**TARZANA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

**BOARD MEETING AGENDA**

**Tuesday September 22, 2020 7:00 PM**

VIRTUAL TELEPHONIC MEETING

**1. Call to Order** at 7:00 p.m. Roll Call: 20 board members present:

Pam Blattner, Devon Cromwell, Scott Diamond, Mark Epstein, Max Flehinger, David Garfinkle, Harvey Goldberg, Joyce Greene, Eran Heissler, Susan Lord, Yossi Malka, Jeff Mausner, Iris Polonsky, Michael Povar, Susan Rogen, Terry Saucier, Ken Schwartz, Len Shaffer, Bob Schmaeff and Esther Wieder. (Barry Edelman absent).

**2.** **Welcoming Remarks** by Len Shaffer, president of TNC.

**3. Remarks by representatives of public officials:**

**Captain Grimes, West Valley Community Police Station,** spoke about Campaign Zero, which includes recommendations to reduce police force including: 1. Ban strangleholds, 2. Require de-escalation before using force, 3. Require warnings before shooting, 4. Exhaust all other means before shooting, 5. Duty to intervene, 6. Ban shooting at moving vehicles, 7. Require use of force continuum, and 8 Comprehensive reporting. He said all of these have been implemented by LAPD. There were 115 police involved shootings in 1990 and last year, there were only 36.

**Veronica Vos, Field Deputy for Councilmember Bob Blumenfield** said the census count ends next week. October is Domestic Violence Awareness month. Funding was provided to add 36 beds to the local shelter. She spoke about cleanups in the community and short-term rentals, suggesting that board members focus on a Party ordinance and shutting down utilities to repeat offenders. She advised reporting any issues to the Council Office. Also, there are four sites for homeless shelters which should be up and running by next summer for people over 65 and people living under the overpasses, primarily. Right now there is a Bridge Housing in Canoga Park and there’s a safe parking lot for people to sleep in their cars.

**Blake Clayton, Supervisor Sheila Kuehl’s Office** spoke about mail-in ballots and a drop off center at the Tarzana Branch Library on Ventura Blvd.

**Jeremy Serai, Assembly Member Gabriel’s office** said they are holding a virtual workshop on Sept. 30 for high school students applying to college. There were four bills passed that he promoted preventing homelessness, higher education affordability and access and addressing systemic gun violence. He shared statistics on the amount of EDD payments to people affected by the pandemic saying it was higher than both Texas and NY combined. There is a hold now on new claims while they are upgrading their ID verification process. He also spoke about the Housing is Key Program which will connect tenants and landlords with AB38 information and resources for landlords and tenants.

**Betty Wong Oyama** invited everyone to attend Empower Neighborhood Voices with Digital Contact on Sept. 30th and a Homelessness Liaison Meeting. The Planning 1010 Training for all committee chairs takes place on Oct. 13, 15, and 17th. Everyone who needs to renew Funding, Ethics and Code of Conduct should do so. She also reminded everyone to attend the Congress of Neighborhood Councils.

**LAPD Senior Lead Officer Daryl Scoggins** said crime was way down last month. He asked everyone to continue calling in party house locations to the West Valley station. There will be a live National Night Out held on Oct. 6th with social distancing at the Farmers Market in Encino and a drive in movie at One Generation.

**Michael Liu, City Attorney’s office** said criminal trials are ramping up again and with it, jury duty will be starting up too.

**4.** **Public Comments**:

Sharon Brewer – Rec & Parks has a contract with the County to provide drop boxes for voting. She said there were 45 locations. Also, voting centers will be open for 10/11 days.

**5. Budget Advocate/Representative Report –** No report.

**6. Executive Secretary’s Attendance Report** – Max said one member has more than four absences.

**7. Approval of Minutes of August 25, 2020 meeting. (Heissler/Flehinger) moved to approve the minutes as amended. The motion carried.**

**8**.  **(Goldberg/Epstein) moved approval of the August 2020 expenditures for submission to City Clerk (MER). The motion carried unanimously.**

**9.** **(Goldberg/Flehinger) moved approval of Financial Statement as of August 31, 2020. The motion carried unanimously.**

**10. Committee and other Reports:**

**Budget** – Harvey said there is money to help organizations and for other needs. Get budget requests to him by Oct. 14th.

**Land Use** – David announced there will be Town Hall next month on the impact of Covid-19 on Tarzana, the West Valley and the City of L.A.

**Outreach** – New events, bios and photos should be forwarded to Terry to post on the website. Oct. 7th or 8th is next meeting. Mark offered to post on his NextDoor page to share information.

**Events –** No report by Esther.

**Transportation** – Max said after asking DOT to report on accidents, he was alerted about three, new stop signs at three dangerous intersections. He also reported on a tree overhanging on Linnett.

**Public Safety** – Susan Rogen reported on some incidents including a dangerous dog, a grow house on Santa Rita, and problems at Tarzana Park.

**Rules** – No report.

**Government Action** – No report.

**Animal Welfare** – Jeff deferred to Item 12.

**Beautification** – Iris talked about the design for the banners and bi-monthly cleanups of the medians. Her next meeting is planned for Oct. 7th or 8th.

**Homelessness** – Joyce talked about a bridge home that was supposed to open at the end of Sept. but has been delayed. It will be the 2nd bridge home opening in 6 months.

**DWP MOU Report** –Susan said some residents had their power going down several times. They finally realized there were lines running to their power source from a grow house that they were being charged for. Michael talked with DWP about it and they said they would need illegal taps to be reported to them. There was a cost study done which found LADWP has no subcontractors.

**VANC Report** – Len talked about the new Executive Director overseeing three new commissions for racial and social equity. Joy Atkinson from BONC talked about the presentation she will give at the Congress.

**COVID-19 Ad Hoc –** No report.

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**10.** (**Goldberg/Epstein) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board approves the Budget Committee’s recommendation supporting the request from YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles for a NPG for $1,000 to support the West Valley Family YMCA Pop-up Food Pantry, Child Care and shower program.” The motion carried.**

**11.**  **(Garfinkle/Diamond) moved to remove this motion from the table:**

**Resolved: The TNC Board approves the Executive Committee’s recommendation to support the Sun Valley Area NC fireworks letter.** (This ordinance creates responsibility for damages by those who set off fireworks).

**(Shaffer/Heissler) moved that TNC support Sun Valley NC’s fireworks letter to the City Council.** **The motion carried unanimously**.

**12. (Shaffer/Polonsky) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board approves the Executive Committee’s recommendation to file a CIS supporting CF 20-1114 (CM Lee) by incorporating the language of agenda item 16 of the August 25, 2020 TNC Board meeting agenda. (**[**LINK**](https://www.tarzananc.org/committee/viewCommittee/17)**) Further, the TNC Board supports the position of the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC) demanding that the West Valley Shelter remain open as a municipal shelter.”**

**Jeff stated that the City Council is sympathetic about this motion.**

**The motion carried: 15-5 (Abstaining: Garfinkle, Blattner, Goldberg, Heissler and Greene).**

**13.** **Presentation: Should California change how property taxes are assessed against commercial properties by amending Proposition 13 (1978 Howard Jarvis property tax initiative)?** See [2020 Proposition 15](https://ballotpedia.org/California_Proposition_15,_Tax_on_Commercial_and_Industrial_Properties_for_Education_and_Local_Government_Funding_Initiative_(2020)).

* Michael Lewis – A student and part of LA Voice that is supporting this proposition. He’s a 2nd generation Californian. Prop 15 capped property taxes at the time of sale. He explained the reasons commercial property should be reassessed every three years. [www.powerupforprop15.org](http://www.powerupforprop15.org).
* Jack Humphries said the increase in commercial and industrial properties would be a 75-80% increase in taxes, similar to a 2 – 2.5% increase in sales taxes or 20% increase in property taxes. CA has the highest taxes in the country already.

Adriana Delacruz asked for the takeaway.

**14. Board Business** - Len said the Mayor passed an executive order that has to do with hiring or minorities and racial equality. Another item has to do with anti-bias and implicit bias training which is mandated for the City and possibly board members of NCs. The Congress is coming up next weekend. (9:00 a.m. – 1 p.m.).

Adriana Delacruz: Plugged the Congress on Saturday.

**15. Adjournment: 9:37 p.m.**

Minutes by Pat Kramer, Apple One.