



# Greater Valley Glen Council ("GVGC")



13654 Victory Blvd., #136, Valley Glen, CA 91401

[www.greatervalleyglencouncil.org](http://www.greatervalleyglencouncil.org)

## SPECIAL VIRTUAL BOARD MEETING

### MINUTES - October 14, 2021

#### VIRTUAL MEETING TELECONFERENCING NUMBER FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

In conformity with the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 (MARCH 17, 2020) and due to concerns over COVID-19, the Greater Valley Glen Council meeting will be conducted entirely telephonically. Every person wishing to attend and/or comment at this meeting can **dial (669) 900-6833** and **enter 829 4527 6830** and **then press #** to join or use the link **https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82945276830**. You may join the meeting as early as 6:45 p.m. Instructions on how to sign up for public comment will be given to listeners at the start of the meeting, 7:00 p.m.

#### Officers

<b>Anthony Bethel</b>	President
<b>Cosmo Moore</b>	Vice President
<b>Andrea Schmitt</b>	Treasurer
<b>Dan Stueve</b>	Secretary

#### Board Members

<b>At-Large</b>	Cindy K Braun	<b>District 1 Resident</b>	Anthony Bethel
<b>At-Large</b>	September Forsyth	<b>District 1 Resident</b>	Dan Stueve
<b>At-Large</b>	Andrea Jones	<b>District 2 Resident</b>	Michael Hjelmstad
<b>At-Large</b>	Scott Kriloff	<b>District 4 Resident</b>	Christopher "Cosmo" Moore
<b>At-Large</b>	Daniel Lopez	<b>District 4 Resident</b>	Cindy M Ortiz
<b>At-Large</b>	Samuel May	<b>District 5 Resident</b>	Alicia Bien
<b>At-Large</b>	Rishab Nathan	<b>District 5 Resident</b>	Tiffany Phelps
<b>At-Large</b>	Andrea Schmitt	<b>District 6 Resident</b>	Nadia Marina Thomas
<b>At-Large</b>	Robin Shafer		
<b>At-Large</b>	Anthony "Tony" Sipp		
<b>At-Large</b>	Krista Sipp		



## AGENDA

*Items with a heading followed by an asterisk (\*) indicate there are possible motions for all listed Motions that follow. Motions are followed by a second, Public comment, Board comment/discussion, and other actions including a Call for the question, and Roll Call vote.*

**Item 1 Pledge of Allegiance.**

**Item 2 Call to Order at 7:01 PM and Roll Call: 16 present and 3 absent (Hjelmstad, May, Stueve) Quorum achieved.**

**Item 3 President's Motions & Comments.** All motions are marked \*.

**Motion 1: \* Motion 1 and CIS regarding 2021 Los Angeles City Council Redistricting Commission**

The President moves to oppose the configuration of Greater Valley Glen on Map K 2.5 and asks that the Commission support the GVG placement for City Council representation as an identified Community and with its natural extensions to its neighboring Communities of Interest. The GVGC authorizes the following statement to the Redistricting Commission both in writing and condensed wording for a verbal presentation as shown below.

**Statement**

The proposed map, designed to be solely data driven from the 2020 census ignores the core sense of Community for Greater Valley Glen, its Neighborhood Council, and the Distinct Community of Valley Glen as recognized by the City of Los Angeles and State of California. This proposed map violates the City redistricting ordinance 204(d) ensuring that such redistricting "shall keep neighborhoods and communities intact". Greater Valley Glen would be one of the only Communities in the Valley to have its City Council representation trisected between 3 different Council Districts, disregarding the very acknowledgment of it being a Distinct Community and disenfranchising thousands of constituents by leaving them with three different City Councilmembers they may have never had the option to vote for.

This would severely hinder our ability as a Neighborhood Council to adequately represent these constituents, our Stakeholders, while further complicating Los Angeles City governance of and service to the Valley.

As an example, the dividing line between proposed District 6 and proposed District 2-or-4 is the Tujunga Wash, which traverses the center of Greater Valley Glen. It is a US Army Corp of Engineers man-made Flood Channel. It includes a 2 mile long Greenway, with over \$30MM of landscape improvements completed by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority. The community of Valley Glen worked very hard with this agency on the landscape plans for the Greenway. Within the Greenway and Flood Control Channel, lies the Great Wall of Los Angeles, the longest Mural in the World.

Valley Glen takes pride in the man-made wonders located in our community. But with these wonders chopped up into three Council Districts, it becomes significantly more difficult for our community to simply remember which Council Office to reach out to when there is a maintenance



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issue along these improvements. What of all of the countless other needs of our Stakeholders that would be split between 3 different Councilmembers? The fact is that the mapping creates non-compact boundaries for the Valley Glen community.

In addition, we cooperate with and share both demographic and commercial, residential, educational, arts, and recreation values with our neighboring communities of North Hollywood and Valley Village significantly more than we do with Canoga Park or Hollywood Hills. It was with great and collective effort from our Neighborhood Council and our neighboring Communities of Interest that we drafted and submitted to Councilmember Krekorian just this year a comprehensive Community Benefit Agreement regarding homelessness in the area and management of the Tiny Homes Village project in Alexandria Park. We need representation indicative of our existing community bonds.

It is especially disappointing that this proposed mapping disregards all the effort by the Valley Glen community to benefit from its diversity. Ethnically, Valley Glen is a "highly diverse" and moderate income community. Its diversity comes with Latinos at 45%, Whites at 40%, Asians at 5%, African-Americans at 4% and others at 6%. It is also high within the City for the percentage of foreign born (49%), with Mexico (27%) and Armenia (14%) being the most common foreign places of birth. The effect of trisecting Valley Glen splits up Latino and Armenian Stakeholders, giving this proposed map an unintended and unfortunate negative racial impact. The City Council must be inclusive and not divisive.

Based on these issues and to maintain the diversity integrity of the Community of Valley Glen and to preserve our area's compact borders, we ask that you consider our recommendation on your proposed map as follows:

On the west, the boundary runs along Hazeltine Avenue from Burbank Boulevard to Vanowen Street. At Vanowen Street, the boundary runs east to Woodman Avenue, then north to Sherman Way. At Sherman Way, the boundary runs east to the Tujunga Wash, then south along the Tujunga Wash to Vanowen Street. At Vanowen Street, the boundary runs east to Hollywood Freeway. The boundary then runs south along the Hollywood Freeway (170) to Burbank Blvd. At Burbank Boulevard, the boundary runs west to Hazeltine Avenue.

Since addition of this area over-populates the District by 10,000 to 15,000 people, please consider elimination of the Shadow Hills and nearby areas that meander southwest of Shadow Hills in the proposed Council District 2 or 4 area. This meandering consists of portions Sun Valley. The addition of Shadow Hills and this portion of Sun Valley to the Council District 6 would constitute an even exchange in population and would also make Council District 6 mapping appear more compact. \*

**(Bethel, Kriloff) Motion passed. 15 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 3 absent (Hjelmstad, May, Stueve), 1 ineligible (Bien), 0 recused.**

### Item 4 \* Motion to Adjourn \*

**Next Regular Board Meeting is on November 1, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.**



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Please note the following:

- 1) A copy of this Agenda is posted on the GVGC website and GVGC Facebook page. It is physically posted at Uncle Tony's Pizzeria, Erwin Street Elementary School, Monlux Elementary School, Kittridge Street Elementary School, and the baseball backstop at Valley Glen Community Park.
- 2) A Quorum of 13 Board members is needed to discuss/consider/vote on Official Actions. Official Actions by a majority of the sum of Aye and No votes cast. Abstentions are not considered.
- 3) The public is Invited to this meeting by accessing the Zoom information above. Pursuant to the Agenda, the Public is invited to comment on items as called for in the Agenda.

## Disclosures:

**\*PUBLIC ACCESS OF RECORDS** • In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all the board In advance of a meeting may be viewed at Uncle Tony's Pizzeria, 13007 Victory Blvd Valley Glen, CA 91606, at [www.greatervalleyglencouncil.org](http://www.greatervalleyglencouncil.org) or at a scheduled meeting. If you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact Anthony Bethel, Board President, at [abethel@greatervalleyglencouncil.org](mailto:abethel@greatervalleyglencouncil.org) or at (323) 243-8191.

**PUBLIC INPUT AT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS** - The public is requested to dial \*9 to raise their hand. When recognized to speak by the presiding officer, dial \*6 to unmute yourself 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.

**THE AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT** - As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate based on disability and, upon request, will 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 the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment by email: [NCSupport@lacity.org](mailto:NCSupport@lacity.org) or phone: (213) 978-1551.

**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 Anthony Bethel de la Mesa Directiva, al [abethel@greatervalleyglencouncil.org](mailto:abethel@greatervalleyglencouncil.org) o par correo electrónico 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 §§ 48.01 et seq. More information is available at [ethics@lacity.org/lobbying](mailto:ethics@lacity.org/lobbying). For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or [ethics@commission@lacity.org](mailto:ethics@commission@lacity.org)



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**Inquiries may be directed to Anthony Bethel, Board President, at [abethel@greatervalleyglencouncil.org](mailto:abethel@greatervalleyglencouncil.org) or at (323-243-8191).**