



Post Office Box 661450
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November 8, 2012

To:

1. Ms. Grayce Liu, Interim General Manager
Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE)
200 North Spring Street, Suite 2005
Los Angeles, CA 90012
2. Mr. Ed Reyes, City of Los Angeles District 1 Councilperson (councilmember.reyes@lacity.org)
3. Mr. Paul Krekorian, City of Los Angeles District 2 Councilperson
(councilmember.Krekorian@lacity.org)
4. Mr. Dennis P. Zine, City of Los Angeles District 3 Councilperson (councilmember.zine@lacity.org)
5. Mr. Tom LaBonge, City of Los Angeles District 4 Councilperson
(councilmember.Labonge@lacity.org)
6. Mr. Paul Koretz, City of Los Angeles District 5 Councilperson (paul.koretz@lacity.org)
7. Mr. Tony Cardenas, City of Los Angeles District 6 Councilperson
(councilmember.cardenas@lacity.org)
8. Mr. Richard Alarcon, City of Los Angeles District 7 Councilperson
(councilmember.alarcon@lacity.org)
9. Mr. Bernard Parks, City of Los Angeles District 8 Councilperson (councilmember.parks@lacity.org)
10. Ms. Jan Perry, City of Los Angeles District 9 Councilperson (Jan.Perry@lacity.org)
11. Mr. Herb J. Wesson, Jr., City of Los Angeles District 10 Councilperson
(councilmember.wesson@lacity.org)
12. Mr. Bill Rosendahl, City of Los Angeles District 11 Councilperson
(councilman.rosendahl@lacity.org)
13. Mr. Mitchell Englander, City of Los Angeles District 12 Councilperson
(councilmember.englander@lacity.org)
14. Mr. Eric Garcetti, City of Los Angeles District 13 Councilperson
(councilmember.garcetti@lacity.org)
15. Mr. Jose Huizar, City of Los Angeles District 14 Councilperson (councilmember.huizar@lacity.org)
16. Mr. Joe Buscaino, City of Los Angeles District 15 Councilperson
(councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org)

Subject: Factual Basis Stakeholders of the Del Rey Neighborhood Council, Specifically, and All Neighborhood Councils, Generally

Reference: Council File 12-1682 and Related Council File 11-1912

Dear Ms. Liu and Our Los Angeles City Councilpersons:

We have serious concerns regarding the number of factual basis stakeholders who voted in the 28 October 2012 Del Rey Neighborhood Council (DRNC) election (21%) and who sit on the DRNC Board. We are writing to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) and to our Los Angeles City Council Members to express our concerns about the DRNC factual basis stakeholders and to suggest that our concerns apply to all Neighborhood Councils in the City of Los Angeles. While including factual basis stakeholders in Neighborhood Councils adds to both membership and participation in such councils, an influx of stakeholders who have little connection to the neighborhood inserts inappropriate influence into these Neighborhood Councils; and, indeed, this was evidenced by what happened to the Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council election. For the most part, factual basis stakeholders simply do *not* represent the will of the community!

Presently, the by-laws of the DRNC permit all 15 of its Board seats to be filled by factual basis stakeholders. In fact, on 26 October 2012, one DRNC candidate distributed an email that stated: "If you have a factual 'stake' in Del Rey such as a child in school, frequent patron of Del Rey businesses like our Farmer's Market, or riding your bike on the Ballona Creek Path, you can declare this stake in writing when you receive your ballot." While this statement is technically accurate, the Del Rey Residents Association (DRRA) believes that the by-laws of the DRNC should be amended so that all voters/candidates must "live, work, or own property in the certified Neighborhood Council" in Del Rey. However, the residents and business owners in the unincorporated county part of Del Rey (that is, 114 single-family homes and the 196 Dinerstein apartment units) should have the right to vote/run for the DRNC Board.

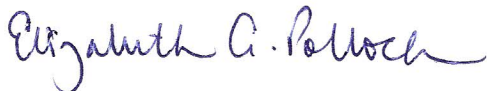
In considering factual basis stakeholders, it is difficult to define who *works* in Del Rey because a person who works on commission or as an independent contractor does not necessarily have an identifiable employer. If someone has a creditable argument that s/he works in Del Rey, s/he should be allowed to run/vote. We need to support the stakeholders who are willing to commit to show up and participate in meetings every month for two years.

Regarding the cost of the 2012 election, the DRNC spent at least \$3400 for flyer distribution, but the prepared flyers were not distributed uniformly or at all throughout the Del Rey community. Only 149 votes were cast during the four hours that the polls were open. In short, the election was unconscionably expensive. We ask that you address the propriety of this.

We also ask that the issue of the definition of factual basis stakeholders be reexamined *comprehensively* by DONE, with the assistance of the Los Angeles City Attorney, and with input from the Neighborhood Councils and the various neighborhood residents' associations, like the DRRA. We ask that this reexamination be completed as soon as possible so that a reelection can be held within a reasonable period of time after that. This needs to be well in advance of the next scheduled election, which is not until two years from now.

Sincerely,

Del Rey Residents Association



By Elizabeth A. Pollock, President

cc:

1. Mr. Eric DeSobe, President, Del Rey Neighborhood Council (Eric.DeSobe@delreync.org)
2. Mr. Paul Park, President, Board of Neighborhood Commissioners
c/o Department of Neighborhood Empowerment
200 North Spring Street, Suite 2005
Los Angeles, CA 90012
3. Mr. Darren Martinez, City of Los Angeles Deputy City Attorney (Darren.martinez@lacity.org)
4. Ms. Cecilia Castillo, City of Los Angeles District 11 Del Rey Deputy (Cecilia.Castillo@lacity.org)