

# CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

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October 9, 2013

CF No. 11-1018

The Honorable Bernard C. Parks  
Councilmember, Eighth District  
c/o Office of the City Clerk  
200 North Spring Street  
Room 395, City Hall  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Honorable Councilmember Parks:

On August 16, 2011, City Council adopted a motion, (Council File (CF) 11-1018) instructing the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (Department) to report back to City Council in ninety (90) days with a plan for the implementation of a system of regional complaint panels composed of board members of various Neighborhood Councils. In response, on November 22, 2011, the Department presented the City Council with a report of recommendations for a Neighborhood Council Grievance System, (CF 11-1018). In December 2012, the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (Commission), being responsible for policy setting and oversight for the Department, decided to conduct a thorough review of the Plan for a Citywide System of Neighborhood Councils (Plan), and among other issues decided to focus on the Department's recommendations for a Neighborhood Council Grievance System.

In its efforts to conduct a thorough review of the Plan, the Commission created three (3) standing committees comprised of Neighborhood Council leaders representing forty (40) of the City's ninety-five (95) Neighborhood Councils, and created groupings for the following regions: 1) North/South Valley, 2) Central/East/Northeast, and 3) Harbor/South/West. In June 2013, after much discussion and consensus building, the committees jointly issued a grievance policy recommendation to the Commission.

Upon receiving the recommendation, the Commission took action to solicit additional input from Neighborhood Council board members and stakeholders. Coordinating with the Commission, the Department conducted a public survey over a seven (7) week period. A total of three hundred fifty-four (354) responses were collected from the public on the grievance issue with most originating from board members and stakeholders, identifying from sixty-five (65) Neighborhood Councils. Seventy-one and eight tenths percent (71.8%) (i.e., 254 out of 354) indicated that "yes" they support the recommendation proposed by the Plan review committees, while twenty-eight and two

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tenths percent (28.2%) (i.e., 100 out of 354) indicated that “no” they do not support the recommendation.

Based on the recommendation crafted by the Neighborhood Council Plan review committees and reaffirmed by the public survey results, the Commission on October 1, 2013, passed the following, which is now presented to you for your consideration:

The Board of Neighborhood Commissioners “recommends that sections of the City’s Administrative Code which touch upon Neighborhood Council grievances and complaints procedures be amended as follows:

The grievance procedure and the complaint process be merged into one system; that the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (Department) establish a single set of procedures with a regional grievance panel empowered to render a final decision on a grievance without further right of administrative appeal, which shall be based on the grievance policy recommendations already made by the Department as reflected in its report dated November 22, 2011, and contained in Council File Number 11-1018.”

I am available to answer any questions you may have. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Leonard Shaffer, Vice President/Acting President  
Board of Neighborhood Commissioners

- c: Council President Herb J. Wesson, CD 10
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