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CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

**Sun Valley Area
Neighborhood Council**

P.O. Box 457
Sun Valley CA 91353-0457
Telephone 818-767-8262
Fax 818-767-7510



www.svanc.com

President Cindy Sower	
1 st Vice President Monica Vacas	Secretary Gary Aggas
2 nd Vice President Mark B. Allen	Treasurer Mylo Koenig

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Eric Villanouva;

This is the Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council response to Councilman David Ryu motion CF# 18-0467, regarding Neighborhood Council System Reforms to the Health, Education and Neighborhood Council:

Recommendation to amend City Charter Article 1X to change the name of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) to The Neighborhood Councils Department (NCD) And to change the Board of Neighborhood Councils (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 roll should be primarily to support Neighborhood Councils, which the name Neighborhood Councils would reflect better.

Our NC was in favor of these name changes

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.(The Correct title is "Community Interest Stakeholder)"

Every NC should be allowed to have board positons that are reflective of the makeup of their Neighborhood.

Definitions of the qualifications to run for those seats may be different from one NC to another

Presently we have 6 At-large members and the Community Interest Community Stakeholder is presently carved out of this group.

If we are allowed to change it back to the way we want, we would then have 7 Business & 7 Residents and 7 At-large elected members with 2 Appointed Youth and 2 appointed Senior Members. These positions accurately reflect our stakeholders and evenly divide the voting distribution amongst the different classes of members.

Recommendation to amend City Charter Article 1X 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.

There are Neighborhood Councils who have selections regularly.

It is an option that has always been there for us. Just because a large number of NCs do not use it we should not remove it. It is a choice that should be allowed to those who chose it. There is not a cost factor involved.

Some NC's prefer this and it works for them.

There are also NOT a lot of NCs that are choosing Computer / On-Line Voting, yet there is not a request to remove it.

This is a "LIMITING" proposal, as opposed to BROADENING the choices available.

Recommendations and next steps for creating a one-time review process, overseen by a Board of Neighborhood commissioners, to evaluate Neighborhood Council Bylaws to determine if Board Seats are equitably allocated amongst stakeholders and provide formal suggestions to neighborhood Councils on ways to adjust board seats as needed to increase equity.

The Board of Neighborhood Commissioners seem to see themselves as a governing body and there is a concern that they may try to make this **Mandatory** and not a "Recommendation".

That being said. It is always good for a review by another body to make sure that Board seats are equitably allocated, and that would be a function of DONE or the newly named Neighborhood Council Department (NCD)

Recommendations and next steps 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.

There are a great number of suggestions as to what that age should be.

Many NC's feel that "One Size Does NOT fit all" and they do not want to have their individuality taken away from them. Sixteen seems to be appropriate.

Recommendations and next steps for developing and adopting a planning and land use training course required for all chairs and vice chairs of neighborhood Council Planning and Land use committees.

I have heard no one disagree with this. Only a question about how extensive the training should be. Perhaps a one session mandatory training program for members and a more intensive course for the Chair and Vice Chair perhaps three or four sessions which any member of a planning committee may attend

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:

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

We should definitely have a rollover and we believe that this will have the effect of stopping the "Spend it or lose it" mentality and in the long run save the City money.

However the annual allocation per each NC may be changed in the future and perhaps a more equitable way to approach this is to have a bottom number of 25% of the annual allocation but not less than \$10,000

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

This was enthusiastically received by all present.

We feel strongly that this ability should be reinstated with no future expiration date

So that NCs have other sources of funds to make improvements and better their community.

On the Costs and other implications of holding all neighborhood Councils on the same day in order to provide for a uniform citywide advertising and outreach campaign.

We cannot fathom how that might be feasible. Costs for City Clerk Staff would be astronomical Downtown NC's are mostly made up of Voters who are WORKING in the area and they generally have their elections in the afternoon and/or evenings on weekdays, Monday to Friday when people are working.

Valley NC's Mostly have their Elections on weekends when NC Voters, mostly Residents are available.

Religious holidays have to be avoided; Christmas, Hanukah, Jewish High Holidays, Ramadan, Catholic Easter, Orthodox Easter.

A study should be done.

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

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

Yes, This definitely needs to happen.

We just under went a traumatic experience looking for new office space. Costs of office space is astronomical and the City's annual allocation does not take realistic costs into consideration. Many rental property owners will not deal with the city. The city will NOT pay utilities for office rental and there are many other limiting demands on the City's Standard Lease

The City Clerk's office has one individual doing all the leases for NC's which are all due on the start of the new fiscal year July first. If you are in the process of negotiating a lease for NEW Office Space at this time it is almost impossible to handle the case load. The pressure is intense, especially when you have to vacate the office you are in by June 30 because the owner has other uses for the space.

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 practices,

YES.

Develop point of contact lists for key city departments and agencies, including DCP, DOT, Public Works' Bureau, Aging, Disability, HCID, DCVA, 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 at each department, thus creating a single line of communication.

THIS WOULD BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL We need The LAPD contacts for several positions such as: Vice Patrol, Contact for the Patrol Officers , Senior Lead officers,

VERY IMPORTANT that we be able to receive an early warning advisory of ALL public Meetings for alcohol Licenses in our NC Boundaries. We realize that this is a California State License BUT the Council Office is advised when these meetings are held and the Council Office should advise the Neighborhood Council .

This response was approved by a unanimous vote of the Sun Valley Area Neighborhood council at a duly noticed Brown Act meeting.

