

TOPANGA TOWN COUNCIL

May 1, 2024

The next Topanga Town Council's virtual-only meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 15th at 6pm, and will focus on our current closure crisis, government accountability, and results. The TTC will hear what our elected offices and agencies have done to significantly advance our collective cause since TTC's March and April meetings—beyond merely “working on the issue.”

We need and deserve deliverables and results, especially when it comes to immediately aiding our school children and our distressed small businesses. We invite parents and businesses in the community to attend our upcoming meeting and share their experiences of trying to access help during this major disaster.

The Town Council has met with school officials on multiple occasions. And while the principals and transportation officials at Paul Revere have tweaked the drop-off location for Topanga students, those who take the bus are still grappling with a 2+ hours commute each way. More needs to be done. We have asked the county to see if MTA can assist.

The Town Council has met several times with local business leaders to discuss the challenges they face and to search for creative ways to increase traffic to their stores, restaurants, event locations, etc. We are looking into funding opportunities for our businesses.

At the May 15th meeting, the Town Council will hold the powers-to-be to account and ask how they can make solutions happen faster. The community needs results now; it's been over two months. The Town Council has been independently researching funding opportunities, sending numerous correspondence to its state and federal leaders, including, Governor Newsom; CalOES Director, Nancy Ward; and the Head of the U.S. Small Business Administration in Washington, DC, Isabel Casillas Guzman. The Town Council has requested immediate consideration for SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) assistance for the Topanga businesses due to the lack of drive-through traffic in canyon. Reach-out is ongoing with Los Angeles County Representatives, LA City Mayor Karen Bass (for help with school transportation via the Metro), California State Officials, Caltrans and DPW.

The Town Council will be asking the County to keep the community updated of any alternate evacuation plans during Red Flag conditions and additional shelter-in-place information. We will continue to follow up on DPW's road repairs and additional guardrails, especially on Fernwood/Tuna. Road safety on this route has become especially dangerous.

We encourage you to contact your representatives, particularly your state and local government, and ask for immediate assistance. There's power in numbers. See Onetopanga > Our Town > Government Representatives.

Please join us on May 15th where we will continue to get answers. The meeting's agenda and Zoom link will be sent via Town Council's May Newsletter (one week before the meeting). If you have not been directly receiving the monthly OneTopanga and Town Council newsletters, email us at: contact@topangatowncouncil.org. and we will put you on our list.

Thank you,

Topanga Town Council