

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Empowerment Congress West Area Neighborhood Development Council

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Date of NC Board Action: 02/03/2010

Type of NC Board Action: Against Proposal

Impact Information

Date: 02/17/2010

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 09-0600-S159

Agenda Date: 02/18/2010

Item Number: 3 and 5

Brief Summary: The Empowerment Congress West Area NC opposes the elimination of the bank card and proposed 50% reduction to the annual funding allocation to each NC. Despite the shortfalls of the bankcard system, it is critical that the cards be retained in order to meet the operational needs of the councils. We also oppose the 50% budget cut to the annual NC allocation but will support a reduction consistent with the level of reduction of other city agencies.

Additional Information: We recognize all city departments must share the burden of the budget shortfall. However the proposed 50% cut is excessive and will adversely and unequitably impact the capacity and effectiveness of the NCs.



**Empowerment Congress West Area Neighborhood
Development Council
Minutes- February 3, 2010
Hillcrest Elementary School**

Board Members in Attendance: Karen Cesar, Malcolm Carson, Lark Galloway-Gilliam, Rev. Lee Walker, Christine Hall, David Winston, Johnnie Raines, Rev Lee Walker, Kevin Fridlington

Excused Absence: Mark Jones Darks, Damien Goodmon, Jackie Ryan, Lanz Alexander

Unexcused Absence: Tommy Plummer, Chris Shoaf

City Representatives: City Councilmember Bernard Parks, Senior Lead Officer Susijima

Call to Order: Chair Lark Galloway-Gilliam called the meeting to order at approximately 6:45p.m. A quorum was present.

Public Comments:

Senior Lead Officer Susijima provided a written and oral report on criminal activity within the area for the preceding month. It was noted that crime was down in the Leimert Park area, however there continues to be concern for automobile break-ins.

Minutes:

Minutes of October 7th were reviewed and approved as presented by unanimous vote.

Community Discussion

Councilmember Bernard Parks present to discuss the \$208million city budget shortfall. The Councilmember noted that revenues were significantly lower than previously projected. Members raised concern for the lack of planning and preparation. The councilmember explained the revenue streams (eg sales tax) for the city are sensitive to consumer spending and the economic downturn. The current proposals call for the layoff of more than 1,000 city employees and the recapturing all savings including the neighborhood council carryover funding. After considerable discussion, the motion was made by David Winston and seconded by Kevin Fridlington authorizing the submission of a letter to the city council and mayor recommending the following:

1. All city departments, including police and fire be subject to budget cuts of equal proportion;
1. Departments with duplicative and/or overlapping functions be consolidated to achieve efficiencies and savings beginning with the consolidation of the Community Redevelopment under the City of Los Angeles Planning Department;
2. All employees accept a 8% salary reduction in an effort to protect vital city services and preserve jobs;
3. All revenue generating centers be preserved and not outsourced, We caution against any effort to privatize or outsource either revenue generating centers or basic city services which require a long term commitment;
4. The city explore additional revenue solutions to offset the decline in sales tax, etc;

2. Critical city services such as libraries, parks, street services, cultural affairs and the City Attorney Neighborhood Prosecutors be preserved as a priority;
5. Following the adoption of the budget - allocation of city services must be based on achieving equity across communities commensurate with the needs of each individual community's infrastructure, resources and capacity. This would include funding for parks, libraries and other city services and resources which are too often the only resources and therefore in greater need in areas such as South LA than other underserved communities within the city;
6. The City Planning Department resources for the updating of the South LA community plans including Baldwin hills/West Adams/Crenshaw area be preserved to allow for the timely completion of the plan updates.
7. We oppose the consolidation or elimination of the DONE and the excess funding cuts to the NC funding program.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Lee Walker presented a copy of a letter developed by the West Adams NC objecting to the construction of a transit stop at Farmdale/Dorsey. Due to the hour and absence of the member who asked the item be placed on the agenda – the item was tabled until the next meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30pm