

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(14) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 07/20/2022

Type of NC Board Action: For

Impact Information

Date: 08/16/2022

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 22-0560

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council (SCNC) supports Council File 22-0560 to amend the Municipal Lobbying Ordinance, including the same disclosure when a lobbyist makes an oral presentation or public comment to a Neighborhood Council as is presently only required for written communications. We urge City Council President Nury Martinez to schedule this item in committee for a full and fair hearing since the Municipal Lobbying Ordinance has not been comprehensively updated since 1994. The SCNC's accompanying president's letter in support is attached hereto.

SCNC BOARD

Kim Clements
Dean Cutler
Randall Fried
Ira Gold
Jeff Hartwick
Jackson Hoffman
Julie Glaze Houlihan
Lisa Karadjian
Scott Mandell
Chip Meehan
Brandon Morino
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Karen Sarrow
Alexa Steinberg
Adam Summer
Abigail Velasco



STUDIO CITY
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL



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Brandon Morino

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Abigail Velasco

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Jeff Hartwick

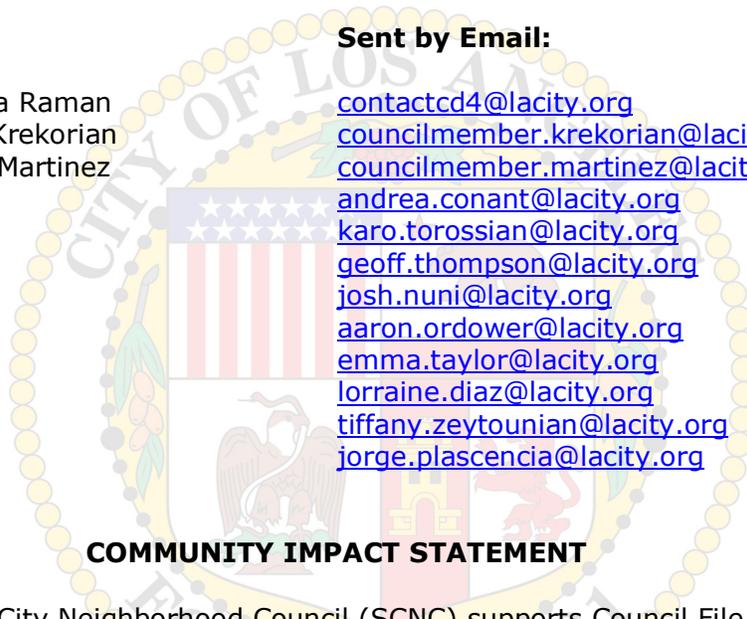
July 20, 2022

Addressed to:

Councilmember Nithya Raman
Councilmember Paul Krekorian
Councilmember Nury Martinez
Andrea Conant
Karo Torossian
Geoff Thompson
Josh Nuni
Aaron Ordower
Emma Taylor
Lorraine Diaz
Tiffany Zeytounian
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COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council (SCNC) supports Council File 22-0560 to amend the Municipal Lobbying Ordinance, including the same disclosure when a lobbyist makes an oral presentation or public comment to a Neighborhood Council as is presently only required for written communications. We urge City Council President Nury Martinez to schedule this item in committee for a full and fair hearing since the Municipal Lobbying Ordinance has not been comprehensively updated since 1994. The SCNC's accompanying president's letter in support is attached hereto.

Scott Mandell
President,
Studio City Neighborhood Council

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July 20, 2022

Addressed to:

Sent by Email:

Councilmember Nithya Raman
Councilmember Paul Krekorian
Councilmember Nury Martinez

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RE: Municipal Lobbying Act (MLO), Letter in support of SCNC Board Agenda Item 11(b)

Dear Councilmembers Raman, Krekorian, and Martinez:

The Studio City Neighborhood Council (SCNC) supports the changes to the municipal lobbying ordinance (MLO) [CF 22-0560] regarding Neighborhood Councils. We also request the consideration of changes to a few minor areas of the draft MLO that we believe will benefit transparency in the city.

Under section 48.08.8 of the current lobbying ordinance, a lobbyist disclosure is only required for written communications to Neighborhood Councils. We believe the ordinance should be updated to include the same disclosure when a lobbyist makes an oral presentation or public comment to a Neighborhood Council that is related to their lobbying efforts. Therefore, we deeply agree with section 48.11 of the draft municipal lobbying ordinance under consideration.

Additionally, under AB 361, we are prohibited from requiring "speaker cards," which is where traditional lobbying disclosures have happened on our council. While the SCNC can require a disclosure for its own meetings, that disclosure has no teeth for enforcement as it is not an ordinance and it also does not address the other 98 Neighborhood Councils which similarly serve as elected advisory bodies to the city.

We believe the lack of oral lobbyist disclosure requirement leaves many Neighborhood Council Board Members at an information disadvantage and that it should be addressed for the following reasons:

1) Transparency. We believe every voting member at a board meeting has the right to the knowledge if a lobbyist is speaking on an item for which they are compensated to lobby.

2) Diffusion of responsibility. A lobbyist may send a correct written disclosure either via mail or email, but often these communications do not go to every member of the board. Unless the board member is diligent in passing

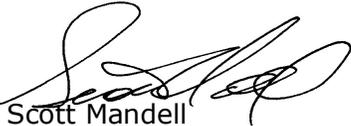
along these communications, then it is possible there would be other members of the board who do not know of the lobbyist status of the individual speaking.

3) Lack of training. We do not receive training on identifying or looking up lobbyist activities in the city through the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment. We believe the legal onus should be on the lobbyist to be as upfront and straightforward with the board as possible. Additionally, the responsibility is then on the paid lobbyist rather than the volunteer board member when it comes to the pursuit of this information.

In addition, the Studio City Neighborhood Council would like to request a similar lobbying disclosure for City Council and City Council committee meetings. This announcement could either be done by the lobbyist or by the presiding officer of the meeting in order to ensure that the public is fully aware of the associations of all speakers who are paid lobbyists. Neighborhood Council members frequently listen to or attend City Council meetings or recordings of the meetings and we strongly feel that this minor addition would bring greater transparency to the City processes. We urge the City Council to adopt this minor change.

Lastly, the SCNC urges the City Council to adopt a non-profit exemption of \$200,000 in revenue or \$500,000 in assets instead of the proposed \$2,000,000. This change aligns with the IRS tax filing system and would essentially allow any non-profit that files a 990-N or 990-EZ to gain exemption. This change also reflects the current San Francisco ethics ordinance. The current recommendation of \$2 million in revenue is far too high and would exempt the vast majority of nonprofits in Southern California. Only 16% of Southern California non-profits have revenues above \$1 million, so an exemption set at twice that amount would have a grave effect on transparency.

Thank you for your consideration of the above,



Scott Mandell
President,
Studio City Neighborhood Council