

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA



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COMMISSION MINUTES

Thursday, April 9, 2026

2:00 p.m.

**Members of the public who wish to speak to the Commission during the meeting must submit a "Request to Speak" form to the Board Secretary prior to the commencement of the public comments for each agenda item of interest. Comments by the public on matters not identified on the agenda, but within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission, will be heard during the item designated as "Public Comments Period." The length of public speaking time is two minutes, unless the presiding officer grants some other amount of time.*

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The meeting was called to order at 2:04 PM by President Perez.

Commissioners present: Cardenas, Chu, Matricardi, Perez, Quon, Ramirez and Wirfs. Also present: General Manager Domenika Lynch, Assistant General Manager Darrell Alatorre, El Pueblo Staff Priscilla Bravo-Hart, and Deputy City Attorney Josh Temple. Commissioner Manriquez was absent.

A quorum was established.

President Perez welcomed those in attendance.

Jacqueline Hamilton, Deputy Mayor, congratulated everyone involved on a wonderful Blessing of the Animals event on the previous Saturday. She mentioned seeing thousands at the event. She also shared that she hopes all the merchants and non-profits reach out and use the resources the East LA Business Source Center provides.

Josue Munoz, Small Business Liaison representative from Council District 14, shared that he did the walkthrough for the World Cup activations involving Union Station and El Pueblo. He also applauded Darrell Alatorre's tour during the walkthrough. He also shared that El Pueblo had the highest percentage of applicants for the CD14 Small Business Grant.

Sebastian Lozano, District Director for Assembly Member Mark Gonzalez, shared that all the priority bills are in committee at the moment. He highlighted AB1896, GTFO Bill, will be a 2026 Latino Caucus priority bill. He also shared their department number if anyone in the community has individual concerns, EDD unemployment benefits assistance and such, at 213-620-4646.

Dylan Stickland, Field Deputy for Council District 14, shared that the Street Lighting program is

underway and currently Spring and 2nd Street have been completed. He also shared that they are adjusting their LACC (Los Angeles Conservation Corps) routes to give particular attention to protest impact mitigations around El Pueblo and the Civic Center.

No updates from the Historic Cultural North Neighborhood Council

Approval of the El Pueblo Commission Meeting Minutes from March 26, 2026

MOTION: Commissioner Wirfs moved to approve Minutes from March 26, 2026 as amended. Seconded by Commissioner Quon.

Vote on Approval of Meeting Minutes: Cardenas, Y; Chu, Y; Matricardi, Y; Perez, Y; Quon, Y; Ramirez, Y; Wirfs, Y; The motion carried.

No public comment was provided on Approval of Meeting Minutes.

Robert Dominguez, Reina Dominguez, Lizy Lopez, Joey Silva, Michael Anthony Torres, Jelani Arriaga, Lilia Lopez, Craig Wong, Soji Thomas, Edward Flores, Sara Mia Serrander, Don Luis Camacho, Brenda Montes, Andrew Bailey, Tawny Ling, Sylvia Gribbell, and Valerie Hanley provided general public comment.

Item 1: General Manager's Report

Ms. Domenika Lynch presented the General Manager's report.

She mentioned how one of her priorities has been a clean and safe El Pueblo and is very intentional with the collaboration with GSD.

Ms. Lynch shared El Pueblo is getting ready for a festival during the World Cup and partnering up with EPPA for fundraising endeavors.

Darrell Alatorre, Assistant General Manager, went over events happening at El Pueblo

- *Mercado Night, May 8th*
- *Festival, June 26th-27th 10am – 8:30pm food trucks, youth activities engagement with Rec and Parks, two major music artists (contracts currently pending signatures), music activities throughout both days*
- *Blessing of the Animals: El Pueblo supported with \$16,537 (due to budget cuts and GSD no longer able to donate their services) and OSMAF invested approximately \$7300.*

Commissioner Wirfs asked if El Pueblo was on track to be on budget. GM Lynch replied that she is very mindful of costs and that they have been judicious with the money.

Vice President Chu acknowledged the Blessing of the Animals event and said he saw the line wrap around El Pueblo almost twice. He requested positive feedback from merchants that are in good standing rent wise. GM Lynch said there are mixed experiences and would work on getting that feedback. Commissioner Chu also asked if there has been greater collaboration between the merchants and the museums. Domenika replied that there has been.

Commissioner Matricardi requested tracking data about unsolicited RFPs for vacant spaces and inbound calls on events. GM Lynch said merchants have reached out about being intentional

with the upcoming RFPs and that unsolicited requests have been for a coffee shop and from a national folklorico group.

Partner Updates:

- *Jim Jang, board member of Friends of the Chinese American Museum, shared their upcoming event: Spring Fest 4/25 12 to 5 pm (free, family oriented)*
- *Valerie Hanley, Olvera Street Merchants Association Foundation, summarized Blessing of the Animals. She thanked President Perez, Vice President Chu and Commissioner Wirfs for their attendance. Archbishop stayed for two full hours to bless over 6,000 people with their animals; largest attendance in 15-20 years*

Edward Flores and Valerie Hanley provided public comment on Item 1.

Item 2: Commission Committee Reports

- Mexican-American/Latino Historical Monuments Ad Hoc Committee – will be meeting next week
- El Pueblo Parking Operations and Revenue Ad Hoc Committee - Commissioner Matricardi shared they are still reviewing data and awaiting more reports in order to act. Another meeting to be scheduled.

Edward Flores and Sylvia Gribbell provided public comment on Item 2.

Item 3.1 Discussion of the Gondola Project

David Price and David Shapiro from LA ART (Los Angeles Aerial Rapid Transit Program) presented the Gondola Project. It is an aerial gondola system from Union Station to Dodger Stadium (approximately 1.2 miles) that would run along Alameda Street (the station's height is 78 feet). At the moment, the project is being reviewed by Caltrans and State Parks. City approval would be the next step, possibly sometime in 2027. Benefits of this project to El Pueblo could include:

- *Increased foot traffic*
- *Organic opportunities for transit riders to explore El Pueblo*
- *Marketing opportunities to promote special events (print media, billboards, social media, non-digital promotion, etc)*

George Yu, Phyllis Ling, Taery Anglin, Juni Wong, Norma Virgen, Jim Jang, Jelani Arriaga, Lilia Lopez, Silvia Andrade, Brenda Montes, Craig Wong, Lizy Lopez, Edward Flores, Andrew Bailey, Sylvia Gribbell, and Valerie Hanley provided public comment on Item 3.1.

Item 3.2 Recommendation to authorize the California Migration Museum exhibit at El Pueblo

Tabled to next meeting

No public comment was provided on Item 3.2.

Commission Business:

No Commission Business

President Perez adjourned the meeting at 4:14 PM.