

February 19, 2016

Public Comment before the Rules, Elections, Intergovernmental Relations, and Neighborhoods Committee by Jack Humphreville of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council and Chair of the DWP Advocacy Committee

In April of 2003, City Council President Herb Wesson announced the creation of the LA 2020 Commission.

In April of 2014, Wesson endorsed the ten recommendations of the LA 2020 Commission at a press conference at the California Endowment.

But none of these calls for action have seen the light of day.

These include the recommendations for our City to update its 35 Community Plans, to establish an Office of Transparency and Accountability to oversee the City's precarious finances, to create a Commission on Retirement Security to review our seriously underfunded pension systems that are that are eating the General Fund's lunch, and to form the LA Utility Rate Commission.

But they are now all front and center now and will be topics of conversation as voters consider upcoming ballot measures. And we will remember the City Council's lack of transparency.

Committee Members

Herb Wesson

Jose Huizar (absent)

Marqueece Harris-Dawson

February 19, 2016

Public Comment on Item 1* before the Rules, Elections, Intergovernmental Relations, and Neighborhoods Committee by Jack Humphreville of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council and Chair of the DWP Advocacy Committee

On February 6, The DWP Advocacy Committee and the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition passed a resolution calling for a robust and transparent discussion and debate before any measure is placed on the ballot for voter approval or rejection.

The motion also called for participation by the Neighborhood Councils on the Governance Committee that would oversee the drafting of the ballot measure.

There are two concerns.

What are the provisions regarding the outsourcing of work, especially for utility built solar, the replacement of water mainlines, and other infrastructure projects?

And since the City is the beneficiary of the transfer, will the City Council place on the ballot a charter amendment that requires the City to Live Within its Means**?

You need our votes to approve the Transfer. And we want to know what we get in return? A fiscally responsible City Hall is not too much to ask.

* Item1: Motion (Fuentes - Wesson - O'Farrell) (Council File 16-0093) relative to a proposed ballot measure to amend the Los Angeles City Charter and Administrative Code to restructure the governance of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

** The City will place on the ballot a "Live Within Its Means" charter amendment which, if approved by the voters, will require the City to develop and adhere to a Five Year Financial Plan; to pass two year balanced budgets based on Generally Accepted Accounting Principles; to fully fund its pension plans within twenty years; to implement a 20 year plan to repair and maintain our streets, sidewalks, and the rest of our failing infrastructure; and to establish a fully funded Office of Transparency and Accountability to oversee the City's finances and operations.

Committee Members

Herb Wesson

Jose Huizar (absent)

Marqueece Harris-Dawson