

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.

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(13) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 10/10/2018

Type of NC Board Action: Against unless Amended

Impact Information

Date: 12/06/2018

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 18-0467

Agenda Date: 10/10/2018

Item Number: 11

Summary: The Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council opposes the Reform Motions unless amended.

Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council Response to CF 18-0467 at Board Meeting on 9/12/18

1. Recommendations and next steps for amending City Charter Article IX to change the name of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) to the Neighborhood Councils Department (NCD), the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC) to the Neighborhood Councils Commission (NCC), and phasing out the use of the term/branding 'EmpowerLA' due to the confusion reported by the public and the perception of Neighborhood Council members that DONE's role should be primarily to support Neighborhood Councils, which the name Neighborhood Councils Department would better reflect.

STNC VOTE to OPPOSE. Too costly. Why spend time on this as there are other issues of more importance.

2. Recommendations and next steps for amending the Los Angeles Administrative Code to remove the "Community Impact Stakeholder," which has caused substantial confusion and disputed elections, and recommendations and next steps for including specific additional definitions by ordinance of eligible voters and board members of Neighborhood Councils, such as student or parent/guardian of a student.

STNC VOTE TO SUPPORT IF AMENDED to retain a NC's right to determine who its stakeholders should be. EACH NC should decide for themselves.

3. Recommendations and next steps for amending City Charter Article IX Section 901 .d and 904.f to remove any reference to "selections" and clarify that Neighborhood Council board members will be elected. Neighborhood Council "selection" processes are utilized by a limited and decreasing number of councils and are not viewed by the public as being as democratic as elections as they do not provide for a secret ballot or equitable participation.

STNC VOTE to OPPOSE. The consensus was that EACH NC should decide for themselves. To be uniform is for control and ease of a process for city employees vs. what is best for NCs.

4. Recommendations and next steps for creating a one-time review process, overseen by the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, to evaluate Neighborhood Council bylaws to determine if board are equitably allocated amongst stakeholder types and provide formal suggestions to Neighborhood Councils on ways to adjust board seats as needed to increase equity.

STNC VOTE to OPPOSE. BONC oversees the certification of a NC, which is enough.

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5. Recommendations and next steps for adopting regulations to provide a uniform minimum voting age and board member age to allow consistent participation across the City, and what that age should be.

STNC VOTE to OPPOSE. Each NC should decide what is best for their community.

6. Recommendations and next steps for developing and adopting a planning and land use training required for all Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Neighborhood Council planning and land use committees.

STNC VOTE to SUPPORT. Remember, we are VOLUNTEERS with limited time. Recommendation: Encourage partnerships/promotion of Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils Planning Forum, PlanCheckNC meetings and City Planning training opportunities.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Clerk be INSTRUCTED, with assistance as needed from the CLA, CAO, DONE and City Attorney, to report back within 60 days on the following:

7. Recommendations and next steps on a process for Neighborhood Councils to be able to roll-over a non-cumulative maximum of \$10,000 in any given fiscal year.

STNC VOTE to SUPPORT IF AMENDED to roll over \$15,000 in funds to the next fiscal year with two year extensions. This so community improvement projects can be realized.

8. Recommendations and next steps for removing Section 5.485.h of Chapter 88 of Division 5 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code (Ordinance 179545; see Council File 03-1260), and recommendations for other amendments to that Chapter, in order to remove the expiration of the ability for Neighborhood Councils to accept in-kind or monetary donations.

STNC VOTE to SUPPORT the removal of the expiration. Add recommendation: Include Neighborhood Council alliances in the ability to accept funds and establish an account. There is precedence for this with the Congress of Neighborhoods, Budget Advocates and EmpowerLA Awards.

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9. On the costs and other implications of holding all Neighborhood Council elections on the same day in order to provide for a uniform citywide advertising and outreach campaign.

STNC VOTE to OPPOSE. This would be something to aspire to but the City Clerk is not ready to handle (soon to be) 99 Neighborhood Councils with 15-25 board seats each with multiple candidates and board positions for each seat. Recommend to continue to publicize elections in the LADWP inserts citywide.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, and all relevant departments denoted below, be INSTRUCTED to:

10. Develop a process, with the assistance of GSD and the City Clerk, to assist Neighborhood Councils with accessing shared space in City facilities, as envisioned in Council File 16-0298.

STNC VOTE to SUPPORT.

11. Develop an ongoing compendium of best practices generated from Neighborhood Councils and share those on a periodic basis with all Neighborhood Councils and include 'how-to guides' for accomplishing those best practices.

STNC VOTE to SUPPORT. VANC Best Of Awards and EmpowerLA Awards are great examples.

12. Develop point of contact lists for key city departments and agencies, including DCP, DOT, Public Works' Bureaus, Aging, Disability, HCID, DCA, LADWP, Port, Airport, Cannabis Regulation, Emergency Management, Animal Services, LAPD, LAFD, Recreation and Parks, Zoo, Finance, Library, Economic and Workforce Development and BIDs, with assistance from those listed departments and agencies, and share those lists with Neighborhood Councils, facilitate the training of those points of contact at those relevant departments on the most fruitful ways to assist and communicate with Neighborhood Council members, and coordinate with Neighborhood Councils to formally appoint a point of contact at each NC to communicate between each NC and the point of contact at each department, thus creating a single line of communication.

STNC VOTE to SUPPORT. LADWP Memorandum of Understanding, PlanCheckNC are great examples of City Departments Liaisons. Add Budget Advocates in this item as applicable. Recommendation to educate department liaisons on the purpose and mission of Neighborhood Councils. Recommendation to add Alcohol & Beverage Control (ABC) to notify Councilmembers and the Neighborhood Council of the intent to sell alcohol.