

MOTION

EDUCATION & NEIGHBORHOODS

Neighborhood Councils (NCs) are a priority for the City Council. Since their inception in 1999, the City Council has understood the value that NCs bring to the City and the responsibility the City has to help the growth and involvement of NCs in the daily exercise of City government. The success and functionality of NCs are an important element of our democratic society, and are essential to ensuring a transparent and responsive City government.

In December 2012, the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (Commission) initiated a thorough review of the Plan for a Citywide System of NCs (Plan). The Commission created three standing committees comprised of NC leaders that represented forty of the City's ninety-six NCs and the following regions: 1) North/ South Valley, 2) Central/East/Northeast, and 3) Harbor/South/West. In June 2013, after much discussion and consensus building, these committees jointly submitted seventeen recommendations to the Commission on the Plan. The Commission prioritized some of those recommendations:


1. City agendas should include the full text of the NCs brief Community Impact Statement (CIS), with links to any background materials that were provided as support. Any time a CIS is removed from a subsequent agenda, the City Clerk will notify the affected NC.
2. Official NC or NC Alliance representatives addressing the City Council, its committees, City commissions, and boards should be granted up to five minutes of presentation time separate from general public comment, to present the official view of the NC Board or Alliance. NCs should receive priority as City entities and be called for comment before general public comment (see Motion (Wesson-Krekorian), C.F. No. 15-0389).
3. NCs should be allowed to provide funds to City departments provided that it benefits NC stakeholders, and the department provides documentation stating the need of such support. The transfer must also be accompanied by an MOU, agreement, or a form similar to a neighborhood purposes grant.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (Commission) and the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) be instructed to submit a report on the priority recommendations as set forth above, which resulted from a thorough review of the Plan for a Citywide System of Neighborhood Councils (NCs).

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Administrative Officer and Chief Legislative Analyst be instructed to review a rollover policy for NC budget allocations where NC allocations do not revert at the end of the Fiscal Year, and determine: (a) the appropriate amount of funds to rollover; (b) the type of project that would qualify for rollover funds; (c) the application and approval process; and (d) the deadlines to complete an approved project.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Commission, with the assistance of DONE and the City Attorney, report on the following: 1) the reinstatement of the previous ordinance (see Ordinance No. 179,545, see also Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 22.814), which granted authority to DONE and NCs to accept gifts, and granted authority to the City Treasurer to establish checking accounts for the Neighborhood Councils under the City's existing banking contract, but has since been repealed pursuant to a three year repeal provision contained in the Ordinance; or 2) the creation of a new donation acceptance policy with no repeal provisions; and 3) DONE's personnel requirements to implement this policy.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Administrative Officer and Chief Legislative Analyst, with the assistance of DONE, perform an analysis of the roles and responsibilities of DONE personnel, specifically



what the impacts are if job descriptions are changed to provide employees with greater flexibility in their responsibilities to ensure that DONE's highest priorities are met. As well as areas where the transfer of the responsibility of certain functions directly to NC boards may increase the efficiency of the department and independence of individual neighborhood councils.

I FURTHER MOVE that the General Manager of DONE, report back in two weeks to the Education & Neighborhoods Committee relative to their efforts to streamline certain processes that NCs must adhere to, including accounting requirements and submission of compliance documents.

PRESENTED BY: 
HERB J. WESSON, JR.
Councilmember, 10th District

SECONDED BY: 

ORIGINAL

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