south robertson neighborhoods council
City of Los Angeles Certified Neighborhood Council
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Michael Lynn
President

Ryan Spivey
Vice-President

Terrence Gomes
Treasurer

Jason Plummer
Secretary

Stuart Weiss
Corresponding Secretary

General Board Meeting Draft Minutes

Thursday, October 15, 2026 @ 6:30pm

Location: Claude Pepper Recreational Senior Citizens Center
1762 S. La Cienega Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90035

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1. **Meeting Called to Order by the Chair, Michael Lynn at 6:44pm**

2. **Pledge of Allegiance led by Terrence Gomes**

3. **Roll Call:**

   Board Members Present: Baila Romm, Ronak Tumari, David Bruk, Terrence Gomes Michael Lynn, Michelle Bega, Barry Levine, Abby Pollitt, Jason Plummer, Beth Klein, Marlene Katz, Ryan Spivey, Joseph Mollaie, Shirley Traum

   Board Members Absent: Stuart Weiss**,** Aaron Sinai, Daniel Romm, Rachael Petru, Joe Lisuzzo, Ronald Steinhoff, Mitch Cohen, Noah Tabibnia

   Entered/Left Meeting: Sandy block enters the meeting at 7:53 pm

4. **General Public Comment:**
   No general comment

5. **Brief Board Announcements**
   a. Items for Committee Agendas and other Brief Board Announcements
      None

6. **Community Reports**
   a. LA Police Department (Cohen) - 41706@lapd.online / (Ojeda) - 36393@lapd.online
   b. LA Fire Department- Battalion 18 lafdbattalion18@lacity.org
   c. Office of Councilwoman Yaroslavsky, CD-5 (Rodriguez) - cairo.rodriguez@lacity.org

      Cairo Rodriguez thanked approximately 170 people who participated in the prior Sunday's neighborhood cleanup, during which an estimated 4,000 pounds of trash and bulky items were collected. He thanked Jason, Stuart, Terrence Gomes, Michelle Bega, and Assemblymember Isaac Bryan's office for participating, and thanked the Board for sponsoring refreshments. Rodriguez encouraged residents to sign up for NotifyLA and consult emergency preparedness resources, noting that his office is planning a community conversation about emergency preparedness. He also advised residents to report blocked or damaged storm drains and flooding through 311/MyLA311,

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include the exact location and photos when possible, and share the service request number with his office for follow-up. Rodriguez announced the fourth annual Great Pumpkin Smash on Sunday, November 1, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Pan Pacific Park; he offered to share the event flyer. Jason Plummer thanked the office for helping set up the event booth.

d. Office of Councilwoman Hutt, CD-10 (Guevara) - mayra.guevara@lacity.org

Mayra Guevara thanked the Board for participating in the neighborhood cleanup and asked residents to monitor storm drains before the rainy season. Residents should report blocked drains, debris, or damaged or missing grates through 311 and provide the location, photos, and service request number so her office can follow up. In response to Ryan Spivey, Guevara said the expected response time is approximately 30 minutes to one hour, although storms may cause delays. Guevara announced upcoming community events, including a Halloween Hunt on October 18, a pumpkin-themed event the following Sunday, and Winter Wonderland/Festival of Lights on December 6 from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m. In response to Ronak Tumari's question about storm preparedness, Guevara discussed sandbag availability at Fire Station 94;

e. Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (Erving) - commission@empowerla.org
f. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (Manzo)- alfonso.manzo@lacity.org
g. Office of Mayor Bass (Hatcher) - konstantin.hatcher@lacity.org / (Moret) allen.moret@lacity.org

Allen Moret provided information about preparing neighborhoods for winter storms and encouraged residents to review emergency plans and use NotifyLA and ReadyLA resources. He also reported on jobs and wages associated with Convention Center construction and announced an upcoming contractor matchmaking event on October 22 and a project hiring fair on October 27. Beth Klein asked about water main breaks and infrastructure. Terrence Gomes explained that water pipes fall under the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, which operates separately from the City's General Fund. Ryan Spivey asked how the Mayor's Office would assess Operation Safe Skid Row and prevent public-safety and homelessness issues from shifting to other communities. Moret said people exploiting unhoused residents or selling drugs would be subject to prosecution. Baila Romm asked whether assistance was available to families affected by deaths in MacArthur Park. Moret could not speak to the specific circumstances, and Cairo Rodriguez said a victim-assistance program through the City Attorney's Office could be shared.

h. Office of County Supervisor Mitchell, 2nd District (Park) - DPark@bos.lacounty.gov
i. Office of County Supervisor Horvath, 3rd District (Amanda Laflen) - ALaflen@bos.lacounty.gov
j. Office of State Assemblymember Bryan, AD-55 (Persoff) -Michelle.Persoff@asm.ca.gov
k. Office of State Senator Smallwood-Cuevas, SD-28 (Hickambottom) - Ann.Hickambottom@sen.ca.gov

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l. Office of Congressmember Kamlager-Dove, CD-37 (Benarroch) - Jackson.Benarroch@mail.house.gov
m. Office of LAUSD School Board District 1 – (Walker) jewett.walkerjr@lausd.net
n. Budget Advocates (Jay Handel) sgrest@aol.com
o. Other Neighborhood, City and State offices

7. Presentation on the state of the LAFD and to discuss Measure FD (fundlafire.com) by Tony Burgos (United Firefighters of Los Angeles City (UFLAC))

Jimmy Blackman of United Firefighters of Los Angeles City (UFLAC), firefighter Tony Burgos, and firefighter-paramedic Richard Marice discussed staffing, station capacity, response times, equipment, and Measure FD. Blackman said LAFD staffing has increased by only eight firefighters since 1965 while the number of stations has declined from 112 to 106 and annual calls have risen substantially. He described a current response time of approximately seven minutes and 53 seconds, compared with a four-minute target. The presenters discussed staffing and equipment needs, the effect of past station and staffing cuts, and Measure FD's proposed half-cent sales tax dedicated to LAFD. Blackman said the measure includes a maintenance-of-effort requirement tied to the City's historical General Fund spending on LAFD. Marice described the condition of the department's fleet and the risk associated with delayed emergency response. Rich Marice said the department needs additional firefighters and reliable equipment to respond to the current call volume. He described how delays in emergency response can worsen outcomes and said the existing staffing and equipment levels are not sustainable. Tony Burgos referred to the resource limitations experienced during the Palisades fire and emphasized the need for adequate resources.

Baila Romm asked whether addressing homelessness could reduce calls for firefighters. The presenters agreed that homelessness contributes to emergency medical and fire-service calls. Joseph Mollaie raised concerns about whether additional fire trucks would be effective without sufficient water supply and expressed concern about additional taxes and the management of City funds. Another Board member also asked how LAFD response-time goals compare with those of other major cities and whether additional staffing could bring response times closer to the four-minute target. Beth Klein asked how residents could hold the City accountable for past reductions in LAFD resources and whether union members funded the ballot initiative. Marlene Katz asked who would decide how Measure FD funds are spent. Baila Romm asked whether it would be more advantageous for LAFD to hire an outside agency to assist with the process. Finally, Beth Klein asked about public awareness of the issue.

In response to the questions from the board, Jimmy Blackman said station placement would be based on community need and that the department was open to alternative service models, including EMS substations. He acknowledged that acquiring land for new stations would be challenging. Jimmy Blackman also acknowledged concerns about City mismanagement and argued that LAFD needs additional resources. He discussed UFLAC's efforts to place Measure FD on the ballot and said the measure's language is intended to restrict the funding to LAFD purposes. Jimmy Blackman said

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San Francisco has substantially more firefighters per capita than Los Angeles. Jimmy Blackman said UFLAC raised the funds for the initiative and directed interested residents to fundlafire.com for more information. Jimmy Blackman said the Fire Chief would propose an annual budget through the Fire Commission and City budget process, while the proposed new revenue would be restricted to LAFD.

The presentation and discussion continued for approximately 12 minutes.

The meeting recessed at 7:47 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 7:53 p.m.

8. **Board Membership- Selections, Removals, & Resignations**
   - **a.** Motion to appoint an applicant to the Resident Zone 5 Board Seat (Term ending June 2029) **– no applications**
   - **b.** Announcement of the removal of Megan Goldring from the SORO NC General Board due to missing 3 consecutive regular General Board Meetings (as per SORO NC Bylaws) and the opening of the At-Large Representative 1 Board Seat (Term ending June 2029) for appointment application
   - **c.** Announcement of the removal of Aaron Sinai from the SORO NC General Board due to missing 3 consecutive regular General Board Meetings (as per SORO NC Bylaws) and the opening of the Business Representative 5 Board Seat (Currently At-Large, Term ending June 2027) for appointment application

     Michael Lynn encouraged Board members to distribute the Open Board Seat signs

9. **Committees, Liaisons and Alliances**
   - **a.** Committee**,** Liaisons and Alliance Reports
     - I. Standing Committees: Executive (Lynn) reminder to send photos for the website; Land Use (Cohen); Public Safety (Gomes/Romm); Outreach (Lynn) Robertson rec center 5pm-9pm; Transportation (Plummer); Budget & Finance (Gomes); Bylaws (Spivey) getting something together for nov 4th; Board Development (Plummer) will be a meeting next Tuesday 7pm

       Executive Committee: Michael Lynn reminded Board members to send photos for the website

       Outreach Committee: Michael Lynn announced a Halloween event at Robertson Recreation Center on October 30th from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.

       Bylaws Committee: Ryan Spivey reported that a meeting was being planned for November 4.

       Board Development Committee: Jason Plummer (Board Development Committee) announced a meeting for the following Tuesday at 7:00 pm

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II. Ad-hoc Committees: Trees

Michael Lynn said members of the Trees Ad Hoc Committee had been connected by email so they could receive notifications. Barry Levine read a message from a community member.

Michael Lynn said the committee expected to receive tree-removal notifications and would review whether a tree removal required further consideration

III. Liaisons and Alliances: LANCC (Gomes), WRAC (Lynn), LADWP (Plummer), Budget Advocates (Steinhoff), City Attorney (Lynn), Homelessness (Katz)

LANCC: Terrence Gomes reported that LANCC discussed trees and ADA compliance and was seeking City Council funding for the website as it is related to the ADA legal requirements.

LADWP: Jason Plummer reported that LADWP had presented information about artificial intelligence and indicated it was not replacing jobs.

Budget Advocates: Ronald Steinhoff reported that the Mayor's budget had been released on October 8 and that comments were due October 16. He said Neighborhood Councils were encouraged to financially contribute to Budget Advocates, which meets twice monthly and is open to members and stakeholders.

b. Motion to confirm Joseph Mollaie as the SORO NC Land Use Committee Vice Chair (GB101526-01)

Moved by Terrence Gomes; Seconded by Beth Klein

Roll Call Vote: Baila Romm **- Yes**, Ronak Tumari – **Yes,** David Bruk – **Yes,** Terrence Gomes **- Yes**, Michael Lynn **- Yes**, Michelle Bega **- Yes**, Barry Levine – **Yes**, Abby Pollitt **- Yes**, Jason Plummer **- Yes**, Sandy Block – **Yes,** Beth Klein **- Yes**, Marlene Katz **- Yes**, Ryan Spivey **- Yes**, Joseph Mollaie **- Abstain**, Shirley Traum **- Yes**

14 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain. Joseph is confirmed as the SORO NC Land Use Committee Vice Chair

c. Motion to confirm David Sinai as a Stakeholder Member of the SORONC Public Safety Committee (GB101526-02)

Jason Plummer asked David Sinai about his interest in serving on the Public Safety Committee, and David Bruk asked whether David Sinai represented an organization.

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David Sinai said he is interested in serving because he lives in the community and wants to help to have a safer community for all. He also said that he represents a nonprofit organization called Jewish Defense federation (JDF).

Moved by Terrence Gomes; Seconded by Baila Romm

Roll Call Vote: Baila Romm **- Yes**, Ronak Tumari – **Yes,** David Bruk – **Yes,** Terrence Gomes **- Yes**, Michael Lynn **- Yes**, Michelle Bega **- Yes**, Barry Levine – **Yes**, Abby Pollitt **- Yes**, Jason Plummer **- Yes**, Sandy Block – **Yes,** Beth Klein **- Yes**, Marlene Katz **- Yes**, Ryan Spivey **- Yes**, Joseph Mollaie **- Yes**, Shirley Traum **- Yes**,

15 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain. David Sinai is confirmed as a Stakeholder Member of the SORONC Public Safety Committee

d. Motion to approve Boardmember Ronak Tumari to interact with Webcorner on behalf of the SORO NC regarding dead-links and other technical issues with the SORONC.ORG website, at the direction of the Executive Committee (GB101526-03)

Moved by Terrence Gomes; Seconded by Baila Romm

Roll Call Vote: Baila Romm **- Yes**, Ronak Tumari – **Yes,** David Bruk – **Yes,** Terrence Gomes **- Yes**, Michael Lynn **- Yes**, Michelle Bega **- Yes**, Barry Levine – **Yes**, Abby Pollitt **- Yes**, Jason Plummer **- Yes**, Sandy Block – **Yes,** Beth Klein **- Yes**, Marlene Katz **- Yes**, Ryan Spivey **- Yes**, Joseph Mollaie **- Yes**, Shirley Traum **- Yes**,

15 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain. Motion passes

e. Opportunity for Boardmembers to Join and/or Change Membership of Standing Committees (GB101526-04)

Ryan Spivey joins the Transportation Committee

10. Unfinished Business:

a. None

11. Consent Agenda

Public Comment: None

Items Removed (letter/Boardmember): Item a (Beth Klein)

~~**a.** Motion to accept the minutes from the September 17, 2026 General Board Meeting (GB101526-05)~~

b. Motion to accept the minutes from the September 17, 2026 General Board Special Meeting (GB101526-06)

c. Motion to send a request to BONC requesting that the BONC policy be changed to allow Neighborhood Councils to be able to archive all minutes, agendas, and letters created before the April 26, 2027 deadline for ADA compliance (GB101526-07)

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Motion to approve the Items b and c on the Consent Agenda

Moved by Terrence Gomes; Seconded by David Bruk;

Roll Call Vote: Baila Romm **- Yes**, Ronak Tumari – **Yes,** David Bruk – **Yes,** Terrence Gomes **- Yes**, Michael Lynn **- Yes**, Michelle Bega **- Yes**, Barry Levine – **Yes**, Abby Pollitt **- Yes**, Jason Plummer **- Yes**, Sandy Block – **Yes,** Beth Klein **- Yes**, Marlene Katz **- Yes**, Ryan Spivey **- Yes**, Joseph Mollaie **- Yes**, Shirley Traum **- Yes**,

15 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain. Motion passes

12. New Business:

Multiple Item Public Comment (letter/comment): None

a. Motion to approve the September Monthly Expenditure Report (GB101526-08)

Moved by Terrence Gomes; Seconded by Baila Romm

Roll Call Vote: Baila Romm **- Yes**, Ronak Tumari – **Yes,** David Bruk – **Yes,** Terrence Gomes **- Yes**, Michael Lynn **- Yes**, Michelle Bega **- Yes**, Barry Levine – **Yes**, Abby Pollitt **- Yes**, Jason Plummer **- Yes**, Sandy Block – **Yes,** Beth Klein **- Yes**, Marlene Katz **- Yes**, Ryan Spivey **- Yes**, Joseph Mollaie **- Yes**, Shirley Traum **- Yes**,

15 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain. Motion passes.

b. Motion for the SORO NC to sponsor a Joint Public Safety Committee/General Board Special Meeting Town Hall on Emergency Preparedness for El Nino 2026-27 on Wednesday, October 28, 2026 from 6:30 – 8:30 pm at Chabad SOLA 1660 S. La Cienega Boulevard, with funding of up to $1000 for refreshments, printing and security (GB101526-09)

Moved by Terrence Gomes; Seconded by Baila Romm

Baila Romm shared with the board a draft flyer and map for the proposed emergency-preparedness town hall. She noted that the materials would be printed in English and Spanish and that printing costs were included in the requested funding. Baila Romm also said the town hall would provide an opportunity to connect residents with community organizations and public-safety resources. Barry Levine asked what the proposed security expense covered. Baila Romm said the event would use private security and that she was also seeking volunteers.

Roll Call Vote: Baila Romm **- Yes**, Ronak Tumari – **Yes,** David Bruk – **Yes,** Terrence Gomes **- Yes**, Michael Lynn **- Yes**, Michelle Bega **- Yes**, Barry Levine – **Yes**, Abby Pollitt **- Yes**, Jason Plummer **- Yes**, Sandy Block – **Yes,** Beth Klein **-**

Yes, Marlene Katz **- Yes**, Ryan Spivey **- Yes**, Joseph Mollaie **- Yes**, Shirley Traum **- Yes**,

15 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain. Motion passes.

13. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

Motion to accept the minutes from the September 17, 2026, General Board Meeting (GB101526-05) with the change of wording in Item 6.k. from "support" to "opposition" to accurately reflect the position discussed regarding the bill, as requested by board member Beth Klein.

Moved by Terrence Gomes; Seconded by Michelle Bega

Roll Call Vote: Baila Romm **- Yes**, Ronak Tumari – **Yes,** David Bruk – **Yes,** Terrence Gomes **- Yes**, Michael Lynn **- Yes**, Michelle Bega **- Yes**, Barry Levine – **Yes**, Abby Pollitt **- Yes**, Jason Plummer **- Yes**, Sandy Block – **Yes,** Beth Klein **- Yes**, Marlene Katz **- Yes**, Ryan Spivey **- Yes**, Joseph Mollaie **- Yes**, Shirley Traum **- Yes**,

15 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain. Motion passes.

14. Meeting Adjourned by Chair, without objection at 8:32pm

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