

Your Community Impact Statement has been successfully submitted to City Council and Committees.

If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at [NCsupport@lacity.org](mailto:NCsupport@lacity.org).

This is an automated response, please do not reply to this email.

#### Contact Information

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(17) Nay(2) Abstain(1) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 09/10/2018

Type of NC Board Action: Neutral Position

#### Impact Information

Date: 09/20/2018

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 18-0467

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: A summary of WCKNC responses to each of the points in the Neighborhood Council reform proposal, including a statement on the impact of removing or revising "community interest stakeholder."



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## Wilshire Center-Koreatown Neighborhood Council

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# Community Impact Statement

### Contact Information

**Neighborhood Council:** Wilshire Center-Koreatown Neighborhood Council

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**The Board approved this CIS by a vote of:** Yea 17, Nay 2, Abstain 1

**Date of Neighborhood Council Action:** September 10, 2018

**Type of Neighborhood Council Action:** General Comment

### Impact Information

**Date:** September 10, 2018

**Update to a Previous Input:** No

**Directed To:** City Council and Committees

**Council File Number:** 18-0467

### Summary:

A summary of WCKNC responses to each of the points in the Neighborhood Council reform proposal, including a statement on the impact of removing or revising “community interest stakeholder.”

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On July 24th and September 8th, our Government Relations & Bylaws committee held an open discussion on David Ryu’s motion to reform neighborhood councils. We reviewed each item, held open discussions with interested stakeholders to gather their input, and presented these recommendations to our full board on August 13 and September 10. The following reflects the position of the WCKNC with stakeholder input on each bulleted item, numbered from the beginning of the motion for reference.

## NC Reform Recommendations

### **Bullet 1: Regarding changing the name and branding for BONC, DONE, and EmpowerLA...**

WCKNC does not support this change. We acknowledge the potential branding difficulties with existing neighborhood council department names. However, branding changes are extremely

costly and require a lot of outreach to solidify, and without a clear benefit to these changes, they risk costing LA taxpayers a lot without giving them much in return.

**Bullet 2: Regarding recommendations for removing Community Interest Stakeholder (erroneously “Community Impact stakeholder” in the motion) and replacing it with more specific definitions...**

This item had the most passionate input from WCKNC stakeholders and will be addressed separately at the end of this CIS.

**Bullet 3: Regarding amending the City Charter, Article IX Section 901 .d and 904.f to remove selections as a method of filling NC board seats...**

WCKNC takes no position on this and requests further clarification of the impact of removing selections as a method of filling boards, particularly for dealing with resignations. For WCKNC in particular, having the board elect stakeholders to fill vacant seats has been a necessary step toward continuing to function as a board, and we feel removing this may negatively impact a board’s ability to deal with resignations. We support stakeholders electing board members in standard elections under normal circumstances.

**Bullet 4: Regarding a one-time review of NC seat allocation to increase equity...**

The board takes no position on this item and requests a specific definition of “equitably allocated,” since this item is centered entirely around that definition. Does this refer to ethnicity, location, live/work/play stakeholder type, income bracket, etc.? Also, how will this equitability be enforced long-term? WCKNC needs these questions answered to take an informed position on this item.

**Bullet 5: Regarding a uniform minimum voting age...**

WCKNC supports this item and recommends a minimum voting age of 16, as long as parent/guardian consent is provided for minors under 18. We believe involving young stakeholders in local governance early is a positive for the community, but we believe it should be done with full parental consent.

**Bullet 6: Regarding requiring planning and land use training for committee leadership dealing in those areas...**

WCKNC supports this item, as long as it is paid for and executed by DONE. WCKNC also requests language translation be made available for trainings upon request. WCKNC stakeholders speak many languages but still deserve to lead our community in land use issues, which requires translating the highly-technical jargon of land use policy into their native language to allow them to lead best.

**Bullet 7: Regarding rolling over \$10,000 of NC funds to the next year...**

WCKNC supports this item, as long as the dollar amount is changed to a percentage of the total budget—we recommend 25%, which would be a little over \$10,000 with current budget rules—which will allow this amount to scale with any future budget changes. We also recommend this number be informed by a review of NC budgets showing what each neighborhood council typically spends and has left over in a year.

**Bullet 8: Regarding allowing NCs to accept in-kind donations...**

WCKNC does not support this item and has serious concerns about ethical issues this would bring. We recommend a solution here be specifically targeted to avoid bringing about more opportunities for conflicts of interest.

**Bullet 9: Regarding holding all NC elections on the same day...**

WCKNC supports this item, as long as vote by mail and online voting are made available so stakeholders in multiple NCs can easily vote in more than one election.

**Bullet 10: Regarding allowing NCs to access shared space in city facilities...**

WCKNC supports this item.

**Bullet 11: Regarding developing and sharing best practices between NCs...**

WCKNC supports this item, as long as best practices are available online with language translation available upon request. It's important to us that these materials are accessible to all stakeholders of WCKNC, regardless of their native language.

**Bullet 12: Regarding developing dedicated points of contact between NCs and city departments...**

WCKNC supports this item.

## **On Community Interest Stakeholders and WCKNC**

WCKNC is against removing the Community Interest stakeholder definition in its entirety because of the negative impact it would have on WCKNC stakeholdership, though we agree its current definition is too broad.

The people involved with Koreatown identify strongly with this neighborhood. A neighborhood like Wilshire Center-Koreatown is more than just a collection of businesses, homeowners, and renters. It is a thriving culture built from many people from all over the city who volunteer here, go to church here, invest here, or make Koreatown the center of their social lives. Removing or revising community interest stakeholder could disenfranchise many people who consider Koreatown a core part of their identity, even if their address doesn't fall on the right side of the line.

Many of the people who don't fall on the right side of the line are still deeply invested in our community. We had over 20,000 stakeholders vote in a recent subdivision election, many of them

community interest stakeholders. We are an engaged neighborhood that cares deeply about its identity and the people involved in community decisions. Many of the people who voted in the subdivision election would be disenfranchised if the term “community interest stakeholder” were removed or revised thoughtlessly. For the people who do live and work in Wilshire Center-Koreatown, these people are as much a part of the community as any other. We want their involvement in the NC’s decisions.

We acknowledge that the current way the LA City Clerk interprets community interest stakeholder—the “two receipts” rule—is insufficient. However, we caution the council to carefully consider its revision. Simply removing the term could silence a large and important part of the Koreatown community. We encourage the council to consider a person’s long history within the boundaries of a neighborhood council, who would be materially affected by the decisions affecting that neighborhood because of that ongoing involvement, in revising or replacing the term “community interest stakeholder.” Some possible qualifications that could replace the existing definition:

- Has been a residential or business stakeholder within the last five years.
- Has been involved with a local community organization, such as a church or non-profit, that can vouch that their involvement has been substantial over the last year.
- Can show an ongoing or material involvement with local retail over the course of the last year, such as at least five receipts from a local business in the last six months that are at least one month apart to show ongoing involvement, or a total spend of more than \$100 at local businesses in the last year to show substantial investment.
- Does not have an address but has a government or non-profit organization that operates locally, such as a homeless services organization, vouch that they live or work in the boundaries of a neighborhood council (for stakeholders experiencing homelessness).
- Is a student or parent/guardian of a student who has attended school within the boundaries of the neighborhood council within the last year.
- Has made use of local services that cater to a non-English language in the last year, such as medical professionals, legal services, financial services, or automotive services. This is particularly important for Koreatown (and other neighborhoods with a large non-English-speaking population), because many Korean-speaking stakeholders *must* come to Koreatown for those services and have a higher than normal stake in them as a result.

We encourage the council to think outside the address. We want to keep Koreatown, and the diverse community that makes it Koreatown, together.

—Wilshire-Center Koreatown Neighborhood Council