



**Issam Najm, President; David Balen, Vice President; Gabriel Khanlian, Secretary;
Jason Hector, Treasurer; Asaad Alnajjar; Lori Choi; Brandii Grace,
Mihran Kalaydjian; David Lasher; Becky Leveque; Hassan Memarian**

Rev. 06-14-2019

**Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council (PRNC)
Board Meeting
Wednesday, 10 June 2020
Via ZOOM**

APPROVED MINUTES

1. Meeting call to order
 - President Issam Najm called the meeting to order at 6.15PM.
2. Welcome and Discussion of the Meeting Logistics
 - Issam welcomed over twelve stakeholders along with ten board members and presented a PowerPoint presentation on how to participate in this Zoom call meeting, including requesting that attendees keep their computers muted.

3. Roll Call
 - Gabriel Khanlian performed the roll call and a quorum was declared.

Here (10)	Asaad Alnajjar, David Balen, Brandii Grace, Jason Hector, Mihran Kalaydjian, Gabriel Khanlian, David Lasher, Becky Leveque, Hassan Memarian, and Issam Najm
Absent (1)	Lori Choi

4. Presentation by City Controller, Mr. Ron Galperin, on the City’s Financial Outlook in light of the COVID-19 Pandemic
 - Los Angeles Controller Ron Galperin is the taxpayer’s watchdog at City Hall. He makes sure public dollars are spent efficiently and effectively. Galperin oversees a team that conducts independent audits, manages city payroll and spending, prepares financial reports, pursues fraud and waste, and works to create a more transparent and accountable city for everyone.
 - Ron’s background is as an attorney and small business owner.
 - He added that what PRNC is doing now is more important than ever. It is key that folks at the local level have a great sense of community.
 - As the city recently lost 300,000 jobs due to COVID-19, the recovery will not be easy or quick. The city mapped job losses by communities. 2,825 jobs were lost from Porter Ranch, which resulted in a 15.1% job loss.
 - The controller’s office is working alongside the Department of Aging, restaurants, non-profits, and the county to increase senior meals. The controller’s website shows maps of the 1,800 food banks and pantries throughout California (this is the most popular area of Ron’s website).
 - The city currently has more than thirty testing sites; the largest is at Dodger Stadium, where they test 6,000 people per day. The elderly and citizens of color are most likely to acquire Coronavirus.

- This upcoming fiscal year, the city will have \$250m less than anticipated. However, that is still more funds than from previous years. Even before the Coronavirus, the controller’s budget was slashed by 18%.
 - The three budget scenarios are as follows:

Most optimistic	\$200m less than anticipated
Middle Ground	\$400m less
Saddest	\$600m or more less than anticipated
 - Mayor Garcetti has proposed moving \$150m from the LAPD to more social services.
 - LA may receive \$694m in federal funds for Coronavirus; this money will ONLY be spent on Coronavirus expenses.
 - Ron is an optimist who always sees the rosy side of situations. He is a first generation American; when his parents immigrated to the USA, they did not even speak English.
 - Ron sees increased growth in tele-medicine and construction.
 - Brandii mentioned that internet services throughout LA are problematic. There have been several correlation studies linking lack of internet with reduced access to educational tools.
 - Asaad asked about federal government relief funds. Several municipalities have donated money to community organizations. Perhaps LA could donate \$10k to each neighborhood council? Ron replied that the rules for the distribution of this money are very strict and involve a great deal of paperwork.
 - Glenn Bailey asked if the city would reimburse neighborhood councils for all the money they have spent on well-documented COVID-19 related expenses. Although a worthy question, Ron did not know. That could be a very interesting idea and would help the neighborhood councils continue their wonderful work.
5. Presentation from representatives of elected officials or City Departments
- John Morales from Congressman Mike Garcia addressed the PRNC:
 - John thanked the PRNC for welcoming him. In light of all that is going on in the world these days, it is like trying to build an airplane while it is taking off.
 - They are currently getting offices opened, answering telephones, and working through the backlog of cases that have built up these past nine months. Their main telephone line is 661-568-4855, their website is mikegarcia.house.gov, and John’s email is john.morales@mail.house.gov. John is very interested in learning as much as possible about Aliso Canyon.
 - The Paycheck Protection Act may extended available funds from 8-weeks to 24-weeks. However, as many small business owners have discovered (including David Lasher’s wife) many people make more money with the COVID-19 bonus and unemployment than they make from working. There must be a good faith effort to bring people back to work. The norm would be if someone does not want to work, their unemployment could be cut. But this is an issue for California’s EDD office.
 - Colin Crews from CD12 reported the following:
 - CD12 has been working with the Wilkinson Center to assist with meal delivery for homebound seniors.
 - Eric Moody leads CD12’s business reopening team; they are compiling a list of what businesses are allowed to open and those that must remain closed.
 - A very generous philanthropist (who wishes to remain anonymous) has worked alongside CD12 to facilitate over \$300k in no interest small business loans. The first check was distributed to San Carlo Italian Deli, 10178 Mason Avenue, Chatsworth.
 - Councilman Lee opposes the LAPD’s budget cuts.

- Asaad thanked Colin for putting him in touch with Matthew Hernandez and Eric Moody from CD12. Hopefully they can control the street racing. Colin replied that the LAPD recently arrested several racers.
 - David Lasher added that mufflers have gotten louder; while reducing street racing, perhaps the LAPD could also research the exhaust systems?
 - Jason mentioned that the LAPD’s original budget did not reference a cut; it was proposed to increase the LAPD’s funds by \$128m for differential pay for advanced education. That original budget was proposed many months ago, before COVID-19.
 - Hassan requested clarity regarding fire fighting and urban forestry issues. What could Porter Ranch receive? Colin will have to connect with someone else regarding that issue.
 - Andrew Krowne asked if there was any update on the left turn arrow at Wilbur Avenue and Rinaldi Street. The poles are already lying in the nearby dirt. Colin replied that everything is prioritized by its relationship to COVID-19; Colin will discuss this issue with Eric Moody, and report back to the PRNC.
 - Please email Colin at colin.crews@lacity.org with any additional questions and/or concerns.
- Freddy Cupen-Ames, Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate (NEA) from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) mentioned the following:
 - Monday, July 27, beginning at 6PM, DONE will sponsor “Robert Rules of Order Made Simple” training.
 - The city clerk has extended the board member training deadline from June 30th to September 30th. However, financial officers are asked to reach out to the city clerk’s office for one-on-one training. Issam and Gabriel recently completed their mandatory training and would appreciate acknowledgement that the training has transpired.
 - The following deadlines have been established for FY financial issues:

Monday, June 15	Last day for check payment requests
Saturday, June 20	This is the last day to use the PRNC bank card
Tuesday, June 30	Last day to apply for encumbrances
 - The city’s 28 DONE employees have been asked to reduce their work-hours by 20%. Most are currently also classified as Disaster Service Workers (DSW). Freddy recently worked at a hotel for the Project Room Key task. In addition, NEAs may switch their support to other neighborhood councils.
6. Budget Advocates Update
- Budget Advocate Brian Allen from Granada Hills addressed the PRNC:
 - The annual Budget Day, scheduled for Saturday, June 20th, has been postponed for at least three months. Instead, the following weekend of June 27th and 28th, the advocates will host virtual meetings, including breakout sessions, for all board members and advocates. At 1PM on Saturday, June 27th, the three Region 2 (northwest valley) advocates (Brian Allen, Glenn Bailey, and Garry Fordyce) will host a one-hour virtual meeting to elect new advocates for the area. Glenn Bailey added that details of how to join the June 27th meeting are posted on the budget advocates website ncbala.com; please be certain to click on regions 1 and 2 for the North Valley.
 - Jason Hector mentioned that the PRNC budget representatives (himself and David Lasher) would remotely attend this June 27th Zoom meeting.

- The advocates are currently looking very closely at the city's budget and how it will apply to the LAPD and COVID-19 issues. As Ron said, we do not know how bad the budget will be. LA is recovering slower from COVID-19 than other areas of the USA.
 - If you have any questions regarding the budget, please contact Brian at b.allen@ncbala.com or at 818-802-3084.
7. Public Comments on matters not on the Agenda and within the purview of the Board
- Glenn Bailey from the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC), which usually meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, mentioned that their next Zoom meeting has not yet been scheduled. They were going to have someone from StreetsLA address their June 9th meeting, but that was postponed.
 - Joannie Summers asked if anyone had advice regarding a double jeopardy issue. We have all been requested to “stay at home”; but that is not advisable as many live in the shadow of Aliso Canyon. Joannie was urged to reach out to the PRNC for additional information.
8. Board Member Comments and Reports
- Asaad, representing the Safety and Transportation Committee, mentioned that there was recently a very peaceful protest here in Porter Ranch. He is also working with the LAPD and the Department of Transportation to find solutions to racing, speeding, and loud mufflers. He hopes that the DOT will be more responsive to their requests. He also reminded everyone to please wear their masks while in Porter Ranch's parks.
 - Jason mentioned that the Beautification Committee has arranged for the removal, via the 311 app, of the following:
 - 14 incidents of graffiti
 - 29 bags of trash along the streets
 - 2 illegal signs
 - Individuals should contact 311 themselves for bulky item pick-up, brush clearance, and trash bag retrieval. Jason also urged residents to visit <https://retailsolutionsus.com/pickuprequest/> for wayward shopping cart retrieval.
 - The Beautification Committee requested weed abatement along Tampa Avenue and Rinaldi Street, litter pick-up along Porter Ranch Drive, and Jason cleaned a great deal of trash from the ET Park. Braemore Road continues to be a dumping ground. It would be nice if the residents who live on the streets beneath the Wilbur Tampa Park also cleaned up that area.
 - The Recreation and Parks Department met their June 1st brush clearance goal
 - A check has gone to the “11:11 A Creative Collective” for the utility art box project. 11:11 is now recruiting as many artists as possible. The themes will be:
 - Connection to community and each other
 - Connection to community and nature
 - How connection has adapted in the time of COVID-19
 - There will be designs on fourteen utility boxes, seven in Porter Ranch and seven in the Northridge West community.
 - There are still some logistical issues; for example, it is imperative that the artwork does not get applied to a utility box that is scheduled to be removed.
 - Mihran recently attended an interfaith service that works with the West Valley Neighborhood Alliance on Homelessness for proposed services and solutions to support unhoused individuals.



- David Lasher mentioned that there is a problem along Braemore Road. At night, some people bring adult beverages, enjoy the views of the city lights, and light fires.
- Hassan mentioned that his Sustainability Committee discusses:
 - COVID-19’s impact on nature
 - Tree watering
 - Street maintenance

9. Motion to Ratify the May 2020 Monthly Expenditure Report (MER)

Date	Vendor	Amount
April 16	Wendy Moore/Moore Business Results	\$ 752.85
May 1	Storage Etc. Chatsworth	145.00
May 6	Web Networks Solutions	39.99
May 6	Apple One Employment Services	75.08
May 20	Target	556.22
		<u>\$1,569.14</u>

- Jason Hector made a motion to approve this MER; David Balen seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

10. Treasurer’s Report

- Treasurer Jason mentioned that the PRNC’s budget is on track and presented the following budget numbers:

Annual Budget		\$42,000.00
Adjustment/Rollover		3,904.61
Budgeted Amount		<u>45,904.61</u>
Expense to Date	Funding Requests	15,194.09
	Credit Card	13,178.74
	Commitments	256.25
Total Outstanding	Pending Payments	5,687.78
Net Available		<u>10,018.61</u>
Cash Balance		<u>\$1,569.14</u>

- The rollover may be \$9,873 (the maximum permitted roll-over is \$10k). As each council’s FY2020-21 budget is expected to be \$32k; with this extra \$9,873, the PRNC will have almost a complete budget for this upcoming fiscal year.
- The PRNC has been saving a great deal of money with these Zoom meetings. The longer we Zoom, the better off we will all be.

11. Motion to Approve a \$1,000 Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) Request from the Southern California Preparedness Foundation (SCPF) to support the Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair scheduled for October 10th

- The PRNC has participated in this annual Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair for several years. This will be in a social distancing manner at the Northridge Fashion Center parking area. The only neighborhood councils that will appear are those who have contributed money. If there is a re-

appearance of COVID-19, we will need to cross that bridge when we come to it. The SCPF people are still considering giving away goodie bags, which contain very useful items (gloves, masks, first aid instruction, etc.). Food distribution will need to be discussed closer to the event.

- In response to Gabriel's query, the 2019 approved NPG was for \$750.
- Becky mentioned that although we have recently been focusing on COVID-19 and BLM marches, it is imperative that we prepare for an earthquake. Becky also expressed concern for Bill Hopkins. Glenn Bailey replied that Bill Hopkins continues to participate in the planning for this October event.
- Mihran supports this NPG as this worthwhile event always has a great turnout.
- Brandii offered to volunteer to assist in any way.
- Issam wondered if this should be approved in July, so that it does not cross over multiple fiscal years; Glenn Bailey replied that the NPG might need to be re-written.
- Jason mentioned that the SCPF has a year to spend this money. However, the clock starts clicking from when the NPG is approved. If approved in June 2020, and not spent by 30 June 2021, the PRNC may request a refund. If this is approved in July 2020, then the money could be valid through 30 June 2022.
- Judith Daniels added that the SCPF is a known group; they are not going to run off with the PRNC's money.
- In response to Patty Glueck's comment, they had 4,000 attendees in October 2019 (the same weekend as the Saddleridge Fire).
- Glenn Bailey recommended that the PRNC approve this NPG, subject to confirmation of funding options (which is valid until Monday, June 15th). Alternatively, the PRNC could authorize \$500 now, and authorize \$500 in July or August.
- Jason Hector made a motion to approve \$500 for this NPG; Asaad Alnajjar seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

BREAK

12. Discussion and possible action to request from the Los Angeles County and the City of Los Angeles that they use any and all methods at their disposal to obtain from SoCal Gas, and make public, the full list of chemicals emitted from the Aliso Canyon Gas Storage Facility during the SS-25 blowout, from ongoing operation, and from subsequent leaks
 - As chairman of the Safety Committee, Asaad urged the PRNC use any all methods available for SoCal Gas to urgently release a list of these chemicals.
 - Patty Glueck mentioned that she knows someone whose health is compromised. Via this letter, the PRNC is requesting that Supervisor Kathryn Barger issue a subpoena to acquire this list of chemicals. Supervisor Barger's subpoena power can pierce the veil of secrecy that SoCal Gas claims to possess.
 - In addition to Supervisor Barger, Brian Allen from the Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council suggested that this letter also be sent to Councilman Lee, Mayor Garcetti, and City Attorney Feuer.
 - Andrew Krowne spoke as the chief architect of this chemical list request. The proposed motion language has been released to all of the area neighborhood councils. The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council added specific language regarding any and all methods necessary to acquire this list of chemicals. The Aliso Canyon Community Advisory Group (CAG) purposely made the sample letter very benign so that any neighborhood council could polish the chemical language request to their needs.
 - CAG member Lori Alvazian supports this motion. A CAG subcommittee met earlier today, and determined that having a list of chemicals would make it much easier to conduct CAG business.



- Craig Galanti added that without this list, the Scientific Advocacy Committee (SOC) is bumping around in the dark. They must know what the community was exposed to during the blowout. Any one of us could be in an oncologist’s office to discuss what chemicals a cancer victim was exposed to. However, if you cannot name the chemicals that you were exposed to, that will greatly negatively impact your treatment.
- Dr. Nordella added that we are all in agreement. A list of chemicals will allow the SOC and CAG to have a more robust conclusion. The SOC has only met once and an overview was presented. However, the committee did not have full participation. The SOC will meet again in July, and action may happen in August or September. A subcommittee, including representatives of the Keck Medical Center, has compiled a list of the carcinogenic chemicals that may have been released.
- Brandii and Craig added that whatever wording the PRNC uses, the letter should be public. However, Craig added that there is a level of urgency. Perhaps the PRNC should form a committee [or designate one person] to draft a letter.
- Issam asked Asaad if he wanted to move forward with the letter, or is requesting the subpoena sufficient?
- Becky wondered if the motion should be re-written to include writing a letter.
- Asaad Alnajjar made a motion to authorize President Issam Najm to write a letter to Supervisor Barger, requesting a subpoena from LA County to SoCal Gas for them to urgently release a list of chemicals discharged from the Aliso Canyon Gas Storage Facility blowout; Gabriel Khanlian seconded this motion and it passed.

Aye (9)	Alnajjar, Balen, Grace, Kalaydjian, Khanlian, Lasher, Leveque, Memarian, and Najm
Abstain (1)	Hector
Absent (1)	Choi

- Andrew Krowne thanked the PRNC, and especially Asaad and Mihran, for all their work on this issue.

13. Discussion and Possible Action to submit a letter to the State, County, and City Urging them to Initiate the Work on the Community Air Monitoring System

- Patty Glueck requested that the letter specify the ETES Community Air Monitoring System. Issam mentioned that it would encompass methane and other chemicals.
- Lori Alvazian thanked the PRNC for doing this.
- Issam Najm made a motion for the PRNC to write this agendized letter; David Balen seconded this motion and it passed.

Aye (9)	Alnajjar, Balen, Grace, Kalaydjian, Khanlian, Lasher, Leveque, Memarian, and Najm
Abstain (1)	Hector
Absent (1)	Choi

14. Motion to file Community Impact Statement (CIS) with the City Council and Recreation and Parks in support if amended of CF 20-0692 (Martinez, Price, Rodriguez & Wesson: Los Angeles Police Department Budget Cut / Disadvantaged and Communities of Color Reinvestment)

- Mayor Garcetti’s office of Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD) has been successfully running the Summer Night Lights and Fall Friday Nights programs in a limited capacity in some city parks (Lanark Park in Canoga Park being the nearest). This program includes free activities and food



for youth and adults in collaboration with LAPD. Not only do these programs give our youth fun things to do, it provides an opportunity for the LAPD to interact positively with the community.

- Given that cuts to LAPD are certainly difficult to swallow, we are asking that the Summer Night Lights and other programs be expanded to include ALL city parks with recreation centers (or as many as possible). All of our communities can benefit from the fantastic programs of the Mayor’s GRYD program. The model has already been proven so why not expand these great programs, including gun buybacks, to make them readily available to all of the residents of the north valley.
- While Porter Ranch does not have a recreation center, there are several nearby in Granada Hills, Northridge, and Chatsworth that could benefit from having Summer Night Lights.
- Jason would like to see the money reinvested throughout the city. The original motion was written so that disadvantaged communities [and communities of color] would receive additional benefits. This would omit Porter Ranch.
- Asaad supports both this CIS and Porter Ranch.
- Becky mentioned that community policing started in Porter Ranch in 1990 via a manual written by the community. Porter Ranch is a friend of the LAPD and has less crime than other areas of the city. CD12 could be one of the first communities to suffer with increased crime due to a reduction of the LAPD.
- Brandii and Jason are concerned about gang reduction, community policing, and what the Parks and Recreation Department is doing regarding this issue. Will every district get the same amount? Or will one district get a more generous percentile? At this time, this is unknown. Brandii added that it is important that we take care of the communities that are suffering the most.
- Issam added that this whole motion is a little tone deaf; the issue is more than simply allocating funds.
- Hassan commented that Porter Ranch is not a separate city; if one portion of the city suffers, we will all eventually suffer.
- Jason Hector made a motion to approve this letter; Asaad Alnajjar seconded this motion, yet it did not pass

Aye (3)	Alnajjar, Hector, and Memarian
No (3)	Grace, Khanlian, and Najm
Abstain (4)	Balen, Kalaydjian, Lasher, and Leveque
Absent (1)	Choi

15. Discussion and possible action to submit a letter to the Los Angeles Mayor expressing an objection to the proposed budget as described in Council File 20-0600 and support our support for Council File 20-0482 which classifies as essential emergency services any efforts to reduce greenhouse gas and toxic emissions
 - Mayor Garcetti has recommended eliminating the Office of Climate Emergency Mobilization (OCEM), along with other efforts to address the climate crisis, in his proposed budget. While we expect and understand reduced resources due to the budget gap, the PRNC’s Sustainability Committee thinks eliminating these efforts is painfully shortsighted. The elimination of the OCEM will definitely be a set back for LA’s neighborhoods and particularly recently launched green energy plans. Moreover, the cuts in budget will impact more low-income communities who are particularly vulnerable to the climate crisis, as well as this pandemic.



- Hassan and Mihran reviewed the motion and mentioned that it is undetermined whether this should be a letter or CIS. The PRNC already has a letter ready to go. Jason added that this letter [or CIS] would be attached to both council files.
- Brandii added that the irony is that the city is currently attempting to reinvest in disadvantaged communities.
- Glenn Bailey mentioned a correction to the council file number, and stated that this issue is still pending in the city council’s Public Safety Committee.
- David Lasher added that Boyle Heights and another neighborhood council already submitted CISs on this issue.
- Becky feels that this is an important motion and wondered if SoCal Gas paid the city to eliminate this OCEM. Patty Glueck was confused by Becky’s comment; the city did not get money, instead, it was distributed to various city programs.
- Hassan Memarian made a motion to submit a letter to Mayor Garcetti expressing an objection to the proposed budget as described in Council File 20-0600 and support Council File 20-0482 which classifies as “essential emergency services” any efforts to reduce greenhouse gas and toxic emissions; Mihran Kalaydjian seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

16. Discussion and possible action to approve the submittal of the PRNC Administrative Packet for 2020-21

- Jason reviewed the proposed administrative packet, including the budget, etc.

	Storage Unit	\$1,800	
	Office Supplies	500	
	Website Hosting and Email Expenses	700	
Office/ Operational Expenditures	Website Content Management and Maintenance	2,000	\$12,100
	Printing and Photocopying for Meetings	1,200	
	Minute Taker for Meetings	2,400	
	Meeting Refreshments/ Snacks	2,500	
	Meeting Facility Fees	300	
	Outreach Expenses	700	
		<hr/>	
Outreach	Holiday Party	1,500	11,500
	Outreach Giveaways	1,500	
	Outreach Event 1	2,500	
	Outreach Event 2	2,500	
	Outreach Event 3	2,500	
	Outreach Event 4	1,000	
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Election	Election	3,400	3,400
NPGs	NPG 1	750	4,500
	NPG 2	1,500	
	NPG 3	500	
	NPG 4	750	
	NPG 5	1,000	
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Community Improvement Projects (CIP)	CIP 1	2,500	10,000
	CIP 2	2,500	
	CIP 3	5,000	
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TOTALs

\$41,500 \$41,500

- The PRNC may polish this budget during the July retreat.
- Issam asked that Jason pay particular attention to the credit card, as it could become obsolete very soon and we would hate to have a “dead zone”. This could be particular inconvenient if we have debts that should be immediately paid (such as mail box rental, etc.). Glenn Bailey added that the card would be invalid after Monday, June 20th. The card will start working again on Wednesday, July 1st.
- Jason Hector made a motion to approve this PRNC Administrative Packet; Gabriel Khanlian seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

17. Meeting Adjournment

- Issam adjourned the meeting at 9.40PM.