

Health, Education, and Neighborhood Councils Committee
Los Angeles City Hall
200 North Spring Street

Council Number: CF-15-1022-S2

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Gary Aggas, I'm a member of the Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council (SVANC) but I am writing on behalf of myself. I have served as president and election chair for **3 elections**.

Earlier this year SVANC voted unanimously that the 2018 Neighborhood Council elections be pushed to the spring of 2019, and that the affected board member terms be extended accordingly. Since Neighborhood Council elections must be **realigned to odd-numbered years**, having an election in 2018, would necessitate an election in 2019, as well.

The issues of stakeholder definition, voting age and board structures are still pending before City Council. Postponing the election to 2019, would give the City more time to resolve these issues.

There is not adequate time for the first NC elections in March to do quality outreach. The first NC's candidate filing deadlines were in January, for the 2016 election, necessitating outreach during the busy Holiday Season. The first NC's cannot begin designing, printing and disseminating materials until scheduling is finalized and published in The **Neighborhood Council Election Manual**. The first NC's should have started planning outreach over a month and a half ago.

SVANC did not budget for elections in 2018. Revising the budget would mean previously planned projects would have to be cancelled, disappointing the community.

SVANC also voted unanimously NOT to implement online voting for the next election. It needs more work.

Neighborhood Councils should be able to have as many ballots as necessary. NC's vary greatly in the number and type of seats available, i.e. Residential, Business, District, etc.

Those NC's that wish to have voter affirmation instead of documentation, should be allowed to do so.

The city has promised to do city wide outreach (i.e. advertising) since before I joined the Neighborhood Council seven years ago. They have yet to do so. The city has the public relations organization in place to do the job. Cost would be economical.

Elections are our top priority outreach events. Please help us do our job. We budgeted \$8,000.00, to elections in 2016. We will spend what it takes to reach the maximum number of stakeholders and to **attract quality candidates**. It takes time to do the job right. Outreach, outreach, outreach!

Sincerely,

Gary Aggas
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