

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

Neighborhood Council: Mid City WEST Neighborhood Council

Name: Lauren Nichols

Phone Number:

Email: lnichols@midcitywest.org

The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(22) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 09/13/2022

Type of NC Board Action: For if Amended

Impact Information

Date: 09/25/2022

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 22-0560

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: Honorable City Councilmembers: The Mid City West Neighborhood Council supports changes to the municipal lobbying ordinance (MLO) regarding neighborhood councils. We also request changes to minor areas of the draft MLO we believe will benefit transparency in the city. We urge the Committee Chair Nury Martinez to schedule this Council File for consideration and a vote in the Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee. 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 agree with section 48.11 of the draft municipal lobbying ordinance under consideration. While Mid City West NC can require a disclosure for its own meetings, that disclosure has no teeth for enforcement as it is not a current ordinance. 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 should be addressed for the following reasons: 1) Transparency. 2) Diffusion of responsibility. 3) Lack of training. In addition, the Mid City West Neighborhood Council requests a similar lobbying disclosure for city council and committee meetings. This should cover nonprofits with over \$2,000 in revenue or at least \$500,000 in assets. Neighborhood council members frequently listen to city council meetings or recordings of the meetings and we feel that this minor addition would bring greater transparency to the City processes. We urge the City Council to adopt this minor change.



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September 13, 2022

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City Councilmembers
Los Angeles City Council
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles. CA 90017

Honorable City Councilmembers:

The Mid City West Neighborhood Council supports changes to the municipal lobbying ordinance (MLO) regarding neighborhood councils. We also request changes to minor areas of the draft MLO we believe will benefit transparency in the city. We urge the Committee Chair Nury Martinez to schedule this Council File for consideration and a vote in the Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee.

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 agree with section 48.11 of the [draft municipal lobbying ordinance](#) under consideration.

As you may be aware, neighborhood councils continue to meet telephonically due to COVID and it is widely expected that this will continue in at least some form even when/if the pandemic passes. Additionally, under AB 361, we are prohibited from requiring "speaker cards," which is where traditionally lobbying disclosures would occur. While Mid City West NC can require a disclosure for its own meetings, that disclosure has no teeth for enforcement as it is not a current ordinance. 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 this should be addressed for the following reasons:

1) **Transparency.** We believe every voting member at a board meeting has the right to know 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 Mid City West Neighborhood Council requests a similar lobbying disclosure for city council and committee meetings. This should cover nonprofits with over \$2,000 in revenue or at least \$500,000 in assets. Neighborhood council members frequently listen to city council meetings or recordings of the meetings and we feel that this minor addition would bring greater transparency to the City processes. We urge the City Council to adopt this minor change.

Sincerely,

Melissa Algaze
Board Secretary, Outreach & Civic Engagement Committee
Member and At-Large Representative
Mid City West Neighborhood Council