



MINUTES - DRAFT
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE MEETING



Tuesday, July 5, 2022, 6:30pm

ZOOM – MEETING ID 979 4137 2867

Join Zoom Meeting Online: <https://zoom.us/j/97941372867>

Meeting ID: 979 4137 2867

Or via phone: (669) 900-6833 and enter/dial 979 4137 2867 followed by # (pound)

In conformity with the September 16, 2021 enactment of California Assembly Bill 361 (Rivas) and due to concerns over COVID-19, the neighborhood council meeting will be conducted entirely with a call-in option or internet-based service option.

Instructions on how to sign up for public comments will be given to listeners at the start of the meeting.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS			<i>X = Present, AB = Absent, EX = Excused</i>			
X	Tess Taylor	<i>Chair</i>	X	Kelly Cole	X	Shawn Besharaty
X	Katherine Hatton		X	Reynold Blight		

Meeting may be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LXGBXBZOW6o>

1.	Call to Order	Start Time 6:35 PM												
2.	Attendance	Public in Attendance: 5												
3.	Minutes (<i>One (1) Minute per Speaker per Agenda Item</i>)													
	a. Review and Approve Committee Minutes (Materials can be found at https://www.gtlnc.org/ under committee meeting documents).													
	<u>MOTION A:</u> Approve the GTLNC June 7 th , 2022 Governmental Affairs Committee Minutes.	VOTE: 5 / 0 / 0 <i>First: Shawn Second: Reyn</i>												
	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; border-right: 1px solid black;">Y</td> <td style="text-align: center; border-right: 1px solid black;">Katherine Hatton</td> <td style="text-align: center; border-right: 1px solid black;">Y</td> <td style="text-align: center; border-right: 1px solid black;">Kelly Cole</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Y</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Shawn Besharaty</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; border-right: 1px solid black;">Y</td> <td style="text-align: center; border-right: 1px solid black;">Tess Taylor</td> <td style="text-align: center; border-right: 1px solid black;">Y</td> <td style="text-align: center; border-right: 1px solid black;">Reynold Blight</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Y	Katherine Hatton	Y	Kelly Cole	Y	Shawn Besharaty	Y	Tess Taylor	Y	Reynold Blight			
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Y	Tess Taylor	Y	Reynold Blight											
4.	Public Comment (<i>Two (2) Minutes per Speaker on relevant subject not on agenda</i>)													
	<i>Jonathan Gregory asks Reyn about public comment at LA City Council Meetings.</i>													
5.	Committee Member News & Announcements (<i>Two (2) Minutes per Speaker on relevant subject not on agenda</i>)													
6.	On-Going Business (<i>One (1) Minute per Speaker per Agenda Item</i>)													
	a. Standing agenda item: Pending Legislation Tracking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AB 2006 (Berman) Regulatory agreements: compliance monitoring. • AB 2053 (Lee, Carrillo, Kalra) Enact Social Housing Act, create California Housing Authority. Mixed income housing. <i>Bill is dead as of June 30th.</i> • AB 2097 (Friedman, Skinner, Wiener) Land use, parking requirements. <i>Tess recommends we oppose, Assemblymember Nazarian opposes (NVR).</i> • AB 2186 (Grayson) Housing Cost Reduction Incentive Program. <i>Assemblymember Nazarian supports.</i> 													

- [AB 2244](#) (Wicks) Religious institution affiliated housing: co-located place of worship. *Assemblymember Nazarian supports.*
- [AB 2334](#) (Wicks) Density Bonus Law: affordability: incentives or concessions in very low vehicle travel areas: parking standards: definitions. *Tess recommends we oppose. Assemblymember supports.*
- [SB 1100](#) (Low) Brown Act updates. *Makes it easier to deal with disruptive individuals. State legislature is not subject to Brown Act which allows warnings and expulsion. Board and council meetings have been shut down by screaming.*
- [SB 948](#) (Becker) Housing finance programs: development reserves. *Assemblymember Nazarian has no position yet, receptive to feedback.*
- [AB 682](#) (Bloom) Planning and zoning, Density Bonus. *Tess suggests support if amended. Assemblymember Nazarian supports.*
- [AB 916](#) (Salas, Quirk-Silva, et al.) ADUs and bedroom additions. *Assemblymember Nazarian supports but concerned with height increases.*
- [AB 1944](#) (Lee) and AB 2499. *Tess corrects bill number which should be [AB 2449](#) (Rubio) re: open blended meetings. Recommends we oppose unless amended. Assemblymember Nazarian supports AB 1944 and AB 2449.*
- Council File [No. 22-0158](#) (Bonin – Raman – Blumenfeld) homeless shelters.

Discussion of CIS that GTLNC passed on this Council File at previous board meeting. Katherine will submit CIS this week (July 5th). Tess requests clarification on CIS filers. Currently GTLNC has two, Katherine and Colby, we can have up to five. New filers to be decided by board action at July general board meeting.

- [ACA 14](#) – CA Assembly Constitutional Amendment (Wicks, Bennett, Carillo, Rivas) authorizes development, construction, or acquisition of developments composed of urban or rural dwellings, apartments, or other living accommodations for persons of low income financed in whole or in part by the federal government or a state public body. *Assemblymember Nazarian supports.*
- b. Guest speaker: Steve Ferguson, District Director, 46th District, Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian. Status of legislation affecting GTLNC.

Steve Ferguson provides overview of statewide initiatives affecting Greater Toluca Lake followed by bill-by-bill commentary that includes Assemblymember Nazarian's position:

Housing: Bills like SB9 take planning away from local control and impose density. Discussion of legislative timelines, budget approval, trailer bills. Legislature has increased density, may raise height limit of ADUs to 25 feet, allow 2nd stories. Removing parking requirements from local authority, discussing use of bonds to construct housing for homeless.

Homelessness: Social safety net spending distributed through counties, increases seen here. State addressing homelessness by eliminating local control that State says tends to slow down building of housing. State enjoying a lot of one-time money but inflationary cycle will likely cause dip in that revenue.

Public Safety: Assemblymember Nazarian introduced bill to define bias and unconscious bias, standards and discipline. Bill would require screening for candidates of police officer social media accounts, audit police agencies statewide to ensure

compliance. Police labor groups are supportive, though not all.

Jonathan Gregory asks if state has strategy to institutionalize people who can't take care of themselves or are addicted. Also asks about money and maintenance for CA Initiative \$400M. Where does it go?

Steve Ferguson describes challenge sharing management of homelessness between cities, county and state. State's hybrid approach is to provide support for those battling addiction or mental health challenges beyond standard care. State pulled out of state hospitals. Future holds large aging boom with 1 in 4 Californians retired in 10 years. Ratios [of beds for mental illness patients] must be maintained as required by federal law, only a certain number may be housed within an institution. State seeks to raise that cap to serve more people. More grants are being allocated through county to the Department of Mental Health. Assemblymember expediting Cal Trans projects to start in December and January so more impacted areas can get access to funds sooner.

Jonathan Gregory notes number of staff in our Cal Trans District 7 to clean is only 7. Other districts of Cal Trans also understaffed. Cal Initiative budget is \$1.1B with \$450M for maintenance. 234 people to be hired for whole state of CA. That only equals to \$100M, meaning over \$300M floating around and nothing is getting cleaned. It's dangerous. Asks if Nazarian will ask for more maintenance workers?

Steve Ferguson explains entire district impacted by lack of resourcing. Discussion of how to allocate one-time revenue, whether or not to hire long term staff and how to better address issues once moved off Cal trans property.

Tess asks what practical steps can our community take to help Assemblymember Nazarian put more focus here?

Steve Ferguson responds that we should continue to escalate issues, project areas and reach out. CISes that illustrate local issues help a lot.

Discussion of CIS filings and resolutions.

Tess shares highlights from June 14th, 2022 NBC News item about California Exodus: over 360,000 people left CA in 2021, CA is one of the most expensive states to live in, average home price is \$797K and only 25% of state's households can afford that. Also, CA's population growth has been declining for over 30 years. Remote work has accelerated this trend. Asks how does Assemblymember Nazarian reconcile these facts with the legislature's housing crisis declaration which Tess believes is a false narrative, and the developer propaganda that affordable housing will somehow emerge from greater building density when we see population density declining?

Steve Ferguson responds that Assemblymember Nazarian is focused on addressing bad actors including overseas corporations consuming lots of housing, holding it vacant or renting. People in Bay Area focused on density at all costs with single family homes a thing of the past there. In addition to 360K leaving CA, Steve reports decline in K-12 enrollments. We've lost 600,000 out of 6M students across the state.

Tess cites press release in which 6 or 7 cities have filed a law suit to push back SB 9, with more cities expected to join. The lawsuit challenges need for housing, cites CA State Auditor's report that Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) projections

numbers have been shown to use faulty methodology. RHNA imposes housing requirements the lawsuit claims are inflated. Homelessness clearly a problem but most legislation provides no affordable housing. "Housing crisis" narrative must be scrutinized.

Katherine requests detail about faulty methodology. Suggests building more housing may not be the answer. Lack of housing at any price point likely contributes to why people are leaving CA and having fewer children. They can't afford what IS available.

Tess states Embarcadero Institute details problems with McKenzie Report, on which housing calculations were based. Problems with RHNA numbers identified by CA State Auditor Michael Tilden (<https://www.auditor.ca.gov/reports/2021-125/index.html>) include inconsistent vacancy rates, improper benchmarking, overcount, lack of documentation and methodology used to support findings. Investors are buying up housing stock, dramatically exacerbating shortage and driving cost of housing up.

Jonathan Gregory requests clarification about Cal Trans "counselors" or "social workers" and asks who decides how many maintenance workers assigned to Cal Trans District 7: Governor Newsom, Assemblymember Laura Friedman (Transportation Committee), Assemblymember Nazarian, Cal Trans District 7 Director Tony Tavares and/or Melissa Martinez (Transportation Commission)?

Steve Ferguson clarifies Mr. Tavares will make most decisions. Friedman is influential with prerogative over higher spending priorities. Recommends we continue to work with Tavares and copy Assemblymembers Nazarian and Friedman. Regarding Cal Trans social workers, they are responsible to legislative office. Include them on emails.

Steve Ferguson leaves meeting at 7:45pm. Committee unanimously agrees meeting was useful and that we should have more guest speakers like Steve, legislative analysts, etc.

8. New Business/Future Projects (One (1) Minute per Speaker per Agenda Item)

- a. Discussion and possible vote: DONE wants to rename the Budget Advocates account to "budget advocacy." This could redirect funds from their intended purpose without the NC's approval.

Katherine expresses that nothing in how this item is written implies it will reroute funds just because name of account is changed. Tess describes concerns that "budget advocacy" is more broadly construable than Budget Advocates, which is specific.

Motion B: The Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council opposes [Council File 11-1020-S3](#). Neighborhood Councils form alliances when they want to join together to work on something of common interest. Our Neighborhood Council wants the ability to direct our funds to a specific alliance and not to a fund allocated without our input.

N	Katherine Hatton	Y	Kelly Cole	Y	Shawn Besharaty
Y	Tess Taylor	Y	Reynold Blight		

VOTE: 4 / 1 / 0
 First: Shawn
 Second: Reyn

- b. Discussion and possible resolution to urge reinstatement of remote public comment at LA City Council meetings. The LA City Council states that "members of the public may also attend City Council meetings in-person.

Public comment will be taken in-person only, and not via teleconference.”

Discussion of pros and cons of enabling public comment telephonically.

Motion C: “The Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council requests that the LA City Council again allow remote participation in City Council meetings, by telephone or online means, in addition to in-person public comment.”

Y	Katherine Hatton	N	Kelly Cole	N	Shawn Besharaty
Y	Tess Taylor	N	Reynold Blight		

VOTE: 2 / 3 / 0
First: Reyn
Second: Shawn

- a. [RHNA Reform Public Info & Input Session](#)
 Wednesday, July 6th at 1:00PM
- b. Southern California Association of Governments (“SCAG”) Meetings on
 RHNA Reform
[Monday, August 1st at 9:30am](#)
[Monday, August 15th at 9:30am](#)

Tess reports complaints from many regions and cities overburdened by housing being imposed by HCD and RHNA. Katherine requests detail. Ca State Auditor’s Report: <https://www.auditor.ca.gov/reports/2021-125/index.html> .

8. Old Business (One (1) Minute per Speaker per Agenda Item)	
Discussion re possible future actions for GAC, GTLNC to take.	
8. Meeting Adjourned	Close Time: 8:09PM
Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 6, 2022 @ 6:30 PM – via Zoom	

PUBLIC INPUT AT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS: The public is requested to dial *9 or use the “Raise Hand” option, when prompted by the presiding officer, to address the Board on any agenda item before the Board takes an action on an item. Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. 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.

AB 361 UPDATES: Public comment cannot be required to be submitted in advance of the meeting, only real-time public comment is required. If there are any broadcasting interruptions that prevent the public from observing or hearing the meeting, the meeting must be recessed or adjourned. If members of the public are unable to provide public comment or be heard due to issues within the Neighborhood Council’s control, the meeting must be recessed or adjourned.

PUBLIC POSTING OF AGENDAS - GTLNC agendas are posted for public review as follows:

- Discovery Store (Community Kiosk), at the Southeast corner of Forman Avenue and Riverside Drive;
- www.gtlnc.org; or
- You can also receive our agendas via email by subscribing to L.A. City’s Early Notification System at <https://www.lacity.org/government/subscribe-agendasnotifications/neighborhood-councils>

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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 our website: www.gtlnc.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 contact Robyn Allyn, Board Secretary via email at Robyn.Allyn@gtlnc.org

RECONSIDERATION AND GRIEVANCE PROCESS: For information on the GTLNC's process for board action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy, or any other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the GTLNC Bylaws. The Bylaws are available at our Board meetings and our website www.gtlnc.org

SERVICIOS DE TRADUCCION: Si requiere servicios de traducción, favor de avisar al Concejo Vecinal 3 días de trabajo (72 horas) antes del evento. Por favor contacte a Robyn Allyn, Secretary de la Mesa Directiva, por correo electrónico Robyn.Allyn@gtlnc.org para avisar al Concejo Vecinal."

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

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