

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA

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GRAYCE LIU
GENERAL MANAGER

www.EmpowerLA.org

December 12, 2013

Honorable Members of the
Los Angeles City Council
c/o Office of the City Clerk
200 North Spring Street
Room 395, City Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90012

SUBJECT: EXHAUSTIVE EFFORTS PROCESS FOR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS

Honorable Members:

The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (Department) is transmitting the attached letter from Karen Mack, President of the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, relative to the Department's exhaustive efforts process for Neighborhood Councils. The Department would like to request that the City Council's Education and Neighborhood's Committee consider this matter at its next available meeting.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (213) 978-1551.

Very truly yours,



GRAYCE LIU
General Manager

Attachment

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November 18, 2013

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:

Article VI, Section 4 of the Plan for a Citywide System of Neighborhood Councils (the Plan) states that if a complaint is filed against a Neighborhood Council "(e)xhaustive efforts to remedy all complaints shall be taken by DONE. In the case where a complaint is in regards to a violation of this Plan and a remedy cannot be reached, the process prescribed in Article VI, Section 5 shall be followed."

Article VI, Section 5 of the Plan states that "(i)f DONE finds that efforts to comply with a proposed remedy have failed, the General Manager of DONE shall initiate a process of de-certification."

Because the effects of this process can be so disruptive to the community, over the last twelve years the Department has been reluctant to invoke it. This has at times resulted in a Neighborhood Council going from crisis to crisis.

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 to deal with these types of problems short of decertification. 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 policy recommendation to the Commission for an action short of de-certification. 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 twenty-one (321) responses were collected from the public on the issue of the

Honorable Councilmember Parks
November 18, 2013
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exhaustive efforts process with most originating from board members and stakeholders, identifying from sixty-five (65) Neighborhood Councils. Seventy-eight and five tenths percent (78.5%) (i.e., 252 out of 321) indicated that "yes" they support the recommendation proposed by the Plan review committees, while twenty-one and five tenths percent (21.5%) (i.e., 69 out of 321) 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 the exhaustive efforts process be amended as follows:

As part of exhaustive efforts the Department shall be able to recommend to the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners that the board of a Neighborhood Council be removed prior to having to recommend involuntary decertification."

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

Sincerely,



Karen Mack, 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
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Councilmember Jose Huizar, CD 14
Councilmember Joe Buscaino, CD 15
General Manager Grayce Liu, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment