

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: West Hills Neighborhood Council

Name: Daniel Wiseman

Phone Number: [818-635-4033](tel:818-635-4033)

Email: dwisemanmd@yahoo.com

Date of NC Board Action: 03/13/2013

Type of NC Board Action: For Proposal

Impact Information

Date: 04/30/2013

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 13-0600

Agenda Date: 05/03/2013

Item Number:

Brief Summary: WHEREAS the City's 95 NCs have proven themselves to be the City's BEST BARGAIN and

WHEREAS the Stakeholders (SHs) working through their NC are all unpaid volunteers and

WHEREAS the allocations to the NCs have decreased, relentlessly, from \$ 50K to \$ 37K since 2003, when they were begun,

The WEST HILLS NC recommends that the Mayor and City Council restore the funds for each NC to \$ 50,000 per year.

Additional Information: Here is the math:

The 1800 NC Board members and 2000 more SHs contribute about 50,000 "free" hours for the benefit of the City per year; an amount worth \$ 1 million at \$ 20/hour and

The NC Budget Advocates have found sources of new income, new economic efficiencies, improved collections policies & procedures and ferreting out of "waste-fraud-and-abuse" which, if implemented, might produce \$ 10s or \$ 100s of millions over the long term

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Item Number:

Brief Summary: WHEREAS the 95 Neighborhood Councils are, by Charter and Plan law, dependent upon the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) to fulfill their Chartered obligations and

WHEREAS recent cuts in DONE funding may cause MATERIAL IMPAIRMENT of DONE functions

West Hills NC advises the Mayor and City Council to accept the FY2013-2014 Budget Proposal of DONE; including \$ 683,000 for 2014 NC Elections and the requested personnel increases.

- Additional Information:
1. DONE's budget has been cut far more than other departments; from \$ 4.2M to \$ 2.1M with only 18 positions left from the original 62 and
 2. The City Attorney has gone on record to advise the City that funding cuts of this magnetude approach or exceed the tolerance necessary to avoid illegal MATERIAL IMPAIRMENT of its chartered and essential functions.
 3. These annual cuts in funds are contrary to the Charter (Article IX, Section 911).



Help Guide the Future of West Hills
West Hills Neighborhood
Council



P.O. Box 4670, West Hills, CA 91308-4670

<http://www.westhillsnc.org>

mail@westhillsnc.org

FINAL
MEETING MINUTES
March 13, 2013

Shomrei Torah Synagogue, Hirsch Hall
7353 Valley Circle Boulevard, West Hills, CA 91304

Attendance:

Present: Eric Augusztiny, Solomon Bash, Sandi Bell, Dan Brin, Robert Brostoff, Margerhy Brown, Michael Castro, Carolyn Greenwood, John Hogue, Ruwan Kotuwelle, Elliot Maggin, Steve Randall, Bill Rose, Charlene Rothstein, Barry Seybert (arrived late), Ron Sobel, Bobbi Trantafello, Alec Uzemeck, Daniel Wiseman, Joanne Yvanek-Garb, Ed Young and Jacquie Young

Absent: Bonnie Klea, Franchon Lyons and Walter Perfect

Government Relations: Government Relations Co-Chair Dr. Daniel Wiseman advised that there are nine items on the Budget Advocates' white paper that he is bringing before the Board. Dr. Wiseman spoke about the NCs' budgets being reduced again and that the councils would have to pay the City Clerk for their elections. Dr. Wiseman also spoke about how reductions of DONE's budget has harmed its ability to assist the NCs. He moved that the Board vote on three of the Budget Advocates recommendations:

- 1 – Restoration of the annual allocation of all 95 NCs to \$50,000 per year. Motion passed (21) (1) (0)
- 2 – Support funds necessary to hold the all scheduled NC elections in 2014. Motion passed (22) (0) (0)
- 3 – Acceptance of the DONE Budget as proposed by GM Crayce Liu. Motion passed (20) (0) (2)

Due to time constraints, Dr. Wiseman made only one additional motion, regarding the proposal that the City centralize the billing of all departments. Dr. Wiseman moved that we “recommend that the new City Controller continue to investigate the collection process and the costs and benefits of a centralized collection system for the City of Los Angeles.” Motion passed (20) (0) (2).