

**REPORT OF THE
CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST**

DATE: October 5, 2015

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections, Intergovernmental Relations, and
Neighborhoods Committee

FROM: Sharon M. Tso 
Chief Legislative Analyst
Council File No: 15-0389 & 15-0524
Assignment No: 15-09-0778

SUBJECT: Neighborhood Council Presentations during City Council and Committee
Meetings

BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY

On April 1, 2015, the City Attorney was requested, with the assistance of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE), to report to the Council with options, including an amendment to the Council Rules, to allow official representatives of Certified Neighborhood Councils (NCs) and Neighborhood Council Alliances (NCAs) to address the City Council, its committees, commissions, and boards. On June 22, 2015, DONE submitted a report to the Rules, Elections, Intergovernmental Relations, and Neighborhoods Committee which supported a recommendation to allow NCs the opportunity to address the City Council, separate from public comment.

In addition, DONE's report discussed the benefits of receiving input from NCAs, but also addressed the complexities of the following: determining the official action of an NCA, the varying definitions of membership as determined by each individual NCA, and the role of voting members in relation to the NC to which they are a member. DONE recommended in its report, that the Council should set aside separate time for authorized NC/NCA representatives, separate from public comment, for an opportunity to provide feedback, among other recommendations. The Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (Board) supported the Department's recommendation and also shared concerns about the need for NCAs to clarify the process of establishing a formal position.

During the Rules, Elections, Intergovernmental Relations, and Neighborhoods Committee meeting on August 21, 2015, the Committee recommended that the Chief Legislative Analyst, with the assistance of the City Attorney, report with a revision to the Council Rules that would provide separate time at any City Council or Council committee meeting for NCs to provide feedback and ongoing dialogue with regard to officially submitted NC Community Impact Statements. The City Council concurred with this recommendation on September 21, 2015.

ANALYSIS

The Council Rules do not currently contain a provision which allows City departments and commissions to address the Council at the center presentation table of Council Chambers and/or

Committee rooms. There is only a section pertaining to public comment. If the intent of this policy change is to separate time for NCs from public comment, then placement of a provision to provide NCs a separate time to address the Council under the Council Rules section on public comment, would be inconsistent with the Council's intent.

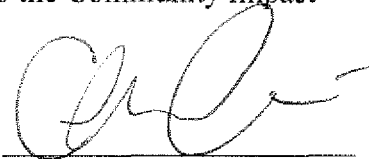
This office has reviewed the recommendations and the analysis provided in DONE's report, as well as the discussion provided in the Board's report. Currently, there is an informal policy which allows the Presiding Officer to exercise his/her discretion in providing time to City departments or commissions to address the Council. To show equal consideration, in writing, of NCs comments as a City department or commission, this office recommends that the Council adopt a standing Council Policy, which would allow authorized NC board members to address the full Council and/or Council committees, through a process separate from public comment. This would be consistent with the intent of the Council, would incorporate some of the considerations provided by DONE and the Board, and would also allow NCs an equal opportunity, as other City departments and commissions, to address the Council.

RECOMMENDATION

This office recommends that the Council adopt the following Council Policy:

The Presiding Officer of the City Council, or the Chair of a Council committee, shall provide an opportunity for duly authorized members of a Certified Neighborhood Council board in the City of Los Angeles, to address the Council or Council committee on matters for which a Community Impact Statement has been submitted and posted to the Council File currently under consideration. This opportunity will allow Certified Neighborhood Councils to elaborate on issues raised in filed Community Impact Statements, on behalf of that particular Neighborhood Council, in a manner consistent with opportunities provided to City departments or commission officials.

The opportunity to speak may be provided early in the meeting, and shall be considered separate from the public comment process. The Presiding Officer/Chair may exercise his/her discretion in allocating an amount of time for Neighborhood Council comments. In addition, authorized board members of Certified Neighborhood Councils shall be asked to identify themselves for the record, the Neighborhood Council to which they are a member, and the position(s) they hold on the Neighborhood Council board. Comments shall speak directly to the Community Impact Statement and the official position of the Neighborhood Council.



Chris Concepción
Analyst