

WESTSIDE REGIONAL ALLIANCE OF COUNCILS

BEL AIR-BEVERLY CREST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
BRENTWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL
DEL REY NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
MAR VISTA COMMUNITY COUNCIL
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL OF WESTCHESTER-PLAYA
PACIFIC PALISADES COMMUNITY COUNCIL

PALMS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
SOUTH ROBERTSON NEIGHBORHOODS COUNCIL
VENICE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
WEST LA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
WESTWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL
WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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June 17, 2015

Honorable Members,
Rules, Elections & Intergovernmental Relations Committee;
Education & Neighborhoods Committee;
Councilmembers Wesson, Huizar, LaBonge, Krekorian, Martinez, O'Farrell

Via email

Re: CF 15-0389; pending in the above Committees

Dear Councilmembers:

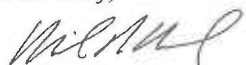
The Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC) is a coalition of 13 member Neighborhood and Community councils on the Westside of Los Angeles. Councilmember Wesson is proposing that Neighborhood Councils and Neighborhood Council Alliances (of whatever nature and status) be given preferential treatment (5 additional minutes for argument, before public comment) at City Council and other City agency meetings/hearings (CF 15-0389). WRAC supports Community Councils being afforded this same status.

Three Community Councils are active members of WRAC: Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC), Brentwood Community Council and Westwood Community Council. All three serve the same functions as Neighborhood Councils in their respective neighborhoods; all have open public board meetings and publicly distributed agendas; and all provide a forum for the discussion of community issues and serve as liaisons to government on matters of community concern. In addition, PPCC – which was established in 1973 and has been operating continuously for over 42 years -- holds open, public elections for area representatives who represent all residential areas of the Palisades community.

As stated in a motion by Councilmember Bonin to provide community councils with the same level of notifications given to neighborhood councils on planning and land use matters (CF 13-1625 -- unanimously approved by the full City Council on March 19, 2014): “[PPCC and BCC] provide a vital service to the City and they should be provided with the same level of notification offered to certified neighborhood councils on issues impacting the City . . . [T]heir role as advisory bodies to local government on issues specific to their communities is identical to that of a certified neighborhood council . . . They provide the same crucial function in vetting community issues and providing a respected and open forum for evaluating development proposals and land use matters.”

For these reasons, WRAC requests that Community Councils be given the same treatment as Neighborhood Councils and Neighborhood Council Alliances as proposed in CF 15-0389.

Sincerely,



Michael R. Newhouse, Chair
Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC)

ccs (via email):

Councilmembers Mike Bonin and Paul Koretz
Grayce Liu, General Manager, Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment
Legislative Assistants Erika Pulst and Eric Villanueva (with request for filing in CF 15-0389)