



**Mar Vista
Community Council**

P.O. Box 66871
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**Board of Directors
2011-2012**

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Certified Neighborhood Council
August 13, 2002

August 7, 2012

Via Email to:

EDUCATION AND NEIGHBORHOODS COMMITTEE

The Honorable Councilmember Bernard Parks

The Honorable Councilmember Jan Perry

The Honorable Councilmember Dennis Zine

Richard Williams, Legislative Assistant, richard.williams@lacity.org

Re: City issues and NCs

Whereas Council Member Parks has made a motion, seconded by Council Member Perry, requiring Neighborhood Councils to report to the Education And Neighborhoods Committee on how NC's perform with regard to city issues, Be it resolved that the Mar Vista Community Council, in its regular meeting of July 10, 2012, moves to approve the following response to the motion:

Neighborhood Councils, by charter and ordinance, are mandated to be the link between the City government and the citizens of Los Angeles.

The Mar Vista Community Council recognizes its responsibility in this matter.

In an effort to comply with the mandate, MVCC has inserted notices in its newsletter; created blast e-mails; organized events, town halls and other forms of outreach and has sent representatives to speak before the City Council and its committees.

MVCC works cooperatively with Councilmembers Rosendahl and Koretz on issues of importance to MVCC stakeholders.

HOWEVER, the City of Los Angeles has not, for the most part, established any kind of procedures that would facilitate Neighborhood Councils in fulfilling this duty.

THEREFORE, the Mar Vista Community Council requests that Council Member Parks submit a motion to the full City Council mandating the following:

All significant issues should be sent to the Neighborhood Councils at least 60 days prior to their first hearing so the NCs have adequate time to reach out to their stakeholders and take a position.

The City Council and all of its committees shall allow a five minute comment period to all speakers that are officially representing their Neighborhood Councils.

All Council District Offices shall meet regularly with the Neighborhood Councils and work with them to develop plans allowing for greater NC input in the decision making process.

The Education and Neighborhoods Committee shall investigate the funding of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment pertaining to its capacity to fulfill its mission. An additional staff position shall be funded with part of the job description being to track all impending legislation and department hearings and to notify the Neighborhood Council system in a timely manner.

Neighborhood Councils should be allowed to request a postponement of all upcoming legislation so that they may properly notify their stakeholders and have time to take a position.

Sincerely,

**Sharon Commins, Chair
Mar Vista Community Council**