

MOTION

The new City Charter effective July 1, 2000 established the Neighborhood Council System, to connect government with communities, promote more citizen participation in government, and make government more responsive to local needs. As the system grew, neighborhood council representatives expressed a need for more time when addressing the City Council to fully explain their thoughts, ideas, and opinions regarding decisions to be made on issues that directly affect their communities than was provided through the standard public comment period. In response, the City Council adopted an ordinance in 2015 (C.F. 15-0389 and 15-0524), which states that the meeting chair "...may provide the Neighborhood Council representative more comment time than allotted to members of the general public." This extended time provision has proven successful in increasing the level of neighborhood council dialog during crucial policy-making decisions.

A very small handful of established community councils pre-date the City's system of Certified Neighborhood Councils -- most notably, the Pacific Palisades Community Council, founded in 1973, and the Brentwood Community Council, founded in 1998. Early on, these organizations opted not to join City's Neighborhood Council System, but they nevertheless continue to serve as the officially recognized representative bodies of Pacific Palisades and Brentwood, with a collective stakeholder population of approximately 77,000 people. These elected bodies provide the same crucial function as certified neighborhood councils -- to vet community issues and serve as official open forums for weighing-in on official City business.

In 2013, the City Council adopted a similar policy enhancement (C.F. 13-1625) by instructing the Department of City Planning to "formally begin providing the Pacific Palisades Community Council and Brentwood Community Council with the same level of notification offered to the City's certified neighborhood councils on all planning matters, including legally mandated public hearing notices." Based on this precedent and the vital representation function these all-volunteer bodies provide to the City, the same discretionary extended time allowance for Certified Neighborhood Councils should be applied to select non-certified community councils that meet specifically defined criteria.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Attorney be requested to amend Section 22.819 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code (LAAC) to include an additional time set aside provision by applying the current discretionary extended time allowance to non-certified community councils when a representative presents an official position on an item pending before a City Board or Commission, provided that the organization was formally established prior to July 1, 2000 and has remained in continuous operation, has duly elected representatives and formally adopted bylaws, serves as the preeminent representative body for an official City of Los Angeles community or neighborhood, and has clearly defined geographic boundaries that do not in any way overlap with those of existing Certified Neighborhood Councils.

PRESENTED BY:


MIKE BONIN
Councilmember, 11th District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL

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