

Communication from Public

Name: Ron Bitzer
Date Submitted: 05/28/2019 03:33 PM
Council File No: 19-0046
Comments for Public Posting: Please open attached comments.

**Statement of Ron Bitzer
CF 19-0046 / Motion 23-B
North Hollywood
May 28, 2019**

**Support for a City Ban
On Behested Payments
From Restricted Sources**

The question has been raised in City Council about the justification for any City regulation of financial donations to *nonprofit organizations* from restricted sources made at the behest of elected officials --- “behested payments” “Proposed rules for fundraising face skepticism from City Hall,” Los Angeles Times, May 28, 2019.

Example Number 1: The Mayor’s Fund for Los Angeles

If elected officials enjoy a blanket allowance to solicit behested payments for nonprofit organizations, they may soon follow the current example of the mayor, who created an independent 501 (c) (3) nonprofit.

That charity, the **Mayor’s Fund for Los Angeles**, has in a recent 15 month period received *26% of all* Ethics Commission reported behested payments (\$3,651,298 during 1/1/2018 - 3/18/2019). The Mayor’s Fund for Los Angeles then passes through to operating charities ---- nonprofits often dealing with the city’s most pressing challenge --- financial donations and garners credit for doing so.

The City cannot prohibit independent 501 (c) (3) nonprofits from receiving financial donations from restricted sources under a campaign finance reform regime (2/27/2019 Ethics Commission letter to City Council, page 12).

(over please)

As currently proposed, the City shall ban elected officials from direct 1:1 solicitation of restricted sources for behested payments to nonprofits.

These elected officials can continue to raise funds for nonprofits in the fund raising world of Los Angeles --- even for a nonprofit they lead --- without a cloud over their activity.

Please consider the merits of this proposed ban in any third Ordinance as requested by Motion 23-B.

23-B

MOTION

I HEREBY MOVE that Council AMEND the Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee Report, relative to prohibiting Restricted Developers and non-individuals from contributing and fundraising to City Elected Officials and candidates for City Offices and restrictions concerning behested payments, to:

REQUEST the City Attorney to remove the matter of behested payments from the Ordinances being drafted in response to Recommendation Nos. 1 and 2 and to draft a separate (third) Ordinance that addresses behested payments.

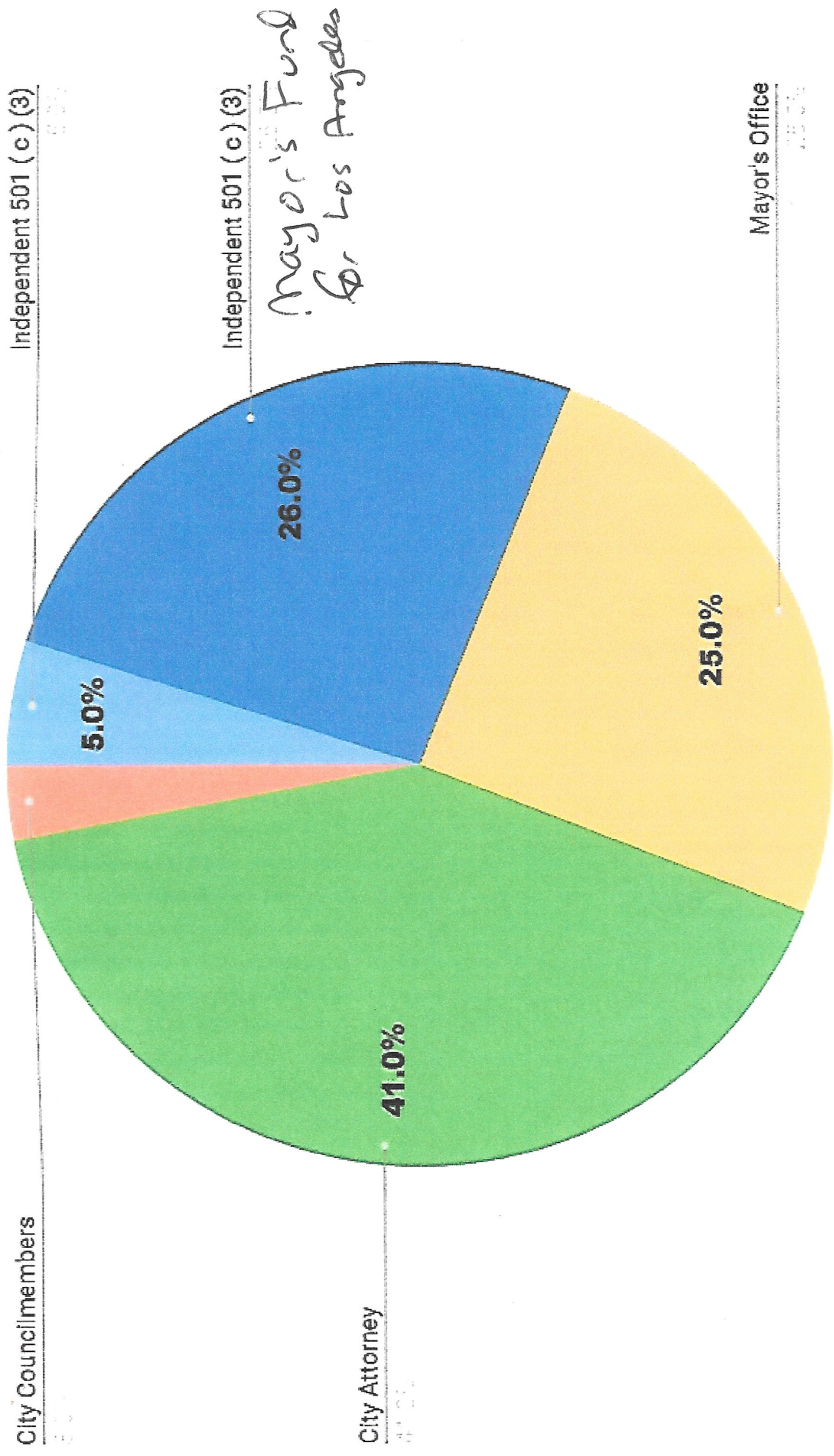
PRESENTED BY _____
MITCH O'FARRELL
Councilmember, 13th District

SECONDED BY _____
PAUL KREKORIAN
Councilmember, 2nd District

May 22, 2019

CF 19-0046

Two Independent Nonprofits ---- Mayor's Fund for Los Angeles &
 American Diabetes Association --- Received 31% of the Value of Behested
 Payments (242 Total Payments of \$5,000 or More as Reported
 For the Period 1/1/2018 - 3/31/2019 -----Totalling \$14,744,701)



Communication from Public

Name: Mark J. Gonzalez
Date Submitted: 05/28/2019 12:56 PM
Council File No: 19-0046
Comments for Public Posting: Los Angeles County Democratic Party Supports City Council File 19-0046.



May 23, 2019

The Honorable Herb Wesson
President, Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**RE: CF 19-0046 (Council Members Bonin, Buscaino, Koretz, Krekorian, Martinez & Ryu):
Developer Contribution Restrictions for City Elected Officials / Candidates for City Office –
Motion 23A/Motion 23B/Motion 23C—SUPPORT**

Dear President Wesson,

The members of the Los Angeles County Democratic Party (LACDP) have debated, deliberated, and considered many bills submitted by legislators and organizations, and have voted to support Los Angeles City Council File 19-0046 as one of our priority bills for 2019.

California and the City of Los Angeles has always been on the forefront of cutting-edge and progressive policies that lead the way for America. Los Angeles City Council File 19-0046 is a key piece of legislation that reflects the core values of the Democratic Party and, if passed and signed, will be instrumental in moving our city forward. In particular, Los Angeles City Council File 19-0046 is an important step in ensuring that all City of Los Angeles voters can trust their representatives are not beholden to moneyed interests.

LACDP is the official governing body of the Democratic Party in the County of Los Angeles and works in cooperation with the State and National Democratic Committees. LACDP is the largest local Democratic Party entity in the United States, representing more than 2.7 million registered Democrats.

If the LACDP can be of assistance, please contact Devin Osiri, LACDP Executive Director, at devinosiri@lacd.org or (213) 382-0063.

We look forward to continue working with the Los Angeles City Council, the Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer, and Los Angeles City Controller Ron Galperin to fight for Californians and Angelenos to make 2019 a very successful year for a progressive Democratic agenda.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark González', written over a white background.

Mark J. González
Chair