

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council

Name: Liz Amsden

Phone Number: [323-254-0590](tel:323-254-0590)

Email: lizamsden@hotmail.com

The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(12) Nay(0) Abstain(1) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 09/07/2017

Type of NC Board Action: Neutral Position

Impact Information

Date: 09/10/2017

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 17-0854

Agenda Date:

Item Number: 21

Summary: The Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council requests that:(a)the Mayor, BONC, DONE, Neighborhood Councils and stakeholders establish specific levels of experience and accountability especially within the NC system that would either qualify a person for or disqualify them from consideration as a BONC Commissioner;(b)the Mayor, BONC, DONE, Neighborhood Councils and stakeholders quantify the obligations and responsibilities of a Commissioner and establish a procedure to ensure these are met or a replacement appointed; and(c)Mayor Garcetti include respective Area Neighborhood Councils in the vetting process of persons being considered for appointment to the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners that represent that area so that local concerns are addressed which is the intent of the Neighborhood Council system.Furthermore, he Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council requests that our board members be invited to BONC meetings on a timely basis as many of us juggle a lot of other commitments, and that our BONC Commissioner attend at least one HHPNC meeting per year to update board members on what the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners is doing.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

HISTORIC HIGHLAND PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Post Office Box 50791
Los Angeles, CA 90050
<http://www.highlandparknc.com>
Certified as NC #33 May 28, 2002

OFFICERS

Harvey Slater PRESIDENT
Daniel Andalon FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
Antonio Castillo SECOND VICE PRESIDENT
Joan Potter TREASURER
Rocío Rivas SECRETARY

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Liz Amsden, Elizabeth Andalon, SuzAnn Brantner, Linda "Boo"
Caban, Gabriel Chabran, Melanie Freeland, Zacharias Gardea,
Susanne Huerta, Sheri Lunn, Marcus Moché, Stanley Moore,
Yolanda Nogueira, Diego Silva, Jamie Tijerina



DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

200 N. Spring St. Ste.2005
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Telephone: (213) 978-1551

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Harvey Slater EXECUTIVE
Daniel Andalon RULES
Joan Potter BUDGET & FINANCE
Yolanda Nogueira OUTREACH
Antonio Castillo, Susanne Huerta LAND USE
Rocío Rivas FAMILY, YOUTH & EDUCATION
Rocío Rivas PUBLIC SAFETY
Yolanda Nogueira, Rocío Rivas HOUSING &
HOMELESSNESS
Yolanda Nogueira, Rocío Rivas BEAUTIFICATION
Jamie Tijerina CULTURE AND EQUALITY
Gabriel Chabran ARTS
SuzAnn Brantner SUSTAINABILITY

Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council

September 7, 2017

Mayor Garcetti

Members of the Los Angeles City Council

200 N. Spring Street

Los Angeles, CA 90012

cc: Department of Neighborhood Empowerment
Board of Neighborhood Commissioners
Greg Good

Re: CF 17-0854 et al on appointment of people to the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners

The Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council which represents over 60,000 Los Angeles stakeholders who reside, own property, or conduct business in our neighborhood while appreciating the hard work done by the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners over the years has concerns over how people are selected for appointment to the Board and how they comport themselves as Commissioners.

A number of meetings of the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners have been cancelled in the past year due to lack of a quorum meaning the business before the Board does not get addressed in a timely manner and those who make the effort to attend, both Commissioners and stakeholders, end up wasting time and money travelling to meetings only to find they have been cancelled.

Recently, there have been complaints from Neighborhood Council board members about the qualifications of some of those who are recommended to fill these positions. Whether they are valid or not, they deserve to be addressed prior to appointment.

Given that Neighborhood Councils rely on the oversight of the Commissioners and have a great deal of respect to many of them who have worked hard over the years, and given that there are issues of import to the Neighborhood Councils on BONC's recent agendas that have not been addressed, the Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council stands with the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition in requesting the following:

- (a) an attendance policy be established and adhered to strictly so the Board's work can proceed on a timely basis; and
- (b) the Mayor's Office review the attendance of the current Commissioners, and if any Commissioner has missed five meeting in the last twelve (12) months, the Mayor ask for that Commissioner's resignation and replace him or her with an individual who will fully engage with the Neighborhood Councils and the work they do.

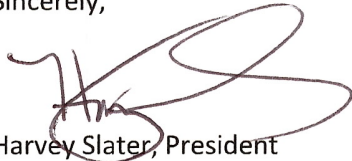
Under the current system, the Mayor has the right to appoint Commissioners which is then approved by the City Council, but may not be aware of how that person is perceived within the community they are appointed to represent. We respectfully point out that an effective Commissioner for both the Mayor and stakeholders should have the experience and knowledge and the respect of their region to be an effective advocate. Therefore we request that:

- (a) the Mayor, BONC, DONE, Neighborhood Councils and stakeholders establish specific levels of experience and accountability especially within the NC system that would either qualify a person for or disqualify them from consideration;
- (b) the Mayor, BONC, DONE, Neighborhood Councils and stakeholders quantify the obligations and responsibilities of a Commissioner and establish a procedure to ensure these are met or a replacement appointed; and
- (c) Mayor Garcetti include respective Area Neighborhood Councils in the vetting process of persons being considered for appointment to the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners that represent that area so that local concerns are addressed which is the intent of the Neighborhood Council system.

While we as members of a Neighborhood Council appreciate being invited to BONC meetings (which we are a couple of times a year but often too late to adjust busy schedules), we would appreciate it if this was more consistent, that meetings be held at times and places to make it easier for people to attend, and that our regional Commissioner attend at least one meeting a year to update not only the board but also stakeholders on what it is BONC does.

The Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council therefore asks the Mayor, the City Council and DONE to address the aforementioned concerns and get back to LANCC and all Neighborhood Councils on how they will address appointments to the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners moving forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Harvey Slater', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the name.

Harvey Slater, President
Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council