



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council
Public Safety & Quality of Life Committee Regular Meeting

April 6, 2026

MINUTES Approved by the Committee on June 1, 2026

I. WELCOMING REMARKS

A. Call to Order

A duly noticed Regular Meeting of the Public Safety & Quality of Life (“PSQL”) Committee of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (“GWNC”) was held virtually over Zoom (Webinar ID No. 889 6098 2957) on April 6, 2026. Committee chairperson, Charles D’Atri, called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Committee Secretary, Conrad Starr, called the roll. Five (5) of the seven (7) members were present: Mr. D’Atri, Mr. Starr, Gary Gilbert, Tony Gittelson, and Natalie Irby. Dan Sterling and Diana Yin-Braker were absent. *[The GWNC PSQL committee quorum (the minimum number of Committee Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) was 51% of seven (7) Committee Seats, or four (4), so the Committee was able to take such votes.]* Gary Gilbert announced that he had received a communication from Diana Yin Braker expressing that she intended to resign from the Board and the Committee.

Also in attendance during the meeting were GWNC President Jennifer DeVore, GWNC Board Member Lisha Sevanian, and five (5) other members of the public (including presenting guests), according to the Zoom interface.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

A. Review and Adoption of Minutes for December 1, 2025 (Secretary)

Mr. Starr noted one correction to the date of the next meeting as listed in the minutes. There were no other corrections.

Mr. Starr moved to adopt the December 1, 2025 minutes as corrected. Mr. Gilbert seconded. There was no public comment. The motion passed unanimously (5/0/0).

B. Review and Adoption of Minutes for February 2, 2026

Mr. Starr moved to adopt the February 2, 2026 minutes as presented. Mr. Gilbert seconded. There was no public comment. The motion passed unanimously (5/0/0).

C. Committee Membership

Mr. D'Atri reiterated that Ms. Braker was resigning from the Board and the Committee. There were no motions or votes.

D. Committee Member Training

All members were current with their required training.

III. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Sevanian said there had been a fire in February related to transients in an abandoned home. She asked how property owners could be held accountable for not securing their vacant properties. Efforts by her and her neighbors had yielded no results. She said the property owners had finally a no-trespass order with LAPD two weeks prior to the fire.

Wilshire Senior Lead Officer (SLO) Andrew Jones (7A33), who was in attendance, said the responsibility was the property owners. LAPD was able to 1) work on a City Attorney abatement, which could take up to one year as the City gives the property owner time to rectify any issues prior to enforcement. This was the only leverage LAPD had with the property owner, he said. The community should still report to LAPD non-emergency so that it would be in the City data and so there would be a ticket number. The community should report such tickets to SLOs once filed with the City.

Mr. D'Atri said he and Mr. Starr had participated in Community-Police Advisory Board (C-PAB) meetings and that LAPD was aware of such issues. He noted that the Council District (13) and the Department of Building and Safety (DBS) should also be alerted of issues and could be helpful. A "groundswell of attention to something" tended to get the City's attention, he said.

At this time, Section V.B. was taken up.

IV. PRESENTATIONS

A. LADWP - Infrastructure Report

Ms. Irby announced that the LADWP Community Liaison, Michael Ventre, had retired, and she was trying to secure a replacement speaker with Ventre's manager. There was no report.

B. Local Fast Food Workers Ordinance

This item was taken up after IV.C.

Felipe Caceres from SEIU Local 721 presented in English and provided interpretation for Julieta Garcia, who presented in Spanish. Caceres stated he was a campaign coordinator with SEIU 721 which represents Los Angeles County and City workers among others. He recalled the "Fight for 15" of years past. He was currently organizing fast food workers for the union and seeking support for a local ordinance for fast food workers to know their rights at work — including laws around break-and lunchtimes, temperature limits in kitchens, and more. There were concerns around safety, and, given the current [federal] administration, a "supermajority" of fast-food workers had been affected by federal military operations with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). He invited Ms. Garcia to tell her story.

Garcia said (as translated) that she worked at a Pizza Hut restaurant in LA. and had worked almost four years in the fast-food industry. She described working conditions, explained they had gone on multiple strikes, and celebrated rights they had secured through their actions and the reinstatement of

improperly fired employees who had been part of the organizing movement. There had been multiple violations of labor laws by her manager and by the franchise owner, she said.

She said they needed City Council's support for the local fast-food ordinance to set an example nationally.

Mr. Gilbert asked the guests if they had they spoken with Councilmember Soto Martinez, which they said they had

Mr. Starr referred to a letter they were requesting that the GWNC sign-on to which Starr said was in the supporting documents folder.

V. REPORTS

A. Chairperson's Report

Mr. D'Atri did not have a separate report.

At this time, Item V.D. was taken up.

B. LAPD

This section was taken up after Section III.

SLO Andrew Jones reported. His Basic Car Area (BCA) overlapped the GWNC from 8th St. to Olympic Blvd. and from La Brea Ave. to Mansfield Ave. There had been no reported crimes in that area in the previous two months. He said he worked closely with Officer Tyler Shuck (7A17) and was covering for him while Shuck was on parental leave.

Jones addressed an increase of burglaries in 7A17 wherein the modus operandi involved hooded, masked, gloved perpetrators driving high-end rental cars, who routinely gained entry to homes by smashing rear windows and then proceeded to ransack master bedrooms and closets and leave with designer bags and jewelry among other items. For the recent uptick, there wasn't a lot of positive news coming from detectives. While there had been a couple of arrests out of West Los Angeles Station tied to burglaries in Wilshire Division, those burglaries were not necessarily in the GWNC area. There had been no arrests directly related to crimes in Greater Wilshire.

A week prior, he continued, a burglary victim had reported drones in the Hancock Park neighborhood — the victim believed drones may have been used to “case” the area, though detectives could not confirm the theory. Jones clarified that LAPD drones were only used for an active incident at a property or in a general area. LAPD requested that the community alert them of any unexplained drone activity. He said it was difficult to know where a drone was coming from since some can fly a mile or more from the person controlling them. If one should “go down,” he advised that community members call LAPD and not touch the drone [to preserve any possible evidence].

Jones announce the Wilshire Division Carnival the following weekend to support the Wilshire Cadets program — which would take place on Friday from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. and from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Presale tickets were available at the Wilshire Station.

Ms. Irby said she lived on N. Arden Blvd., and there had been multiple burglaries on that street. She said she used to see patrol cars but had not recently and asked Jones to explain the patrol schedule. She asked if the three-person crime crews were part of a larger crime ring. Ofc. Jones responded that LAPD Wilshire had not removed resources; rather, they deployed based on crime statistics reviewed

by their crime analysis teams. Burglary detectives did not know why Arden Blvd. had increased in popularity for burglaries. But he had resubmitted a request for extra patrols, adding that he tries to drive through the area when he is on duty. Unfortunately, he noted, dinnertime robberies came at the same time as shift changes, though burglars were more likely selecting that time of day because homes were more likely to be vacant. He said that LAPD had previously found that small crews were sometimes part of a larger group, but he didn't have evidence this was the case for the Arden burglaries.

Mr. Gittelsohn asked if burglar alarms were a good deterrent. Jones said they were a deterrent but they were not foolproof, and that it would take time for the alarm to activate and then for the alarm company to contact the owners.

Jones said the burglaries had not "ballooned" overall. He said it was a few more popping up than normal but not like in 2025 when there were 2 or more per day. Crime goes up when it gets warmer, he said.

Ofc. Jones shared his contact information: (213) 793-0782, 41719@lapd.online. He said Ofc. Shuck was expected back at the beginning of May.

Ms. DeVore said she would add him to the Zoom list for GWNC meetings, and Jones said he would attend when he was available.

At this time, Section IV. was taken up.

C. C-PAB Reports

1. Olympic C-PAB Report (meets first Weds, 6pm, Olympic Station)
2. Wilshire C-PAB Report (meets fourth Thurs, 6pm, Wilshire Station or Zoom)

This item was taken up after IV.A.

Mr. D'Atri and Mr. Starr screen-shared a one-page PDF which provided guidelines for LAPD enforcement of 41.18 laws concerning personal property in the public right-of-way. They answered members' questions. Mr. Starr provided Mr. Gilbert with contact information for the LAPD Office of Operations/Department Homeless Coordinators.

As this time, Item IV.B. was taken up.

D. Public Works Liaison Report (Natalie Irby)

Ms. Irby did not have an additional report.

E. Homeless Count Report (Dan Sterling)

Mr. Sterling was absent and did not submit a report.

F. CA Seismic Retrofit Grants (Conrad Starr)

Mr. Starr reported that three types of retrofit grants were available: the traditional Brace & Bolt grants for raised-foundation single-family dwellings, a grant for homes with living quarters above "soft-story" garages, and a new grant for multifamily buildings in need of seismic retrofits. He said

applicants could enter a lottery, which would be open later in the year, without any cost or without committing to make upgrades. It was “free money,” he said, for those whose name were drawn in the lottery who chose to make qualifying upgrades. He encouraged the GWNC to publicize the upgrades through its outreach channels.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Town Hall on Public Safety Working Group Report (Gary Gilbert, Tony Gittelson)

Mr. Gittelson said the tentative new date for the town hall, which he was now calling a “public safety fair” was September 27, 2026. It was the last day of Jewish Sukkot holiday, he acknowledged, but there was not another good date, given the upcoming midterm elections. John Burroughs Middle School was tentatively available and supportive. Mandy Laflen of Supervisorial District had provided advice.

He and Mr. Gilbert described the event as a combination of tablings, breakout sessions, and a plenary session, which was detailed in a document available in the supporting documents folder, which he reviewed with the committee.

Mr. Starr said it would be a good opportunity for the GWNC to publicize the results of its Winter 2026 Stakeholder Survey.

Gittelson said it was imperative that a permit be filed with LAUSD and the City Clerk to secure the venue’s availability. Mr. Gilbert wanted to include a stop-the-bleed training.

Mr. D’Atri suggested to proceed with a motion to forward the event request to the Board.

[At this time (8:00 p.m.), Ms. Irby left the meeting. Four (4) members remained, constituting a quorum, so the meeting could proceed and votes could be taken.]

Mr. Starr suggested focusing the event further by removing content related to vaccines, anti-hate programs, and mental health and domestic violence content.

After further discussion, Mr. Gittelson moved that the PSQL Committee recommend that the GWNC hold a Public Safety Town Hall on September 27, 2026 focused on Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, with City and County Departments/Offices and others to present and provide information at tables as in the attached documentation, and to request a preliminary budget of \$1,782.00 per the attached budget. Mr. Gilbert seconded.

There was no public comment.

The motion passed with all four (4) members present voting in favor. Three were absent (Irby, Sterling, Yin-Braker).

Ms. DeVore recommended and Mr. Gittelson agreed to prepare an amended budget for Board consideration, given recent cuts to the Neighborhood Council budgets.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. LADWP Infrastructure

Possible Motion: the PSQL Committee recommends that the GWNC Board write a letter to _____ and/or file a Community Impact Statement (CIS) or Request for Action (RFA) regarding LADWP Infrastructure, etc.

Mr. D’Atri moved to postpone the item indefinitely. Mr. Starr seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

- B. “Western-Wilton Neighborhood – constituent complaint regarding ongoing issues with tree debris, street trash, removal of public trash receptacles

Possible Motion to recommend the Board request action by one or more City departments or offices. Possible letter, request for action.

Mr. Starr noted that stakeholder Christopher Diaz, who had brought the matter to the attention of the GWNC was unable to attend the meeting and provide updates due to an unexpected conflict. Mr. D’Atri said he believed CD13 was taking action on the matter.

No action was taken by the committee.

- C. 138 N Manhattan Pl.: encampments, squatters, safety hazards, DBS response. Possible letter, request for action.

Mr. Starr noted that he had invited the presumed property owner’s representative to the meeting by email.

Mr. D’Atri said a no-trespass order had been filed or was in process. It seemed as though there was progress. Noting that no updates were available from the Board Member (Patti Carroll) who had brought the matter to the committee, he moved to the next item.

- D. Possible Community Impact Statement (CIS) Regarding Council File 25-0848 (AB 747 / City Compliance Status / Existing Evacuation Plans / Improve Evacuation Route Infrastructure)
<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=25-0848>

Possible Recommendation of Request for Action by GWNC to relevant City Agencies to describe steps taken to comply with AB 747 and any ongoing efforts. California Assembly Bill 747 (AB 747), effective January 1, 2022, requires local jurisdictions to update their General Plan Safety Elements to identify and analyze evacuation routes, assess their capacity, and evaluate their viability under various emergency scenarios, such as wildfires. This legislation ensures cities and counties plan for, and test, evacuation strategies, often incorporating them into local Hazard Mitigation Plans or Emergency Operations Plans.

Mr. Starr moved to recommend the GWNC file a CIS in support of CF 25-0848. Mr. Gilbert seconded.

Mr. Starr spoke in support of the motion

There was no public comment.

The motion passed unanimously by the four (4) members present.

- E. Local Fast Food Workers Ordinance - Possible recommendation of GWNC resolution.

It was agreed to postpone the item.

VII. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Gilbert said a couple months prior a Neighborhood Council had sponsored Rapid Response (to I.C.E.) meetings. He said Windsor Square and Larchmont Village were taking it up. He requested that the item be added to the next agenda.

Mr. Starr mentioned that he had asked CD5, CD13, and the Mayor's Office whether the pending solar lights purchase would protect the City's investment if the provider company were to go out of business prior to the conclusion of the 10-year warranty, which Councilwoman Yaroslavsky had announced at a recent meeting.

VIII. REQUESTS FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Gilbert had previously requested that ICE Rapid Response be added to the next agenda.

- A. Next Meeting: Monday, June 1, 2026 at 6:30 PM via Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88960982957>

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. D'Atri adjourned the meeting without objection at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Conrad Starr.