

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(14) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

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Date: 04/12/2017

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Council File Number: 17-0600

Agenda Date:

Item Number: 15

Summary: HHPNC supports the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates' White Paper and encourages the Budget and Finance Committee, the Mayor and the City Council to follow the recommendations for the upcoming City Budget contained therein. Specifically, •developing and implementing a long term operating and financial plan for the City; •planning and funding long term infrastructure upgrade and maintenance; •appointing an experienced Chief Operating Officer/City Manager to oversee and coordinate the management of the City's many departments and to improve their operating efficiency; •creating a truly independent "Office of Transparency and Accountability" to analyze and report on the City's budget, evaluate new legislation, examine existing issues and service standards, and increase accountability; •addressing the structural deficit, especially as regards to the City's retirement obligations; and •refraining from issuing bonds to finance current financial obligations given that long term debt is both poor financial policy and a burden on the next generation of Angelenos. As well as addressing new sources for income to replace those lost or diminished this past year and to cover costs that were under-budgeted in the City Budget currently in effect.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

HISTORIC HIGHLAND PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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Certified as NC #33 May 28, 2002

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DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

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Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council

March 2, 2017

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and the Members of the Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
cc: Staff of the Budget and Finance Committee

Re: CF 17-0600 – Support for the Budget Advocate's 2017 White Paper

The Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council which represents over 60,000 Los Angeles stakeholders who reside, own property, or conduct business in our neighborhood would like to voice its support for the Budget Advocates' 2017 White Paper.

The Budget Advocates are elected to promote the interests of all Neighborhood Councils in regards to the City's budget and the services or lack thereof the City departments are able to deliver due to available monies.

The Budget Advocates have spent hundreds of hours collectively this fiscal year meeting with city department and agency General Managers and senior staff discussing budget, strategic plans and operational matters for the upcoming fiscal year and, based on their collective research, have produced this year's White Paper and recommendations.

HHPNC Supports the Budget Advocates' White Paper

The Budget Advocates met with Mayor Garcetti this afternoon, March 8th to present and review the White Paper with him and to hear his thoughts on the current and coming fiscal year budgets. The Budget Advocates will present the White Paper and engage in discussion with the City Council Budget and Finance Committee and then before the full City Council in the coming months.

Specifically, we endorse the following recommendations:

- developing and implementing a long term operating and financial plan for the City;
- planning and funding long term infrastructure upgrade and maintenance;
- appointing an experienced Chief Operating Officer/City Manager to oversee and coordinate the management of the City's many departments and to improve their operating efficiency;
- creating a truly independent "Office of Transparency and Accountability" to analyze and report on the City's budget, evaluate new legislation, examine existing issues and service standards, and increase accountability;
- addressing the structural deficit, especially as regards to the City's retirement obligations; and
- refraining from issuing bonds to finance current financial obligations given that long term debt is both poor financial policy and a burden on the next generation of Angelenos.

We also call on the City to find new revenue sources to replace funding lost from the DWP Transfer fee and reductions in projected tax revenue, and to focus on ways to stop the actions which led to the legal judgments and settlements that, this year, were more than double what was budgeted.

The Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council hereby supports the work of the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates and their White Paper dated 3/8/2017, and encourages the Mayor, the Budget and Finance Committee and the City Council to follow the recommendations contained therein.

Additionally, the Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council asks that suggestions of its stakeholders, appended hereto or sent as an addendum to this CIS, be taken under consideration.

Sincerely,



Harvey Slater, President

Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council