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Municipal government is being continuously challenged to do more with less, and these challenges compel a holistic approach to entrepreneurial civic innovation that can help our City deliver services to our constituents more efficiently and effectively.

Many cities are embracing entrepreneurial approaches to help them address and solve civic problems and issues; and such entrepreneurial civic innovation requires the ability to experiment with the understanding that these efforts may occasionally fail.

Los Angeles is becoming a hub for innovation and entrepreneurship in both the civic and private sectors; and we should be working to advance innovative and entrepreneurial means of achieving civic improvement and excellence by working to reinvent City government to create new models for collaboration and by providing platforms for knowledge transfer to take place.

The City should explore the feasibility of establishing an Office of Civic Innovation in the new City Economic Development Department to develop and promote innovative and entrepreneurial approaches to and processes for solving complex civic problems. This Office would work to encourage the region's entrepreneurial, startup, and business incubator communities to solve civic problems and would promote those solutions in partnership with City departments. The Office would focus on projects that have the potential for improving quality of life in the civic space generally, as well as projects that can create more efficiency and effectiveness within and connectivity to City government.

The Office of Civic Innovation would encourage and cultivate innovation in the civic space, inside and outside of government; serve as a catalyst for and partner to City departments and external organizations that seek to use entrepreneurial and innovative methods to address problems in Los Angeles; shape, attract investment to, and guide pilot and prototype projects; evaluate the impact of such pilot and prototype projects and regularly report the results to the public.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Administrative Officer be directed to report with recommendations to explore the feasibility of establishing an Office of Civic Innovation in the new City Economic Development Department to develop and promote innovative and entrepreneurial approaches to and processes for solving complex civic problems, including a discussion of staffing and budgetary needs, possible funding streams and what other cities such as Boston and Philadelphia are doing in this regard.

PRESENTED BY Herb J. Wesson, Jr.
HERB J. WESSON, Jr.
Councilman, 10th District

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SECONDED BY Joe Brown

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AD HOC COMMITTEE
ON Economic Development

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