquired its first all-electric fire engine! In attendance with Chief Crowley was Assistant Chief of Emergency Operations John Drake, who is working on the Strategic Plan and can be reached at john.drake@lacity.org.

We were also pleased to hear from additional government representatives: Armine Sargsyan of the State Insurance Dept. updated us on her office's work; contact Armine with any questions at armine.sargsyan@insurance.ca.gov. Janet Turner, Deputy District Director for Congressman Ted Lieu, related good news about some of the funding grants for important Westside projects that have been approved by the House to date (pending approval in the Senate). She also urgently reminded us that *constituents who are planning on traveling abroad should check their passports to be sure they are not expiring soon; due to recent greatly increased demand, her office will not be able to secure emergency appointments (same or next day) for passport renewals other than life or death emergencies this summer*. A reminder: with some exceptions, passports must be valid for six months beyond the date that the traveler will exit the U.S.

Future Meetings/Candidate Debates/New WRAC Committee

The next WRAC online Board meeting will take place on August 15, 2022; at this time, a guest speaker is not scheduled. Please let Matt know if you have any ideas for upcoming WRAC guest speakers.

Matt announced that WRAC officer elections (Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary/Treasurer) will take place at the September Board meeting. Nominations are open to all Board members. As he will not be running again, Matt suggests that member Council reps begin thinking about officer nominations; let Matt know if you are interested.

The Board discussed the successful WRAC candidate forums which took place in May and considered whether future forums should be held for the upcoming general election. Although Matt won't be able to take the lead going forward, he will remain involved. The Board voted to re-constitute the ad hoc WRAC Candidate Forum Committee to consider and decide whether to hold additional candidate forums and to work on details of any future forums. Stay tuned!

We also heard from Judie Hulett (an LAFD Battalion 9 CERT coordinator and Brentwood CC Public Safety rep/Treasurer), who proposed that WRAC form a Public Safety/Emergency Preparedness Committee (PSC) to address regional public safety matters. WRAC's bylaws actually provide for such a committee but there hasn't been much interest in the past. Last night, the Board voted to approve Judie's appointment as Chair of the new PSC.

We invite all member Councils, if possible, to appoint primary and alternate reps to the PSC; please let us know who your appointees are as soon as possible. More details about the new committee will be forthcoming.

An additional public safety announcement from WNC alternate rep Barbara Broide: The Greater Los Angeles Public Safety & Preparedness Fair is scheduled for November 13 at Exposition Park (flyer attached) – Mark your calendars!

New, Pending and Adopted Motions:

The Board passed three motions for recommendation to member Councils:

- (1) Support for Position re Ordinance 187427 (Speed Limit Reductions)*
- (2) Support for CF 22-0002-S58 re AB 2336 (Automated Speed Enforcement Program)*
- (3) Support for CF 20-2376-S3 (Code Amendments to Ban Camping Near Libraries).*

See the text of these motions and additional background information at: <https://westsidecouncils.com/pending-motions/>. We encourage member Councils to consider agendaing these new motions at the earliest opportunity. Please let Matt or Chris know if you have passed any of the pending motions (or modified versions).

Two previously pending motions have reached majority passage and are now adopted WRAC positions: *(1) Request Use of "Cool Asphalt" for Paving*; and *(2) Requests for Consideration re CF 22-0158*. See Adopted Positions: <https://westsidecouncils.com/adopted-positions/>. Please let Matt know by July 30 if you have *considered* and *voted to oppose* either of these motions. Assuming timely submission, Matt must disclose the names of any dissenting organizations and may include a summary of their views in a WRAC position letter.

Thank you as always for your continuing interest in and engagement with WRAC.