

Skid Row Neighborhood Council Formation Committee



SRNC

February 24, 2017

To LA City Council,

As Chair of the Skid Row Neighborhood Council- Formation Committee (SRNC-FC), and on behalf of the Skid Row community, we contact you regarding Council File 15-1022 (S) (2) as it specifically relates to online voting for neighborhood councils.

During our SRNC-FC Town Hall meeting last week, in which 70 adults were in attendance, a unanimous vote was taken, with no abstentions, nor no votes registered. (Video available upon request) We stand firm in our support of this motion to suspend online voting.

With an upcoming subdivision election vote on April 6, 2017 to determine if our SRNC-FC will, in fact, become a certified NC, the reasons for our position to suspend online voting are as follows;

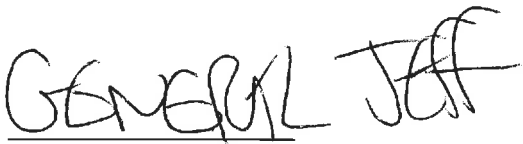
- 1) There are less than 45 days before our Skid Row NC subdivision election vote- Which is clearly not a sufficient amount of time for DONE (Department of Neighborhood Empowerment) to rectify each of it's pre-existing issues in enough time to properly prepare an adequate online voting process.
- 2) Said 45-day timeframe is also not enough time for City Council to adequately review, test and confidently implement any online voting processes directly connected to our subdivision election vote that would relieve the City of Los Angeles from possible civil litigation in any form or fashion. Without a decisive determination in the utmost of timely manners, a legitimate and qualified appeal is all but guaranteed, regardless of the outcome of said subdivision election vote.
- 3) The uniqueness of our Skid Row community includes the long-time distinction as "the homeless capitol of America", which thereby indicates and implies a very provable notion that many of our constituents are without equal or adequate access to computers which then creates an unfair disadvantage in favor of those that may oppose our efforts to create the Skid Row NC. As of now, DONE has not offered any type of alternative suggestions, acceptable or otherwise, regarding providing access to a significant amount of computers that could accommodate potential voters which include thousands of homeless persons who reside throughout our community.

- 4) With said SRNC-FC subdivision election vote being arguably the most important vote in the history of our Skid Row community, combined with there being less than 45 days prior to the subdivision election date, our outreach efforts are severely compromised as long as the status of online voting remains pending, which thereby prohibits any type of realistic implementation of outreach strategies to ensure as high voter turnout as possible. (There is a huge difference between instructing potential voters to vote online as opposed to going to the polls to vote)

We, therefore RECOMMEND that the City Council quickly and decisively deem online voting "not available" for the fast-approaching subdivision election vote on April 6, 2017 (which, again, is less than 45 days away- 41 days total and 30 business days exactly from today).

We also ENCOURAGE the City Council to instruct DONE to focus on the final preparations of it's soon-to-be improved online voting processes in sufficient time for the 2018 citywide neighborhood council elections.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "GENERAL JEFF". The word "GENERAL" is written in all caps and is underlined. "JEFF" is written in a cursive style.

General Jeff  
Chair- Skid Row Neighborhood Council- Formation Committee