

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Palms Neighborhood Council

Phone Number:

The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(9) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 09/07/2016

Type of NC Board Action: Against unless Amended

Impact Information

Date: 09/12/2016

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 15-1022-S2

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: WHEREAS in 2016, the Palms Neighborhood Council was one of 35 Neighborhood Councils that held an online election, and

WHEREAS turnout in the Palms election was more than double turnout in 2014 with over 40% voted online, and

WHEREAS 38 candidates ran for 13 seats, the highest number of candidates in the PNC's history, and

WHEREAS 11 first-time board members were elected, and

WHEREAS EmpowerLA's staff held three pop-up polls for the election, and

WHEREAS the majority of voters had a positive experience of voting online and electronically at the polls, and

WHEREAS the biggest complaints were with the registration process which had challenges ranging from incorrect maps, email confirmations that were never received, and multiple days, documents, and emails needed to complete the process, and

WHEREAS some of the complaints related to the unique bylaws of the PNC, specifically whether a stakeholder could vote for both a residential and a business representative with overlapping districts and lack of education on the instant runoff voting system,

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Palms Neighborhood Council opposes Council File 15-1022-S2 unless amended and will submit this Community Impact Statement:

While it is necessary for the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment to review and write a report on the 2016 Neighborhood Council elections, the Department should continue to expand and improve the online voting system rather than suspend it. The registration process must be reviewed and streamlined to make it simpler, quicker, and more secure to register. The Department should also work with Neighborhood Councils and the City Clerk to streamline their documentation processes. Finally, it is unnecessary and unduly onerous to require the City Council to approve the online election system; the Board of Neighborhood Council Commissioners as a City Charter empowered volunteer board representing and overseeing the Neighborhood Council system should have oversight.