Empowerment Congress Southwest Area Neighborhood Development Council

Serving the communities of: Gramercy Park/ West Park Terrace, Manchester Square, and Vermont Knolls

Executive Committee

President
Marcello Robinson

Vice-President
Ra-Shon Chavis

Secretary
Valencia Marlowe

Treasurer
Tunisia Johnson

Board Members

Ra'Shon Chavis
At-Large

Nia Mayers Franklin
At-Large

Vanessa Bailey
Business Representative

Nelson Clifton Williams Jr.
Faith Based Representative

Daniel Fuller
Social Media Representative

Dominica Robbins-Wilson
Area 1 Residential Representative

Timothy Henry
Area 2 Residential Representative

Valencia Y. Marlowe
Area 3 Residential Representative

Ashley Crisp
Area 4 Residential Representative

Ashlye Durrell
Area 5 Residential Representative

Tracey Davis
Youth Representative

General Board & Community Regular **DRAFT** Meeting Minutes

Mark Ridley-Thomas
Constituent Service Center
8475 S. Vermont Ave. #207
Los Angeles, CA 90044

Monday, May 20, 2024,
6:00pm - 8:00pm

Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Board's jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Board is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future Board meeting. Public comment is limited to 2 minutes per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the Board.

As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and upon request will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least 3 business days (72 hours) prior to the meeting by contacting the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment by

calling (213) 978-1551 or email: NCsupport@lacity.org

All items on the agenda are subject to discussion, possible action and filing of a Community Impact Statement to the Office of the City Clerk.

1) CALL TO ORDER AND BOARD ROLL CALL: Empowerment Congress Southwest Area Neighborhood Development Council, Marcello Robinson, called the meeting to order at 6:21PM.

Present:	Marcello Robinson	**Y**
	Valencia Marlowe	**Y**
	Vanessa Bailey	**Y**
	Ra'Shon Chavis	**Y**
	Tunisia Johnson	**N**
	Nia Mayers Franklin	**Y**
	Nelson Clifton Williams Jr.	**Y**
	Daniel Fuller	**Y**
	Dominica Robbins -Wilson	**N**
	Timothy Henry	**Y**
	Valencia Y. Marlowe	**Y**
	Ashley Crisp	**N**
	Ashlye Durrell	**N**
	Tracey Davis	**N**

Unexcused Absent:
Tunisia Johnson, Dominica Robbins-Wilson, Ashley Crisp, Ashlye Durrell, Tracey Davis,
Late Entry:

N/A

Early Departure: N/A
Courtesy Seats: N/A

2) Discussion and possible motion to approve April 15 meeting minutes. (Secretary Marlowe)
Motion – Ra 'Shon Chavis – 1st Timothy Henry – 2nd

3) GOVERNMENT REPORTS
AK – Tree Trimming
Cyclivia May 23rd

1. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

- **Comments from the public on non-agenda items within the oard's subject matter jurisdiction. Each speaker will be allowed 2 minutes**
  N/A

2. **BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS**

a) **Discussion and possible motion to approve April 2024 Monthly Expenditures Reports (MER) - Tabled – Motion – Valencia Marlowe 1st; Daniel Fuller 2nd**

b) **Planning & Land Use Committee - N/A**
c) **Discussion and possible motion to appoint up to five Community Impact Statement (CIS) fliers for the ECSWANDA**

Motion – Nelson Clifton Williams Jr – 1st Vanessa Bailey – 2nd

3. NEW BUSINESS –

a) **Discussion and possible motion to request the city clerk funding office to roll over up to $10,000 of ECSWANDC unspent funds from FY2023- to FY 2024-2025.**
Motion – Timothy Henry 1st Nelson Clifton Williams Jr – 2nd

b) **Discussion and possible motion to approve Wendy Moore Business Results invoices from March 2024 in the amount of $330.48 April 2024 in the amount of $421,60, and May 2024 in the amount of $546.82.**
Already PAID

c) **Discussion and possible motion to approve Neighborhood Purpose Grant up to $5,000.00 to Youth Mentoring Connection, Application.**
Youth Mentoring Connection, (YMC) is requesting funding to purchase equipment for the YMC Urban Oasis Film Academy (UOFA). YMC has been providing the Urban Oasis Film Academy (UOFA) program since 2007. Funds will be used to purchase much needed equipment. Programming includes workshops on all aspects of film making including scriptwriting, storyboarding, acting, filming, and editing. The creative process and production are youth-led which not only empowers them but also brings a deeper awareness of their inner selves through their films.
8 Yes votes Motion – Ra 'Shon Chavis 1st Vanessa Bailey 2nd

d) **Discussion and possible motion to approve Neighborhood Purpose Grant up to $5,000.00 to Concrete Queenz, Application –**
*Concrete Queenz is a nonprofit that brings skateboarding and community to underserved girls in South LA. We believe that skateboarding ca n be a powerful tool for empowering girls to be strong, independent and confident. Our mission is to create a safe and inclusive space for girls to learn and practice skateboarding, while also building valuable life skills such as leadership, teamwork, and communication. Studies in the Journal of Sport *=& Exercise Psychology found that participation in physical activities that foster resilience, such as skateboarding, can reduce stress that leads to those mental health problems among youth.*
8 unanimous votes passed; motion contingent upon of proof of addresses
Motion – Timothy Henry 1st Ra 'Shon Chavis 2nd

e) **Discussion and possible motion to approve Neighborhood Purpose Grant up to $5,000 to New Direction Community Programs, Application –**
The purpose and intent of the grant is to enhance the operation and effectiveness of our Compassion Access Center in providing social service assistance to the homeless and food insecure populations year-round.

f) **Discussion and possible motion to approve Neighborhood Purpose Grant up to $5,000.00 to What's Good Neighborhood Development, Application.**
This grant will be used in the following ways:
1. *Support of our Monthly Feed the Community Days where we provide hot meals to the community and activities to the community. These events are designed to engage the community by providing meals and entertainment at a marginal cost. (Juneteenth Community Day, Labor of Love (Labor Day Cookout).*
2. *The Entrepreneurial Incubator Program allows aspiring restaurateurs & caterers to use our event ad market space to host pop-up events and sell products on a consignment basis.*
3. *The Youth Mentorship and Internship Program engages the youth in athletic, academic, philanthropic, and technical development. The program is geared to help youth achieve success through structured programming. We sponsor youth teams ad organizations to help them reach organizational goals. (Summer of Learning – Youth Skills Development Programs).*

8 unanimous votes passed

g) **Discussion and possible motion to approve Neighborhood Purpose Grant up to $5,000.00 to Black Being Application.**

Black Being is a Los Angeles Area nonprofit organization that prioritizes the social, mental, and emotional healing of Black people as an embodied declaration of our inherent worthiness. This grant aims to support the continuation of a weekly meditation class open to all, free of charge. The Weekly Meditation space serves as a sanctuary for 25-50 community member weekly, offering mindfulness and meditation practices aimed at alleviating stress and anxiety, addressing mental health concerns, and nurturing a sense of community and belonging among participants. Grant funds will be utilized for teacher compensation and the upkeep of the space to ensure it continued operation and accessibility.
Tabled (no one present) Motion – Timothy Henry 1st Nelson 2nd Clifton Williams Jr.

h) Discussion and possible motion to approve Neighborhood Purpose Grant up to $5,000.00 to KRST, application
The purpose and intent of this application is to attain financial support to supplement the cost of running the ongoing KRST Unity Food Give-Away Program located at 7825 S. Western Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90047. The Food Give-Away program is open and free to the general public, and supports 75 – 90 stakeholders weekly, in the Southwest community. KRST Unit has been operating this program consistently for the past four years, without incident and without support from outside sponsors or grants. Despite the lack of funding, we have consistently delivered high quality packaged good and fresh foods to the community and the community has received us well with open arms, often expressing their sincerest gratitude and appreciation for our timeless work.
Motions – Timothy Henry 1st Daniel Fuller 2nd

i) Discussion and possible motion to approve up to $2,500.00 for outreach promotional material swag; shirts, tote bags, pens.
Motions – Ra 'Shon Chavis 1st Vanessa Bailey 2nd
7 Yes votes 1 no vote – passed

j) Discussion and possible motion to approve up to $1,000.00 for board member business cards, badges, and administrative supplies.
Motions – Marcello Robinson 1st Timothy Henry 2nd

k) Discussion and possible motion to approve up to $125.00 for Apple One service to assist with taking board and committee meeting minutes.
7 Yes votes 1 No vote (Nia Mayers Franklin)
Motions – Marcello Robinson 1st Timothy Henry 2nd

l) Discussion and possible motion to approve up to $1,000.00 to support the Congress of Neighborhoods.

Tabled

m) Discussion and possible motion to appoint two board members and/or stakeholders to the Neighborhood Budget Advocates.

Motions – Marcello Robinson 1st Timothy Henry 2nd
Don Fields interested in being a Stakeholder for Neighborhood Budget Advocates.
Unanimous vote passed

n) Discussion and possible motion to revise the fiscal year administration 2023 – 2024 packet to move funds to cover NPG applications.

Tabled

4) BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS REQUEST.

5) ADJOURNMENT: 7.59PM

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    - http://www.southwestnc.org/
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Public Access of Records

- In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board in advance of a meeting may be viewed at the Mark Ridley-Thomas Constituent Service Center and at www.southwestnc.org. If you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please email board@southwestnc.org.

Reconsideration and Grievance Process

- For information on the NC's process for board action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy, or any other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the NC Bylaws available at our Board meetings and our website www.southwestnc.org/.