

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: 10/18/2022

Type of NC Board Action: For if Amended

Impact Information

Date: 10/21/2022

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 22-0560

Agenda Date: 10/18/2022

Item Number: Motion F

Summary: The Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council supports changes to the Los Angeles Municipal Lobbying Ordinance (MLO) regarding neighborhood councils to benefit transparency in the city. [Full CIS language attached, submitted to CF 22-0560].

Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council (“GTLNC”) Community Impact Statement
Municipal Lobbying Ordinance, Los Angeles Municipal Code §§ 48.01
[Council File 22-0560](#)

Unanimously approved (14/0/0) at a regularly scheduled
GTLNC General Board Meeting on Tuesday, October 18th, 2022

The Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council supports changes to the Los Angeles Municipal Lobbying Ordinance (MLO) regarding neighborhood councils to benefit transparency in the city. We urge *ex officio* Committee Chair and Los Angeles City Council President Paul Krekorian and to schedule this Council File for consideration and a vote in the Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee.

According to section 48.08.8 (Lobbying Disclosure - Written Communications to Neighborhood Councils”) of the LAMC [current lobbying ordinance](#) (LINK: <https://ethics.lacity.org/wp-content/uploads/Laws-Lobbying-MLO.pdf>) a lobbyist disclosure is only required for written communications to neighborhood councils. This ordinance should be updated to include the same disclosure when a lobbyist makes an oral presentation or public comment to a neighborhood council related to his or her lobbying efforts. We agree with Section 48.11 of the [draft municipal lobbying ordinance](#) (LINK: https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2022/22-0560_misc_5-05-22.pdf) under consideration (see page 33).

Neighborhood councils continue to meet telephonically due to COVID and may continue to do so for some time. Under AB 361, requiring “speaker cards” for speakers to identify themselves is prohibited, which is where lobbying disclosures are traditionally made to a neighborhood council. The lack of an oral lobbyist disclosure requirement leaves many neighborhood council board members at a disadvantage. This should be addressed for these reasons:

- 1) **Transparency.** Every voting member has the right to know if a lobbyist speaks on an item for which they are compensated to lobby.
- 2) **Diffusion of responsibility.** A lobbyist may send a correct written disclosure via mail or email, but often these communications do not go to every board member in a timely manner, if at all. Unless the recipient board member diligently forwards these communications, then it is possible that no other board members would know of the lobbyist status of the individual speaking.
- 3) **Lack of training.** Neighborhood councils do not receive training on how to identify or look up lobbyist activities in the city. Therefore, the legal onus and responsibility should be on the lobbyist to disclose his or her status as a paid lobbyist rather than on the volunteer board member to discover it.

The Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council requests a similar lobbying disclosure for Los Angeles City Council and Committee meetings. This announcement could be made by the lobbyist prior to his or her comments or by the presiding officer of the meeting to ensure that the public is aware of associations of all speakers who are paid lobbyists. This disclosure would bring greater transparency to City processes. We urge the LA City Council to adopt this change.

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