

**Granada Hills North Neighborhood  
Council Board Meeting  
April 27, 2009  
GHNNC Office  
11139 Woodley Ave., Granada Hills, CA**

1 **1. Call to Order** at 6:45 p.m. by GHNNC President Leon Marzillier.  
2 Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call: Mary Ellen Crosby, Sue DeVandry, Neysa Frechette, Rafael  
3 Garcia, Sid Gold, Michael Greenwald, Wayde Hunter, Skip Leifer, Scott Manatt, Leon  
4 Marzillier, Ray Pollok, Eric Rosenberg, Jan Subar, Natasha Vetlugin, Joe Vitti, & Anne Ziliak.  
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6 **Chair Comments:** BONC Commissioner Al Abrams hosted a meeting with Mayor Villaraigosa  
7 about the City deficit. He stated that if City workers take off one, unpaid hour per week, 2,800  
8 workers would not have to lose their jobs. He welcomed comments for ways to reduce the City  
9 deficit at: [www.keeplaworking.com](http://www.keeplaworking.com). The Mayor is committed to fire and police services and will  
10 not make cuts from either department.  
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12 **2. Approval of March 30, 2009 Board Meeting minutes:** The Board approved the March  
13 board meeting minutes by a vote of: 14-0-2.  
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15 **3. Public Comment on non-agenda items:**

- 16 • Raymond Yue –Announced different City events.
- 17 • Robert Ricketts- Announced the 2009 Emergency Preparedness Event on Oct. 3, 2009.  
18 It will be presented in conjunction with the Granada Hills Street Faire.
- 19 • Bill Hopkins – Talked about the City’s exchange of gas powered lawn mowers for 4,000  
20 battery powered mowers. On May 9th, the Post Office holds its Stamp Out Hunger  
21 Food Drive. Postal workers will be collecting non-perishable goods from homeowners.  
22 The DWP is increasing water rates. The first will take effect on June 1st with a 15%  
23 reduction of allowable water use and excess fees for excess water use. One month  
24 later, the water bill will increase again by 30%. This is an effort to deal with water  
25 shortages. (See: [www.ladwp.com](http://www.ladwp.com)).
- 26 • Tony Iles - Gave his views on the Mayor, the Governor and the President, all of whom  
27 he feels are ineffective and should be removed from service.
- 28 • DONE’s Amelia Herrera-Robles congratulated the Board for bringing in a full room of  
29 stakeholders. She asked the board to familiarize themselves on State and Federal  
30 measures defining what NCs can do (and not do) regarding ballot measures. She  
31 invited the board to attend the Valley Regional Congress on May 30, 2009 from 8:00  
32 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Panorama High School to find out how NCs can plug into the existing  
33 network and increase their political clout. She asked GHNNC to help stock food  
34 pantries as they are reaching very low levels.
- 35 • Ernie Hilger – Spoke about the Shriner’s event on May 9th, 2009 at the Masonic  
36 Temple in San Fernando. This free event will focus on kids with spinal issues.  
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38 **4. Treasurer’s report** – Scott Manatt gave the 3rd quarter report noting current funds  
39 available equal \$101,920. If any funds are left over \$100,000, the City will remove them to  
40 deposit in the General Fund. During the last quarter, \$17,000 was spent – most of it going to  
41 renting the new office for the next year. Scott then gave Pat Casparian’s Financial Report.  
42 **(Manatt/Greenwald) moved the amount in the budget be revised, accepting a revision of**  
43 **\$15,000 for office rent. The motion carried: 16-0-0.**  
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5. **Park Police Presentation** – Tabled. Evelyn Solano, Senior Lead Officer, Public Services: Mary Ellen Crosby explained that Ms. Solano could not make it due to cutbacks in the department.
6. **Alternative Technologies Presentation.** Miguel Zermeno, Project Manager for the Bureau of Sanitation reviewed the two technologies – thermal and biological – that the City is exploring to get to Zero Waste status by the year 2030. The City has committed to phase out solid waste by 2030 by employing alternative technologies for black bin waste. The Solid Waste Integrated Resources Plan (SWIRP) is exploring ways to do that. Councilman Greig Smith introduced RENEW LA to explore the best technologies to use to turn waste into energy. The plan is to build six facilities throughout the City to carry out whatever plan they select. They be making a recommendation to the Board of Public Works this Summer Right now, they have a pilot project where residents in certain areas of South and East L.A. are being asked to save their food waste for recycling purposes. They also have implemented several recycling programs including multi-family recycling programs. For more info, visit: [www.alternativetechnologies.lacity.org](http://www.alternativetechnologies.lacity.org).
7. **LAPD Update:** Janine Angeles provided crime stats for Granada Hills: There were 32 burglaries of motor vehicles last month, which is double the usual number. She urged stakeholders to remove possessions from their car when they park and to park in locked, secure areas. There have also been 17 home burglaries. She asked that people lock and secure their homes as car keys and vehicles are often stolen as a result of home break-ins. She offered to do a walk through with residents of their homes to help secure them. Call her at: 818 325-7749 – [30392@lapd.lacity.org](mailto:30392@lapd.lacity.org). Mike Greenwald noted that LAPD’s website shows crime areas such as recent burglaries.  
  
On June 23 from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m., the public is invited to hear from Robert Revin, a crime expert on Identity Theft and former LAPD detective at Shepherd of the Hills Church. There is a Pancake Breakfast on May 16<sup>th</sup> at the Devonshire Division. To to [www.lapdonline.org](http://www.lapdonline.org) to sign up for the e-policing email blasts.
8. **Election of GHNNC Officers:** DONE Rep Amelia Herrera-Robles stepped in to chair this motion so Leon could participate as a candidate. **(Greenwald/Garcia) moved that the board approve reinstating GHNNC Chairperson Leon Marzillier, Vice Chair Anne Ziliak, and Recording Officer Skip Leifer, with all three accepting these positions. The motion carried: 15-0-0.** Treasurer Scott Manatt and Financial Officer Pat Casparian both stated that they were unable to continue for another year so **Leon accepted the temporary position of Treasurer, until another board member can take this position and Ray Pollok accepted the Financial Officer position under the same terms. The motion carried: 15-1-0. The board also reinstated Outreach Officer Sue Devandry for another year.** Executive positions still unfilled include: City Information Officer, Media Officer, and Correspondence Officer.
9. **Inventory Control** – Scott explained that he was required by DONE to do a complete inventory of all property in the GHNNC’s possession as all is considered City property. He produced the list of inventory that he has done to property going back to GHNNC’s inception in 2003.

96 **10. Taxi Parking Proposal: Council File: 07-3326:** Anne explained that this proposed  
97 ordinance would amend LA Municipal Code Section 80.69.2 and would therefore exempt  
98 taxis from restrictions prohibiting commercial vehicles from parking in residential areas for  
99 periods exceeding three (3) consecutive hours. The board heard from David Bagramian, a  
100 local taxi driver and owner of Pacific Yellow Cab of Santa Monica, who was in favor of this  
101 proposal, as well as neighbors who opposed this proposal. Stakeholder Vaune Kirby said  
102 this proposal was not acceptable to her family. Stakeholders Marc Genin and Brian  
103 Frechette also spoke against allowing taxis to park on residential streets. They were told  
104 that LAPD does not ticket commercial vehicles – that it is Building and Safety’s role to  
105 ticket abusers of this law. **(Gold/Ziliak) moved that GHNNC submit a community**  
106 **impact statement opposing CF073326, the Hahn-Rosendahl amendment to LA**  
107 **Municipal Code Section 80.69.2. The motion carried unanimously**  
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109 **11. Motion from Executive Committee to remove Mil Tossoun from the Board. Tabled.**  
110 Mike Greenwald asked the Executive Committee to table this in order to allow Mr. Tossoun  
111 to resign. The motion carried 13-1-1.  
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113 **12. Motion from Executive Committee that GHNNC contribute to the Valley Congress of**  
114 **NCs on May 30, 2009.** The motion initially requested that GHNNC be authorized to  
115 contribute \$150.00 to the Valley Regional Congress to be held May 30, 2009 at Panorama  
116 High School, 8015 Van Nuys Blvd. The board discussed the amount being designated to  
117 the Valley Regional Congress. Glen Wilson of Northridge West NC and the planning  
118 committee for the Congress stated their expenses are projected at \$17,500; DONE is  
119 contributing \$12,500. The rest needs to be raised from the NCs in the Valley. (See:  
120 [www.valleyregionalcongress.org](http://www.valleyregionalcongress.org) for the agenda). However after discussion,  
121 **(DeVandry/Leifer) recommended amending that amount to \$500.00. The board**  
122 **unanimously approved the amendment. The board then approved the full motion.**  
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124 At the Congress, people representing NCs will be designated for awards. Aaron DeVandry  
125 suggested stakeholder nominated people from GHNNC for the awards. Nominations close  
126 May 22.  
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### 128 **13. Committee Reports**

129 **PLUM –(Ziliak) moved that GHNNC recommend denial of the construction, use and**  
130 **maintenance of a wireless telecommunications facility at 12000 Blucher Ave.**  
131 **consisting of a 60-ft. monopine with 15 new antennas, a parabolic dish and a fixed**  
132 **emergency generator, and a side yard of 2-inches in lieu of 17-ft.** Anne explained that  
133 the existing monopine is not in compliance. ***The motion carried: 13-0-1.***  
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135 **(Ziliak) moved that GHNNC support the North Hills West NC in their opposition to**  
136 **conversion of two existing Sepulveda VA medical buildings on 7.05 acres at 16111**  
137 **Plummer Street into a 149 unit low income, sober living apartment complex.** During  
138 this discussion, Ben Rosen from A Community of Friends asked for a chance to present  
139 his organization’s plans to provide permanent and supportive housing for homeless and  
140 disabled veterans. He stated that these two buildings have been vacant since 1952. His  
141 organization wants to renovate them and use them to give veterans permanent supportive  
142 housing. Matthew Pauly of New Directions, Inc. also spoke about the benefits of this  
143 proposal. Stakeholder Nichon Kulukian opposed the proposal saying that the buildings  
144 should be used by the VA when plans are in place to build a new veterans hospital. Board  
145 member Ray Pollok also opposed this proposal and stated that many veterans’  
146 organizations were not in favor of it. Joe Vitti then presented letters of support from

147 veteran's organizations as well as letters from Councilmember Smith and Congressman  
148 Brad Sherman recommending the board approves this proposal. **(Gold/Greenberg)**  
149 **moved to table this motion until the next meeting for a presentation by Community**  
150 **of Friends... The motion carried 14-1-1.**

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152 In her report from PLUM, Anne invited stakeholders to a presentation on the Historic  
153 Preservation Overlay Zone at the GHNNC office, Wed, April 29, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

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155 **Outreach – Sue DeVandry** reported that the GHNNC newsletters are mailing this week.  
156 She circulated a flyer promoting Citrus Sunday and asked the board to help out at  
157 Knollwood parking lot. The produce collected will go to 81 food banks in the Valley.  
158 **(DeVandry) moved that GHNNC authorize the Outreach Committee to spend**  
159 **\$3557.88 on 30 light pole banners (20 for display with 10 for back up). Banners will**  
160 **be placed throughout selected locations within the boundaries of GHNNC. The**  
161 **motion carried: 15-0-1.**

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163 **Parks & Beautification – Mary Ellen Crosby** reported that there have been a lot of motor  
164 vehicle break-ins in the O'Melveny Park parking lots, even during the daytime. If anyone  
165 notices crime taking place there, they should contact Parks Officer Evelyn Salerno:  
166 **Office:** 213 978-4670 or Cell: 818 325-7747.

167  
168 **Policy and Rules – (Rosenberg) moved that GHNNC schedule a special meeting for**  
169 **the purpose of having stakeholders vote on whether to adopt this committee's**  
170 **proposal to amend the GHNNC Bylaws; and, if such proposal passes, that the Board**  
171 **complete and submit to DONE the City's "Bylaws Adjustment Application" form.**  
172 **The motion carried unanimously.** The meeting was scheduled for May 4<sup>th</sup> at the GHNNC  
173 office at 7 p.m.

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175 **Public Safety & Nominations – Michael Greenwald** presented an emergency motion  
176 regarding the DOT's proposed increase of the speed limit on Balboa Boulevard. He noted  
177 that the bylaws allow for an emergency motion if 60% of the board is in favor. **(Greenwald)**  
178 **moved "That GHNNC hear an emergency motion regarding the DOT findings on**  
179 **raising the Balboa Boulevard speed limits." The motion carried 13-3-0.**

180 **(Greenwald) (Greenwald) moved "The GHNNC reject the DOT findings on raising**  
181 **Balboa Boulevard Speed Limits. We feel the study was not done to the maximum**  
182 **standards and the findings are not in the best interest of our Community. We want**  
183 **the study redone and the Council be advised as to what parameters are being used.**  
184 **We further ask the help of CD12 in having the study redone. If DOT does not have**  
185 **the budget to accomplish another study GHNNC would look into the cost of the City**  
186 **Overtime Program and decide if we want to underwrite the study."** A friendly  
187 amendment was accepted to add **"within the GHNNC boundaries"** at the end of the first  
188 sentence.

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190 Discussion followed that included an amendment by Gold to eliminate the last sentence.  
191 **The second amendment failed. 4-10-2.**

192 The board then voted on the final motion: **"That GHNNC reject the DOT findings on**  
193 **raising Balboa Boulevard Speed Limits within the GHNNC boundaries. We feel the**  
194 **study was not done to the maximum standards and the findings are not in the best**

195 **interest of our Community. We want the study redone and the Council be advised as**  
196 **to what parameters are being used. We further ask the help of CD12 in having the**  
197 **study redone. If DOT does not have the budget to accomplish another study GHNC**  
198 **would look into the cost of the City Overtime Program and decide if we want to**  
199 **underwrite the study.” The motion carried: 13-3-0.**

200 *Nominations* – Greenwald reported Ralph Kroy, Agnes Lewis and Bill Hopkins are  
201 interested in the District 3 board seat, Gary Holmen (AYSO) is interested in the Youth  
202 Group opening, and Steve Smith (Mortgage Counselor) is interested in the Small Business  
203 and Worker position.

204 *Citywide Issues Committee* – Sid Gold brought forth three motions:

205 **#1: “That GHNC urge the City Council to reconsider the use of Form 54 in**  
206 **conjunction with an opening of a City File and that they develop a form similar to**  
207 **Form 52 to be used as the method of reporting disclosure of any possible conflicts**  
208 **of interest.” The motion carried: 13-1-0.**

209 **#2: “That GHNC support a call for an extended moratorium, citywide, on all new**  
210 **billboards, super graphics, and digital billboards and notify all parties of GHNC'S**  
211 **action.” The motion carried: 16-0-0.**

212 **#3: “That GHNC write a letter to the City's Ethics Commission asking them to draft**  
213 **a policy or ordinance regarding the participation of appointed City department**  
214 **managers and their role in campaigning in City elections.”**  
215 **The motion carried: 15-0-1.**

#### 216 **14. Board Member Comment on non-agenda items**

217 Sid Gold reported on an MOU that was being considered regarding the DOT. The board  
218 agreed to meet on Monday, May 4 at 7:00 p.m. in the office to consider by-law changes.

#### 219 **15. Meeting Adjourned: 10:25 p.m.**

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**Minutes by Pat Kramer, Apple One, with Skip Leifer, Recording Officer**