Executive Committee

Tunisia Johnson
President

Dominica Robinson-Wilson
Vice-President

Daniel Fuller
Secretary

Sha'De Chapman
Treasurer

Board Members

Rebecca Wysinger
At-Large Representative

Leonora Anzaldua
At-Large Representative

Tunisia Johnson
At-Large

Virgil Grant III
Business Representative

James Reed
Faith-Based Representative

Naomi Suber
Social Media Representative

Empowerment Congress Southwest Area Neighborhood Development Council

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

General Board Meeting Minutes

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

Monday
May 18, 2026
6:00pm - 8:00pm

Nechele Hammock
Organization Representative

Sha'De Chapman
Area 1 Residential Representative

Stacey Maspero
Area 2 Residential Representative

Daniel Fuller
Area 3 Residential Representative

Lonella Enix
Area 4 Residential Representative

Dominica Robinson-Wilson
Area 5 Residential Representative

Aaron Manson
Youth Representative

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:11 PM by President Tunisia Johnson.

II. BOARD ROLL CALL

Present:

A. Tunisia Johnson (President)
B. Dominica Robinson-Wilson (VP)
C. Sha'De Chapman (Treasurer)
D. Daniel Fuller (Secretary)
E. Virgil Grant III (Business)
F. Lonella Enix (Area 4)
G. Leonora Anzaldua (At-Large)
H. Naomi Suber (Social Media)
I. Nechele Hammock (Organization)

Absent:

A. Rebecca Wysinger (At-Large)
B. James Reed (Faith-Based)
C. Stacey Maspero (Area 2)
D. Aaron Manson (Youth)

III. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

A. Resident Requesting Empty Lot Update

1. Empty lot on Manchester, close to the fish market, resident has not received an update on the status?
2. The president will look into it because she's not certain about the update details; individuals who can give updates are not present.

Motion made to extend the meeting from 7PM to 8PM. Motion by Dominica Robinson-Wilson; seconded by Leonora Anzaldua. All in favor. Motion carried.

IV. ELECTED OFFICES/GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Public Safety (Officer Robert Kenneth G Sanchez 77th Division)

1. Year-to-Date (YTD) Crime Statistics
   (Data reflects the period from January 1, 2026, to the present date, compared to the same period in 2025.)
   a) Homicides: 10 (down from 14 in 2025)
      Note: Fatal traffic accidents are now being categorized and tracked alongside fatal homicides.
   b) Rapes: 26 (down from 40)
   c) Robberies: 175 (down from 246)
   d) Aggravated Assaults: 562 (up from 526)
   e) Shots Fired: 66 (down from 96)
   f) Shooting Victims: 29 (down from 36)

g) Burglaries: 111 (down from 161)
h) Grand Theft Auto (Car Thefts): 465 (down from 557)
i) Theft: 325 (up from 306)
j) Total Property Crime: 1,238 (down from 1,384)

2. Weekly Update
    a) Only 3 crimes were reported in the division area this past week, all of which were vehicle thefts.
3. Chop Shop Taskforce
    a) Active investigations are targeting illegal chop shops operating between 96th and 103rd Streets, along Van Ness Avenue.
4. RV Waste & Parking Compliance
    a) Illegal RV parking remains the community's top complaint. Officers are actively citing RVs leaking gray water and human waste.
    b) If owners do not comply after citations, the vehicles enter the scheduled impound pipeline. Law enforcement continues to offer city support services to individuals before towing.
5. Recent Displacements & Removals
    a) A severely wrecked RV was successfully removed from 102nd Street and Western Avenue.
    b) A heavily damaged RV parked at 73rd Street and Western Avenue was recently pulled out of a vacant lot at Florence and Western. While the property owner cleaned the lot, the vehicle was left on the street. It is now queued for a city tow once space becomes available at the local yard.
    c) Several other problematic RVs are currently moving through the legal process for removal.
6. Housing & Social Services Outreach
    a) Western Avenue: Officers are withholding towing operations for an RV housing a working father, a mother, a 2-year-old, and a 2-month-old infant. Out of safety concerns for the family, enforcement is paused until a family assessment is completed to secure stable, permanent housing.
7. Death Investigation (89th Street & Western Avenue)
    a) A young woman passed away inside a small camper near the Superior grocer. The Coroner’s Office is currently investigating to determine the cause of death.
    b) The camper was registered to the decedent and was scheduled for legal removal. Following a 72-hour holding period, LAPD

Homicide cleared the vehicle for impound.

c) The victim's boyfriend has since moved the camper to an unknown location. Authorities have logged his information for follow-up tracking.

8. Disposal
    a) Impound yards currently have physical space, but crushing abandoned RVs contaminated with human waste requires an assigned city sanitation crew. Because the city controls sanitation scheduling, LAPD cannot expedite the final destruction of these vehicles.
9. Local Incidents & Tactical Responses
    a) 91st Street & Cimarron Street: A suspected drug house was flagged during the recent La Salle Block Club meeting; local units are monitoring.
    b) Multi-Agency Pursuit & Officer-Involved Shooting: Santa Monica Police Department pursued a kidnapping suspect into the 77th Division area this morning. Following an officer-involved shooting, the suspect was successfully taken into custody.
    c) 94th Street & Gramercy Place (SWAT Deployment):
        (1) A barricaded suspect experiencing a severe mental health crisis triggered a large-scale SWAT response.
        (2) A son destroyed property inside his father's home and called 911, claiming he was being held hostage by an armed individual. When dispatchers made contact, the caller changed his voice to play both roles (hostage and captor) and claimed to have weapons.
        (3) SWAT teams deployed gas into the residence and physically extracted the individual from the attic without further injury.
    d) Community Support Hotline: Residents are reminded to use the 311 system to report non-emergency issues like illegal dumping and abandoned vehicles.
    e) Special Olympics Fundraiser: El Ranchito Restaurant is hosting a community fundraiser tomorrow. All residents are invited to eat and support. For questions, call 323-387-9612.

B. Justin Clayton (Candidate for Superior Court Judge, Office 65):

1. A South LA community member and resident of 50th and Main Street.
2. Brings 14 years of legal experience, including 12 years serving as a Deputy Public Defender. His background covers landlord-tenant disputes, family law, and criminal law.
3. Began campaigning on March 8th; this marks his second presentation to the ECSW community.
4. *Compliance Note:* Under the Fair Elections Act, the Neighborhood Council

(NC) should extend an open invitation to all other candidates running for Office 65 to ensure a fair and balanced democratic process.

C. City Council Representative (Jermaine Kelly, Council President's Office)

1. Vacant Lot Litigation: The next court date regarding the ongoing cleanup and resolution of the local vacant lot is scheduled for May 26th.
2. Graffiti Abatement: The property owners have been ordered to remove all existing graffiti prior to the court date, or the case will proceed directly to a formal trial. 3. CD8 Community Job Fair:
    a) Date/Time: Thursday, June 25, 2026 | 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
    b) Location: Crenshaw High School
    c) Details: A free hiring fair open to all residents of Council District 8 and surrounding neighborhoods. Over 20 prominent employers are confirmed to attend, including the City of Los Angeles, LADOT, LADWP, the Port of LA, as well as major firms in healthcare, construction, retail, hospitality, and transportation.
    d) On-Site Services: Hosted in partnership with the WorkSource Center, providing real-time job training enrollment, placement aid, resume workshops, and business resource access.
    e) Attendee Checklist: Job seekers should bring multiple copies of their resume, a valid photo ID, and arrive in professional attire.

D. City Council Representative (Anthony Anderson, Council District 8)

1. Juneteenth Celebration ("Sister Dreamer"): Scheduled at 76th Street and Western Avenue. The community is attempting to break the Guinness World Record for the longest Soul Train line. All stakeholders are encouraged to attend.
2. 2026 FIFA World Cup Community Watch Parties:
    a) Council District 8 is hosting 10 community viewing parties to celebrate soccer culture and promote community pride in South LA.
    b) The events kick off on Friday, June 12th at locations including Vermont Plaza and J.T. Macdonald Park. The series will also include free youth soccer clinics.
    c) Neighborhood Council Partnership: The Councilmember's office is formally asking the Neighborhood Council to partner with them on community engagement, volunteer support, and potential funding sponsorship.
    d) Funding & Resources: Financial support is requested to help offset the costs of food purchases, coaching staff for the clinics, and event monitors.
    e) *President's Note:* The Neighborhood Council can schedule a special meeting to review specific requests and community

logistics before officially voting on or cutting any funding checks.

3. Public Service Sanitation Focus: Targeted cleaning sweeps are being scheduled to address severe illegal dumping along the following corridors:
    a) Manchester Corridor (specifically from Budlong Avenue to Denker Avenue)
    b) 88th Street
    c) 92nd Street and Western Avenue
    d) 94th to 95th Street (between Western Avenue and Budlong Avenue)

V. SPECIAL ORDERS

A. Discussion and possible motion to identify a Board Member to support with Secretarial duties.

Motion made for Lonella to support Daniel with secretarial duties. Motion made by Lonella Enix; seconded by Daniel Fuller. All in favor. Motion carried.

B. Discussion and possible motion to appoint up to five (5) board members as Community Impact Statement Filers.

Motion made to appoint the 5 board members Leonora, Dominica, Tunisia, Dr.Reed, and Nechele as Community Impact Statement Filers. Motion made by Dominica Robinson-Wilson; seconded by Virgil Grant III. All in favor. Motion carried.

C. Discussion and possible motion to approve a Community Impact Statement in support of LA City Council File #20-0875.

Discussion: This CIS is in support of new and more clear directives that give stronger guidelines for nonuse of pretextual stops. CIS is to express support because it has to be approved by the police commission for them to also adopt this.

Motion made to approve a Community Impact Statement in support of LA City Council File #20-0875. Motion by Leonora Anzaldua; seconded by Dominica Robinson-Wilson. All in favor. Motion carried.

D. Discussion and possible motion to approve an amount not to exceed $5,000 for presenter invoice and an amount not to exceed $800 for

refreshments related to the retreat for Empowerment Congress West Area Neighborhood Development Council.

Discussion:

Financial Deadlines & Prior Approval: Leadership clarified that the board previously approved this retreat concept. Furthermore, unspent council funds will be swept by the city after June 14th if not utilized. The neighboring EC East President noted that funding requests must clear city systems by June 1st.

Concerns Over Cost & Purpose (Lonella): Questioned spending nearly $5,000 of taxpayer money, suggesting the retreat focus should be on internal expectations (e.g., committee structures, drafting minutes/MERs, and goal setting) using a free facilitator. She opposed making major funding decisions before all incoming board members were fully seated.

Justification for the Expense (Tunisia): Explained that the hired facilitator is highly qualified (a City of LA Commissioner and former Van Nuys NC President for 5 years) who will guide the board through strategic planning. The retreat is a public, open meeting that was deliberately delayed so new board members could participate.

Public & Board Inquiries: Board member James and members of the public requested a clear breakdown of the $5,000 fee and asked if identical strategic outcomes could be achieved at zero cost.

Motion made to approve the presented invoice of an amount not to exceed $5,000 for presenter invoice and an amount not to exceed $800 for refreshments related to the council's retreat. Motion by Dominica Robinson-Wilson; seconded by Daniel Fuller. Majority in favor, Lonella opposed, Virgil abstained. Motion carried.

E. Discussion and possible motion to approve proposed dates, times, location, and topics of discussion at the retreat.

Discussion:

6/20 or 6/27 at current location or a recreation room at St Andrews Park
6/27 doesn't work for Dominica and Dr. Reed

Motion made to have the council's retreat at St Andrews Park on 6/20/2026 from 9AM-3PM in the park's recreation room. Motion made by Leonora Anzaldua; seconded by Dominica Robinson-Wilson. Majority

in favor, Dr.Reed opposed, Lonella abstained. Motion carried.

F. Discussion and possible motion to approve an amount not to exceed $5,000 from the FY 2025–2026 budget for the 2026 Congress of Neighborhoods event. Possible presentation from Daniel Perez, Empowerment Congress of Neighborhoods Committee Chair.

Discussion:
This is an event at city hall with all of the neighborhood councils, they provide food.

Motion made to approve an amount not to exceed $2,500 from the FY 2025-2026 budget for the 2026 Congress of Neighborhoods event. Motion by Dominica Robinson-Wilson; seconded by Naomi Suber. All in favor. Motion carried.

G. Discussion and possible motion to cancel or reduce the size of the storage unit.

Discussion:
Storage is currently in Lonella's name at $345 per month. Storage should be in the city hall's name with her as administrator. If payment stops, Lonella's credit will be impacted.

Motion made to table agenda item G until next meeting until more info about items in storage is received. Motion by Lonella Enix; seconded by Leonora Anzaldua. All in favor. Motion carried.

H. Discussion and possible motion to approve a Neighborhood Purpose Grant not to exceed $2,000 to My Sanctuary for the Self Care Summit event on September 18, 2026.

Discussion:

- **Location & Outreach Concerns:** The venue is outside this NC's boundaries (it is in United NC's area). Public and board members questioned how it directly benefits local stakeholders. The applicant noted the venue is nearby, open to everyone, and that they will collect attendee zip codes to track local impact.
- **Funding Discrepancies & Budget:** The written application requests **$2,000**, but discussions mentioned up to $5,000. Total event cost is $26,500 ($10,500 for the venue, with half already paid). Board

member Joy requested an official venue invoice. The applicant has also requested $2,000 from the neighboring UNNC and secured $5,000 from First 5 LA.

- **NPG Rule Violations (Admission Fees):** The applicant stated they might charge admission if fundraising falls short. The board strictly warned that **NPG-funded events must be 100% free to the public**, or the funding is disqualified.
- **Fiscal Year Timeline:** Because the event is in September, board members noted the grant faces strict city budget deadlines and may not be clear in time for this fiscal year.

Motion made to approve $2,000 to My Sanctuary for the Self Care Summit event on September 18, 2026. Motion by Daniel Fuller; seconded by Dominica Robinson-Wilson. Nechele, Virgil, Leonora, and Dr.Reed are opposed; Dominica, Daniel, Tunisia, and Sha'De are in favor; Lonella and Naomi abstained. Motion Failed.

I. Discussion and possible motion to approve a Neighborhood Purpose Grant not to exceed $2,000 to Opportunity Exposed for the Back to School Drive on August 8, 2026.

Discussion

- **Funding & Impact:** The requested amount is **$2,000**, averaging out to approximately **$10 per child**. The initiative successfully served 120 children during its last iteration and aims to increase that impact this year to help eliminate social and economic barriers for local families.
- **Supply Breakdown:** Funds will purchase 60 bulk supply sets, including backpacks, pencils, crayons, glue sticks, and markers.
- **Target Location:** The distribution is focused on supporting students at **74th Street Elementary School**.
- **Community Resources:** The event will feature an array of resource vendors to connect attendees with vital community services. Confirmed and invited partners include:
    - **County & Health Services:** Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) and the Department of Mental Health (DMH).
    - **Financial Literacy:** Navy Federal Credit Union and Chase Bank.

- **Family & Military Support:** Childcare centers, Wounded Warrior Project, and various veteran resource programs.

Motion made to approve the donation of $2,000 to support Opportunity Exposed for their Back to School Drive on August 8, 2026. Motion by Dominica Robinson-Wilson, seconded by Daniel Fuller. All in favor. Motion passed.

J. Discussion and possible motion to approve a Neighborhood Purpose Grant not to exceed $2,000 to LA Rise Los Angeles Back to school event.
Item tabled for future meeting.

K. Discussion and possible motion to approve Empowerment Congress West Area Neighborhood Development Council's sponsorship contribution in the amount of $5,000 for the CD8 – World Cup 2026 Watch Parties.

Discussion:

Operational Precedent: Members recalled past logistical hurdles and administrative complexities ("hoops and struggles") encountered during a previous partnership event between Southeast and CD8.

Administrative Streamlining: To bypass heavy bureaucratic and procurement delays, the Board universally agreed to classify this arrangement strictly as an outright table sponsorship rather than an active partnership layout requiring itemized invoicing. Because the engagement is structured as a flat-fee sponsorship for a tabling presence across the duration of the event series, the City/CD8 will not need to submit an invoice to the Neighborhood Council for administrative processing.

Treasurer Action: Process the $5,000 disbursement under the approved "Table Sponsor" budget category.

Outreach Committee: Coordinate scheduling and volunteer coverage for the NC tabling presence across the scheduled watch party dates.

Motion made to sponsor the CD8 World Cup 2026 Watch Parties for $5,000. Motion by Nichele Hammock, seconded by Dominica Robinson-Wilson. All in favor. Motion carried.

L. Discussion and possible motion to approve moving $10,000 operational fund to the beautification fund for Western Our Way Project.

Discussion:

- Safety Infrastructure: Funds will help construct a physical traffic median along Western Avenue (between Florence and Manchester/Century). This is a critical safety intervention for one of the city's deadliest corridors.
- Beautification: The median will allow for community landscaping. The specific visual design and aesthetic choices will be decided by a future board.
- Olympic Timeline: Due to citywide logistics and construction freezes, physical installation will not begin until after the conclusion of the Olympic Games. ● Funding Strategy: To avoid city funding sweeps, the money is being moved into a dedicated beautification fund rather than sitting in a general account.

Motion made to approve moving $10,000 into beautification fund to be used for the Western Our Way Project. Motion by Dominica Robinson-Wilson, seconded by Daniel Fuller. All in favor. Motion passed.

M. Discussion and possible motion to approve an amount not to exceed $4,000 for the purchase of Empowerment Congress West Area Neighborhood Development Council branded promotional and operational materials, including one pop-up tent, one step and repeat, six tablecloths, two 6-foot tables, four personalized chairs, thirteen button-down shirts, polo shirts, and jackets.

Motion made to approve the packet of swag items as presented in Item M. Motion by Dominica Robinson-Wilson; seconded by Naomi Suber. All in favor. Motion carried.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

Every item on the Consent Calendar will be considered bundled and will be voted on as a single item. If a Board Member or Stakeholder has an objection to an item being on the Consent Calendar, they need to raise that objection to an item and ask to have that item or items considered separately. There will be no discussion or comment on the substance of any item unless it is removed from the Consent Calendar. Removed items will be moved to the end of the agenda for consideration, or earlier within the discretion of the Chair. The Consent Calendar includes:

A. Discussion and possible motion to approve April 20, 2026, Regular ECSWANDC Board Meeting Minutes.

Motion made to approve April 20, 2026, Regular ECSWANDC Board Meeting Minutes with necessary changes as discussed. Motion by

Dominica Robinson-Wilson; seconded by Naomi Suber. All in favor. Motion carried.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE MOTIONS

A. Discussion and possible action to approve the March 2026 and April 2026 Monthly Expenditure Reports.

Motion made to approve the monthly expenditure reports for March 2026 and April 2026. Motion by Dominica Robinson-Wilson; seconded by Naomi Suber. All in favor. Motion carried.

B. Discussion and possible motion to approve March 16, 2026, Regular ECSWANDC Board Meeting Minutes and March 2026 MER to consent calendar.

Motion made to table this to the special meeting being planned in the next couple of weeks. Motion by Dominica Robinson-Wilson; seconded by Leonora Anzaldua. All in favor. Motion carried.

VIII. BOARD REPORTS

A. President: No reports.
B. Vice President: No reports.
C. Secretary: No reports.
D. Treasurer : No reports.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive: No reports.
B. Budget & Finance: No reports.
C. Planning & Land Use: No reports.
D. Outreach & Communications:

1. **June 23rd Event:** Flyers were distributed to promote an upcoming community event on June 23rd.
2. **May Events Success:** High turnout and great success noted for the Mother's Day events, Linel grand opening, and Crenshaw community gathering.
3. **Public Safety Advocacy:** Following the passage of stop-and-frisk legislation, community groups are actively pushing to monitor enforcement and address local concerns.
4. **Mental Health Awareness:** In honor of Mental Health Awareness Month, residents are reminded to prioritize well-being and reach out to local resources if support is needed.

E. Bylaws & Procedures: No reports.
F. Neighborhood: No reports.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. No new business discussed.

XI. BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. No announcements.

XII. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

A. No comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 PM.

NEXT ECSWANDC GBM

Monday 5/18/2026

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 three 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

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MRT Constituent Service Center – 8475 S. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90044
http://www.southwestnc.org/

You can also receive our agendas via email by subscribing to L.A. City's Early Notification System (ENS)

Notice to Paid Representatives -

If you are compensated to monitor, attend, or speak at this meeting, City law may require you to register as a lobbyist and report your activity. See Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 48.01 et seq. More information is available at ethics.lacity.org/lobbying. For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or ethics.commission@lacity.org

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 located at 8475 S. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90044 and at our website: www.southwestnc.org or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, 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. The Bylaws are available at our Board meetings and our website www.southwestnc.org/