



Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council

ghnnc.org

Date: 5/24 2/10/20
Submitted in 617 Committee
Council File No: 09-0000-3169
Item No.: 01
Deputy: 01
mmie

Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council
BOARD-APPROVED 2nd REVISED BUDGET
for DONE Fiscal Year 2010 (FY10): July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010

		FY10	Actual Expenses	Funds
		Budget	as of 1/25/2010	Remaining
(100) Operations (41%)				
FAC	Facility Rent	\$ 15,000	\$ 14,448	\$ 552
FAC	Facility Furnishings/Signage	\$ 1,500	\$ 419	\$ 1,081
FAC	P.O. Box Rental	\$ 110	\$ 110	\$ -
FAC	Phone Systems	\$ 200	\$ -	\$ 200
BOK	Departmental Books/Magazines	\$ 300	\$ -	\$ 300
COM	Computer Hardware/Software/Supplies	\$ 600	\$ 261	\$ 339
COP	Copying Expense	\$ 1,600	\$ 819	\$ 781
EDU	Training/Conferences	\$ 1,250	\$ -	\$ 1,250
OFF	Office Supplies	\$ 750	\$ 328	\$ 422
OTH	Bank Charges	\$ 150	\$ 50	\$ 100
OTH	General Operations	\$ 2,000	\$ 494	\$ 1,506
OTH	Postage/Mailings (to DONE)	\$ 250	\$ 34	\$ 216
OTH	Travel	\$ 1,750	\$ 296	\$ 1,454
RET	Annual Retreat	\$ 1,500	\$ -	\$ 1,500
TAC	Accountant Review	\$ 200	\$ -	\$ 200
TRC	Staffing-Transcription/AppleOne	\$ 2,200	\$ 1,732	\$ 468
SUBTOTAL		\$ 29,360	\$ 18,990	\$ 10,370
(200) Outreach (48%)				
ADV	Advertising	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ 2,000
ADV	General Neighborhood Outreach	\$ 6,500	\$ 5,258	\$ 1,242
ELE	Elections	\$ 6,000	\$ 4,114	\$ 1,886
MAT	Postage/Mailings (for Outreach)	\$ 1,000	\$ 16	\$ 984
MEE	Meeting Space Rental	\$ 1,500	\$ 450	\$ 1,050
MEE	Meeting Refreshments	\$ 3,750	\$ 1,513	\$ 2,237
NEW	Newsletters	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,707	\$ 2,294
OTH	Citrus Sunday	\$ 525	\$ 524	\$ 1
OTH	Holiday Parade Float	\$ 404	\$ 221	\$ 183
OTH	Open House	\$ 515	\$ 515	\$ 0
OTH	Spring Egg Hunt	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500
OTH	Street Fair & Parade	\$ 3,571	\$ 3,570	\$ 1
WEB	Website Expenses	\$ 2,875	\$ 2,281	\$ 594
SUBTOTAL		\$ 34,140	\$ 21,168	\$ 12,972
(300) Community Improvements (7%)				
EMR	Emergency Preparedness	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000
GRA	Graffiti Removal	\$ 250	\$ 103	\$ 147
MAY	Mayor's Day of Service	\$ 250	\$ -	\$ 250
MED	Median Beautification	\$ 750	\$ -	\$ 750
OTH	General Community Projects	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ 2,000
OTH	Pocket Park - N/W Woodley @ Rinaldi	\$ 400	\$ -	\$ 400
REC	Local Rec & Parks	\$ 350	\$ -	\$ 350
SUBTOTAL		\$ 5,000	\$ 103	\$ 4,897
(400) Neighborhood Purpose Grants (4%)				
GRT	Other Neighborhood Purpose Grants	\$ 2,500	\$ -	\$ 2,500
SUBTOTAL		\$ 2,500	\$ -	\$ 2,500
TOTAL		\$ 71,000	\$ 40,261	\$ 30,739
2010 BUDGET		\$ 45,000	\$ 30,739	43.3%
2009 ROLLOVER		\$ 90,650		REMAINING
2010 AVAILABLE FUNDS		\$ 135,650	\$ 64,650	← Remaining for 2011

FUNDING/EXPENDITURES BY FISCAL QUARTER

	CY - 2006				CY - 2007			
	1/1 - 3/31/2006	4/1 - 6/30/2006	7/1 - 9/31/2006	10/1 - 12/31/2006	1/1 - 3/31/2007	4/1 - 6/30/07	7/1 - 9/30/07	10/1 - 12/31/07
	FY - 2006		FY - 2007		FY - 2007		FY - 2008	
3Q - FY06	4Q - FY06	1Q - FY07	2Q - FY07	3Q - FY07	4Q - FY07	1Q - FY08	2Q - FY08	
Periodic DONE funding	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,000.00	\$ -
DONE funding to date	\$ 137,500.00	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 250,000.00
Periodic expenditure (net)		\$ 4,182.42	\$ 4,486.74	\$ 8,152.95	\$ 6,876.99	\$ 7,522.50	\$ 9,121.11	\$ 6,224.63
Expenditures to date	\$ 82,296.43	\$ 86,478.85	\$ 90,965.59	\$ 99,118.54	\$ 105,985.53	\$ 113,518.03	\$ 122,639.14	\$ 128,863.77
Remaining available funds	\$ 55,203.57	\$ 63,521.15	\$ 109,034.41	\$ 100,881.46	\$ 94,004.47	\$ 86,481.97	\$ 127,360.86	\$ 121,136.23

	CY - 2008				CY - 2009			
	1/1 - 3/31/08	4/1 - 6/30/08	7/1 - 9/30/08	10/1 - 12/31/08	1/1 - 3/31/09	4/1 - 6/30/09	7/1 - 9/30/09	10/1 - 12/31/09
	FY - 2008		FY - 2009		FY - 2009		FY - 2010	
3Q - FY08	4Q - FY08	1Q - FY09	2Q - FY09	3Q - FY09	4Q - FY09	1Q - FY10	2Q - FY10	
Periodic DONE funding	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 45,000.00	\$ -
DONE funding to date	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 345,000.00	\$ 345,000.00
Periodic expenditure (net)	\$ 9,489.06	\$ 19,091.25	\$ 3,369.16	\$ 13,878.06	\$ 24,710.78	\$ 10,521.85	\$ 10,684.52	\$ 14,392.63
Expenditures to date	\$ 138,352.83	\$ 157,444.08	\$ 160,813.24	\$ 174,691.30	\$ 199,402.08	\$ 209,923.93	\$ 220,608.45	\$ 235,001.08
Remaining available funds	\$ 111,647.17	\$ 92,555.92	\$ 139,186.76	\$ 125,308.70	\$ 100,597.92	\$ 90,076.07	\$ 124,391.55	\$ 109,998.92

FUNDING & ROLLOVER BY FISCAL YEAR

Fiscal Quarter	Quarter End Total Remaining	Allocation by Funding Year							
		FY - 2004	FY - 2005	FY - 2006	FY - 2007	FY - 2008	FY - 2009	FY - 2010	
4Q FY-06	\$ 63,521.15	\$ -	\$ 13,521.16	\$ 50,000.00	--	--	--	--	--
1Q FY-07	\$ 109,034.41	\$ -	\$ 9,034.42	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	--	--	--	--
2Q FY-07	\$ 100,881.46	\$ -	\$ 881.47	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	--	--	--	--
3Q FY-07	\$ 94,004.47	\$ -	\$ 0.00	\$ 44,004.48	\$ 50,000.00	--	--	--	--
4Q FY-07	\$ 86,481.97	\$ -	\$ 0.00	\$ 36,481.98	\$ 50,000.00	--	--	--	--
1Q FY-08	\$ 122,639.14	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 27,360.87	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	--	--	--
2Q FY-08	\$ 121,136.23	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 21,136.24	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	--	--	--
3Q FY-08	\$ 111,647.17	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,647.18	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	--	--	--
4Q FY-08	\$ 92,555.92	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0.00	\$ 42,555.93	\$ 50,000.00	--	--	--
1Q FY-09	\$ 160,813.24	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 39,186.77	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	--
2Q FY-09	\$ 125,308.70	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,308.71	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	--
3Q FY-09	\$ 100,597.92	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 597.93	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	--
4Q FY-09	\$ 90,076.07	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0.00	\$ 40,076.08	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	--
1Q FY-10	\$ 220,608.45	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 29,391.56	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 45,000.00
2Q FY-10	\$ 109,998.92	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,998.93	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 45,000.00
3Q FY-10	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,477.08	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 45,000.00
4Q FY-10	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$ 45,000.00

Hello City Council Members:

My name is Sue DeVandry and I am the Outreach Chairperson for the Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council.

I am writing this letter to you not only as a NC board member but also as a Stakeholder in the City of Los Angeles. I am asking you to reconsider the budget cuts to the Neighborhood Councils and DONE.

As GHNNC Outreach Chairperson for the past five years, I have personally spent over 40 hours each month on Outreach activities which include writing newsletters and articles for local publications, speaking directly to Stakeholders about Neighborhood Councils at the local Street Faires, Emergency Preparedness events, eggs hunts, parades, etc. I have spent hours attending meetings regarding Planning and Land Use, Public Safety, By Laws, and Elections.

WHY DO I DO THIS???? Because I LOVE my neighborhood. I am passionate about my neighborhood. I want my neighborhood to be the best it can be.

I think everyone on the Neighborhood Council Boards are as passionate about their neighborhoods as I am. I am not asking for money for my hours of service. I give these hours VOLUNTARILY. I am not on the LA City payroll. I do not get free health care, pensions, cars, perks, etc. I am a volunteer for the City of Los Angeles and I am proud of it.

Granada Hills North is a "bedroom" community full of residences and very few businesses. In fact, we have only two supermarkets and a few businesses surrounding them in a shopping center. That is it. We do not have a Town Hall, a Library, a Police Dept. or a Fire Dept. which have community meeting rooms where we can hold committee meetings. We are not allowed to hold meetings in our homes due to ADA Compliance Rules and we are not allowed to meet outside our GHNNC boundaries. With all those restrictions we were forced to lease a small office to hold our committee meetings at a cost of \$15,000 per year. I know personally that each newsletter that I send out costs \$5,000.00. If I send out four per year that is \$20,000. We have a website and we pay the webmaster \$175.00 per month to maintain our website. (I know there are other NCs that pay a lot more than that for their webmaster). We need money to exist as Neighborhood Councils. We are here to help you, the City Council. If you cut our budgets, we will not be effective in communicating with our Stakeholders. We will not be able to function and operate as a Neighborhood Council should under the City Charter.

I know you have a tough road ahead deciding the cuts needed to get the City of Los Angeles out of this budget problem. I am asking to please not cut our funds.

Thank you for reading this letter.

Sincerely,
Sue DeVandry
GHNNC Outreach Chairperson

My name is Aaron DeVandry. I have never written a letter before to a government official, but I feel strongly enough about a pressing issue to make this my first.

I am a webmaster with two dozen clients, seven of which are Neighborhood Councils. I have made numerous friends and learned so much about the great city of Los Angeles through my work for the Neighborhood Councils.

I think it is easy for people to dismiss NCs as unimportant and unnecessary to their respective neighborhoods. This is due to the fact that much of what NCs do goes unnoticed, something that I am sure you experience in your own position of leadership. Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council, for instance, has been successful in getting phone companies to decorate all cell towers in the area to resemble trees and foliage. Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council has stockpiled two giant storage bins full of emergency supplies for their stakeholders. These are examples of things that go unnoticed by most people. But they are vital to the future of Los Angeles.

As webmaster for these NCs, I get to see first hand exactly what they do for the city. I maintain their event calendars, I attend their board meetings, and most importantly -- I receive the emails that come in directly from their stakeholders. I know when graffiti is reported in Granada Hills, and I have the privilege of reading the thank you letters from business owners who see the graffiti removed that very day. I read letters from residents who are thrilled about the playground specially designed for handicapped children at Lake Balboa -- a playground funded in part by the Lake Balboa NC. Recently, the Mission Hills NC sponsored the San Fernando Valley Veterans Day Parade, and I received three dozen emails from parade-goers thanking Mission Hills NC for their assistance in putting on the parade.

As far as I know, there are ninety Neighborhood Councils at the moment. It is hard to comprehend the amount of volunteer service these NCs provide to the community. In addition, these NCs are developing dozens of leaders to help shape the future of Los Angeles. I understand the city is in financial turmoil, but that is not the fault of the Neighborhood Councils. To cut funding or even reduce funding for these volunteer organizations is wrong.

Sincerely,

Aaron DeVandry
Webmaster
Arleta Neighborhood Council
Bel Air Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council
Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council
Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council
Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council
Mission Hills Neighborhood Council
Panorama City Neighborhood Council

I'm writing to enlist your help in saving the Neighborhood Council System.

Many NCs, including our own, have carefully managed their budgets over the years, skillfully allocating and planning use of rollover funds. Indeed, many NC projects could not have happened, and will not happen, without combining rollover funds with current-year budgets. We'll do our part to help balance the City budget by suggesting a one-time, off-the-top cut of 10% of rollover funds, but let's be fair in spreading the pain and not break the bank.

Eliminating Purchase Cards for NCs while on the surface looks like a grand idea, will make it extremely difficult for NCs to fulfill their mandate in many areas, including outreach. We try hard to work with small businesses in our respective areas, and especially in today's economy, many of these same businesses benefit from quick payment of fees and charges. Do not punish all NCs for the transgressions of a few.

I request that Neighborhood Council members be included in all related meetings and reports, and to have an equal footing to bring forth ideas and comment on recommendations concerning allowable expenditures for NCs. We're out there in our communities daily and have first-hand knowledge of what is required and necessary to fulfill our mandate.

Reducing our annual funding by 50%, to approximately \$22,000, will be a death knell. A 10% cut on top of the 10% already in effect would be more reasonable. Even one outreach effort, one of our primary functions, such as a large mailing to alert stakeholders to an important situation, easily costs \$5,000. NC election outreach comes to mind. Website design (a major outreach effort), maintenance, and hosting fees add to our annual expenses. Include the cost of office space to comply with ADA as a meeting place for regular board, committee, and public purpose meetings, and the budget's blown before the fiscal year starts.

And if Los Angeles really does need our help with the 2010 Census (as a recent notification to NCs stated), how can we help without sufficient funding?

Remember, NCs are an asset to the city, not a liability. Let us help.

Bill Hopkins
whopkins@ghnnc.org
Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council
District 3 Representative
Public Safety Committee
PLUM Committee
Outreach Committee

Dear Councilperson,

We NCs recently received an email from the Mayor's office about the Census that included the following:

“The Mayor's Office of Census 2010 is currently calling on all of our community partners to join our planning efforts for March 2010 to GET-OUT-THE-COUNT (GOTC) in the SF Valley. We will be dedicating a month of service to the Census, and we can't do it without you.”
(Emphasis added)

As you know, if we undercount our population, our city could stand to lose millions of dollars in the coming years. Cutting NCs' funding would make it that more difficult for NCs to do anything meaningful, including helping the city with the Census. If the City really can't “do it without us,” it would behoove you NOT to cut NCs' funding!!!

This is just one example how cutting NCs will hurt you and the City. The relatively small amount of savings resulting from cuts to NC funding will come back and bite you in future years.

PLEASE DON'T CUT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS' FUNDING!!!!!!

THANK YOU!

Leon Marzillier

President, Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council

Councilmembers Krekorian, Hahn and Zine:

I have nothing more to add to the presentation you will hear today. Neighborhood Council members and stakeholders are part of the City and want to help you. We have valuable talent within the City family and it should be utilized to help you with the enormous budget crisis you are tasked with managing. I hope you believe in our value to you and allow us to help you recoup the millions of dollars of uncollected debt that is owed to the City. We are bringing money-saving ideas to you to take back to City Council.

I think you would be impressed with the amount of time, effort, and discussion that has been put into these suggestions that were written with a huge group of constituents from San Pedro to the Valley. As two of our most ardent supporters, I think that former Councilman Joel Wachs and Mayor Jim Hahn would be proud of the teamwork I've witnessed the past month. This is what I imagined when I voted for the Charter in 1999 because of the idea of neighborhood councils, before I knew what they could become.

Because I've been involved for so many years, I know the incredible amount of money volunteers spend just on gas and copying alone. The vast majority of us are responsible and have budgeted our money wisely and where we believe our communities need it. Without our rollover money, even our elections are difficult and some of our elections are next week. Please consider releasing our rollover funds and please consider the \$5000 cut that we graciously took last year as proof of our desire to work with you.

I disagree with those who would call DONE inefficient and ineffective. I believe that DONE has done a phenomenal job over the years considering their job description changes and they must update their skill sets every two years or so. I think that merging DONE with the City Clerk's office is a terrible idea. I would rather see the Neighborhood Councils take back the elections. There is another million we can save you there and do it more efficiently. It's imperative that we have project coordinators to act as liaisons and advise us. Therefore the DONE Hybrid that is being presented to you has many valid points. It's an excellent starting point and I look forward to hearing your thoughts on our ideas regarding the reorganization and hope that you too, will continue this discussion throughout the month.

Regards,

Kim Thompson

Co-Founder, Former Chair, and Current Stakeholder

Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council



Sue DeVandry <sdevandry@gmail.com>

LA's Budget Crisis

Sue DeVandry <sdevandry@ghnnc.org>

Sun, Jan 31, 2010 at 11:30 PM

To: Councilmember.Smith@lacity.org, Councilmember.Parks@lacity.org, Councilmember.Huizar@lacity.org, Councilman.Rosendahl@lacity.org

Honorable City Council Members - Budget and Finance Committee:

Neighborhood Councils are a vital link between City Hall and all of the residents and businesses of the City of Los Angeles. At this time of financial crisis for the City, the solutions require a partnership between the elected officials at City Hall and the elected representatives of our 90 neighborhood councils.

I am deeply concerned about an impending "breakdown" of the neighborhood councils' funding and of DONE. I am further concerned about the San Fernando Valley and particularly the North Valley, as we are a group of stakeholders that are many times left out of City needs discussions. We are the farthest from City Hall and many times the forgotten child of the City of LA, Our neighborhood council (GHNNC) is our link to the City as a whole, and very important to us.

The City Charter mandates preserving core funding both of DONE and the neighborhood councils. We support and demand budget, collections, and NC elections reform, -- and to finding the appropriate funding for NCs required by the Charter. We recognize the need for reductions in many city departments and services, including some cuts in DONE's budget and staffing. However, we believe that maintenance of funding for NCs is both reasonable and necessary to fulfill the charter-mandated requirements of the City and of neighborhood councils. We support reform of the Neighborhood Council funding system, but proposals to slash funding are not the solutions to problems outlined in the audit of DONE recently completed by the City Controller.

"The City cannot and must not violate its own Charter by denying the appropriate funding specifically required by the Charter."

Dismantling of City government is NOT in the best interests of the City. No matter how desperate things get, doing away with one of the most effective programs is NOT the way to go!

In brief, the city cannot and must not violate its own charter by denying the appropriate funding specifically required by the charter. We look forward to the support of all our elected officials in doing what's right and in moving forward together through these challenging times.

SAVE DONE AND NC'S and their Funding. YOU AND WE NEED THEM!

**Sue DeVandry
17530 Mayerling St.
Granada Hills, CA
Member- GHNNC Board - Outreach Chairperson**



Sue DeVandry <sdevandry@gmail.com>

Hello Councilman Zine

Aaron DeVandry <aaron.devandry@gmail.com>

Sun, Feb 14, 2010 at 1:34 AM

To: Dennis.Zine@lacity.org

My name is Aaron DeVandry. You probably don't know me, but I have met you before several times. I was in your son Chris's class throughout all of his years at St. Euphrasia.

However, that was in the past. I'm here to talk about the current budget situation in Los Angeles.

I am working on building a web design career of my own, one that I started three years ago. I have ten total clients, seven of which are Neighborhood Councils. I have worked incredibly hard on their websites the past three years, from sending out timely emails to hundreds of stakeholders - yes, even for events sponsored by you and your office - to answering questions from concerned stakeholders, to providing tech support to Neighborhood Council members when they need it, creating artwork for newsletters for the NCs, and keeping stakeholders informed about their neighborhood and city with constantly updated websites. This is my full time job.

I don't get paid much for it either. Because I love the Neighborhood Council system and I fully support their efforts, I give them each an incredible break. Of all of my NC clients, the one that pays me the most pays \$150 per month, flat rate. The other NCs pay me less.

The reason why I am telling you this today is because I have read comments and reports from people who think the NCs are spending their money foolishly. I could understand if I was being paid \$20,000 per year by each NC to be their webmaster. But I am being paid more like \$1500 per year from each of them.

The past two weeks I have heard from each of my NC clients telling me that even at that low rate, if their funding is cut, they will not be able to retain my services any further.

Neighborhood Councils, organizations that are designed to keep their local communities informed about the city they live in, and to protect their stakeholders in emergencies, will not be able to afford a webmaster, even one who works for as little pay as myself.

I have seen the incredible work that these NCs do. Nearly all of it goes unnoticed by the public. It seems the City Council gets credit for what gets done in the City, while the NCs should be getting credit for what doesn't get done - such as buildings being constructed that would violate zoning laws. No one ever hears about stuff like that.

I am asking to consider this when it comes time to vote for the future funding of the Neighborhood Councils. The funding for these NCs is vital to their existence. Without funding, they can't do their job.

Thank you so much for your tireless service to our amazing city. I wish you all the best.

Aaron DeVandry

Hello Councilmember. My name is Aaron DeVandry. I am a webmaster in the City of Los Angeles, and I rarely write letters like this.

First of all, I am extremely appreciative of all you do for our city. You work incredibly hard at your job, and I have the utmost respect for you and your position. As a result, this letter is designed to uplift and encourage you as you make some important decisions this week. I am not a Neighborhood Council member, although I often attend NC meetings, and I am keenly aware of the volunteer work they provide.

I am working on building a web design career of my own, one that I started three years ago. I have ten total clients, seven of which are Neighborhood Councils. I have worked incredibly hard on their websites the past three years, from sending out timely emails to hundreds of stakeholders - yes, even for events sponsored by you and your office - to answering questions from concerned stakeholders, to providing tech support to Neighborhood Council members when they need it, creating artwork for newsletters for the NCs, and keeping stakeholders informed about their neighborhood and city with constantly updated websites. This is my full time job.

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I am asking you to consider this when it comes time to vote for the future funding of the Neighborhood Councils. The funding for these NCs is vital to their existence. Without funding, they can't do their job.

I understand that you need to make cuts in the City Budget, I am thankful for that, and my children will one day be thankful for it to. Hence, I have come up with an idea that may solve some dilemmas in regards to Neighborhood Councils and their funding:

- Keep the yearly funding for Neighborhood Councils the same, **with restrictions**. Let the NCs know that those funds are not to be spent on things such as cheerleading uniforms for the local high school (yes, one NC did give money for that purpose, which I disagree with). **NCs should be spending their funding on outreach and publicity, which is what the funds were originally designed for.** The schools and police department have their own funding. Neighborhood Councils should spend their money on their own council purposes, not on schools and other outside organizations.
- **Release the rollover funds back to those Neighborhood Councils who can show a plan and a need for them.** I know of one NC, for instance, that has saved up some funds for the sole purpose of paying for an office, since their area has no library, Fire Department, or other public meeting space. If an NC can show a need, and if that NC has shown integrity in their spending, it would be wrong to take the money they have been diligent in saving.
- **Demand that the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment enforces these changes, and educates the NCs on these changes.**

Thank you so much for your tireless service to our amazing city. I wish you all the best.

Aaron DeVandry

VOTE!

GRANADA HILLS NORTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

ELECTIONS

MARCH 2, 2010

Vote 2-8 p.m. Tuesday, March 2

Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council Office

11139 Woodley Ave., Granada Hills

(Corner of Woodley and San Fernando Mission)

You do not have to be registered to vote in a city, state or federal election to participate.
You can vote as a Stakeholder if you are at least 18, live, work, own property or declare a stake within the Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council boundaries and affirm the factual basis for it.

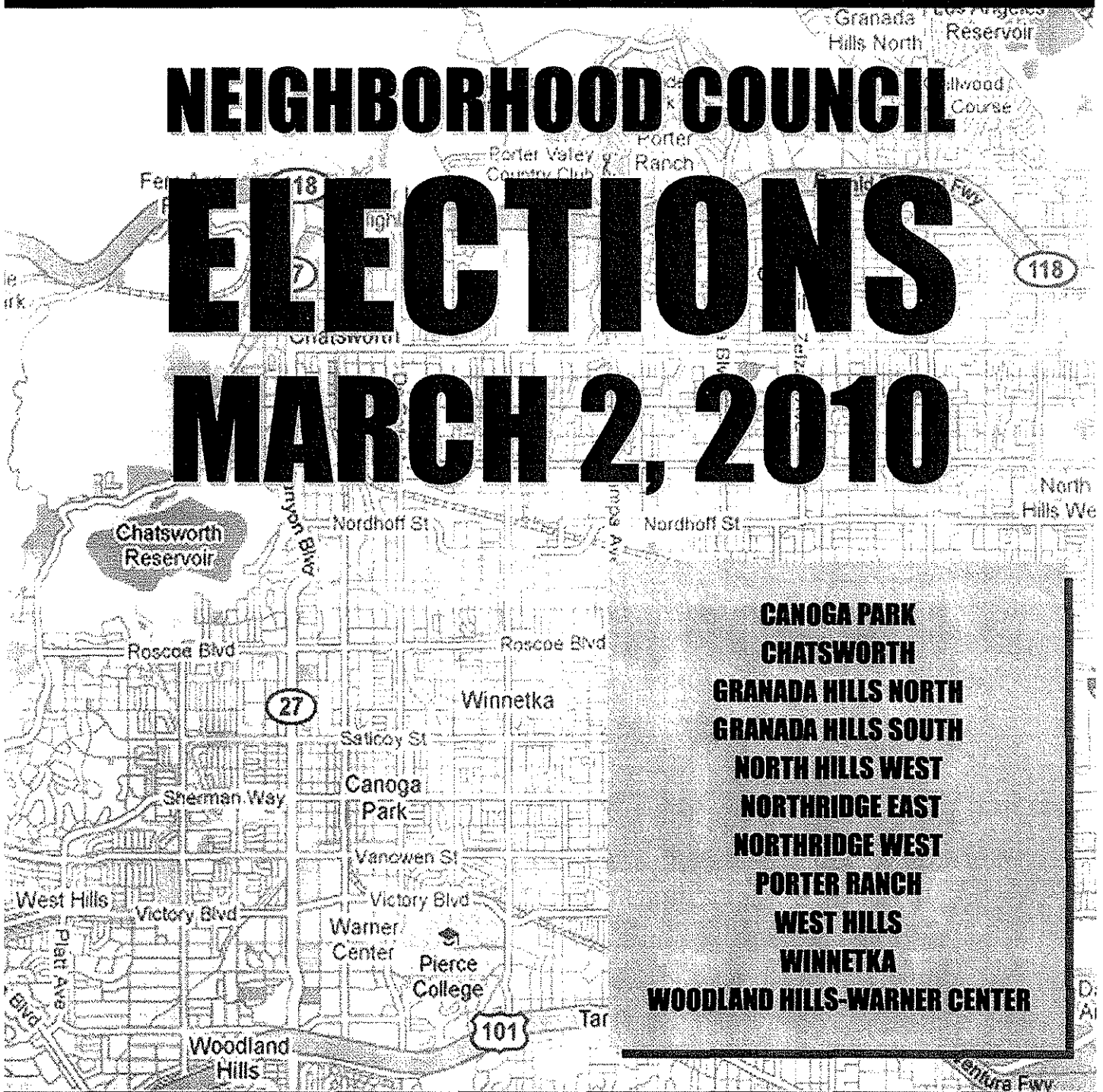
www.ghnnc.org

SAVE THE DATE!

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

ELECTIONS

MARCH 2, 2010



CANOGA PARK
CHATSWORTH
GRANADA HILLS NORTH
GRANADA HILLS SOUTH
NORTH HILLS WEST
NORTHRIDGE EAST
NORTHRIDGE WEST
PORTER RANCH
WEST HILLS
WINNETKA
WOODLAND HILLS-WARNER CENTER

CONTACT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council: www.ghnnc.org

For: Education and Neighborhoods Committee Councilmembers
Paul Krekorian, Dennis Zine and Janice Hahn

Cc: Recording Secretary, and Records Dept.

Re: Council File # 09-0600-S159, Public Comment

February 16, 2010

Dear Councilmember,

Date: 2/16/2010
Submitted in ESN Committee
Council File No: 09-0600-S159
Item No.: public comment
Deputy: _____

I'm David Levin, a Neighborhood Councils Services Provider. Councilmembers and fellow Angelenos, our budget crisis demands fast and bold solutions. The BudgetLA group's proposal to SAVE money, make government more effective and partner with the City is a solution with appropriate checks and balances, prudent budgeting, monitored funding and cost-effective elections. It's a win-win-WIN for you, Neighborhood Councils and the City!

Due to you and your colleagues' support, Neighborhood Councils have been created and work all over Los Angeles on issues that concern ALL of us. THOUSANDS of volunteer Neighborhood Council Member hours have been donated to public/private partnerships for law enforcement, disaster recovery, business, quality of life and other community involvement, and in helping to solve our budget crisis, outreaching, advising and serving your constituents and voters, and the City. These first-responders and others have proven they've got your back when there's a crisis. Now is no different. There are many other volunteers ready, willing, able and energized to help you.

Neighborhood Councils have created opportunities for involvement for THOUSANDS of people in their communities, City government and democracy. Neighborhood Councils HELP you and your fellow Angelenos create financial solutions. Let's re-engineer the system, not destroy it! Let prudent Neighborhood Councils keep most of their annual funding and rollover funds, and maintain an effective and independent Department of Neighborhood Empowerment to partner with Neighborhood Councils. Your continued support of the Neighborhood Council system will HELP you and your fellow Angelenos get through the current financial challenges and IMPROVE government services. THANK you for your support.

Thanks for all you do.

Sincerely,

David Levin
Neighborhood Councils Services Provider
ApprovedSvcs@hotmail.com

DONE HYBRID

Date:

2/18/2010

Submitted in

ERK

Council File No:

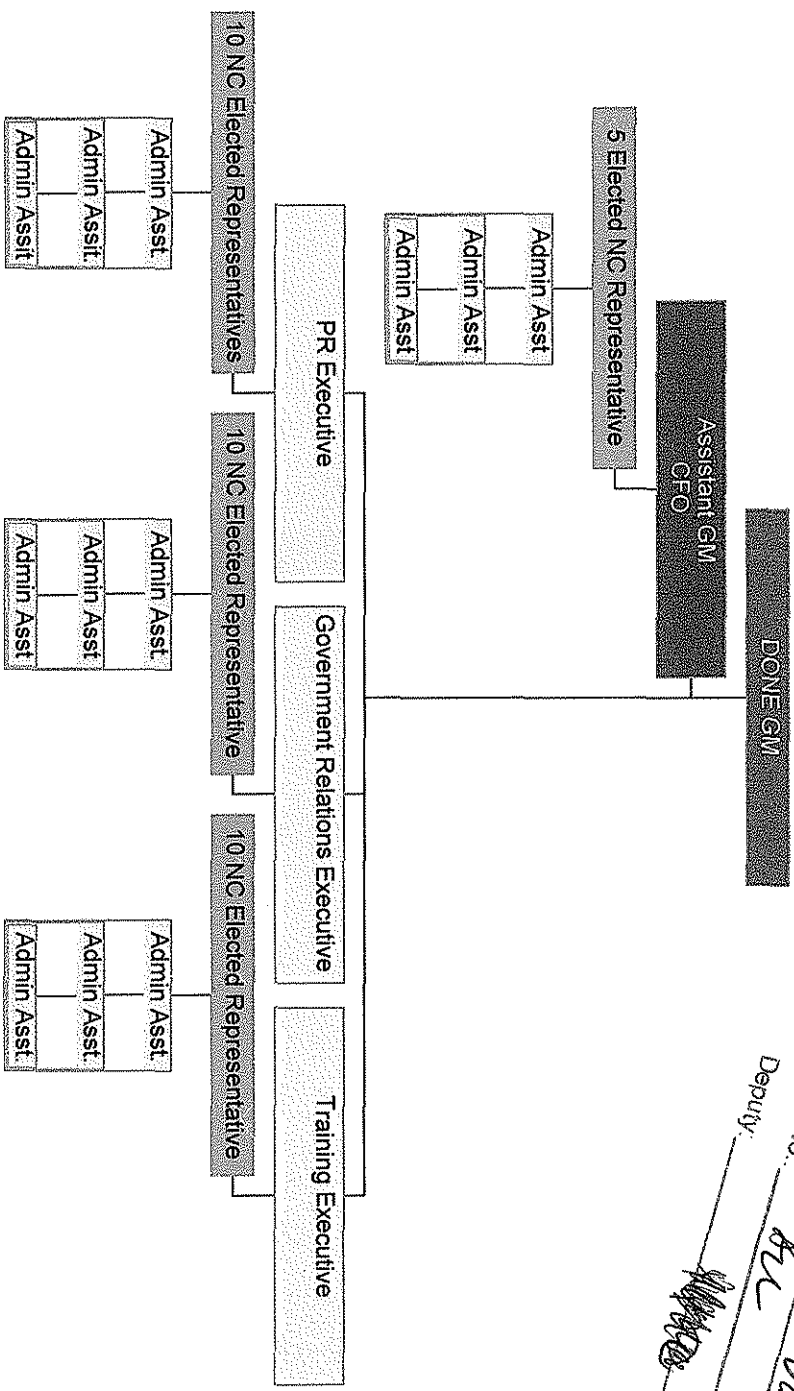
03-0600-51 Committee

Item No:

82

Deputy:

[Signature]



DEPARTMENTAL FOCUS

ADMINISTRATION	PR	GOVERNMENT RELATIONS	TRAINING
<i>Responsible for the efficient running of the DONE office</i>	<i>Charged with creating over all City wide NC campaign to encourage stakeholder participation in the NC system</i>	<i>Forging new relationships with city departments and furthering the NC's ability to communicate to City Hall</i>	<i>To create and maintain serviceable training programs to create strong boards and seamless transitions</i>
*Departmental Budgets	*PSA	*MOU's	*Roberts Rules
*Reports	*City Wide Paper	*City Service Partnerships	*Executive Committees
*Administrative support	*City Wide NC Events	*City Liaison	*Treasurer
*Funding Liason	*Advertising	*Certification	*Best Practices
	*Website	*NC City Hall Issues: City badges, Speaker time, NC files, CIS	*Mediation

Outsource Funding to Non-Profit

- Administer the Neighborhood Council Funding Program, ensuring that each neighborhood council's bills are paid in a timely manner, and that the city's financial processes and rules of accountability are followed.
- Create and track a petty cash system with tighter regulations and stronger oversight.
- Assist neighborhood councils find, acquire, and administer grants.
- Perform timely audits on Neighborhood Councils keeping detailed records for the City Controller.
- Saves money in city salaries and benefits while providing more efficient services.

2009-2010 Proposed Budget

- Salaries & Benefits **\$4,342,224**
- Overhead **\$1,033,783**
- Elections **\$2,200,000**
- Salaries & Benefits **\$1,328,153**
- Overhead **\$967,400**
- Elections **\$1,100,000**

Savings \$ 4,180,454
32%

	2009 - 2010	Proposed	Net Savings	
Salaries	\$ 2,595,820	\$ 480,000	\$ 2,115,820	5 Executives Salaries
Overtime	\$ 12,000	\$ 440,000	\$ 428,000	11 Administrative Salaries
Salaries	\$ 3,507,820	\$ 920,000	\$ 2,587,820	16 Total Positions
Pensions & Retirement	\$ 835,178	\$ 255,455	\$ 579,723	28%
Human Resources Benefits	\$ 499,226	\$ 152,598	\$ 346,628	17%
Benefits	\$ 1,334,404	\$ 408,153	\$ 926,251	44%
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 4,342,224	\$ 1,328,153	\$ 3,014,071	69%
Printing & Binding	\$ 87,120	\$ 122,000	\$ 34,880	
Contractual Services	\$ 158,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 108,000	
Transportation	\$ 11,200	\$ 8,000	\$ 3,200	
Non Profit Financial Outsource	\$ -	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000	
Office & Administrative	\$ 48,000	\$ 48,000	\$ -	
Operating & Supplies	\$ 2,400	\$ 2,400	\$ -	
Communications	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ -	
Water & Electricity	\$ 5,355	\$ 5,000	\$ 355	
Building Services	\$ 118,975	\$ 70,000	\$ 48,975	
All Other	\$ 596,733	\$ 350,000	\$ 246,733	
Capital Finance & Wastewater	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Liability Claims	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Total Office Expenses	\$ 1,033,783	\$ 1,059,400	\$ (25,617)	-2%
Total Costs	\$ 5,376,007	\$ 2,387,553	\$ 2,988,454	
Costs Allocated to Other Budgets	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Total Direct Cost of Operation	\$ 5,376,007	\$ 2,387,553	\$ 2,988,454	56%
Elections	\$ 2,200,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,200,000	every other year
Total Operations	\$ 7,576,007	\$ 3,387,553	\$ 4,188,454	
NC Funding Program	\$ 4,005,000	\$ 4,005,000	\$ -	
Rollover	\$ 1,400,000	\$ 1,400,000	\$ -	
Total	\$ 12,981,007	\$ 8,792,553	\$ 4,188,454	32%
GM	1			
CFO/Asst GM	1			
PR Exec	1			
Government Liaison Exec	1			
Training Exec	1			
Administrative Asst.	11			
Total Positions	16			

CHARNOCK ROAD SCHOOL

11133 Charnock Road
Los Angeles, CA 90034
(310) 838-6110
(310) 838-2950 (FAX)

Ramon Cortines
Superintendent of Schools
Michelle King
Local District 3 Superintendent
Germaine England
Principal
Kimberly Reems
Assistant Principal, APEIS

February 9, 2010

Date: 2/10/2010
Submitted in EAH Committee BTN
Council File No: AN
Term No.: 06090 SMTAD
City: Palms

Dear City Councilmembers,

I am writing in support of the neighborhood council system and in opposition to proposed budget cuts. Our organization has received important support from the neighborhood council, which has allowed to better serve the local community.

Located in the Palms area of West Los Angeles, Charnock Elementary School serves a diverse population of over 400 students. The families we serve live in the high-density apartment complexes along Sepulveda Blvd, adjacent to the 405 freeway, and between Charnock Road and Venice Blvd. We are a title-one school, with 80% of our students receiving free or reduced price lunch, and over 60% of our students speak English as a second language. Charnock strives to provide a world-class education, complete with such "extras" as a state of the art library, a beautiful literacy garden, art classes, and afterschool enrichment programs, for the working-class and immigrant families in the Palms community.

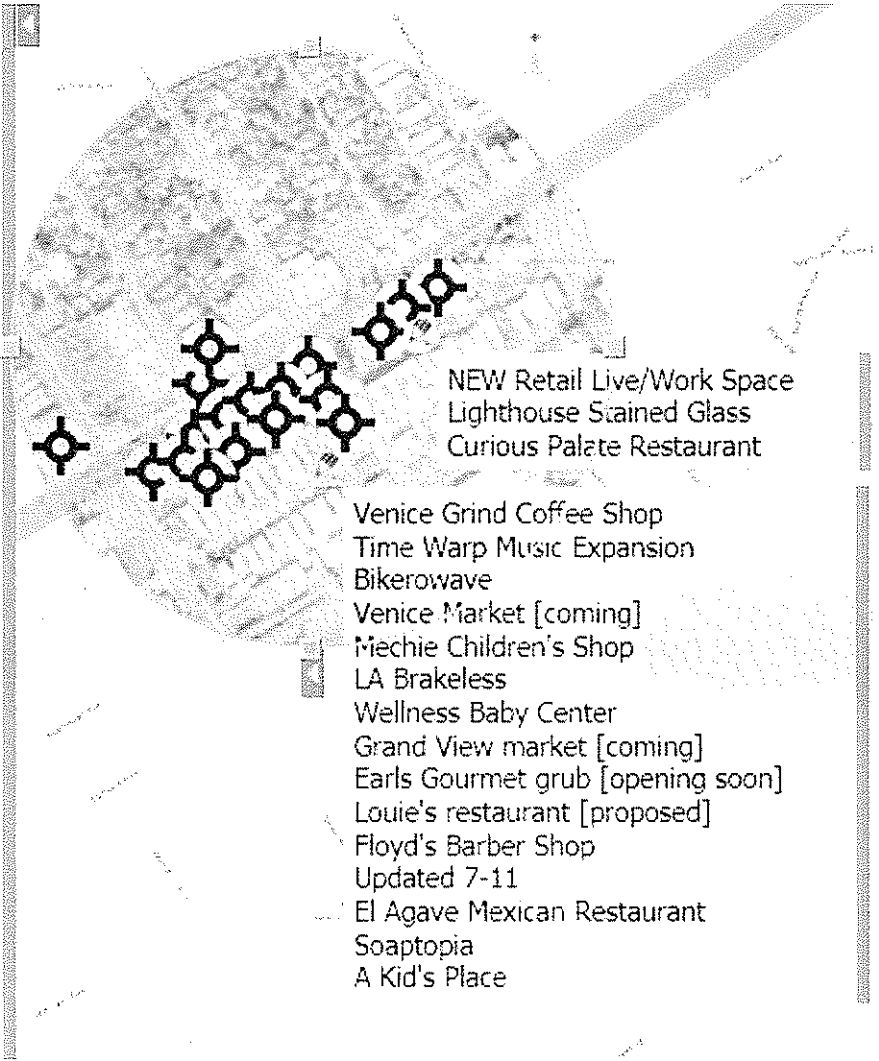
Unlike more affluent schools in the community, such as Mar Vista Elementary and Clover Avenue Elementary, Charnock does not yet have an active PTA or powerful parent booster club. Booster clubs, such as the Friends of Clover Ave School, are often made of professional, financially savvy parents, and are instrumental in raising funds to finance the "extras" not provided by the school district. The booster clubs also provide schools with the "seed money" necessary to win competitive foundation grants that require significant matching funds.

Although highly supportive of education, the majority of Charnock parents, similar to the parent populations of many urban schools, are recent immigrants and work in the service industry and trades. They unfortunately lack the knowledge, language skills and political and financial acumen necessary to organize, advocate, and fundraise on behalf of their children. As a result, these schools were unable to purchase "extras," or raise the necessary matching funds required to apply for competitive foundation grants.

During the past three years, the Palms NC has played a critical role in partnering with the school leadership at Charnock to provide the "seed money" to finance an ambitious

MAR VISTA COMMUNITY COUNCIL BUSINESS DISTRICT ACTIVITY TO DATE

Mar Vista Business District Activity: Since 2006, the Mar Vista Community Council has funded Streetscape Improvements, encouraged growth of our Farmer's Market, and promoted interest in our commercial corridor. This has driven a renaissance on Venice Bl between Centinela and Inglewood during the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression.



NEW Retail Live/Work Space
Lighthouse Stained Glass
Curious Palate Restaurant

- Venice Grind Coffee Shop
- Time Warp Music Expansion
- Bikerowave
- Venice Market [coming]
- Miechie Children's Shop
- LA Brakeless
- Wellness Baby Center
- Grand View market [coming]
- Earls Gourmet grub [opening soon]
- Louie's restaurant [proposed]
- Floyd's Barber Shop
- Updated 7-11
- El Agave Mexican Restaurant
- Soaptopia
- A Kid's Place

Date: 2/10/2010

Submitted in 057 Committee

Council File No: 1083

Item No.: 10

Deputy: _____

Helping SLO re: graffiti, etc

Neighborhood Beautification
Posse
February 16, 2010

Date: 2/16/2010
Submitted in 547 Committee
Council File No: 09-0600-2010
Item No.: 101

Dear Councilmember Krekorian,

Deputy: _____

Thank you for the opportunity to address you on what is really the question before you – are Neighborhood Councils an essential service to the City of Los Angeles. I say that they are. The Neighborhood Councils (NCs) are the eyes and ears of the community. Without the NCs at this point in the City’s journey, if there is any disaster, the loss of the NC’s experienced community members will lead to mayhem.

Today, many Neighborhood Council members are CERT Trained. Many communities, based on their abilities, have supplies in the event of a disaster.

I would like to remind you of the Metrolink train accident. Who were some the first responders? It was the Chatsworth Neighborhood Council. What did they do – they provided food and water, comfort, and organization in the time of an accident so overwhelming that Councilmember Alarcon told me that it was worse than the Northridge Earthquake. In fact, even though both Councilmember Alarcon and Councilmember Zine were both working to assist the injured at that accident, neither one knew the other was there until several days later.

The Station fire – The Sunland/ Tujunga Neighborhood Council was there to aide its community not only during the evacuations during the fire, but they now have to assist with the evacuations during our rain events which created flooding in those hillsides that were burned.

File number: 09-0600-S159

1) Should the CAO with appropriate stakeholders study the transfer of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment or Neighborhood Council (NC) funding program?

No – I believe that the CAO is already convinced that the NC system is not necessary to the City. The NCs are a legal part of the City system of government under the City Charter. They work with many departments such as City Planning and the LADWP to advise the agencies on various projects. Any action taken to remove the NC system will most likely lead to lawsuits and a further cost to the City.

As a relatively new NC Board Member, I have found DONE to be an important part of my training as an NC member. I therefore believe that this aspect of DONE should remain under their control. I also believe that NC members could be trained to assist DONE staff at training sessions.

The City Clerk’s office took over the NC elections for 2010. Because of the cuts to their budget, not only does the City have to pay to train the City Clerk’s staff to run these elections, but the NCs are now forced to pay for their own outreach out of the NC budgets. The NCs could have run their own elections with almost the same amount of money as they are paying for NC election outreach. The City Clerk should be removed from the NC election process.

NC elections could be handled with a skeleton crew of the City Clerk’s staff and NC volunteers.

09-0600-S159

2) Motion relative to the consideration of eliminating the Neighborhood Council “rollover” funds totaling \$1.61 million to the reserve fund.

Cut City Clerk's from elections

I oppose the sweep of "reserve" funds to the general fund because many of these funds have already been allocated and spent. For example at the West Hills Neighborhood Council, the LAPD was granted funds for the new Topanga Police Station for necessary equipment. The LAPD has not yet received that entire grant.

In February 2009, the West Hills Neighborhood Council voted to support the West Valley Food Pantry with a donation of \$3500.00. The West Valley Food Pantry has not yet received this funding due to the paperwork backlog at DONE.

At a time when our City is facing 14 – 16% unemployment, there is in my opinion no better way to spend the money than to help our food pantries. These pantries will serve those who are the unemployed, the underemployed, and those who are affected by fires, floods, and other natural disasters.

09-0600-S159

3) Motion relative to the consideration of eliminating the NC bank card system and converting to a demand warrant system.

The cost of a demand warrant may even exceed the cost of what it is paying for. It delays the payment of NC expenses. In a situation as I stated above, the President and Treasurer of an NC need a bank card system that can be utilized on an emergency basis without oversight. It costs the City more money each time the appropriate documentation is missing to create a demand warrant. That City employee must set aside time to communicate with the NC Treasurer, put the demand on the back burner, and may not get back to the demand because the paperwork has landed in limbo.

A system of transparency can be set up where all NC Treasurers have access to the same NC Treasurer program. A program can be set up where DONE, the City Controller, the NC Treasurer, and NC members can all see where each transaction has occurred in real time. It will allow – in programs such as Quicken and Money – NCs to reconcile their budgets at the end of each month. A laptop with the program installed could be allocated to each NC so that all NCs are using the same equipment and the same programs. This will also lead to the creation of end of year statements with little difficulty.

09-0600-S159

4) Motion relative to the consideration of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, City Attorney, and City Administrative Officer evaluating and redefining allowable expenditure categories for Neighborhood Council funds.

I oppose the imposition of controls on the Neighborhood Councils of allowable expenditures with the exception of the same things that I believe should be imposed on all City employees – no expensive meals for Board members and no travel outside of the Los Angeles area on the tax payers dime.

I believe that the City Council should look at themselves and their own discretionary funds. I think that they should be thinking – if this was my own budget – what would I have to cut just to get by?

I believe that most people would say – we can no longer afford lavish parties. We should not hold meetings that require the expenditure of City money to by food for their guests.

Bank card available
replenished w/ transparency

Voter's meet must be removed

We can no longer afford to subsidize the police services for block parties and other events. If someone can afford to have a block party or studio event, they must fund the cost of police services.

When people do not have money enough to live on, they don't travel. The City employees should not be allowed to travel out of Los Angeles for conferences and other junkets. The City Council and the Mayor should realize that if it is necessary to cut one employee, then they should be here to discuss the seriousness of this situation – not going to Global Warming Conferences in Copenhagen.

A year ago, our City was discussing "Measure B". We were discussing our energy needs and the plans to implement a certain percentage of alternative energy by 2010. The City is in such gridlock that no one is even thinking about "Measure B", and the only solar project to come forward to the Council in recent months – the 55 MW First Solar project - was killed.

If the City Council does not want the NCs to tell them how to spend their discretionary funds, then the City Council should treat the NCs like they are intelligent adults who can determine the most important needs for their communities. NCs are not all the same – the needs of one are not the same needs of another. I believe that the NCs would agree that money set aside for emergencies, for emergency equipment, for the expenses of paid NC staff, websites, phone lines and email capabilities, could be agreed upon as essential needs for each NC.

In times of hardship, people spend more time enjoying their own local area. Therefore the libraries and the parks, our sporting venues, are essential services that we must keep open. As Councilmember Hahn said – for those who are inclined, we could create a GOLD library card for those who utilize the library system regularly and who can afford to donate to keep those services available.

We could sell license plates or license plate holders with our City Parks as the beneficiaries of the money collected for these luxuries. Plates could be for the ZOO, the Griffith Observatory, the Museum of Science and Industry, the Natural History Museum, the Southwest Museum, and other city landmarks and parks.

Similar plates or license plate holders could be sold to support our sporting complexes.

Instead of creating new taxes, find incentives, gift items like gift cards that can be used to create additional income for City income generating venues like the ZOO and other City assets.

We should create incentives to bring people out – discounts on our bus and subways – to take the community members to events that they may not be able to ordinarily afford.

It is well known that the experiment in Chicago of the sale of assets including parking did not help them escape their budget problems. The long term income generated by parking lots exceeds what can be gained in the short term by leases. The fact that the City has not collected many of the taxes that are owed to them by the parking companies should automatically lead to the conclusion that these particular companies cannot be relied upon to help the City with a steady flow of income.

The State of Illinois is trying to sell the toll way system. Their voters are saying "No".

09-0600-S159

Motion relative to the consideration of the General Manager, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, issuing a memo to Neighborhood Councils regarding a proposed 50 percent reduction to the annual allocation for 2010 – 2011.

I oppose the reduction of any funds for NCs for the 2010 – 2011 year because many NCs must allocate their overhead, their costs of outreach, and other needs more than a year in advance. A reduction of 50 % would basically leave the NCs with operating expenses only – no reimbursement for agendas and minutes and other paperwork and websites necessary to comply with the Brown Act.

At VANC it was discussed and I support the departments within DONE that handle NC budgets to be transferred to the oversight of the City Controller. I believe that if the City Controller is unable to handle the oversight of the NC Budgets, she should hire an outside firm that is capable of doing so in a cost effective manner. These services must be performed by people who have this expertise – not just volunteers from the NCs or other City employees that have been transferred somewhere to fill a vacancy.

Thank you.

Chris Rowe

*West Hills Neighborhood Council

* speaking for self – for identification purposes only