



MINUTES - DRAFT
Governmental Affairs Committee Meeting
Tuesday, November 1st, 2022 at 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 Sep. 16, 2021 enactment of CA Assembly Bill 361 (Rivas) and due to concerns over COVID-19, this neighborhood council meeting will be conducted entirely with a call-in 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 (X = Present, AB = Absent, EX = Excused)

X Tess Taylor, Chair AB Kelly Cole X Shawn Besharaty AB Reynold Blight X Katherine Hatton

1. Call to order. Start time: 6:32PM. Public in attendance: 2
2. Minutes (5 min). Review, approve committee minutes (see materials at GTLNC.org under committee meeting documents): **MOTION:** Approve GTLNC October 6th, 2022 Governmental Affairs Committee Minutes. *First: Shawn. Second: Katherine. Request to make VOTE KEY more prominent to avoid confusion between ABSENT and ABSTAIN and to clarify we voted to table Item #6.*

Y Tess Taylor AB Kelly Cole Y Shawn Besharaty AB Reynold Blight A Katherine Hatton
VOTE: 2 / 0 / 1 (Key: Y – Yes. N – No. A – Abstain. R – Recusal. I – Ineligible. E – Excused. AB – Absent.)

3. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items within GTLNC’s Jurisdiction (2 min per speaker). *None.*
4. Committee Member News & Announcements (2 min per speaker on relevant subject[s] not on agenda). *Tess Taylor shares that West Toluca Lake Residents Association HOWL-O-Ween Dog Costume Parade took place on Sunday, October 30th, attended by 150+ people, almost 40 dogs, NBC Channel 4 News covered it. Annual tradition has been launched.*
5. Legislation of possible interest to Committee (5 min). [SB1338 \(Umberg\)](#). Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court Program establishes new judicial branch providing court-ordered care to unhoused and severely mentally ill. *Stakeholder who requested this item to be agendized not present, no committee member comments, continued until next meeting. Katherine raises rule about timings on agendas: cannot jump ahead of published times. Tess will delete these on future agendas. Jonathan requests timeline, action for this item. Tess clarifies it’s a CA State Senate Bill, stakeholder interested in what happens now that is has passed. Jonathan surprised it doesn’t address inability of State to take someone into custody for more than 3 days. Until State law changes, there has to be different forum to address problem. Tess will invite Jason Maruca from Supervisor Barger’s office to discuss. Jonathan states community should address people who refuse assistance, an important issue.*
6. Discussion and possible vote (10 min). **MOTION:** The Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council supports the motion introduced by CD4 Councilmember Nithya Raman to adopt the Los Angeles Ethics Commission’s proposed reforms to the City’s lobbying laws and to revise such laws to provide greater transparency as set forth in [Council File No. 22-0560](#). This motion will be submitted as a Community Impact Statement (CIS) to [CF 22-0560](#). *First: Katherine. Second: Shawn. Katherine request clarification, is this a new motion? Tess sees it as new, support for Nithya Raman’s motion. Katherine suggests we reiterate our position and support Raman’s proposal. Jonathan states that what Tess proposes is highly supported for and by NCs, to repetitively submit CISes as well as reissue during evolution of a subject or council file.*

Tuesday, November 1st, 2022

Suggested amendment:

The GTLNC reiterates its position in favor of the motion we filed on October 21st, 2022 to support the motion introduced by CD4 Councilmember Nithya Raman to adopt the Los Angeles Ethics Commission's proposed reform to the city's lobbying laws and to revise such laws to provide greater transparency as set forth in CF 22-0560. This motion will be submitted as a Community Impact Statement to CF 22-0560.

Vote to approve amended language above:

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

VOTE: 3 / 0 / 0 (Key: Y – Yes. N – No. A – Abstain. R – Recusal. I – Ineligible. E – Excused. AB - Absent.)

7. Discussion and possible vote (15 min). **MOTION:** Regarding the LA Ethics Commission recommendations to update the Los Angeles City Charter (Powers and Responsibilities). Draft text of this motion is available at GTLNC.org under Meeting Documents. Motion to be submitted as a Community Impact Statement (CIS) to ([Charter Sec 700 Ethics Reforms](#)) and [Council File 22-1232](#). *First: Shawn. Second: No discussion.*

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

VOTE: 3 / 0 / 0 (Key: Y – Yes. N – No. A – Abstain. R – Recusal. I – Ineligible. E – Excused. AB - Absent.)

8. Discussion of presence of non-profit organizations in the community, including NoHo Home Alliance, St. Charles Borromeo, Harmony Church et al. as well as benefits to, and concerns of, stakeholders. *Discussion to direct charitable operations to be more centrally located to avoid trash buildup, leftover donated food. Shawn refers to problems at Lankershim underpass, states LAPD SLO Kurtis Delbar who speaks to homeless says they state they have no motivation to leave when food is brought to them. Shawn mentions problem with St. Charles food give-away and debris left all over street, better to direct people to services. Tess states one can't interfere with someone's right to be charitable and this can create unintended consequences and negative impacts. States she has led many neighborhood cleanups and helps clear huge amounts of trash, leftover food. Katherine asks what we propose as GTLNC. No specific plan at present. Tess states she has submitted list of homeless resources several times for posting on GTLNC.org. Katherine says these are now posted. Jonathan describes lack of regulations and accountability. He contacted one area non-profit to request it adapt its processes. Where does money come from? \$20,000 used to remodel non-profit's kitchen. Tess describes non-responsiveness of LAHSA staffer Francisco Bayardo whom she met at a City Cleanup in the area on October 7th, 2022. She requested that Bayardo help a specific homeless person in dire need in vicinity, Bayardo agreed then not only failed to help that person (who confirms Bayardo never showed up to offer him any assistance) but did not respond to Tess when she followed up asking for an explanation. Tess mentions CIS filed by Studio City NC requesting LAHSA report on its food distribution programs that serve people experiencing homelessness on ways LAHSA can mitigate future food waste. This CIS was in reaction to a CBS2 Investigation which followed LAHSA workers for months and discovered some teams throwing boxes of food meant for distribution to homeless persons in the trash. Jonathan offers to share letter from non-profit director. Katherine states we need solutions, resigns from Government Affairs Committee but agrees to stay on to end of meeting to keep quorum.*

9. Discussion and possible vote (15 min). **MOTION:** The Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council urges the City Council to adopt a non-profit exemption of \$200,000 in revenue or \$500,000 in assets instead of the proposed threshold of \$2 million. This change aligns with the IRS tax filing system and would be an easy way to allow any non-profit that files a 990-N or 990-EZ to gain exemption. This change also reflects the current [San Francisco ethics ordinance](#). The current recommendation of \$2 million in revenue is too high and would exempt the vast majority of non-profits in Southern California. Only 16% of Southern California non-profits have revenues above \$1 million, so an exemption set at twice that amount would be a great impediment to transparency. Motion to be submitted as Community Impact Statement to [Council File No. 22-0560](#). *First: Shawn. Second: Tess.*

7:52PM Katherine's connection is lost.

7:53PM Katherine's connection is restored.

Tuesday, November 1st, 2022

Discussion of merging agenda items #6 and #9, lowering thresholds for non-profits, reporting obligations.

7:58PM Tess departs meeting, asks Katherine to chair.

7:59PM Tess returns.

8:16PM Jamie York joins meeting, provides detail on thresholds, background.

MOTION: *The Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council (“GTLNC”) re-affirms its position in favor of the motion we filed on October 21st, 2022. GTLNC supports the motion introduced by CD4 Councilmember Nithya Raman, including modifications she has requested, to adopt the Los Angeles Ethics Commission’s proposed reforms to the City’s lobbying laws and to revise such laws to provide greater transparency as set forth in [Council File No. 22-0560](#). The GTLNC urges the Los Angeles City Council to adopt a non-profit exemption of \$200,000 in revenue or \$500,000 in assets instead of the proposed \$2 million in revenue threshold exemption for non-profits. The current recommendation of \$2 million in revenue is too high and would exempt the vast majority of non-profits in Southern California, only 16% of which have revenues above \$1 million. GTLNC would support a \$0 (zero) dollar exemption but would accept aligning with the IRS tax filing system thresholds for non-profits that file a 990-N or 990-EZ to gain exemption. This change is consistent with the current [San Francisco ethics ordinance](#). This motion will be submitted as a Community Impact Statement (CIS) to [CF 22-0560](#).*

Vote to approve language above:

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

VOTE: 3 / 0 / 0 (Key: Y – Yes. N – No. A – Abstain. R – Recusal. I – Ineligible. E – Excused. AB - Absent.)

- 9. New Business / Future Projects. *None.*
- 10. Old Business. *None.*
- 11. Adjournment. Close Time: 8:34PM

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 3rd 2023 @ 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;
- [GTLNC.org](https://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>

THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT: 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

Tuesday, November 1st, 2022

provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices and 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 you wish to attend by contacting Robyn Allyn, Board Secretary via email at Robyn.Alynn@gtlnc.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 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.Alynn@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 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.Alynn@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