



# Greater Valley Glen Council ("GVGC")



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

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

## REGULAR VIRTUAL BOARD MEETING

February 7, 2022 - Call to Order at 7:00 p.m.

### VIRTUAL MEETING TELECONFERENCING NUMBER FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

In conformity with the September 16, 2021 enactment of California Assembly Bill 361 (Rivas) and due to concerns over covid-19, the Greater Valley Glen Neighborhood Council meeting will be conducted entirely with a call-in option or internet-based service option. Every person wishing to attend and/or comment at this meeting can **dial (669) 900-6833** and **enter 849 9033 9355** and **then press #** to join or use the link **<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84990339355>**. You may join the meeting as early as 6:50 p.m. Instructions on how to present public comment will be given to listeners at the start of the meeting, 7:00 p.m. 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.

### AB 361 UPDATES

Public comment cannot be required to be submitted in advance of the meeting; only real-time public comment is required. If there are any broadcasting interruptions that prevent the public from observing or hearing the meeting, the meeting must be recessed or adjourned. If members of the public are unable to provide public comment or be heard due to issues within the Neighborhood Council's control, the meeting must be recessed or adjourned.

#### Officers

|                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| Anthony Bethel | President      |
| Cosmo Moore    | Vice President |
| Andrea Schmitt | Treasurer      |
| Dan Stueve     | Secretary      |

#### Board Members

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



## 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 and Roll Call.**

**Item 3 Chair instructions for Public Comment.**

**Item 4 \* Approval of minutes \***

**Motion 1:** \* Motion to approve the December 6, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. \*

**Item 5 Board Nominations**

**The President moves to nominate Alicia Bien as the new Parks and Community Improvement Committee Chair in recognition of her efforts as a committee member and particularly the Butterfly Garden project.**

**Note:** Vacant seats consist of one Youth Rep, one District 2 Rep, two District 3 Reps, one District 4, one District 6 Rep, and three At-Large Rep at the time of this Agenda. Per the Bylaws Article V, Section 6, any Board member may nominate a stakeholder to the President and the President will submit the nomination for the next Board meeting's agenda. Stakeholders shall meet the same eligibility requirements that apply to the position they would fill, as are required of elected Board Members.

**Item 6 Government Representative and LAPD Reports.** Please alert the Chair if you wish to present. **Please limit each presentation to 2 minutes unless the Chair allows more time.**

**Item 7 Representative Reports**

**Item 8 President's Motions & Comments.** All motions are marked \*

**The President has created an Ad-Hoc Committee tasked with maintaining and improving our two (2) "Welcome to Valley Glen" signs.**

As these are artistic and physical monuments that bring community pride and improvement to Greater Valley Glen, the Chairpersons of the Arts and Education Committee and Parks and Community Improvement Committee shall Co-Chair this Ad-Hoc Committee. Pending budgetary allowances, the scope of this committee shall also include the physical updating and improvement of the two signs.



# Greater Valley Glen Council ("GVGC")



**Motion 1** \* The President moves that the GVGC support City Council Motion [CF-22-0029](#) Fire / Vacant Property / Fire Life Safety Equipment Requirement / Enhanced Security Measures.

In the first council session of the new year, Councilmember Paul Krekorian introduced a motion, seconded by Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell, calling for an ordinance requiring property owners to install fire safety equipment and enhanced security at any building that remains vacant for more than 180 days. Councilmember Krekorian's motion further instructs the Fire Department and the Department of Building and Safety to report on a proactive inspection program for vacant buildings. These requirements will pressure owners of vacant property to put it to productive use, or if they fail to do so, to bear the expense of keeping it safe and preventing harm to the surrounding community.

With regard to the specific incident at Valley Plaza, Councilmember Krekorian also requested that the City Attorney endeavor to recoup the costs of the fire from the property owner and ensure that the owner eliminates blight and preserves public safety at the vacant shopping center. Remarkably, just hours after the motion was introduced, another fire erupted in a different building at the Valley Plaza site, again imperiling lives. The City must act to hold negligent property owners accountable and to prevent further expense to the City and danger to the people of Los Angeles. [See Councilmember Krekorian's motion attached and here: [http://clkrep.lacity.org/online/docs/2022/22-0029\\_misc\\_1-7-22.pdf](http://clkrep.lacity.org/online/docs/2022/22-0029_misc_1-7-22.pdf)] \*

**Item 9 Treasurer's Report and Motions.** All motions are marked \*

**Motion 1** \* **Approval of December 2021 MER.** A copy is attached and there is also a link here:

<https://clkrep.lacity.org/ncfunding/mer/57121F49-0DD3-4B05-91BC-F1349217DD53L.pdf> \*

**Item 10 Arts & Education Committee.** Reports and Motions. There are no motions.

**Item 11 Community Outreach Committee.** Reports and Motions. There are no motions.

**Item 12 Community Safety Committee. Report and Motions.** There are no motions.

**Item 13 Government Relations Committee.** Report and Motions. There are no motions.

Where Los Angeles City Council Files (CF) are referenced, their intent, status and history can be found at the LACityClerk Connect website: <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/>

Where California State Legislation is referenced (SB or AB), their intent, status and history can be found at: <https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billSearchClient.xhtml>

**[Left intentionally blank]**

The following Motions support or oppose certain State legislation now under consideration. If adopted, that support or opposition will be forwarded to Senator Hertzberg and Assemblyman Nazarian as well as posted on the California Legislature Position Letter Portal.

**[Left intentionally blank.]**



# Greater Valley Glen Council ("GVGC")



## **Item 14 Homelessness Committee.** All motions are marked \*

**Motion 1 \*** The Committee moves that the GVGC direct the Planning Department and Housing and Community investment Department, in consultation with the City Attorney, to prepare and present a permanent ordinance to implement the Mello Act, including a requirement for all new housing and developments that are subject to the Mello Act to provide a minimum of no less than 20% affordable housing. Mello act link: <https://ceganet.opr.ca.gov/2021020124> \*

## **Item 15 Parks, Medians, & Improvements Committee.** There are no motions.

## **Item 16 Planning and Land Use Committee. Report and Motions.** All motions are marked \*

**Motion 1 \*** The Committee moves that the GVGC support the following:

The GVGC is very concerned about the decline in our tree canopy in recent years by property owners who are removing their property trees and also removing their adjacent street trees without a permit from Urban Forestry Division (UFD). These "by right" projects have no review by Planning and do not come before the neighborhood council; and though we as a neighborhood council get LA Department of Building and Safety (LADBS) notifications when structures are proposed to be demolished, we have no input. This serious tree loss when most properties are clear-cut is creating an environmental and aesthetic problem. We propose a letter to City Council, the Mayor, LADBS, UFD, Grading Dept. and the Community Forest Advisory Committee requesting the following:

1. Code enforcement of 12.21 C. 1 (g) to be done by LADBS inspectors that at least one front yard tree be retained and no more than 50 percent of an existing front yard be used for driveway or motor court. Per UFD, palm trees are not technically trees and do not count as replacement trees; thus palm trees should not be counted as a yard tree.
2. A new ordinance to require that a tree report by a certified arborist be submitted for all trees on the property. An inspection by UFD should take place before an LADBS demolition permit be issued. The report should be compared with what trees show on the property on Google Maps and Google Earth to make sure trees are not removed prior to the report. No right of way trees should be removed without a permit from UFD. City Council needs to set fines and penalties for any property tree or street tree removals prior to the tree report and building permits withheld for a period of time to be set for non-compliance. LADBS code enforcers to cite any tree removals.
3. Plans along with the tree report need to be subject to a review by the Urban Forestry Environmental Planner to determine which trees can be built around.
4. In view of the fact that other cities retain trees when lots are demolished and rebuilt, we request a review of City grading requirements with respect to tree preservation to be done with comparisons to policies in other cities and new guidelines set.
5. Given the unsightly nature of vacant lots in the community, no demolition permits should be issued without approved building plans by LADBS for replacement structures.
6. All trees of 19" DBH or greater as well as the 6 native species of protected trees are to be retained. Under special circumstances these may go through the UFD tree removal permitting process and require replacement with native trees 2:1 on site. This will require a City Council ordinance for the non-native trees and inspection should be handled by LADBS with the consultation of UFD to provide tree knowledge.

**Item 17 Public Comment on non-Agenda Items.** Public comment is limited to 2 minutes per speaker, unless adjusted by the Chair including but not limited to cases where there are multiple speakers on a similar non-agendized item.

**Item 18 Board Comments on non-Agenda Items,** including but not limited to brief announcements by Standing Committee Chairs (designees) wherein the Committee has no motions but wishes to update Board and Public on significant matters.



## Greater Valley Glen Council ("GVGC")



### Item 19 \* Motion to Adjourn \*

Please note that, should this Meeting run longer than scheduled, a Special Continuance Meeting *may* be scheduled on Thursday, February 13, 2022, pursuant to a majority Board vote.

Next Regular Board Meeting is on March 7, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.



# Greater Valley Glen Council ("GVGC")



## 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 por 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)

**RECONSIDERATION AND GRIEVANCE PROCESS** - For information on the NC's process for board action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy, or any other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the NC Bylaws. The Bylaws are available at our Board meetings and our website [www.greatervalleyglencouncil.org](http://www.greatervalleyglencouncil.org)

**PUBLIC POSTING OF AGENDAS** – GBGC agendas are posted for public review as follows:

- Uncle Tony's Pizzeria, Erwin Street Elementary School, Monlux Elementary School, Kittridge Street Elementary School, and the baseball backstop at Valley Glen Community Park.
- <http://www.greatervalleyglencouncil.org>
- You can also receive our agendas via email by subscribing to L.A. City's Early Notification System (ENS) at [www.lacity.org/government/subscribe-agendasnotifications/neighborhood-councils](http://www.lacity.org/government/subscribe-agendasnotifications/neighborhood-councils).

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

# Monthly Expenditure Report



Reporting Month: December 2021

Budget Fiscal Year: 2021-2022

NC Name: Greater Valley Glen  
Neighborhood Council

| Monthly Cash Reconciliation |             |                   |             |             |               |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| Beginning Balance           | Total Spent | Remaining Balance | Outstanding | Commitments | Net Available |
| \$28024.61                  | \$2395.71   | \$25628.90        | \$4700.86   | \$0.00      | \$20928.04    |

| Monthly Cash Flow Analysis            |                |                        |                        |                                   |               |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Budget Category                       | Adopted Budget | Total Spent this Month | Unspent Budget Balance | Outstanding                       | Net Available |
| Office                                | \$16000.00     | \$850.71               | \$11628.90             | \$1700.86                         | \$9928.04     |
| Outreach                              |                | \$45.00                |                        | \$0.00                            |               |
| Elections                             |                | \$0.00                 |                        | \$0.00                            |               |
| Community Improvement Project         | \$21500.00     | \$1500.00              | \$9500.00              | \$3000.00                         | \$6500.00     |
| Neighborhood Purpose Grants           | \$4500.00      | \$0.00                 | \$4500.00              | \$0.00                            | \$4500.00     |
| Funding Requests Under Review: \$0.00 |                | Encumbrances: \$0.00   |                        | Previous Expenditures: \$13975.39 |               |

| Expenditures     |   |            |  |                                      |              |                  |
|------------------|---|------------|--|--------------------------------------|--------------|------------------|
| #                | Vendor  | Date       | Description  | Budget Category                      | Sub-category | Total            |
| 1                | EIG<br>CONSTANTCONTACT.CO                     | 12/10/2021 | Monthly bill from email vendor<br>Constant Contact   | General<br>Operations<br>Expenditure | Outreach     | \$45.00          |
| 2                | Personal Storage 3                            | 12/01/2021 | The GVGC moves to approve<br>payment to Personal Storage 3 of<br>\$126 monthly for the term of<br>10/01/2021 through 06/01/2022. Due<br>to a cost increase, this motion<br>supersedes t...                     | General<br>Operations<br>Expenditure | Office       | \$126.00         |
| 3                | WENDY L. MOORE /<br>MOORE BUSINESS<br>RESULTS | 12/01/2021 | Monthly webmaster and<br>communication fees for council -<br>December 1 invoice  | General<br>Operations<br>Expenditure | Office       | \$724.71         |
| 4                | Stay Green, Inc.                              | 12/03/2021 | Motion to approve payment of up to<br>\$1750 per month for maintenance of<br>the Victory Blvd and Whitsett Ave<br>Medians. The GVGC authorizes<br>entering into a contract with Stay<br>Green for said serv... | Community<br>Improvement<br>Project  |              | \$1500.00        |
| <b>Subtotal:</b> |   |            |  |                                      |              | <b>\$2395.71</b> |

| Outstanding Expenditures |        |      |             |                 |              |       |
|--------------------------|--------|------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|-------|
| #                        | Vendor | Date | Description | Budget Category | Sub-category | Total |

|    |   |            |   |                                |        |                  |
|----|---|------------|---|--------------------------------|--------|------------------|
| 1  | Personal Storage 3                      | 01/01/2022 | The GVGC moves to approve payment to Personal Storage 3 of \$126 monthly for the term of 10/01/2021 through 06/01/2022. Due to a cost increase, this motion supersedes t...                     | General Operations Expenditure | Office | \$126.00         |
| 2  | Personal Storage 3                      | 02/01/2022 | The GVGC moves to approve payment to Personal Storage 3 of \$126 monthly for the term of 10/01/2021 through 06/01/2022. Due to a cost increase, this motion supersedes t...                     | General Operations Expenditure | Office | \$126.00         |
| 3  | Personal Storage 3                      | 03/01/2022 | The GVGC moves to approve payment to Personal Storage 3 of \$126 monthly for the term of 10/01/2021 through 06/01/2022. Due to a cost increase, this motion supersedes t...                     | General Operations Expenditure | Office | \$126.00         |
| 4  | Personal Storage 3                      | 04/01/2022 | The GVGC moves to approve payment to Personal Storage 3 of \$126 monthly for the term of 10/01/2021 through 06/01/2022. Due to a cost increase, this motion supersedes t...                     | General Operations Expenditure | Office | \$126.00         |
| 5  | Personal Storage 3                      | 05/01/2022 | The GVGC moves to approve payment to Personal Storage 3 of \$126 monthly for the term of 10/01/2021 through 06/01/2022. Due to a cost increase, this motion supersedes t...                     | General Operations Expenditure | Office | \$126.00         |
| 6  | Personal Storage 3                      | 06/01/2022 | The GVGC moves to approve payment to Personal Storage 3 of \$126 monthly for the term of 10/01/2021 through 06/01/2022. Due to a cost increase, this motion supersedes t...                     | General Operations Expenditure | Office | \$126.00         |
| 7  | WENDY L. MOORE / MOORE BUSINESS RESULTS | 01/03/2022 | Monthly fee from webmaster and email marketing services - Jan 1 2022 invoice  | General Operations Expenditure | Office | \$428.40         |
| 8  | Stay Green, Inc.                        | 01/12/2022 | Motion to approve payment of up to \$1750 per month for maintenance of the Victory Blvd and Whitsett Ave Medians. The GVGC authorizes entering into a contract with Stay Green for said serv... | Community Improvement Project  |        | \$1500.00        |
| 9  | WENDY L. MOORE / MOORE BUSINESS RESULTS | 02/03/2022 | Monthly fee from webmaster and email marketing services - Feb 1 2022 invoice  | General Operations Expenditure | Office | \$516.46         |
| 10 | Stay Green, Inc.                        | 02/03/2022 | Motion to approve payment of up to \$1750 per month for maintenance of the Victory Blvd and Whitsett Ave Medians. The GVGC authorizes entering into a contract with Stay Green for said serv... | Community Improvement Project  |        | \$1500.00        |
|    | <b>Subtotal:</b> Outstanding            |            |   |                                |        | <b>\$4700.86</b> |



## PUBLIC SAFETY

### MOTION

On the evening of December 13, 2021 a long-vacant property at 2118 Sylvan Street in North Hollywood (part of the old Valley Plaza shopping center), caught fire. Over 100 Los Angeles Fire Department firefighters were required to respond to that fire, at significant risk to their own lives and at great expense to the City. After they courageously extinguished the fire, the remaining unsafe structure was demolished by the LAFD, at significant further expense to the City.

The property, and others in Valley Plaza under common ownership, have been vacant and in a state of disrepair for many years. At this location, and at countless similar locations throughout the city, vacant buildings create a blight on surrounding neighborhoods. Particularly when they have not been secured and are vulnerable to entry by squatters and other trespassers, these vacant structures also put nearby buildings at increased risk of fire.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council INSTRUCT the City Attorney, in consultation with the Department of Building and Safety and the Fire Department, to prepare an ordinance requiring property owners to install and maintain fire life safety equipment and enhanced security measures at any structure that remains vacant for more than 180 days.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Council INSTRUCT the Chief Legislative Analyst to report, in concert with the Department of Building and Safety and the Fire Department, on a proactive vacant structure inspection program that will ensure that vacant structures throughout the city are held to the standards contemplated in the aforementioned ordinance.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Council REQUEST the City Attorney to evaluate and pursue all remedies that may be available to the City (i) to recoup costs associated with the December 13, 2021 fire at 2118 Sylvan Street from the property owner, and (ii) to ensure that the property owner maintains the property and surrounding parcels under its ownership in a manner that eliminates blight and preserves public safety.

Presented by:



PAUL KREKORIAN

Councilmember, 2<sup>nd</sup> District



Seconded by:



JAN 07 2022