

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA



**RAMPART VILLAGE
Governing Board Members:**

David Rockello, President
Velinda Rockello, Vice President
Mitchell Gutman, Treasurer
Uver Santa Cruz, Secretary
William Greene, Business Rep
Ángela Joo, Homeowner Rep
Dom Dacong, At-Large Rep
Carlos Villa, At-Large Rep
Joselyn Geaga R, CBO Rep
Jose Sanchez, Student Youth Rep
Jeff Jamison, Business Rep

**RAMPART VILLAGE
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

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RAMPART VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

General Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 20, 2016 – 6:00 PM

Meeting Location

St. Anne's, Anne Floto Class Room 155 N. Occidental Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90026

I. WELCOMING REMARKS:

- a. **Call to Order:** President, David Rockello, called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm.
- b. **Welcoming Remarks:** The President welcomed everyone. Five members were present at the time.
- c. **Flag Salute**

II. LOCAL REPORTS

a. Federal, State, County or Mayoral Representatives

Robert Park, Central Area Representative for Mayor Garcetti, reported that the Mayor has been focused on “back to basics” including but not limited to issues such as street repaving, collecting bulky items; spending money on the ports. He noted that 127,000 new jobs were created, unemployment has been cut by half, and businesses have been registered, minimum wage raised to \$15/hour and water usage cut. They are moving City energy to 100% renewable sources in the future, and working on transportation infrastructure, e.g., the Purple and Expo lines. He mentioned the Mayor’s “Welcome Home Project,” moving into the third round with pick up around Veteran’s Day, as well as the homelessness project, “Hope,” with the LAPD.

[Angela Joo arrived at 6:21 pm.]

California State Assemblyman, Miguel Santiago, of the 53rd District, gave update on legislation, including but not limited to minimum wage to \$15/hour, historic gun control legislation and closing of a dangerous loophole that allowed carrying without a background check. He spoke about poverty and homelessness in the district; seeing more homeless families and that LAUSD now has a department working solely with homeless kids.

[Jose Sanchez arrived at 6:38 pm.]

Fernando Delgado, from Office of Supervisor Hilda Solis, 1st Supervisorial County District noted a rise of notary fraud within Los Angeles County, for which they have asked Council to establish an ordinance to regulate the notaries, to require them to have licenses, and to have a maximum consultation fee, which would come with subpoena powers, and to be able to fine these. He’ll hear back in 90 days. As to County funds going to homeless services each year, they want a plan and self-audit to find out where the money is going. The County will be sending a letter to the Governor pushing for a State of Emergency for the County. He mentioned funding mechanisms including the marijuana tax, which passed by a 3/2 vote, and the parcel tax, which did not pass.

b. LA City Council Districts 1, 10 & 13

CD 13 Representative, Juan Fregoso, with CM Mitch O'Farrell's office 213-207-3015

juan.fregoso@lacity.org; Juan invited all present to the CD-13 Councilman in Your Corner Event at Rockwood Park, Saturday for a cleanup at the stairs and will schedule one in Rampart Village soon; CD-13 has been working on the HiFi Highlights Project; They'll be installing new laminar lights with art on them representing Filipino culture on Temple St, to be unveiled in October, that is Filipino Heritage Month. Juan asked all RVNC attendees to report encampments to 311, Sanitation and to him so they can start the encampment authorization process; Angela Joo noted there are five tents at 5th & Virgil with prostitution; Steps to get encampments cleaned up: 311, then LAHSA, getting authorization for 30 days; They may ask for the State's help, and to try to coordinate with Cal-Trans; Juan noted that this is not a quick process; he is working on this with Officer Melkonian (SLO-Olympic Division) Juan invited the Board to contact him & the other SLO's of the Rampart Division; CD-13 meets with the Neighborhood Prosecutor's office regularly to engage with the homeless in the encampments

c. City of LA Departments

Nancy Avila, Community Resource Specialist of the LAPD, from the City Attorney's Office, works with the Neighborhood Prosecutor (NP) Andrew Said; Nancy can connect us with the Neighborhood Prosecutor for our areas; They work with Police Divisions, deal with nuisance issues and work closely with the LAPD; For the Olympic area, Veronica Soto is our NP

d. DONE / BONC – NEA Lorenzo Briceno – Lorenzo reminded everyone to attend the Congress of Neighborhoods on Saturday 09/24; David Rockello noted there are two other events that day in Historic Filipinotown. Lorenzo noted that we should be out of Exhaustive Efforts by October's meeting

e. LAFD/ CERT – None Seen/None Heard

f. LAPD

i. Olympic Station SLO – Dikran Melkonian. Officer Melkonian related that Juan Fregoso does a great job at CD13; that 10-15 homeless encampments were removed and remain clear. He related that the cleanups are really "maid service" and that 56.11 is not being enforced; "there is no enforcement." The only way to arrest them is if they are doing prostitution and drugs. They have undercover Vice officers there, seeing very aggressive young people who are drug addicted and with mental health problems, which is extremely dangerous to the people in the area. He mentioned Sunset Place and Hoover by Lafayette Park. He would like to see fencing off of the sidewalks to allow people to walk through comfortably. He reported that there was a homicide at the Lafayette Park at 5:00 pm, on a bright and sunny day, with kids around involving a gang member and associate. His view is: "How dare you have a gun inside the park – a gang-related park?" The suspect is in custody based on video. He noted that nationwide with terrorism, "we do not racially profile, we criminally profile." He encouraged: If it doesn't feel right, call the Police, take down the license plate number, give a description.

CPAB meets 1st Thursday of the month at the Olympic Station.

ii. Rampart Station SLO: None Seen/None Heard

C-PAB meets the 1st Tuesday of the month at Rampart Police Station.

g. NCSA Sustainability Report – Sustainability Representative, Joselyn Geaga Rosenthal – Joselyn related that NCSA is sponsoring a "Cool Blocks" program, using a proven neighbor-to-neighbor model to make neighborhoods safer, at LA Ecovillage & Coronado Street before Temple & Beverly. Log on to website and volunteer to prepare for disasters; make your neighborhood safer/healthier.

- h. **NC Budget Advocates Report** - Budget Reps: Mitchell Gutman, Uver Santa Cruz – **Tabled; None Seen/None Heard**

- i. **Community and Stakeholder Organizations**

Sean Ramirez, introduced himself a local organic community activist, inner city farmer and an artist. He grows food, and makes vegetable deliveries a few days a week for free; He spoke on building farms with chickens and goats to help strengthen communities; He asked people to get in touch with him as to areas where they want to grow food on their block or other places; He is interested in teaching people to become producers instead of consumers.

Vince Leus, Community Organizer with Koreatown Youth Community Center, related that they are having their 23rd annual Holiday Carnival on Saturday December 17th 2016. They provide toys, games, and face painting at Leo Politi Elementary in the Pico Union area. He noted that last year this NC sponsored their event, donating \$1,000; he will submit an NPG request and ask that we agendize this for our October meeting.

Giovani Villas, Public Health Foundation Enterprise (PHFE) Youth Development Services, (formerly Aztec Rising) is asking for donations for their annual turkey giveaway to give to 2,000 families November 21st at the Rampart Police Station (*We also have a flyer for this November 23rd at Hollywood Community Center.*) He noted the upcoming Community Clean up at Third Street and Witmer October 15th, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, in CD1, and mentioned a City Attorney Town Hall for Olympic area to be held at the Robert F. Kennedy Community School, date not given.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

- a. **Roll Call – RVNC Board Officers**

8 Present: David Rockello, Velinda Rockello, Joselyn G. Rosenthal, Jose Sanchez, Jeff Jamison, Angela Joo, Carlos Villa and Uver Santa Cruz, (who just arrived at 7:27 pm).

3 Absent: Mitchell Gutman, William Greene, and Dom Dacong

DONE: NEA, Lorenzo Briceno

Motion: To approve the minutes, as written, as listed under **b through g:**

Moved by Jeff; seconded by Joselyn; the minutes listed under b through g were **all approved** as written. **Tally: 7 Yes;** David Rockello, Velinda Rockello, Joselyn G. Rosenthal, Jose Sanchez, Jeff Jamison, Angela Joo, and Uver Santa Cruz.

1 No: Carlos Villa, who was not present for approval of the Budget Package and had not seen it.

0 Abstentions; and **3 Absent:** Mitchell Gutman, William Greene, and Dom Dacong

- b. **Review and Adoption of Minutes of Special General Board meeting 06/09/16**
- c. **Review and Adoption of Minutes of Special General Board meeting 07/12/16**
- d. **Review and Adoption of Minutes of General Board meeting 07/19/16**
- e. **Review and Adoption of Minutes of Special Joint Board & Ex Comm. meeting 08/09/16**
- f. **Review and Adoption of Minutes of Special Board Retreat meeting 08/13/16**
- g. **Review and Adoption of Minutes of General Board meeting 08/16/16**

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Ms. Justine Kleinman spoke on need to upgrade Occidental between Sixth & Third by the Precious Blood School; that people dump on the islands (Occidental Parkway.) David recommended that she contact CD1 and 13, since the area above 3rd Street is under CD13 and below 3rd Street is in CD1. Joselyn mentioned the Cool Blocks program. David noted that we will find out about efforts of the City. He recommended that she communicate with Carmen. The Public Comment period was then closed.

V. RECOGNITIONS & PRESENTATIONS:

- a. Language Justice presentation by stakeholder & LATU member Ana Paula Noguez
Ms. Noguez related that she has been collaborating with Uver and the Tenant’s Union, and is part

of a collective, Antena Los Angeles, dedicated to fostering language justice. She explained their principals such as not assimilating, expressing oneself in one's root language; the right to speak language one is most comfortable with. They have strategies including interpretation and translation to create bilingual multilingual spaces, fostering participation of stakeholders, especially oppressed and underserved communities. They foster cross-language communication.

- b. Language Emersion & Prop 58 explained to RVNC Stakeholders & Board: **None Seen/None Heard**
- c. Anna Huizar, Management Assistant at the Office of Community Beautification, will give presentation on services available from her department: **None Seen/None Heard**
- d. LA's 100% renewable energy campaign presentation by Adriana Swain: **None Seen/None Heard**

VI. MOTIONS & RESOLUTIONS:

(Old Business)

1. Discussion and/or Possible Action on – the recommendation to approve draft letter of support for the St. Anne's Early Head Start Program funding application they are applying for this year; this will strengthen our relationship with St. Anne's & help with homelessness issues permanent supportive housing at Beverly & Commonwealth, that the RVNC has previously approved, is built.

Moved by Joselyn; seconded by Angela. Discussion held. Noted was that they are in the "Promise Zone" to get Federal funding. **Motion was approved by 7 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstention** by Carlos Villa; **3 Absent** Mitchell Gutman, William Greene and Dom Dacong.

2. Discussion and/or Possible Action on – the recommendation from the RVNC Homelessness Solutions (HS) Chair & many RVNC stakeholders to have a Town Hall meeting to discuss any possible action to be taken that pertains to illegal dumping, mental illness, drug selling/abuse, animal cruelty, vector control, human waste & the enforcement of ordinance 56.11, with possible beautification projects to be planned on the sidewalk medians & the very difficult problems at the freeway underpass on Hoover and 101 freeway et al encampments in the RVNC; our stakeholders are having more and more issues with these encampments; what action are the LAPD, City Attorney, the 3 RVNC Council members & the Mayor taking to resolve these issues? It is now very unsafe to pass this location since the encampments have taken over the sidewalk's right of entry; date & cost of event & location, TBD

Motion: To discuss the above proposal moved by Jeff; seconded by Angela. Discussion was held as to the purpose of the town hall meeting, need to coordinate, possibly include other NCs, e.g., Silverlake and Westlake, at a central location; to discuss areas that fall under 56.11 and enforcement of right of passage. It was noted that government representatives spoke on these issues this evening, which need to be addressed not just vented about at the Town Hall.

Motion: To refer this back to the Ad Hoc Homelessness Solutions Committee for further details to be revisited at the next meeting moved by Jeff; seconded by Angela. Joselyn would like to focus on 56.11, Jose asked if we narrow it down to 56.11, what will we do at Town Hall? Lorenzo explained that we can bifurcate the motion, take action to have elected officials and LAPD enforce, and the rest of the topic to bring back. **Public Comment:** Recommended that we take this to Committee to prepare for Town Hall. Public comment was then closed.

Motion passed by 8/0/0. 3 Absent: Mitchell Gutman, William Greene and Dom Dacong

3. Discussion and/or Possible Action on – the recommendation to transfer ownership of the RVNC Website from Board member, Carlos Villa to the RVNC; reimburse Carlos Villa for the perches of the RVNC.org web domain name from the Go Daddy Auction; transfer all ownership, passwords & administrative privileges in a correct & approved way so this does not happen to future RVNC Boards; recognize Carlos for his actions that saved the website; possible funds request not to exceed \$300.00.

Motion: To support moved by Jeff; seconded by Joselyn. Public Comment: Carmen suggested referring to the Budget Committee with documentation. Public comment was then closed. Carlos noted it is under \$50.00; he needs an email address. Uver will be point person. **Jeff withdrew his motion and moved to refer this back to Budget & Finance Committee;**

noting that once we get the receipt and have the email address to transfer ownership, we will reimburse Carlos. The Budget and Finance Committee will determine amount.

Joselyn seconded. Vote was taken and motion **approved by 7/0/0. 4 Absent:** Mitchell Gutman, William Greene, Dom Dacong, and Carlos Villa (who left).

4. Discussion and/or Possible Action on – the recommendation to re-up the Smart-printer warranty on the HP Office Pro X476dw MFP printer; report on all the things it can do for this NC now that it has been properly registered and set up to work in a network; pending release from EE; possible funds request not to exceed \$300.00. Uver described the printer, full color, can print from remote locations; out of warranty; we can continue the warranty or extended warranty. Jeff noted studies show that extended warranties are not worth it. Lorenzo noted that a motion is not necessary to discuss. **Public Comment:** Carmen asked for a quote. **Motion:** To not buy any warranty **moved by Jeff; seconded by Joselyn.** Public comment was then closed. Vote taken and **motion passed by 7/0/0. 4 Absent:** Mitchell Gutman, William Greene, and Dom Dacong, Carlos Villa.
[Angela Joo left at 8:36 pm.]

5. Discussion and/or Possible Action on – the recommendation from DONE/Funding to approve the RVNC, St Anne’s lease agreement with the City of Los Angeles and St Anne’s as presented; approval of payment is made yearly, each fiscal year & requires a City Council vote; this is a process that is a recurring expense & is a time sensitive issue where all steps have to be monitored & followed up on with Jeff Brill the designated City Contract Liaison; possible funds request approval for the lease is for \$9,038.00 with no increase this fiscal year.
Motion to approve **moved by Jeff; seconded by Joselyn.** Vote taken, and **passed by 6/0/0** as tallied: **6 Yes** votes from David, Velinda, Uver, Joselyn, Jose, Jeff; **0 no; 0 abstentions. 5 Absences:** Mitchell Gutman, William Greene, Dom Dacong, Carlos Villa and Angela Joo

(New Business)

6. Discussion and/or Possible Action on – the recommendation to increase the pre-approved recurring amount paid to Lloyd's Staffing (formerly Apple-One) to \$300.00 a month, & to make the RVNC Treasurer the official signer & authorizer of the Lloyd's staffing timecards approval process
Moved by Jeff; seconded by Joselyn. Vote taken, motion **passed by 6/0/0** with **6 Yes** from David, Velinda, Uver, Joselyn, Jose, Jeff; **0 No; 0 Abstentions; 5 Absences:** Mitchell Gutman, William Greene, Dom Dacong and Angela Joo
7. Discussion and/or Possible Action on – the recommendation from the RVNC-Ready CERT Liaison, Carolyn Burlson, to create a Community Emergency Preparedness Planning Ad Hoc Committee (CEPP); to plan CERT, First-Aid & other Emergency training events for the RVNC & surrounding areas; this is a sub-committee of the PSHT Standing committee; but because the CERT Liaison has a busy schedule & because all her Saturdays are not always available, the CERT Liaison will Chair this committee at the time that is available for her to lead us in having well planned RVNC-Ready events & strategies that will benefit all RVNC stakeholders incase of natural disaster or citywide emergency; **Tabled till next meeting; no quorum**

Loss of Quorum as President was reading Item # 7 [Joselyn left 8:45 pm]

VII. REPORTS:

- a. **Treasurer – Tabled to next meeting; no quorum**
 - (i) Monthly MER Statement – Board to receive, review & file as presented
 - (ii) Union Bank reconciliation screen shot review & file as presented
 - (iii) Lloyds (formerly Apple-One) services reconciliation review & file as presented

(iv) Budget, Finance & Grants; Mitchell Gutman, Chair

- Full, (5) Members, BFG Committee; Meetings: Every 1st Tuesday of the month at 6pm

b. Standing Committees: Tabled to next meeting; no quorum

i. Planning, Parks, Public Works & Land Use; William Greene, Chair

- Recruit Members, PPPWLU Committee; Meetings Schedule (TBD)

ii. Community Relations, Outreach & Social Networking; Velinda Rockello, Chair

- Recruit Members, CROSN Committee; Meetings: Every 1st Wednesday of the month at 6pm

iii. Public Safety, Housing & Transportation; Uver Santa Cruz, Chair

- Recruit Members, PSHT Committee; Meetings: Every 3rd Saturday of the month at 10am

iv. Any other written RVNC Reports; Officer's Reports; President's Report

- HS Committee's "Welcome Home Project", WPH event on September 8th

c. Ad-hoc Committees & Liaisons: Tabled to next meeting; no quorum

i. Creation of any possible Ad-hoc committees for 2016-2017; choose Chairs (Ad-hocs reviewed every 6 months)

ii. CIS Filing Reps; President + choose two (2)

iii. Regional Grievance Panel; choose one (1)

iv. City Attorney Liaisons; President + choose one (1)

v. DWP-MOU Rep/ DWP-AC Rep; choose one (1)

vi. LANCC Rep; choose one (1)

vii. Emergency Preparedness Liaison; choose one (1)

viii. ARC Rep; choose one (1)

ix. Planning/ Plancheck NC Liaisons; choose two (2)

x. Location & Filming/ Film LA Liaisons; Mitchell G, Jeff J, William G

xi. RVNC Election 2018 Outreach, Chair; choose one (1)

xii. Animal Services Liaison; choose one (1)

xiii. Public Works Liaison; choose one (1)

xiv. Transportation Liaison; choose one (1)

xv. Arts & Cultural Affairs Liaison; choose one (1)

xvi. Youth Issues Liaison; choose one (1)

xvii. Purposeful Ageing Liaison; choose one (1)

xviii. Disability Liaison; choose one (1)

xix. Conservation Core Liaison; choose one (1)

xx. Mayor's Volunteer Core Liaison; choose one (1)

xxi. Update on the return of all RVNC intellectual & real property still outstanding

xxii. Update on re-launch of the RVNC Website (review in 6 months)

xxiii. Update on the RVNC inventory; schedule inventory TBD

xxiv. Update on the status of the three (3) NC training documents;

Vice President: Code of Conduct, Funding & State Ethics Training

xxv. Update on Attendance of Board members; Secretary

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS: President, David Rockello, **Neighborhood Council Congress of Neighborhoods is on September 24th this weekend & we expect you all to be there; we'll have RVNC Tee-shirts for all RVNC Attendees**

IX. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn made by David; **meeting adjourned at 8:49 pm**