



Building A Better Community



**Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council
Regular Monthly Board Meeting Wednesday May 24, 2023 7:00 P.M.**

Meeting Location: "TreePeople" at Coldwater Canyon Park 12601 Mulholland Dr. 90210

Members of the public can join the meeting online: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89011447476>

OR by telephone Dial (669) 900-6833 or (888) 475 4499 Webinar ID: 890 1144 7476 Press #

MINUTES

NAME	BOARD SEAT	Present	Absent
Barondes, Asher	At-Large Youth Rep (2023)	X	
Bayliss, Shawn	Commercial or Office (2023)	X	
Mirco Gros for Brad Cobb	North of Sunset District (2023)	X	
Evans, Ellen	Community Interest At-Large (2023)	X	
Garfield, D.D.S. Robert	Casiano Estates Association	X	
Goodman, M.D. Mark	Bel-Air District (2023)		X
Greenberg, Robin	Faith-Based Institutions (2023)	X	
Hall, Jamie	Laurel Canyon Association		X
Holmes, Ph.D. Kristie	Public Education Institutions (2023)		X
Kadin, David Scott	Benedict Canyon Association		X
Kwan, Bobby	Laurel Canyon Association		X
Levotman, Vadim	Doheny-Sunset Plaza Neighborhood Assn.	X	
Longcore, Ph.D. Travis	Custodian of Open Space (2023)	X	
Loze, Donald	Benedict Canyon Association	X	
Mann, Mindy	At-Large Traditional (2023)		X
Miner, Nickie	Benedict Canyon Association	X	
Stella Grey for P. Murphy	North of Sunset District (2023)	X	
Andrew Paden	Bel Air Hills Association		X
Palmer, Dan	Residents of Beverly Glen		X
John Otto for Steven Prothro	Private K-6 Schools (2023)	X	
Ringler, Robert	Residents of Beverly Glen		X
Sandler, Irene	Bel Air Crest Master Association		X
Savage, Stephanie	Laurel Canyon Association		X
Schlesinger, Robert	Benedict Canyon Association	X	
Spradlin, Jason	Holmby Hills HOA		X
Sroloff, Gail	At-Large Traditional Stakeholder	X	
Steele, Ph.D. Timothy	Bel Air Glen District (2023)	X	
Stojka, André	Bel Air Ridge HOA	X	
Templeton, Patricia	Bel Air Hills Association	X	
Wayne, Cathy	Laurel Canyon Association		X
Weinberg, Steven	Franklin-Coldwater District (2023)	X	
M. Levinson for L Weisberg	Bel Air Association (<i>appointed Feb, 2023</i>)	X	
Wimbish, Jon	Private 7-12 Schools (2023)	X	
Total:		20	13

President Longcore provided welcoming remarks and information on procedures, called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM, and led the flag salute. Secretary Miner called the roll with 19 present. Member Templeton arrived at 7:29 PM for a total of 20 present.

1. The agenda was **approved** by unanimous consent as moved by Evans.
2. The April 26, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes (**Attachment A**) were **approved** as moved by Greenberg, with 2 abstentions from Levotman and Sroloff.

3. General Public Comment

BABCNC welcomes comment from the public on any topic within the Board's jurisdiction but not on the adopted agenda.

Don Loze noted that he wanted to address his comments to the Department of Neighborhood Council (D.O.N.E.), the City Council and the Legislature in the State of California as to the purpose of meetings like for public participation, and as this neighborhood council is in one of the widest areas in the City; the requirement is to come together, and to not allow virtual participation is an imposition and a disaster. He thanked those present who have been diligent and hopes they participate in neighborhood activities and other things, especially the young people, to help the City...for their future.

4. Comments of Elected Officials & Agencies

Walker King, Deputy District Director, Council District 4, gave updates:

- Update on Runyon Canyon upper lot (*not in BABCNC territory*) opens in June; traffic officers will be around entrance for first few weeks & LAPD security services will close the gate nightly, and they are enlisting LADOT to redesign intersection of Mulholland & Pyramid Place.
- Update on closure due to sinkhole at 2057 Sunset Plaza: Structural engineers have designs, hope for bids by July, then to the Board of Public Works and construction in early fall.
- He discussed Movie Night at Wattles Park.
- He'll check with the Google Team about the two areas that Google maps has wrong, one in the area of the above-mentioned closure.

Amanda Laflen, Constituent Services for Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, was present online. She noted that the Supervisor represents our community, Beverly Hills, WeHo, and other NCs, including Mid-City West. She will meet us in person next month.

Arminé Sargsyan, Outreach Branch, CA Department of Insurance spoke on fire & insurance, wildfire preparedness & insurance. Website: <https://www.insurance.ca.gov/> Arminé noted that they are the largest consumer protection agency in the nation, which protects us as consumers... including but not limited to having a fraud division. See website for further information. She noted that since 2019, the Department of Insurance met with consumers and as a result, new legislation has been passed, including for evacuation expenses, allowing wildfire survivors to collect what they have paid into. One law protection from non-renewals: your insurance company cannot non-renew for a year and they were able to extend coverage from 45 to 75 days, an extra month, to find alternative coverage.

Arminé spoke on the Fair Plan (FP), which she described as an “insurer of last resort” noting that last year they mandated that the FP provide comprehensive coverage. She noted that the FP sued California and they are in the appeals process. She discussed “Safer from Wildfires” <https://www.insurance.ca.gov/01-consumers/200-wrr/Safer-from-Wildfires.cfm> providing communities actionable steps to reduce the wildfire risks in your

communities and make insurance available and affordable. She noted that it starts from protecting your individual structures to be safer from wildfires; protecting your immediate surroundings, and the last and most crucial step is working together as a community. She noted that “FireWise USA” is for neighbors coming together to find ways to make communities safer. She noted that with these actionable steps come regulations the Dept. of Insurance introduced last year, and are law as of October. Insurance companies are mandated to provide discounts for hardening your property. They now provide consumers transparency about your wildfire risk, with a score. (Request this risk score from your insurance provider in writing.)
<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/Firewise-USA>

Arminé noted that you have a right to appeal that wildfire risk score to get the discounts you are entitled to. You’ll receive new rates, and know why your insurance is at that cost, if you receive discounts. Reach out to them at **1-800-927-4357** or online at the website at www.insurance.ca.gov.

[Patricia Templeton arrived at 7:29 PM.]

Questions were asked & answered, as regards but not limited to Fair Plan for higher-end homes and finding insurance companies in the high fire areas. Go to home insurance finders, check off insurance companies in high fire areas: <https://www.insurance.ca.gov/> Consumer tab, dropdown to Home Insurance Finder, a tool on their website. The department does not have a position or policy on smoking outdoors in highly dangerous fire hazard zones. She noted that would be a local matter.

Hannah Wenger, Field Representative for Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur, 51st District noted that he represents areas of Santa Monica, WLA, Beverly Hills, WeHo, Hwd & E. Hwd, Griffith Park, and the BA-BC area.

She mentioned their legislative package, including but not limited to AB 3: California Offshore Wind & Jobs Advancement Act and AB 5: Safe & Supportive Schools Act, noting that other bills passed from Appropriations except AB1181: Building Energy Resilience for Multi-Family Affordable Housing. She noted that their first newsletter went out. They also perform constituent services. Reach her at 310 450-0041 or hannah.wenger@asm.ca.gov.

Neither Jarrett Thompson, Council District 5 Representative, nor Octaviano Rios, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate (NEA) were present this evening.

5. Approval of Alternate for Bradford Cobb, North of Sunset District

Motion to approve the appointment of Mirco Gros, having completed all required trainings, as the Alternate for Bradford Cobb, North of Sunset District, was **approved** by unanimous consent. He was welcomed to the board, and noted to be seated here tonight.

[Attention was directed to #7 regarding Education First (EF)]

6. Monthly Expenditure Report

Motion to approve the April 2023 Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) (**Attachment B**) was **approved** as moved by Levotman and seconded by Evans by 18 yes votes from Members Srolloff,

Steele, Grey, Evans, Levotman, Otto, Gros, Longcore, Schlesinger, Miner, Greenberg, Wimbish, Loze, Levinson, Bayliss, Stojka, Weinberg, and Templeton, 0 noes, and 1 ineligible: Barondes; *[Dr. Garfield had stepped out at this point.]*

7. **EF International Language Campus**
15600 W MULHOLLAND DR CPC-2023-135-CU-DRB-SPP-MSP
ENV-2023-136-CE

Project Description: Proposed re-use of existing classrooms, offices, student services and residential buildings with limited new construction and interior modifications to existing buildings. Proposed enrollment is up to 900 students between September and May and up to 1,200 students between June and August, with 700 students living on-site.

Case Information: <https://planning.lacity.org/pdiscaseinfo/caseid/MjYzOTc00>

Materials from Applicant: <https://efbelairproject.com/>

President Longcore introduced this item, reading the project description and the **PLU Committee motion** to support the proposed CUP with a limit of 200 residential and 200 commuter students, ages 17 through 23, which was moved by Members Evans & Stojka.

Ms. Shawna Marino, VP of EF, Education First, returned to provide her third presentation and public hearing. She noted that they've been with the PLUC two times, having met and introduced the project to the full Board in the fall before filing their CUP application.

Ms. Marino noted that tonight she would be providing a very brief overview of the project, and then hand it over to Mr. Pat Gibson, from Gibson Transportation & Consulting, to speak on transportation and parking and Mr. Javier Ruiz to talk about security. Their fire expert, a retired Santa Barbara Chief, was available on Zoom for questions. Ms. Marino acknowledged the members of the community present this evening, and expressed her hopes to prove them wrong as to the fears that they have, by showing them why having a school in their backyard is really a benefit over the alternatives.

Ms. Marino provided a slide show presentation, and related information as to who EF is, an International Language Campus, and what they do around the world. She explained that they are proposing to add a campus in the Mulholland Institutional Corridor, and keep AJU the same, as an educational use; no new major construction but to add the corridor with new programming and global opportunities. They are seeking a new CUP, noting that their operations are different from AJU's, e.g., they don't have external events and don't allow students to drive, and run primarily a boarding program, but are preserving the campus. She noted that it is an environmentally beneficial and sustainable project because they are doing so little to the campus today.

They are proposing to enhance and update the drop off pick up area, and are keeping the classrooms, reconfiguring the admin wing for more housing, and keeping the upper campus up to date as housing. Keeping existing recreation; adding new green space for the Wise School. Turning a lot of parking and pavement to new green space and recreational area with pool. Adding security measures, including an additional kiosk security station. They are bringing the security gate and security kiosk back to improve circulation.

Questions were asked and answered.

Ms. Marino introduced **Pat Gibson with Gibson Transportation**, EF's traffic and parking consultants, who spoke on Transportation and Parking and concluded that he brings us a project that generates much less traffic than the current approved traffic on that site. Questions were

asked and answered. She introduced **Javier Ruiz, Director of Security for EF Pasadena** who spoke on his experience at EF's Pasadena location, where he noted they have *not* had any incidents requiring the Police Department (PD). They work closely with the PD and have even looked at their own surveillance cameras to help Police find a perpetrator of intrusions in that neighborhood. They have a "swipe in / swipe out" system for students & guests and protocols that hold students accountable. He was previously a police manager. They have coffee monthly with the community and have a 24-hour hotline.

Ms. Marino concluded that they are a very good neighbor as they are responsive, reiterating their request for the Board's support of the project, with a new CUP with restrictive and enforceable conditions. She noted that they have reduced the number of students from 1400 to 900 during the academic year and to 1200 during the summer and that they open gradually. She purported that the number of students living on site is a benefit to the corridor. She believes that what they are proposing is the most beneficial purpose.

Public Comment:

Marlene Hakakha, Resident of Bel Air Park, spoke in opposition, noting that EF hasn't been a good faith partner; there would be no summer breaks and the highest numbers would be during the summer months with high fire hazard.

Ameet Keny, President Casiano Estates HOA, spoke in opposition, noting that the proposal violates the CUP, and that 700 vs. 200 is a 350% increase. Max enrollment is 500 yet EF proposes 900-1200 enrolled, and they are asking for full time enrollment. He asks that we stand with PLU Committee who voted 11-2 to reduce and restrict their proposal.

Elizabeth Barcohana noted that EF fails to satisfy three (3) findings of LA Municipal Code; that the project will not benefit the community; it will eliminate necessary parking and will not allow Stephen Wise Temple to use the field; would increase impact and fire risk, and it does not conform to the Bel Air-Beverly Crest (BA-BC) Community Plan, noting lack of infrastructure.

Alina Vartany, Bel Air Park Resident spoke on the finding to enhance the environment or benefit the community, noting that this would only benefit non-Angelino students; reducing 30% parking would result in overflow of cars onto adjacent streets, this would result in more noise in the field and alter drainage patterns.

Jennifer Keny spoke on the 2nd finding for project's features to be compatible with and not degrade adjacent properties largely repeats the first finding and makes misleading claims. She noted that AJU never operated 24/7 or 365 days a year or operated at full capacity... that a school this size is a danger to public safety. This would have a negative impact on fire safety and traffic and create noise pollution.

Shel Bachrach noted that he and his wife have been residents in the Bel Air Park area 35+ years. He noted that the proposal does not meet the findings, that the Community Plan protects residential density, and that they are seeking to double the density of Casiano... He noted that the Community Plan in residential zones allow for schools if there is a need; he sees no need for this, noting that Pasadena is only at 10% capacity...

Dora Manavi, Bel Air Park resident, read from the Code as to infrastructure, noting that there are no studies to back up their claims as to lights, pool heating, internet and sewage. She noted that leveling the field for Wise could change water drainage that could cause mudslides and discussed the issue of special events, referring to Exhibit E of an attachment provided.

Ben Hakaka, Bel Air Park Resident, noted that EF doesn't qualify for Exemption from CEQA... as the proposed changes are not minor, including increasing residential 300%. He referred to Exhibit C of the attachment provided as to AJU's housing numbers, and concluded that environmental review is warranted before approval.

Shahna Kahan, Bel Air Park Resident, spoke on evacuation in the case of a fire, noting that would require 50-60 trips to evacuate students, which she deems unrealistic. She cited Mt. St. Mary's chaos noted idea of sheltering in place if they can't all evacuate, citing Mount Saint Mary University's chaos with this during the Getty Fire. She thinks this would affect both their families and the school's students. She noted that EF will *not* be a smoke free campus... and that past attempts to enforce smoking restrictions have failed, which increases fire risks.

Afshin Shargani, Resident of Bel Air Park, spoke on the prospect of increased traffic and congestion, noting that the previous traffic study was invalid, and that EF wants them to approve the CUP without the results of the new study. He discussed issue of shuttles during peak periods for Wise carpool... noting that there are other school buses that drop off and pick up on Casiano and Mulholland.

Mona Shargani noted that it takes at least 30 minutes during rush hour to go from Sherman Oaks to AJU, and that she expects ride shares, noting that students will find a way to break the rules. She noted that they have eliminated a parking lot for a pool.

Jeff Resnick, of Bel Air Park, noted that there is no analysis of noise pollution caused by 1200 students. He noted that there will be no curfew for students 18 and over and that EF will only enforce after 10:00 PM. He noted that there is no way to limit 1000 people without cars from loitering in the community. Neighbors from other campuses have complained...

David Hekmat noted that he lives adjacent to AJU and is a board member of Westwood Community Council. He noted that the AJU design was not built for what EF proposes. They want to remove parking for pool and asked why a swimming pool for those coming to learn English, and what if their no-car plan doesn't work? He expressed concern that they may resort to motorcycles, electric bikes, and create dangerous conditions on the local streets, and opined that this looks more like a summer camp for rich teenagers.

Roya Dardashti cited AJU's prior CUP limits, and shared data on since 1966, over five schools were built. Refer to Exhibit D.

Saiid Ofari, resident of Bel Air Park, spoke on the wide range of student ages, from 13-26, including residential, and expressed concern about the mixing of minor and adult students. He noted that the BABCNC land use committee noted that this is dangerous, and that the community agrees. He discussed staff ratio during the year and summer (Exhibit D) noting that this signifies they are inadequately staffed or misrepresenting the staff they'll need, and that more staff leads to more commuters and more parking spaces needed.

Merribeth Gal, resident of Bel Air Park, expressed concern about the health and welfare of the students, noting that students in close quarters are likely to go stir crazy and make mischief, and that EF gave unsatisfactory answers as to how they'll handle home sickness. As to security plans, she noted that they were unsure about where the students will smoke, noting that we have the Santa Ana winds. She strongly urged us to oppose.

Mousa Armagan noted that his home backs up to their parking structure and that they can't show us another campus that is like ours. He has visited the campus in South Beach, where there were a lot of places to walk.

Terry Koosed, longtime resident of Bel Air Park, pointed to the huge grass field that can hold four soccer fields, that they are giving that up and giving Wise a small patch. He noted that this is 45' wide, what you would use for 4-year olds and that you can't play tiddlywinks on that.

Karen Furie, a 10-year resident of Bel Air Park, wanted to address the money in all of this, noting that EF is trying to sell us on the idea that they will bring a million dollars in; however, that it takes several hundred million dollars to fight fires.

Simon Gabriel, resident of Bel Air Park noted that the recently conducted traffic study is deeply flawed and failed to capture the true essence of their community's transportation challenges.

Andy Hill, a 30-year resident of Casiano Road, noted that he is appalled that EF would put 700 residents at the end of their street. He asked that we look at the 1966 CUP that was put out reluctantly... that now there is a money grab. He noted that they heard their fire experts say they had an evacuation plan, and showed a picture of the backyard on the morning of Skirball fire. He noted that they got lucky that day when the wind blew the other way, and that they need to limit the property to what was they were given a right to do in 1966.

Jasmin Daneshgar of Bel Air Park, spoke in opposition to the project and noted that 85% of residents contacted signed petitions in opposition. The others were not available. She read the petition, noting that they support the 200 maximum living on campus at any time.

Sam Sanandaji, noted that he is a neighbor to this project, with which they have become associated with this as ingress and egress and that this project can directly influence them and their children. He noted that it is beholden to them to give us the right information so we can make the right decision, to provide safety, and consistency, that the community we have today is the same community we want to leave to our children.

Public Speaker Cards indicating opposition by individuals who did not speak were provided by David Moradzadeh, Fariborz Nahamon, Osep Armagan & Fariba Mesriani.

David Johnson, AIA, Architect and Planner for Gensler, specializing in education, noted that they are the architects retained to do the work on this campus. He addressed the issue of occupancy and capacity for the existing classroom building, noting that looking at the building, the existing classroom and administrative building is capable of handling 2000 students.

Eric Haley, with EPT Design, Landscape Architects for this project, noted that they have been in SoCal for around 60 years, and have done a lot of projects; this is their 3rd with EF. He noted that all of the landscaping and perimeter fencing has been approved by the MDRB and the plants with the Scenic Parkway plant list. They're working closely with SMMC habitat zones and wildlife crossings to make sure they are not affecting the existing habitat.

Wendy Sue Rosen spoke in support, noting that she is a consultant with EF. She believes that this is an incredible precedent for the schools on the corridor.

Dan Denoncourt, Campus Director for EF Pasadena, noted that he has worked for EF for 17 years, having moved to Pasadena four years ago to run operations there. He is the community liaison, works with the neighborhood, and is also a neighbor. He has enjoyed getting to know the neighbors, noting that they are always a strong community participant.

Online Public Comment: **Lois Becker and Mark Stratton** spoke in support, speaking for Hillside Federation, noting that they have seen and felt impacts of the projects on Mulholland Scenic Parkway, and at their May 2023 they voted unanimously to support EF's proposal.

Jeffrey Herbst, President of AJU, spoke in support, noting that they were impressed from the beginning of EF's presentation with their use of the land and their relationship with the neighbors.

Anil Sharma spoke in opposition to the project, noting that he recently moved with his wife to Casiano, and concerned that at 7:35 and 7:45 a.m., traffic will be worse.

In addition there were Public Speaker Cards from members of the EF team who were available to respond to questions:

Justin Schlaefli, Urban Systems, San Diego, whose client is EF.

Sue Rounsfull, from Pasadena.

Kelly Druse, Representing Rick Engineering, whose client is EF.

Mike Dyer, of Mike Dyer Consulting, whose client is EF.

[Public Comment was concluded.]

Following questions and answers, Member Loze moved to approve the motion but have an **amendment** that requires a period of renegotiation or some kind of third party to get them together by a date. President Longcore noted that they are heading to Planning on June 8th and reflected back that Mr. Loze is proposing to amend this motion to encourage EF to meet with the community before June 6th. He noted that our sole job is to advise the City on whether the CUP is reasonable. Schlesinger seconded the motion. Templeton suggested they have a mediator to see if there is common ground. This **amending motion did not carry**.

Amendment: Member Templeton moved that there be a requirement that we incorporate the part in the original CUP that residential streets *not* be used for the buses and the transportation of the staff, etc. Dr. Longcore noted that Patricia's amendment that the original language of the CUP that limits the use of neighborhood streets including Roscomare, etc., *not* be used by buses, and that the staff be told to refrain from using the neighborhood streets, was seconded by Weinberg. This **amending motion was approved**.

Amendment: Member Weinberg moved to add a recommendation that the CUP include a strict non-smoking requirement across the entire campus, and the motion was seconded by Stojka. Discussion was held on the amending motion with Member Loze asking if we have the power or simply require that they follow the conditions of the very high fire hazard severity zone. Discussion included note that UCLA has a no smoking rule. This **amending motion carried** with one no vote from by Loze and one abstention from Member Otto.

Motion As Amended to support the proposed CUP with the inclusion of the following conditions:

- 1) a limit of 200 residential and 200 commuter students, ages 17 through 23 years old,
- 2) addition of the language of the original CUP that limits the use of traffic by buses through neighborhood streets including but not limited to Roscomare Road, and that the staff be told to refrain from using the neighborhood streets, and
- 3) a strict no-smoking requirement across the entire campus.

The motion **passed** by **11 yeases** from Members Steele, Grey, Evans, Miner, Greenberg, Levinson, Bayliss, Stojka, Weinberg, Templeton and Sroloff; **2 noes** from Members Levotman and Loze, **7 abstentions** from Members Otto, Garfield, Gros, Barondes, Schlesinger, Wimbish and Longcore.

8. Meeting Location

Discussion and Possible Motion. The Board will consider the meeting location for committee and Board meetings in June and July and direct the Officers on this topic. Possible locations

include TreePeople in Coldwater Canyon Park and other sites within and outside BABCNC territory. **Motion** to come back here to TreePeople in June and July **passed** by unanimous consent of all 20 present and voting.

9. Hybrid Meeting Equipment

Discussion and Possible Motion: The Board will consider the purchase of a combined 360° camera and speaker devices (2 Meeting Owl Pro 3) with an audio range of 44 feet and video range of 28 ft with carrying case to enable broadcast of meetings and remote participation of Board members pursuant to restrictions defined in the Brown Act, as amended. Total cost estimated at \$2,409 including tax. <https://owllabs.com/products/meeting-owl-3>

President Longcore introduced this item. Treasurer Levotman **moved**, Member Loze **seconded** and the motion **passed**; however, following discussion regarding need for other accessories, the **motion was tabled and attention was turned to Agenda item #6**, as to available funds and to take a vote on the April MER. **Amendment** was then made to increase the budget for purchasing the equipment to up to \$4,000.00. **Motion as Amended:** To approve the purchase of a combined 360° camera and speaker devices (2 Meeting Owl Pro 3) with an audio range of 44 feet and video range of 28 ft, microphones and accessories including carrying case, to enable broadcast of meetings and remote participation of Board members pursuant to restrictions defined in the Brown Act, as amended. Total cost estimated up to \$4,000.00. The motion **passed** by **18 yeases** by Members Sroloff, Steele, Grey, Evans, Levotman, Otto, Gros, Longcore, Schlesinger, Miner, Greenberg, Wimbish, Loze, Levinson, Bayliss, Stojka, Weinberg, and Templeton; **0 noes**, and **1 ineligible** to vote: Barondes; [*Member Garfield had stepped out.*]

10. Expansion of City Council

Discussion and Possible Motion: To support the expansion of City Council to make the number of constituents within each council district commensurate with national norms. See CF# 21-1472

Background Report: <https://lacity.primegov.com/meeting/attachment/426576.pdf>

Member Evans introduced items 10 & 11 to expand City Council size and to provide for an Independent Redistricting Commission on the ballot March 2024. She provided background including that this Board has voted in October to look at what's the right number and at what other cities have.

CIS: https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2022/22-1196_CIS_10312022021858_10-31-2022.pdf

Member Evans discussed the advantage of having fewer people, the concept of Rule vs. Number, to which Levotman noted that more will dilute the votes of each councilmember. The motion was **moved** by Evans, **seconded** by Weinberg.

Amendment: To increase the number of councilmembers to 25 or greater – to at least 25 was **moved** by Evans, discussed and included in the motion.

Motion as Amended: To support the expansion of City Council to make the number of constituents within each council district commensurate with national norms, to at least 25.

passed by **17 yeases** by Members Steele, Grey, Evans, Levotman, Otto, Gros, Barondes, Schlesinger, Greenberg, Wimbish, Loze, Levinson, Bayliss, Stojka, Weinberg, Templeton and Sroloff; **0 noes**, and **2 abstentions** from Miner and Longcore. [*Member Garfield stepped out.*]

11. Independent Redistricting Commission

Discussion and Possible Motion: To support the establishment of an independent redistricting commission. See Council File 21-1472

Background Report: <https://lacity.primegov.com/meeting/attachment/426576.pdf>

Member Evans introduced, explained, and **moved** this item, which was **seconded** by Member Templeton. Questions asked and answered, and discussion was held. [*Members Barondes, Weinberg had stepped out briefly.*] The motion **passed** by **12 yeases** by Members Sroloff, Steele,

Grey, Evans, Levotman, Otto, Gros, Greenberg, Wimbish, Loze, Stojka, and Templeton; **1 no** from Bayliss, and **4 abstentions** from Levinson, Schlesinger, Longcore and Weinberg (*who returned*). [*Member Garfield was still away.*]

12. Support for Director’s Determination re Murphy Drill Site – [Deferred / time constraints]

Discussion and Possible Motion:

Whereas, the City of Los Angeles has a history of discriminatory and disparate treatment in its oil drilling environmental compliance requirements whereby some communities are afforded greater protections from pollution and noise from oil drilling operations while other communities are not; Whereas, the Murphy Drill site location in West Adams is an example of a community that has been exposed to toxic fumes and noise pollution that could be partially abated through facility enclosure and electrification of workover rigs and power supply, as has been done in wealthier communities, but have not been;

Whereas, on February 28, 2023, the City’s Planning Department issued a Letter of Determination on Case No. ZA-1959-15227-O-PA6 requiring additional and modified conditions for the continued operation of the Murphy Oil Drill Site “to increase the protection of and to preserve the health, safety and general welfare of the residents and stakeholders of the neighborhood”;

Whereas, on March 13, 2023, E & B Natural Resources the operator of the Murphy Drill site filed an appeal to the City’s Letter of Determination;

Therefore, the Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council calls on the City of Los Angeles to uphold its February 28 Letter of Determination.

Reports and Updates – Deferred

13. Reports of Officers

14. Reports of Committee Chairs

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 PM.

www.babcnc.org
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