

Empower LA Awards Nomination 2019

Name of the Neighborhood Council: BABC

The Nomination is for: Bel Air Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council Skirball Fire Town Hall

Describe the Project: The Bel Air Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council held a Skirball Fire Town Hall on January 31, 2018 to provide information to their stakeholders about the City's emergency response and recovery process to the Skirball Fire. Attendees engaged in dialogue with Councilmember Paul Koretz, Councilmember David Ryu, Los Angeles Fire Department, Emergency Management Department, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority and public agencies to discuss how the community can assist in fire mitigation, emergency preparation and alleviating homelessness.

The Skirball Fire erupted during the pre-dawn hours of Wednesday, December 6, 2017 on the east side of the 405 freeway at the South end of the Bel Air Crest Community. Extremely dry weather and strong Santa Ana winds drove the fire into Bel Air, burning 422 acres, damaging 12 structures and destroying 6 homes. Thankfully, no loss of life or serious injuries occurred. The firefighters fought bravely against a difficult fire that could have been disastrous for our community.

Describe how this nomination promoted more civic engagement in government and/or make government more responsive to local needs:

The following members of the community participated in the town hall, providing stakeholders opportunities to ask questions and interact:

CD 5 Councilmember Paul Koretz  
CD 4 Councilmember David Ryu  
CD 5 Deputy of Public Safety Gregory Martayan  
Deputy Chief and Commander of Operations West Bureau  
Armando Hogan  
LAPD Senior Lead Officer Chris Ragsdale  
LA Neighborhood Prosecutor Veronica de la Cruz-Robles  
Walt Young, Ranger, Mountains Recreation & Conservation  
Authority  
Pascal Challita Chief LA Department of Building and  
Safety Inspection Bureau  
Chris Ipsen, LA Emergency Management Department  
Michael Schlenker, BABCNC Emergency Preparedness Communi-  
cations  
Tom Waldman, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority  
Va Lecia Adams Kellum, St. Joseph's Service Planning  
Area 5 (SPA-5)  
Scott Sale, Safe Parking LA  
Albert (Bert) Mutto, formerly homeless man, Pacific  
Palisades  
Captain Valencia Thomas, West L.A. Police  
Brian Wendling, West LA Division area patrol captain  
Ben Park, Emergency Management Department  
Moderator: Andre Stojka

The Skirball Fire occurred December 6, 2017. The Town Hall occurred January 31, 2018. It is commendable and a feat of strength and selflessness that all of these community leaders and stakeholders gathered together in Franklin Canyon to integrate thoughts on the causes and solutions to homelessness in the hills.

Describe how the Neighborhood Council upholds the ideals of inclusiveness, non discrimination, transparency and independence in their operations:

BABCNC holds many committee meetings in which all stakeholders are encouraged to come and to participate. Notices are posted on the web and at 5 locations in our territory, and email blasts frequent the stakeholders' emails. Facebook shares our ongoings and Nextdoor communicates with our stakeholders.

The members of our board are diverse and representative of all walks of life. Many mmebers represent the LGBTQ community, as well as the world's cultures.

Committee meetings are held throughout our communities, such as at American Jewish University, Stephen Wise Temple, Franklin Canyon, Beverly Glen Deli, Bel Air Bar and Grill, Marmont Hotel, Bel Air Ridge Community Center, Councilmembers Koretz and Ryu's offices and our BABCNC office.

Provide any additional comments:

BANCNC functions like a well oiled wheel; we meet regularly, we post minutes and agendas regularly, we hold Board meetings and committee meetings regularly, we are fiscally sound and dedicated to the needs of our stakeholders. We practice fairness and openness.