

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council

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Date of NC Board Action: 11/13/2013

Type of NC Board Action: Against Proposal

Impact Information

Date: 11/17/2013

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 11-1017-S1

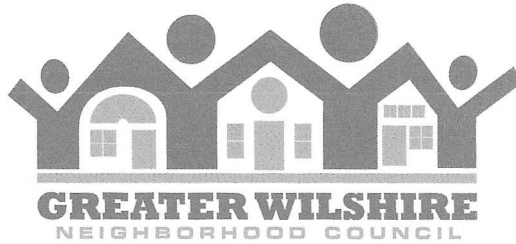
Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Brief Summary: GWNC generally supports many of the 8 recommendations before BONC, but strongly objects to additional required training beyond ethics and funding. GWNC strongly supports restoring NC ability to carryover unused funds into a following year. GWNC strongly supports the original NC committee recommendations that NCs can independently pursue and receive grants and other additional outside funding.

Additional Information:

Requiring all board members of all NCs to take additional classes is an unreasonable and unworkable burden on unpaid, volunteer community representatives who, unlike City employees, meet only a few days monthly and whose able performance of their local duties are not dependent upon competence in the proposed classes except in extraordinary circumstances that can be fully addressed on an as-needed basis.



November 14, 2013

NOTICE OF BOARD RESOLUTION

We, Owen Smith and Jeffrey Carpenter, declare that we are the President and Secretary respectively of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council and that at the Brown Act noticed General Meeting on November 13, 2013, in response to recommended motions before the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, the Board of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (GWNC) resolved, by a vote of **20 YES**, 0 NO and 0 ABSTENTIONS, as follows:

MOTIONS BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND GWNC RESPONSES TO RECOMMENDED MOTIONS

1) Elections

Regarding the recommendation that

“The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment is to be permanently placed in charge of administering elections.”

The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council strongly supports this recommendation, providing the Department the authority to partner and share election-related activities with the City Clerk and other City departments in whatever ways the Department may find useful and productive.

2) Training and Leadership Development

Regarding the recommendation that:

- a. **“Neighborhood Council board members be required to complete Ethics, Financial Policy, Sexual Harassment, and ADA Compliance training, and that the Department offer classes including, but not limited to leadership, City government basics, parliamentary procedures, land use, and candidate training.”**

*The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council opposes and strongly recommends against imposition of mandatory, time-consuming training and classwork requirements beyond those with clear, fundamental bearing upon the functioning of every Neighborhood Council. While **Ethics and Financial***

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Policy/Funding should remain as fundamental requirements, requiring all board members to take the additional classes listed is an unreasonable and unworkable burden on unpaid, volunteer community representatives who, unlike City employees, meet only a few days monthly and whose able performance of their local duties are not dependent upon competence in the proposed classes except in extraordinary circumstances that can be fully addressed on an as-needed basis.

The offering of additional, wholly optional training offerings for capacity and expertise building by DONE and other pertinent departments is supported and encouraged.

- b. **“There be a citywide standard period of time from date of seating, not to exceed 90 days, that a Board member will have to pass the required training, and that this be enforced by the Neighborhood Council bylaws, which shall prohibit voting on any matter coming before the Neighborhood Council board. Inability of any board member(s) to vote for failure to timely complete training will not affect quorum.”**

The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council would support the imposition of a voting ban on all matters only with regard to a board member's inability to complete Ethics training.

With regard to an inability of a board member to complete Financial Policy/Funding training, the GWNC would support banning that board member only from voting on financial matters.

The GWNC would otherwise not support limits on a board member's voting privilege due to an inability to complete training in other topic areas.

3) Early Notification System

Recommendation:

“An Early Notification System be established by each city department, commission, and the City Council, and its committees to provide Neighborhood Councils with a minimum of 60 days notice of any proposed action.

For any proposed ballot measure or ordinance Neighborhood Councils must receive at least 60 days notice.”

The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council strongly supports the minimum of 60 days notice for any proposed action.

With regard to proposed ballot measures, ordinances and other major actions, the GWNC recommends that a longer minimum time be established of at least 90 days.

4) Initiation of Council Files

Recommendation:

“Neighborhood Councils should have the right to open Council files. No Neighborhood Council board member shall be required to file a financial disclosure form for a Neighborhood Council to open a Council file. There shall be no limit on the number of Council files that a Neighborhood Council may open each year.”

The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council affirms the recommendation that Neighborhood Councils be given the right and powers to open Council Files and that no Neighborhood Council board member shall be required to file a financial disclosure form for a Neighborhood Council to open a Council File.

Recognizing the potential burden on the City Clerk and other City resources, the GWNC recommends, at least for an initial period, a limit of three, or some other reasonable number, Council Files that each Neighborhood Council could open within a given calendar year.

5) Review of Delivery of City Services

Recommendation:

“The Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, with the aid and advice of citywide Neighborhood Councils, will adopt policies establishing best practices for monitoring the delivery of City services.”

The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council supports this recommendation.

6) Community Impact Statements

Recommendation:

“City agendas should once again include the full text of the brief Community Impact Statement (CIS) from each NC submitting one, with links to any background materials that were provided as support. Any time a CIS is, for whatever reason removed from a subsequent agenda, the City Clerk will send a notice to the Neighborhood Council.”

The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council strongly supports this recommendation.

7) Neighborhood Councils Presenting at Public Meetings

Recommendation:

“Official Neighborhood Council or Neighborhood Council Alliance representatives addressing the City Council, its committees, City commissions, and boards be granted up to 5 minutes of presentation time separate from general public comment, to present the official view of the Neighborhood Council Board or Alliance. Neighborhood Councils should receive priority as city entities and be called for comment before general public comment.”

The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council supports this recommendation.

8) Funding and Grants

Recommendation:

- a. **“Unexpended Neighborhood Council funds should be kept in the Neighborhood Council system, received and administered by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment.”**

The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council strongly supports the recommendation that unexpended Neighborhood Council funds should be retained in the Neighborhood Council system, but only if the unexpended funds of individual Neighborhood Councils remain with the individual Neighborhood Councils, restoring their ability to carry over their unexpended funds into their successive year budgets.

- b. **“Neighborhood Councils should be allowed to provide funds to City departments provided that the equipment benefits stakeholders, that in addition to the initial requestor there is documentation of the need from a higher level of the department, and that the transfer is accompanied by an MOU, agreement, or a form similar to a neighborhood purposes grant.”**

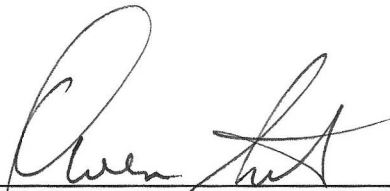
The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council, while not directly opposing this recommendation, expresses very strong concerns that very limited Neighborhood Council funds are being called upon to fund needs that are clearly and most properly the responsibility of the City’s budget.

- c. **“Overriding principle should be that in the absence of conflicts of interests, the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment should be empowered to seek and receive funds appropriate to their mission and support their operations.”**

The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council supports the original committee recommendation that individual Neighborhood Councils should be empowered to seek and receive funds appropriate to their mission.

As a City department, the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment is presumed to already have the ability to seek grants and outside resources, per City procedures.

The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council can support this recommendation insofar as it is understood that it is to support the empowerment of individual Neighborhood Councils to seek out and receive additional funds and resources.



Authorized Signature (Owen Smith)

11/14/13
Date



Authorized Signature (Jeffrey Carpenter)

Nov. 14, 2013
Date