

Motor Avenue Improvement Association

**Palms Neighborhood Council Candidate Questionnaire
April 2014**

Dear Candidate:

The **Motor Avenue Improvement Association** is pleased to consider your candidacy for our endorsement in the election for member of the Palms Neighborhood Council. As you know, the **Motor Avenue Improvement Association** seeks to identify and endorse those candidates who demonstrate a strong understanding of and a commitment to Motor Avenue, communal development and environment, including issues pertaining to quality of life and health. This questionnaire is designed to provide you with an opportunity to both explore your own knowledge, understanding and feelings about Palms as well as articulate your vision about them to us.

You are receiving an electronic version of this questionnaire *only*. Please note that we will only accept your responses electronically in PDF format, Microsoft Word or some other universally accepted word processing program. Answers should be presented in the same order in which they appear on this questionnaire. Answers should be brief and limited to no more than two paragraphs. The deadline for this information is **Wednesday, April 30 at 5pm**. *Answer carefully: Many of the questions have multiple parts. Be sure to answer all of them. Unanswered questions could result in an incomplete questionnaire that will not be considered for endorsement.*

PLEASE READ THIS QUESTIONNAIRE THOROUGHLY BEFORE ANSWERING AND FOLLOW ALL INSTRUCTIONS. We suggest that you save the questionnaire to your computer so that you can type in your responses (This document is in Microsoft Word).

Candidate Name: Alison Regan _____
Position Name (if applicable) _____ Area B Rep _____

Responses dealing with campaign strategy and finances will not be made public.

Introductory Questions

1. Why are you running for office?

I love Palms. It's a unique and vibrant community and my goal is to maintain its diversity and help its residents thrive.

2. What is the most pressing issue facing Palms and how will you deal with it? What is the most pressing need facing Motor and how would you deal with it.

I think the previous council has done a great job of beginning to build a sense of community here in Palms. I would like to make those bonds even stronger so that the residents feel they have a stake in how the community grows. As for Motor, I'd like to see even greater infrastructure to ensure the safety of pedestrians and cyclists as they use the new Expo station.

3. What are three to five specific tasks (e.g. specific legislation, policies, enforcement actions) you intend to accomplish if you are elected?

I'm a participant in Move L.A. and I'm a consistent advocate for more funding for active transportation projects. I think we can do much more to improve the Palms infrastructure, especially as the new Expo station opens. I'd also like to see some parklets (converting an on-street parking space into a park) in front of businesses and possibly develop a program for bike-friendly businesses. In addition, I'd really like to see street and sidewalk repair in Palms - some of the sidewalks are simply unsafe. As an area rep, there are a

number of infrastructure issues in my area, such as dangerous intersections and recent break-ins - I think we can improve our relationship to law enforcement to stay more informed.

4. What is your profession or current place of employment? Do you have time for this position?

I'm a deputy city attorney for the City of West Hollywood. Yes, I have time for this position.

5. Please provide a copy of your resume.

Topic-Specific Questions

6. Did you support the creation of the PNC? What do you expect the Council to accomplish?

Yes, the neighborhood councils have done a great deal to involve more members of the community in their governance, which is vital in a city the size of L.A. The council can secure not only funds for neighborhood-specific projects but also ensure they have a seat at the table when larger city-wide projects are contemplated.

7. Please describe Palms and specifically Motor Ave. What would you do to improve it?

I am thrilled to live in Palms. I love being able to walk and bike just about anywhere I need to go. I love the diversity of the neighborhood, the variety of the restaurants, and the sense of community that is emerging. When Motor Ave. got bike lanes, it improved the street so much - not only for transportation but also aesthetically. And the businesses that are there are making the street a great destination. I would just advocate for more funds to continue to beautify it. And as I said above, it's a great street to try parklets and possibly bike corrals.

8. What steps would you take to increase the sustainability of Palms? Do you think there are environmental issues?

We still have a lot to do across the city to improve water quality, especially the run-off that goes into the storm drains. I think we can do more to educate the community in Palms on how to conserve and ensure that we keep toxins out of the storm drains.

9. What steps would you take to increase public participation in Palms?

That is always such a challenge. When things are going well, people tend to participate less, but we need participation to keep things going well. I think the block parties are a great idea. We definitely need to do more to let people know about the neighborhood council - I would be in favor of handing out a simple survey to get ideas from residents. As an area rep, I have to be responsible to getting out and walking around my area and doing outreach the old-fashioned way.

10. Please describe the Park system in *Palms*. Does it need improvement? If so, what would you do to make those improvements?

Dedicating more open space in L.A. has always been a challenge. In Palms, with the high density, it's even more complicated. The Wyman rec center is a great resource as is Woodbine park. We definitely need to do more. The school on Charnock has a great field that goes unused much of the time. We could partner with the school to find ways to upgrade that area and make it available to the public at certain times. We have to find ways to creatively use the open space we have in Palms and always look for opportunities to create more.

11. Do you support making Palms more bicycle friendly? If so how?

Absolutely. We have to make streets safe for bikes. Frankly, I would prefer to float the parking and have a dedicated 2-way bike-way on Venice but I doubt the funding is there for that. But it's proven that the more people ride bikes, the more the community thrives - and not just health-wise but economically too. And when the new Expo station opens, it's imperative that people can access the station on foot and by bike.

12. What measures would you propose to make the Motor Avenue Farmers Market more successful?

It's hard to give an intelligent answer to this question since while I shop at the farmer's market, I'm not familiar with running one. I know that on Sunday mornings there is a lot of competition from other Farmer's markets. But it's also true that walking to a neighborhood market is preferable to having to drive to another one! It's also nice to have an area/dedicated time for neighbors to gather and catch up - this could be a great tool for community-building.

13. Do you support the activities of the Motor Ave Association? If so which ones and how?

From reading your resume, there are some pretty impressive accomplishments - the bike lanes, community gardens, street trees and trash bins all enhance the community. I would like to expand on those projects, specifically bike and ped infrastructure and beautification of the streets of Palms.

14. Do you support mail in election ballots? Why and what if elected will you do to support your position?

I don't know. It is certainly true that at the state/city level there is more participation when people can vote by mail. I don't know if the same is true for a neighborhood council election.

15. How do you feel the PNC currently functions? If elected what would you do differently?

I've been very impressed with what the PNC has been able to accomplish so far, especially in the last several years. I would like to build on their success and get even more residents involved.

16. What do you think about the state of transportation in Palms? On Motor Avenue?

Traffic is always an issue in L.A. Cars use the residential streets of Palms as cut-throughs to get to Venice Blvd. or Palms Blvd. - I think we can do more to make these streets safer. On Motor Ave., it appears that the traffic has calmed since the bike lanes went in. If we can get more residents out of their cars for their neighborhood shopping and outings, traffic would improve.

17. How many programs have you initiated, developed and implemented in Palms? Please list. (Please be as specific as possible)

This will be my first opportunity to get involved and give back to the Palms community.

18. How familiar are you with other community groups, city hall, city agencies and city departments?

As a 10-year West Hollywood city employee, I regularly meet with staff from other city agencies and departments. I am also West Hollywood's liaison to Metro and the Westside Council of Governments concerning bike-share and active transportation projects.

Campaign Activities and Structure

19. Explain your plans to incorporate a Motor Ave agenda into your campaign.

I am certainly an advocate of active transportation and improving the infrastructure for pedestrian and bicyclists to access the new Expo station. Public safety and environmental issues are also of great importance in our neighborhood.

20. What is your campaign outreach goal? As of the date of this questionnaire, how much have you raised? What is your plan for raising awareness of your candidacy? (Please be as specific as possible.)

I haven't raised any outside money for this campaign. My plan is to outreach to businesses in Palms and canvas the neighborhood to speak directly to residents. I plan to attend the candidate forum and the bike rodeo and possibly host a separate campaign event.

21. Why do you want our endorsement? How you will use it in your campaign?

My values and goals seem to line up well with those of your organization, and I believe we can work well together. If I am fortunate enough to secure your endorsement, I will put it on my campaign flyer and let the residents and business owners know.

22. Who in the community supports and endorses your candidacy?

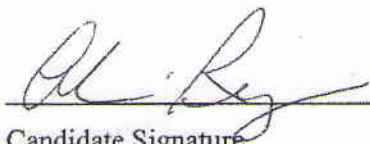
Eric Bruins, Palms resident and government analyst for the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition
My other neighbors and friends in Palms.

Completing This Questionnaire

Please provide the **names, phone numbers and websites** of your campaign if relevant.

Please list names, titles/affiliations/agencies **and a current phone number** for the person or people who helped you with this questionnaire, including staff and family members.

"I affirm that all the information I have provided in answering this questionnaire is true to the best of my ability and reflects my personal beliefs, ideas and plans. I understand that my answers will be available to the public on the Motor Avenue Improvement Association website." (Campaign Strategy and Finance responses will not be published)



Candidate Signature

Alison Regan

Candidate Name (printed)

5-5-14

Date