



President David Balen; Vice President Hilda Sarkisyan; Secretary Deborah Violante;
Treasurer Jason Hector; Hrant Vartzbedian Alt. Secretary; Asaad Alnajjar;
Christine Demirtshian; Becky Leveque; Bright Aregs; Patrick Gipson; Ashley Jungworth

Rev. 08-25-2025

PORTER RANCH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL GENERAL BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, September 9, 2026 @ 6:00pm

THE VINEYARDS AT PORTER RANCH
COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM
20065 W. Rinaldi St. Porter Ranch, CA 91326

- *This Agenda and all attachments can be downloaded at: <https://prnc.org/meetings>*

General Public Comment – As noted in the meeting Agenda, there is an item dedicated to Public Comment on Items not on the agenda, but within the purview of the Board. When the item comes up during the meeting, the presiding officer will ask if any member of the public wishes to address the Board regarding any issue that is NOT on the agenda but is within the domain of the Board's actions and capabilities. At that time, the meeting attendees can electronically "raise their hand" to speak using the same procedure described above. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Board is prevented from discussing or acting on a matter that is brought 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 two minutes per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer at his or her discretion.

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.

Material Provided During the Meeting – In some instances, invited speakers may bring material with them to be provided to the Board during the meeting. With online meetings, this material will likely be sent to the Board as an email attachment so it can be presented and displayed during the online meeting. If members of the public wish to receive copies of this material via email before the meeting begins, please send an email to the Board secretary at Secretary@PRNC.org and ask for copies of materials provided. Materials provided to the Board no less than two hours of the meeting will be emailed to all those who request them before the meeting begins. Material provided to the Board within less than two hours of the start of the meeting will be emailed to those who requested them after the meeting. All materials presented during the meeting will be included with the meeting minutes, which are then posted on the PRNC meetings page.

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 Section 48.01 et seq. More information is available at ethics.lacity.org/lobbying. For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or ethics.commission@lacity.org

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

- 11280 Corbin Ave. Northridge, CA 91326 on a BULLITIN BOARD facing Corbin and www.PRNC.org/calendar You can also receive our agendas via email by subscribing to L.A. City's Early Notification System at <https://www.lacity.org/subscriptions> A member of the public can send an email to all the PRNC Board members at board@PRNC.org. The PRNC website is at: www.prnc.org. For information on the PRNC process for Board action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy, or any other procedural matter related to this Council, please consult the PRNC Bylaws. The PRNC bylaws are available on our website at www.prnc.org. P.O. Box 7337; Porter Ranch, CA 91326

PORTER RANCH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL GENERAL BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, September 9, 2026 @ 6:00pm

THE VINEYARDS AT PORTER RANCH
COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM
20065 W. Rinaldi St. Porter Ranch, CA 91326

This Agenda and all attachments can be downloaded at: <https://prnc.org/meetings>

1. Meeting call to order.
Meeting called to order by President David Balen at 6:07 PM.
2. Roll Call and determination of quorum.

Board Member's First and Last Name	Position	Present	Absent
Asaad Alnajjar		x	
Bright Aregs			x
David Balen	President	x	
Christine Demirtshian			x
Patrick Gipson		x	
Jason Hector	Treasurer		x
Ashley Jungwirth		x	
Becky Leveque		x	
Hilda Sarkisyan	Vice President		x
Hrant Vartzbedian		x	
Deborah Violante	Secretary	x	

3. Pledge of Allegiance – (Hrant Vartzbedian)
Pledge of Allegiance called by President David Balen.
4. Updates from representatives of Elected Officials, City Departments and City Attorney.

Iris Seok, District Representative, Office of Councilmember John Lee (CD 12): Announced that City Council approved funding for a Porter Ranch-area item, gave an update on the office's e-bike ordinance work, and said the office is continuing to pursue a grant to provide air conditioning units to residents in need. She also announced an upcoming summer concert on September 19, from 4–7 PM.

Julia Estrada, District Representative, Office of Assemblywoman Pilar Schiavo (AD 40): Reported that the legislature passed its biggest deadline of the session on August 31, with 11 of the office's sponsored bills headed to the Governor, including AB 2116 (protecting small businesses from predatory lending) and AB 2147 (addressing jurisdiction for prosecuting serial sexual offenses across multiple counties, since signed by the Governor). She announced a Senior Resource Fair on October 16 in the Santa Clarita Valley and a free self-defense workshop on October 18 at the North Valley Family YMCA, held in partnership with Bright Star Martial Arts, and noted the office's casework services have returned over \$700,000 to constituents this year.

Tracy Cooper-Harris, representing the office of the LA County Supervisor: Shared information from a recent Board of Supervisors meeting on countywide storm preparedness and announced a virtual El Niño town hall on September 28, from 6–7:30 PM, with a flyer available to attendees. Board member Deborah Violante asked about street/pothole preparation, and Patrick asked for a link to the meeting information; Tracy Cooper-Harris responded saying most of street maintenance falls under the city of Los Angeles

Vincent, LA Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE): Announced LA28's next virtual "First Friday" session on September 11 (10–11 AM), focused on procurement; the Congress of Neighborhoods on September 26 (8 AM–5 PM); and an organizational planning "brown bag" session on October 14 covering community cleanup planning.

Asaad Alnajjar (Board Member): Raised concerns on behalf of a resident about the lack of reliable cell phone coverage in Porter Ranch and distributed a flyer detailing current carrier coverage to the board and public. A representative from the LA Bureau of Street Lighting/Public Works explained that carriers, not the City, control where towers and repeaters are installed, and encouraged residents to file complaints with 611 (their carrier) and use 311 for street/pothole issues. Board members asked whether alternatives exist, such as towers disguised on schools, hospitals, or hotels. They were also reminded that iPhones offer a free satellite SOS/texting option for emergencies.

Keren Waters, Vice President, Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC): Reported on recently announced neighborhood council awards program, said BONC is working with the Arts, Parks and River Committee, and noted the goal of presenting neighborhood councils' work at City Hall to raise their profile with the City.

5. Guest speaker Los Angeles City Attorney Candidate John McKinney – Ashley Jungworth

Board member Ashley Jungworth introduced candidate John McKinney. McKinney, a Deputy District Attorney of 28 years who currently oversees the DA's specialized prosecutions division, described his upbringing on the East Coast, his path through Rutgers and UCLA Law, and his career prosecuting major cases across LA County. He said his priorities as City Attorney would be public safety, investment in the city, and fiscal responsibility, including working to reduce the number and cost of lawsuits against the City. He encouraged attendees to visit his campaign website for more information.

6. Presentation by Gary Izquierdo on behalf of United Firefighters of Los Angeles City (state of LAFD/measure FD that will be on the November 3, Ballot in the City of Los Angeles)

A representative of United Firefighters of Los Angeles City presented on Measure FD, the 0.5-cent sales tax measure on the November 3 ballot; he said LAFD staffing has not kept pace with the city's growth (0.87 firefighters per 1,000 residents), that 75% of the department's rigs are past their service date, and that the measure's funds would be held in a dedicated "lockbox" outside the general fund, overseen by a multi-agency committee, and could not be redirected by the City.

Question from David Balen: Asked who would be responsible for overseeing the funds. The representative responded that the money would be held in a lockbox separate from the general fund, protected by a maintenance-of-effort requirement that prevents the City from reducing LAFD's existing budget to offset the new funds.

Comment from Patrick Gipson: Voiced support for the measure but raised concern about whether a future City Council could override the law with new legislation. The representative acknowledged the concern and said the measure was written with legal protections specifically to guard against that.

7. Treasurer's Report – David Balen
 Tabled, as Treasurer Jason Hector had not yet arrived.

8. Motion to approve August 2026 Minutes – Att. A

Motion made by David Balen. **Seconded by** Asaad Alnajjar. Motion Passed

Board Member's First and Last Name	Board Position	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Ineligible
Asaad Alnajjar		x				
Bright Aregs					x	
David Balen	President	x				
Christine Demirtshian					x	
Patrick Gipson		x				
Jason Hector	Treasurer				x	
Ashley Jungwirth		x				
Becky Leveque		x				
Hilda Sarkisyan	Vice President				x	
Hrant Vartzbedian				x		
Deborah Violante	Secretary	x				

9. Motion to approve August 2026 - MER – Att. B

Motion made by David Balen. **Seconded by** Asaad Alnajjar. Motion Passed

Board Member's First and Last Name	Board Position	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Ineligible
Asaad Alnajjar		x				
Bright Aregs					x	
David Balen	President	x				
Christine Demirtshian					x	
Patrick Gipson		x				
Jason Hector	Treasurer				x	
Ashley Jungwirth		x				
Becky Leveque		x				
Hilda Sarkisyan	Vice President				x	
Hrant Vartzbedian				x		
Deborah Violante	Secretary	x				

10. Updates from the Budget Advocates

Glenn Bailey, Budget Advocate: Reported that departmental review teams began meeting with over 40 city departments on August 22 and are awaiting the Mayor's budget letter, expected in the coming week, ahead of departmental budget submissions due in mid-November. He encouraged board members to volunteer for a departmental review team, noted a training session with the City Administrative Officer is upcoming, and said the Northwest Valley budget advocate vacancy remains open; Jason Hector and Hilda Sarkisyan currently serve as the council's budget representatives.

11. NPG for \$500 on behalf of the ONE generation Wilkinson Senior Center – 3rd Annual Fall Senior Health-Att. C

Motion by David Balen, seconded by Patrick Gipson, to approve a \$500 Neighborhood Purpose Grant to support the Wilkinson Senior Center's 3rd Annual Fall Senior Health Fair.

Comment from Glenn Bailey: Said the Wilkinson Center has served the community for decades and, under new management for the past three years, has actively partnered with neighborhood councils. He noted the health fair, to be held Friday, November 6, from 9 AM–12 PM, serves the entire North Valley from Chatsworth to Granada Hills, and said PRNC's logo could still be added to the outreach flyer if submitted promptly.

Motion made by David Balen. **Seconded by** Patrick Gibson. Motion Passed

Board Member's First and Last Name	Board Position	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Ineligible
Asaad Alnajjar		x				
Bright Aregs					x	
David Balen	President	x				
Christine Demirtshian					x	
Patrick Gipson		x				
Jason Hector	Treasurer				x	
Ashley Jungwirth		x				
Becky Leveque		x				
Hilda Sarkisyan	Vice President				x	
Hrant Vartzbedian		x				
Deborah Violante	Secretary	x				

12. Presentation by The Fire Hawk – Home Hardening and Defensible Spacing

A representative from The Fire Hawk presented on wildfire home hardening and defensible spacing, distributing an informational booklet to the board and public. He explained that roughly 90% of homes lost to wildfire are lost due to flying embers, so hardening vents, gutters, and eaves is critical, alongside defensible-space landscaping (spacing and clearing vegetation near the home) and options such as battery backup and fire-retardant treatments for additional resilience.

Question from Deborah Violante: Asked about the average cost of the system and how long it lasts. The presenter said cost varies by home but that the treatment is structural and effectively permanent, needing only periodic reapplication after heavy rain.

13. Discussion and updates on e-bikes (draft letter) – Asaad Alnajjar/David Balen

Asaad Alnajjar distributed comparison materials on e-bike ordinances passed by the cities of Murrieta and Duarte and proposed that Porter Ranch draft a letter recommending sidewalk bans, licensing, and mandatory safety education for young riders. He said the goal is to gather board and public ideas — including bike registration, parental accountability, minimum age limits, dedicated bike lanes, and helmet requirements — to hand off to Patrick Gipson for drafting, then bring back for a board vote before submitting to the City and to VANC (the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils) for wider support.

Comment from a member of the public: Said the problem ultimately comes down to enforcement, since police have difficulty stopping riders who simply ignore them.

Comment from a member of the public: Shared that his cousin, age 15–16, was in a coma for two months after an e-bike accident, and said he worries daily about local kids riding unsafely.

Comment from a member of the public: Advised that if the board wants VANC's support, the letter should be kept concise, be submitted one week ahead of VANC's meeting for their agenda-setting process, and be copied to the City's Pedestrian Advisory Committee to address sidewalk-safety concerns as well.

14. Discussion to attend a meet-and-greet with Assemblywoman Pilar Schiavo - Santa Clarita District Office

David Balen asked which board members would be interested in attending. Patrick Gipson volunteered to attend.

15. Public comments on items NOT on the Agenda and within the Purview of the Board – 2 Minutes per person

Rickey Hayes, candidate for State Assembly: Shared his background in the Marine Corps, law enforcement, and IBEW, where he specializes in energy infrastructure. He said his campaign priorities are energy costs, affordability, and public safety, and directed attendees to his campaign website for more information.

Board member Ashley Jungwirth announced a town hall this Sunday, 3:30–5 PM, at Pathway Church, with candidates Michael Gates (State Attorney General), Herb Morgan (State Controller), and Jason Gibbs (Congress), and offered to share the event flyer.

Ryan, Argo Scientific: Reported that ongoing air quality monitoring in Porter Ranch continues to show normal, readable results with no current issues, and invited residents with questions to reach the company by email or search "Argo Scientific Porter Ranch."

Judith Daniels, Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC): Announced VANC's meeting the following night on Zoom, with agenda items on Van Nuys Airport updates and a presentation from LAHSA on regional homeless count data by community, and shared VANC's website, vanc34.org, for the agenda and Zoom link.

Keren Waters added context on the Van Nuys Airport item, noting her prior experience with the 2028 closure of Santa Monica Airport and her past work encouraging the FAA to distribute air traffic to Van Nuys, Burbank, Torrance, and Camarillo rather than concentrating it at one field.

A representative for Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC) Announced a virtual session on Alzheimer's and dementia resources on September 29 at 7 PM, held in partnership with the Alzheimer's Association, and said VANC is also planning an in-person session tentatively set for October 4 (2–5 PM) on high fire severity zones, covering insurance, evacuation, and related community challenges.

Fiona, resident since 2022: Shared that she lost her housing after her savings were depleted during the pandemic and asked the board to keep unhoused residents in mind when considering community issues, noting a lack of local resources and support for people without children. Board member president David Balen asked whether she had

been connected with nearby shelter resources, including Shepherd of the Hills, and offered to help make a referral.

16. Board member announcements

Becky Leveque shared that her son was recently promoted as a pitching coach for the Los Angeles Angels after 25 years in baseball.

David Balen reported that the City is reviewing the current meeting venue for ADA compliance and that the board is cooperating with the Department on Disability's review; the board may need to relocate if the venue does not qualify.

Asaad Alnajjar reminded the board of three items: an upcoming community event on September 19 requiring board help with setup before 4 PM; the Congress of Neighborhoods on September 26, which he encouraged all board members to attend; and a thank-you to LAPD for actively closing park gates, which has reduced street racing in the area, along with a note that a new speed-enforcement camera is coming to Sesnon.

17. Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 PM.

Notes: 1. Time allocations and order for agenda items are approximate and may be changed at the discretion of the Board President.

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 PRNC Board secretary via email at Secretary@PRNC.org. 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 www.prnc.org. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact the PRNC Secretary at Secretary@PRNC.org.