

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: Voices of 90037

Name: Dulce Vasquez

Phone Number:

Email: [vicechair@voicesnc.org](mailto:vicechair@voicesnc.org)

The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(10) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 11/08/2022

Type of NC Board Action: For

#### Impact Information

Date: 11/16/2022

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 22-0560

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: The Voices Neighborhood Council on November 8, 2022 voted 10-0 to SUPPORT, City Council File 22-0560 to change the municipal lobbying ordinance and increase transparency around lobbyists presenting to neighborhood councils. Under 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. 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 had happened on our council. While Voices 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.



# VOICES NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL General Board



## **Board Members**

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### **VICE-CHAIRPERSON**

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*Elizabeth Ebow*

### **YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE**

*Vacant*

11/08/22

RE: Council File: 22-0560

Councilmember Curren D. Price Jr.  
4301 S. Central Ave  
Los Angeles, CA 90011

Via Email

Dear Councilmember Curren D. Price Jr.,

The Voices Neighborhood Council on November 8, 2022 voted 10-0 to SUPPORT, City Council File 22-0560 to change the municipal lobbying ordinance and increase transparency around lobbyists presenting to neighborhood councils.

Under the currency 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.

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 had happened on our council. While Voices 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 transparency—we should know if they are being paid to lobby. In addition, we do not receive adequate training on identifying or looking up lobbyist activities, so the onus should be on the lobbyist.

In addition, the Voices Neighborhood Council would like to request a similar lobbying disclosure for city council and 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 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 Voices Neighborhood Council 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. 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.

We thank you for your attention to this matter and appreciate your commitment to strengthen our community.

Sincerely,

Dulce Vasquez  
Vice Chair  
vicechair@voicesnc.org

CC: Kendal Lake, Field Deputy for CD9