



clerk CIS <clerk.cis@lacity.org>

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## Community Impact Statement - Submission Details

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LA City SNow <cityoflaprod@service-now.com>  
Reply-To: LA City SNow <cityoflaprod@service-now.com>  
To: Clerk.CIS@lacity.org

Wed, Oct 25, 2023 at 12:24 PM

A Neighborhood Council Community Impact Statement (CIS) has been successfully submitted to your Commission or City Council. We provided information below about CISs and attached a copy of the CIS.

We encourage you to reach out to the Community Impact Statement Filer to acknowledge receipt and if this Community Impact Statement will be scheduled at a future meeting. Neighborhood Council board members are volunteers and it would be helpful if they received confirmation that you received their CIS.

The CIS process was enabled by the to Los Angeles Administrative Code §Section 22.819. It provides that, "a Neighborhood Council may take a formal position on a matter by way of a Community Impact Statement (CIS) or written resolution." NCs representatives also testify before City Boards and Commissions on the item related to their CIS. If the Neighborhood Council chooses to do so, the Neighborhood Council representative must provide the Commission with a copy of the CIS or rResolution sufficiently in advance for review, possible inclusion on the agenda, and posting on the Commission's website. Any information you can provide related to your agenda setting schedule is helpful to share with the NC.

If the CIS or resolution pertains to a matter *listed on the Commission's agenda*, during the time the matter is heard, the designated Neighborhood Council representative should be given an opportunity to present the Neighborhood Council's formal position. We encourage becoming familiar with the City Council's rules on the subject. At the Chair's discretion, the Neighborhood Council representative may be asked to have a seat at the table (or equivalent for a virtual meeting) typically reserved for City staff and may provide the Neighborhood Council representative more time than allotted to members of the general public. They are also permitted up to five (5) minutes of time to address the legislative body. If the CIS or resolution pertains to a matter *not listed on the agenda*, the designated Neighborhood Council representative may speak during General Public Comments.

We share this information to assist you with the docketing neighborhood council items before your board/commission. If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at [empowerla@lacity.org](mailto:empowerla@lacity.org).

\*\*\*\*\* This is an automated response, please DO NOT reply to this email. \*\*\*\*\*

### Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Palms

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(8) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 10/04/2023

Type of NC Board Action: Against Unless Amended

### Impact Information

Date: 10/25/2023

Update to a Previous Input: Yes

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 22-0560

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: This council file was amended since we posted our original CIS and we no longer support it in its current condition.

Ref:MSG9225680

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**Oppose 22-0560.pdf**

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Council File: [22-0560](#)

To: City Council and Committees and Ethics Commission

Position: Oppose unless amended

The Palms Neighborhood Council previously submitted a CIS to support the changes to the Municipal Lobbying Ordinance. The proposed changes were long overdue. They were necessary, but not sufficient so, in our CIS, we asked for a change that would reduce the number of non-profits who would be exempt from the reporting requirements.

Under amendments proposed by Councilmember Krekorian, the motion is going in the opposite direction. It appears as if the Ad Hoc Committee on City Governance Reform is trying to do their best not to reform the City government.

Unions have much control over our City government. If we learned nothing else from the sordid tapes leaked from the meeting of Nury Martinez, Kevin de Leon, Gil Cedillo, and Ron Herrera, we should have learned this. For all the scandal around those tapes we should not lose sight that this is a lobbying scandal where paid union leadership was conspiring with members of the City Council to redistrict the Council districts in a way that favors some members of the City Council.

Councilmember Krekorian's amendments turn a blind eye to what we all know. The public employee unions are strongly influencing City Hall in a way others cannot. We have no problem with union members coming to City Council and making public comments. It is their right. BUT union employees whose job it is to influence City Hall, who are paid to lobby, must not have a carve-out. These lobbyists must register and must self-identify. They must not be allowed to have seats on the City's commissions. This is a clear conflict of interest.

While there are many 501(c)(3)s that do marvelous work, there is plenty of opportunity for mischief. The March 10, 2023 article in the Los Angeles Times about Kevin de Leon and the AIDS Healthcare Foundation should have made it clear. This is only one example of many. To update the MLO such that the minority of 501(c)(3)s have to register and self-identify only opens the door for more skullduggery.

Just because someone doesn't see themselves as a lobbyist, doesn't mean they're not a lobbyist. It's not about how the lobbyists see themselves. It's about how we protect our City government and realign it after the scandals we've endured.

In discussions at the ad hoc committee, some have been conflating employees of unions and non-profits with paid lobbyists for the same organizations. The Palms Neighborhood Council has no concerns with respect to employees and volunteers of these organizations unless the employees are paid to lobby at City Hall. Yes, when appointing somebody to a City commission, we want people who are knowledgeable and passionate and we can find some of these people in non-profits and unions. We should be appointing them to our commissions unless they are paid to lobby.

Other cities are moving in the opposite direction from where the ad hoc committee appears to be going. Other cities are recognizing the harm that comes from giving public employee unions and 501(c)(3)s unfettered access. Chicago, for example, reversed its non-profit exemption in 2019 due to corruption while Los Angeles continues to position itself on the side of corruption.

The Palms Neighborhood Council demands that amendments easing the requirements on large non-profits and unions be rescinded. Then we request that the limit for a 501(c)(3) exemption from registration and identification be lowered to \$200,000 in revenue or \$500,000 in assets as opposed to the proposed limit of \$2 million. 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 an exemption. Given that only 16% of Southern California non-profits have revenues over \$1 million, setting the reporting exemption at twice that number would severely limit transparency.

And now Councilmembers Yaroslavsky and McOsker have introduced Council File 23-0530. This is a band aid on a large issue. It is good, but does not go far enough. The definition of close family is not broad enough. This motion should be fixed and folded into 22-0560. We need a serious and comprehensive approach to ethics reform and should not be attaching the issues on a piecemeal basis.

The Palms Neighborhood Council urges the City Council to err on the side of transparency. If it thinks this is too far, let's try and then correct later if we need to. The real danger confronting us is not going far enough. The last comprehensive update of the MLO was in 1994. Los Angeles cannot afford to wait another 30 years to fix our corruption issues. The time is now. Please do not squander this opportunity.