



**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

December 14, 2011

VIA EMAIL

To: The Honorable Bill Rosendahl, Councilmember CD 11
The Honorable Paul Koretz, Councilmember CD 5

Re: Council File 11-1912:

WHEREAS, the L.A. City Council has failed to allocate funds to enable the City Clerk to conduct the next regularly scheduled spring 2012 Neighborhood Council elections, resulting in a delay of those elections until at least the spring of 2014;

WHEREAS, while the MVCC appreciates the difficult economic conditions prevailing in the City, we find it inconsistent with traditional notions of neighborhood empowerment and democratic ideals that Neighborhood Council elections be postponed until 2014, requiring incumbents to serve a term twice as long as the one to which they were elected and shutting out qualified candidates who wish to come forward and serve;

WHEREAS, the MVCC finds it equally unacceptable the proposal being considered in some quarters to divest the City Clerk from responsibility for Neighborhood Council elections in favor of some sort of "selection" or "town hall" process to circumvent the relevant ordinance requiring an actual election run by the City Clerk;

and WHEREAS, as noted in our prior motion on the subject, the entire Neighborhood Council system is enhanced by having its elections run by the same official entity that runs all other City elections and proposals to allow individual councils to choose among various other options, such as "electronic," "town-hall" and/or "incumbent-run" election systems may result in elections marred by the limitations of those procedures, including the loss of transparency, accuracy, and legitimacy, and will lead to a proliferation of disputes.

THEREFORE, the MVCC calls upon CD-11 Councilman Rosendahl and CD-5 Councilman Koretz to introduce a motion to allocate funds sufficient to enable the City Clerk to conduct Neighborhood Council elections no later than the Fall of 2012 or, in the alternative, the Spring of 2013. The MVCC further calls upon Councilman Rosendahl and Councilman Koretz to ensure that if the Council persists in its refusal to fund the City Clerk, that neither the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment nor any other City entity be permitted to impose a "one size fits all" approach to elections by requiring that every neighborhood council adopt the same election procedure in the absence of the City Clerk.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this matter.

Sharon Commins, Chair
Mar Vista Community Council

Cc: The Arts, Parks and Neighborhoods Committee
Paul Krekorian, Chair
Herb Wesson
Ed Reyes