

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

Neighborhood Council: Wilshire Center Koreatown NC

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(14) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 10/12/2021

Type of NC Board Action: Against unless Amended

#### Impact Information

Date: 11/22/2021

Update to a Previous Input: Yes

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 20-0668-S7

Agenda Date: 11/23/2021

Item Number:

Summary: We, the Wilshire Center-Koreatown Neighborhood Council (WCKNC), strongly oppose the proposed Draft City Council District Plan which continues to (1) cut Wilshire Center-Koreatown area into multiple council districts with illogical borders such as those along Western Ave and (2) includes a small portion of LaFayette Park. We ask the council to unite the northern portion of WCKNC up to Melrose Avenue with the southern portion into a single council district and to NOT divide North Western Ave into multiple districts. We ask that LaFayette Park be excluded from our city council district. We call on the city council to reconsider its current map and provide all the residents of Koreatown, the most densely populated area on the west coast, the voice they deserve. We would also like to recommend that future redistricting efforts include specific plans for reaching out to Neighborhood Councils.



WILSHIRE CENTER  
KOREATOWN  
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL



October 11th, 2021

Updated: November 22nd, 2021

**Re: Community Impact Statement (CIS) Opposing the Draft City Council District Plan**

Council File # 20-0668-S7

Dear Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council,

We, the Wilshire Center-Koreatown Neighborhood Council (WCKNC), strongly **oppose the proposed Draft City Council District Plan** which continues to **(1) cut Wilshire Center-Koreatown area into multiple council districts with illogical borders such as those along Western Ave and (2) includes a small portion of LaFayette Park.**

Koreatown has been torn apart and disenfranchised for decades. We have the vast majority of new development, yet we see little of the funds generated for infrastructure projects such as parks, street widening, and trees. Additionally, being divided into multiple council districts has suppressed our voice to demand accountability for funds promised and withheld for projects such as the park on Wilshire Blvd funded through Community Redevelopment Agency funds (CRA) and Pio Pico Pocket Park, all stalled projects that our residents have fought long and hard to obtain.

- (1) We ask the council to unite the northern portion of WCKNC up to Melrose Avenue with the southern portion into a single council district and to NOT divide North Western Ave into multiple districts.** The northern part of our district shares many of the same cultural, municipal resources (and lack thereof) such as police and fire, cultural values, and concerns as the rest of WCKNC.

The division of N. Western Ave into multiple districts with illogical boundaries that do not follow constitutional redistricting criteria/recommendations, which include (a) compactness avoiding odd shapes and (b) contiguity. The statement that the division of Western Ave was done to include a Korean church calls into question the integrity of this map as it explicitly excludes nearly a half dozen other Korean churches along Western, Manhattan Place, Beverly Blvd, and Melrose Ave. Additionally, CD10 staff stated that the lack of compactness and continuity was acceptable because these were the old boundaries. This goes against the core tenants of the redistricting process best summarized by Redistricting Commission Chair Fred Ali in his 11/1/2021 LA Times Editorial, "Preservation of old council district lines and protection of council members is not the purpose of redistricting. Fair representation is," the decision to give a single church such leeway calls into question the fairness and integrity of the city councils decision to split N. Western Ave.

- (2) We ask that LaFayette Park be excluded from our city council district.** LaFayette park is not within walking distance from most of our constituents. It has been the primary depository for generated parks funds despite the city, county, and state's promise to create a park for our residents.

We are outraged by the council's disregard for our multiple emails and CISs and by the lack of outreach to Neighborhood Councils and other community organizations representing marginalized communities in Koreatown. While we applaud the commissions and councils efforts to include alternative forms of media input such as Change.org, we are deeply disturbed by the sole reliance on the input from a "coalition" that has no website, no contact information, no records of meetings or their decision-making

process, and which consists of only Korean and Asian American organizations and knowingly excluded many other community advocacy groups including the NC.<sup>1</sup>

**We call on the city council to reconsider its current map and provide all the residents of Koreatown**, the most densely populated area on the west coast, the voice they deserve. We would also like to recommend that **future redistricting efforts include specific plans for reaching out to Neighborhood Councils.**

Sincerely,

/s/ Elizabeth Isralowitz

**Wilshire Center-Koreatown Neighborhood Council**

[wcknc.info@gmail.com](mailto:wcknc.info@gmail.com)

CC: Karly Katona, Caretaker 10th District;

Councilmember Gil Cedillo;

Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell;

Councilmember Nithya Raman;

Fernando Ramirez;

Danielle Mero;

George Hakopiants

200 N. Spring Street Los Angeles, California 90012

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.change.org/o/korean\\_american\\_coalition](https://www.change.org/o/korean_american_coalition)