

# CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

## BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS

VACANT  
PRESIDENT

LEONARD SHAFFER  
VICE PRESIDENT

LINDA LUCKS  
ARNETTA MACK  
KAREN MACK  
VICTOR MEDINA

JANET LINDO  
EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
TELEPHONE: (213) 978-1551



ERIC GARCETTI  
MAYOR

**EMPOWER LA**<sup>™</sup>  
Department of  
NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

20<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR, CITY HALL  
200 NORTH SPRING STREET  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

TELEPHONE: (213) 978-1551  
TOLL-FREE: 3-1-1  
FAX: (213) 978-1751  
E-MAIL: [EmpowerLA@lacity.org](mailto:EmpowerLA@lacity.org)

GRAYCE LIU  
GENERAL MANAGER

[www.EmpowerLA.org](http://www.EmpowerLA.org)

October 9, 2013

CF No. 12-1681

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

Honorable Councilmember Parks:

On October 23, 2012, Councilmember Huizar presented a motion to the City Council (CF 12-1681) instructing the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (Department), with input from the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (Commission), to report on the current policy, as well as potential policy changes, whereby Neighborhood Councils may petition the Commission for a subdivision or to otherwise adjust their boundaries, in order to change their size for the purposes of better representation.

Currently, there is no official boundary adjustment policy which would allow for subdivision. Under the current system, a Neighborhood Council could potentially decertify and begin a new certification process as two new Neighborhood Councils, but this process would be burdensome and has never been attempted by any existing Neighborhood Council.

The Commission, being responsible for policy setting and oversight for the Department, has worked closely with the Department and Neighborhood Councils over the last ten (10) months to craft a policy recommendation for subdivision. This has been part of a larger effort that began in December 2012, when the Commission created three (3) standing regional committees to conduct a thorough review of the Plan for a Citywide System of Neighborhood Councils (Plan). These Plan review committees were comprised of Neighborhood Council leaders representing forty (40) of the City's ninety-five (95) Neighborhood Councils and were grouped according to 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 subdivision policy recommendation to the Commission. Upon receiving the recommendation, the Commission took action to solicit additional input from Neighborhood Council board members and stakeholders. In support of the Commission, the Department conducted a public survey over a seven (7) week period. A total of three hundred eighty-eight (388) responses were collected from the public on the subdivision issue with most originating from board members and stakeholders, identifying from sixty-five (65) Neighborhood Councils. Sixty-one and six tenths percent (61.6%) (i.e., 239 out of 388)

indicated that "yes" they support the recommendation proposed by the Plan review committees, while thirty-eight and four tenths percent (38.4%) (i.e., 149 out of 388) 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:

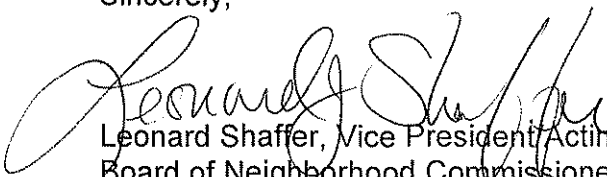
The Board of Neighborhood Commissioners "recommends that sections of the City's Administrative Code which touch upon Neighborhood Council subdivision/boundary adjustment be amended as follows:

A new Neighborhood Council may be created from within the boundaries of an existing Neighborhood Council by the following process:

- a. The subdividing group shall undertake the process for Neighborhood Council formation as already described for new councils.
- b. The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment shall set an election to take up the question within 90 days of verifying all paperwork is complete.
- c. A majority of the votes cast by stakeholders of the entire original Neighborhood Council shall be required to complete the separation and create a new council.
- d. If an area leaves a Neighborhood Council, the original council should simply be required to adjust its boundaries and board structure and not recertify.
- e. If an area moves between two existing Neighborhood Councils, neither should be required to recertify."

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  
Council President Pro Tempore Mitchell Englander, CD 12  
Council Assistant President Pro Tempore Tom LaBonge, CD 4  
Councilmember Gil Cedillo, CD 1  
Councilmember Paul Krekorian, CD 2  
Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, CD 3  
Councilmember Paul Koretz, CD 5  
Councilmember Nury Martinez, CD 6  
Councilmember Felipe Fuentes, CD 7  
Councilmember Curren D. Price, Jr., CD 9  
Councilmember Mike Bonin, CD 11  
Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell, CD 13  
Councilmember Jose Huizar, CD 14  
Councilmember Joe Buscaino, CD 15  
General Manager Grayce Liu, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment